

## THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

# TheVoice

### Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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#### Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308  
Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
Phone: 620-758-2262  
Fax: 620-758-2926  
cve@caneyvalley.com.

#### Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for December is \$.02915/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$29.15 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bills based on the factor for the month.

## Clark Appointed to Board of Trustees

At their regular Board meeting held Tuesday, October 12, your cooperative Board of Trustees appointed **JIM CLARK, JR.**, of Havana, to serve the remainder of the term of Position #1 in District 3.

Clark will fulfill the position



Jim Clark, Jr.

previously served by George Tolbert of Sedan, who resigned in July. He will serve until May 2013, and can then elect to run again.

We'd like to welcome him to the Caney Valley Board of Trustees!

## Tips You Can Use to Cool Off Your Winter Energy Bill

You've budgeted for holiday gifts, meals, maybe a vacation—and with money tight, that doesn't leave much room for home energy efficiency upgrades. Does that mean you're powerless to lower your electric bill? Not at all. Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips and tricks:

- ▶ **Drape Delivery:** Are you using your curtains to capture heat? Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.
- ▶ **Fan it Up:** Run ceiling paddle fans on low and reverse the rotation to blow air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.
- ▶ **Free Vents:** Your HVAC system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

- ▶ **Garage Drain:** Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.
- ▶ **Got Tape?** Though not as durable as foam, rubber, or vinyl, you can use non-porous tape (first aid cloth tape, for example) to keep cold air from squeezing into your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks, and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash; door frames; attic hatches; and inoperable windows. Reinforce with staples if needed.
- ▶ **Hot Savings:** Heating water accounts for 12 percent of your home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120°F. For households with only one or two members, 115°F works.
- ▶ **Rug Relief:** Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.
- ▶ **Thermostat:** Set your thermostat to 68°F (or lower if comfortable).

### Caney Valley's Office will be Closed for the Holidays

Our office will be closed on December 24 and 31 for the holidays.

If you have trouble or an outage, please call us at 620-758-2262 or 800-310-8911, and a crew will be dispatched to help you.

The Board of Trustees, management and employees would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season!



## NOTICE to our Rural Members

We continue to receive calls regarding amounts on the "Add" line below the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on your bills. If you live in a county that charges sales tax, there will always be an amount on that line.

Our billing program automatically figures the sales taxes on the PCA amount, and includes it on the line below the PCA. Also, if you have miscalculated your bill from the month before and owe an additional amount (or have overpaid and have a credit), it will be included on the Add line. Feel free to contact us if you have questions on your bill.

## Rebates Available

Caney Valley Electric has rebates available on the purchase of the following new electric appliances:

- ▶ Ranges or clothes dryers to replace gas or propane, or in new construction
- ▶ Air-source or ground-source heat pumps
- ▶ Water heaters purchased to replace electric, non-electric or in new construction.

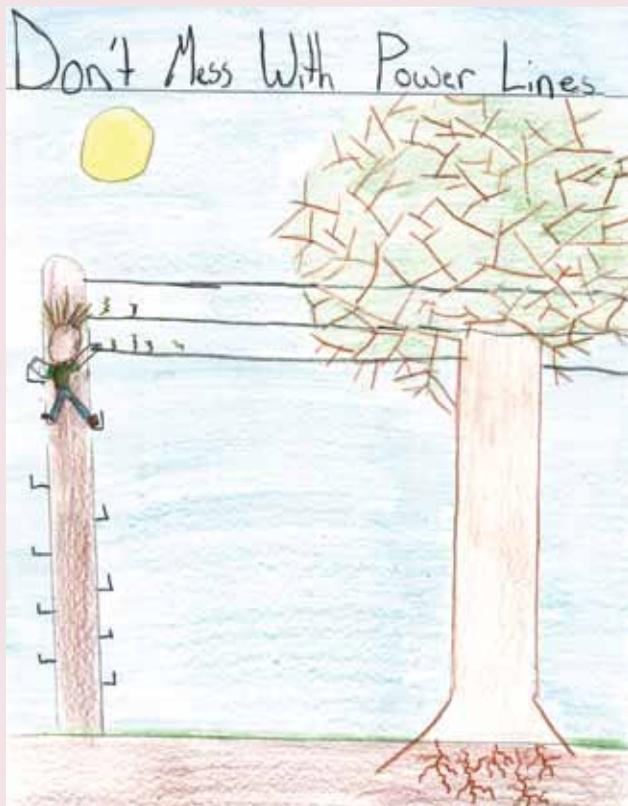
There are minimum energy requirements and size requirements on the water heaters and heat pumps, and wattage requirements on the ranges and dryers. Please contact our office for further information.

# Local Fifth Graders Promote Electrical Safety

To commemorate National Cooperative Month, we once again invited area fifth graders to participate in an electrical safety poster contest.

Posters were judged by a three-person committee, and one winner from each school won \$25. Included in this center spread are some of the winning posters. We will also run other posters in future issues as room allows.

We'd like to thank all the students who participated. There were a lot of excellent posters submitted, and the committee had a hard time deciding on a winner from some of the schools. Thanks again, kids!



Kylar Walker, Sedan Elementary

*Congratulations to all of our winners this year!*

## Keep Holidays Bright & Safe with Electrical Awareness

The bright, festive holiday season can also be a time of potential hazards, injuries and even death. No not from a fracas at the mall over the last holiday necktie just before the family gift exchange, but from electrical holiday decorations. Those beauti-

ful Christmas trees, holiday lights, and festive ornaments take a significant toll annually by contributing to fires, electrical burns, and even death.

