

## THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

# TheVoice

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

Allen Zadorozny—General Manager

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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 \$0.03749/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$37.49 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (over and above 5¢/kWh) 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.

## From the Manager



Allen Zadorozny

#### Controlling Power Costs

Most of you will have a much lower electric bill this month. Your bill will reflect the electric consumption

during November, which had mostly mild weather, not requiring much air conditioning or heating.

This fall season has brought us some relief from the extremely high bills, which were received during the extra-hot summer. Long-term relief, unfortunately, does not seem likely.

Costs for fuel and operation expenses at electric generation plants continue to rise at a steady pace. These increasing costs for generating electricity are eventually passed on to your electric bills.

Generation plants continue to have governmental regulations placed upon them, which add even more costs. So, it behooves us all to stay informed about proposed actions that will cause electricity to become more expensive.

Please contact me for information and questions concerning the

cost of your electric service.

#### Nominating Committee Members Needed

Members are needed to serve on the nominating committee to provide candidates for the board of trustees. Nominees for the board are considered for election by the members at the annual meeting May 1.

The nominating committee is appointed by the board of trustees in February. Each year it has become more difficult to find anyone willing to serve on the nominating committee. Members are encouraged to aid the nominating process by contacting your area board trustee and letting them know that you are willing to serve on the nominating committee.

Additionally, we need more members to consider running for election to the board of trustees. It has also become difficult to find members who are willing to serve on the Board.

Please contact me or your area board trustee if you can serve on the nominating committee, or would be willing to be nominated to run for election to the board of trustees.

*Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager*

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Caney Valley's office will be closed on December 26 and January 2 to celebrate the holidays. The Board of Trustees, management and employees would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season! May you all enjoy this time with your family and friends.



## Budget Billing Programs Available



Caney Valley offers two payment programs to help you manage your electric bill and eliminate headaches.

Caney Valley Electric has two payment programs available to help you manage payment of your electric bills.

The first is called Levelized Billing. At present, this program is only available to in-town residential members.

The payment on this program readjusts slightly each month as it figures your bill based on the average of the previous 12 months, plus it factors in any actual balance on your account. Members can sign up on this program at any time.

The second is Budget Billing. Residential members are allowed to sign up for this program in October and March.

Members are required to pay a set amount each month, which may be adjusted every six months depending on actual kilowatt-hour costs, including power costs. At the end of a 12-month period, you will be required to pay and bring to date any amounts still owing on your account.

For both programs, members must be current on their bills and must have paid without penalty for the previous 12-month period.

If you are interested in either of these programs, please contact our office.

## National Co-op Month Poster Contest Results

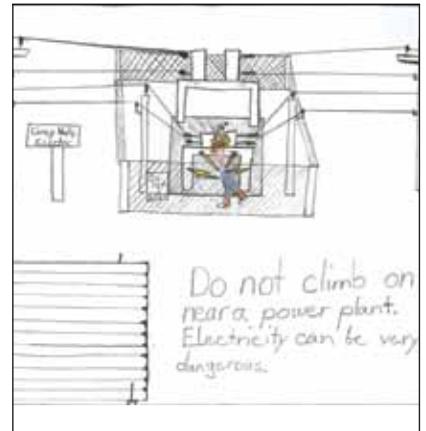


Whitley Liebaw, Central

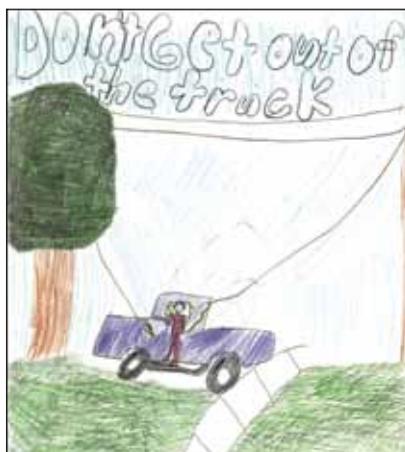
To commemorate National Cooperative Month, we once again invited area fifth graders to participate in an electrical safety poster contest.

Posters were judged by a three-person committee, and one winner from each school won \$25. Included are some of the winning posters.

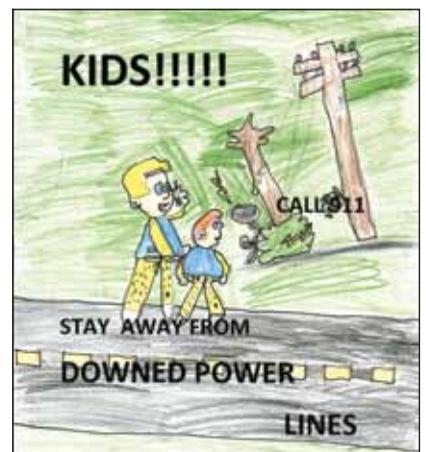
Thank you to all the students who participated. There were a lot of excellent posters submitted, and the committee had a hard time deciding on a winner from some of the schools. Thanks again, kids!



Braden Snyder, Cedar Vale



Mackenzie Thorne, Sedan



Austin Gerding, Elk Valley

## Recipes from Caney Valley's Members



Linda Bowlin

### VEGETABLE DIP

1 8-oz pkg cream cheese, softened  
1 Tbls mayonnaise  
1 Tbls lemon juice  
¾ c. shredded carrots  
½ c. each diced cucumber, bell pepper & celery  
1/3 c. chopped green onions  
½ tsp. salt  
½ tsp. pepper

Mix and serve with crackers.



Lee Taylor

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

### CHEESE BALL

2 8-oz pkgs cream cheese, softened  
1 5.5-oz can crushed pineapple, drained  
¼ c. diced green pepper  
2 Tbls diced onion  
½-1 c. chopped pecans

Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add all other ingredients except pecans. Put in refrigerator to chill. Roll into two balls and roll in chopped pecans. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate. Will keep for several weeks. Also great spread on flour tortillas with thinly sliced ham. Roll up and slice into 1 inch slices to serve as appetizers with toothpicks to seal.

### SAUSAGE ROLLS

1 pound roll sausage, cooked and drained  
Some milk or 1 egg  
1 pkg shredded cheese  
1 ½ c. Bisquick  
Mix all together.  
Roll in small balls, place on cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

### PUMPKIN PIE DIP

1 8-oz pkg cream cheese, softened  