On average, 5,000 people visit the emergency room each holiday season, says the U.S. Consumer

Product Safety Commission (CPSC). More seriously, the holiday season will record an average of 400 fatalities and 130,000 fires that are attributed to electrical decoration mishaps. To avoid being part of the statistics, create a safety checklist to follow when preparing your



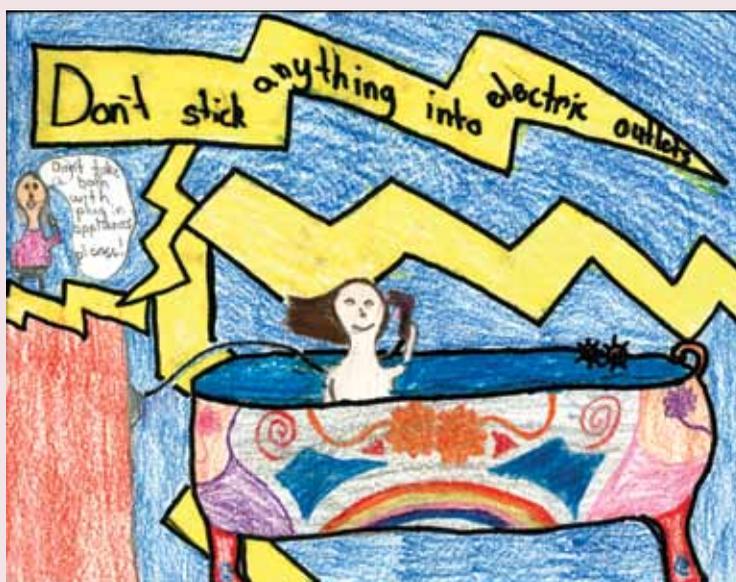
Cody Greer, Elk Valley Elementary



Nate Altis, West Elk Elementary



Yasmine Derome, Cedar Vale Elementary



Michael Vaught, Central Burden Elementary

home for the holidays:

- ▶ Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- ▶ Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- ▶ When hanging decorations, do not connect more than three light strings together.
- ▶ Never attach electrical decorations with nails or staples. Use plastic hooks.
- ▶ Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- ▶ Plug outdoor electric

- lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent electric shock.
- ▶ Before using any electrical decorations outdoors, make sure the product is approved for outdoor use.
- ▶ Look for ENERGY STAR qualified LED products to

- light interior and exterior environments.
- ▶ Opt for LED holiday lighting instead of traditional incandescent light strands.
- ▶ Always look for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or other testing agency label when shopping for new electronic devices.

# Recipes from Caney Valley's Members



Linda Bowlin



Lee Taylor, pictured with an Elegant Blueberry Salad.

These recipes were submitted by Linda Bowlin and Lee Taylor, Atlanta. Linda has been a member of Caney Valley Electric since November 1980.

## HAMBURGER STROGANOFF

- ½ c. minced onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ c. butter
- 2 T. flour
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms
- 1 c. sour cream
- 2 tsp. minced parsley
- 10 oz. can Cream of Chicken soup

Saute' onion and garlic in butter over medium heat. Add meat and brown. Add flour, salt, pepper and mushrooms. Cook 5 minutes. Add soup and simmer uncovered 10 minutes. Stir in the sour cream. Heat through. (If mixture becomes too thick, add about ½ c. water to thin.) Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with noodles. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

## ELEGANT BLUEBERRY SALAD

- 1 lg. pkg. raspberry jello
- 1 can blueberry pie filling
- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 sm. carton sour cream
- ½ c. sugar
- ½ c. chopped pecans

Dissolve jello in 1 c. boiling water. Add pie filling and 2 c. cold water. Pour into serving dish and chill till firm. Combine cream cheese and sour cream. Blend with sugar. Spread evenly over jello mixture and sprinkle with pecans. Chill.

## How to Submit

To submit your recipe please send the following information:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Contact information
- ▶ Photo of yourself with the finished product (if possible)
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

We will continue to run recipes as long as we receive them. Send your entry to:

Caney Valley Electric  
 Attn: Recipes  
 P.O. Box 308  
 Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
 E-mail to [cve@caneyvalley.com](mailto:cve@caneyvalley.com)

## Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Sept 2010	Sept 2009
Meters Billed	5,524	5,509
kWh Sold	6,781,225	5,210,375
Total Revenue	\$ 915,371	\$ 689,491
Purchased Power	\$ 397,179	\$ 309,055
Operating Expenses	\$ 176,777	\$ 204,497
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 47,043	\$ 43,304
Interest Expenses	\$ 20,534	\$ 34,222
Other Expenses	\$ 153	\$ 1,364
Operating Margins	\$ 273,685	\$ 97,049
Non-operating Margins	\$ 11,928	\$ 1,982
Total Margins	\$ 285,613	\$ 99,031
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 331,529	\$ 234,059

## Outages for October 2010

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred during October 2010.

Date	Area	Meters Affected	Duration	Cause
10/2	East of Sedan	30	1 hr	Broken pole
10/10	Dexter, Burden, Cambridge, Atlanta	284	1 hr 40 min	Westar off
10/31	North half of Elgin	100	30 min	Breaker off

## Light up Holiday Savings with LEDs

Decorating with lights this holiday season? Consider light-emitting diodes (LEDs). They cost more initially but last twice as long as traditional lights, and you'll recover the difference in three to four years.

- ▶ **Efficient.** LEDs use between 1 kWh and 3 kWh of energy, compared to between 12 kWh and

105 kWh for traditional lights, saving \$11 every holiday season.

- ▶ **Durable.** LEDs last about 4,000 hours. They're also made of plastic and less likely to break.
- ▶ **Don't want to use LEDs?** Consider trimming back the number of hours your traditional lights are on to six hours or less each day.

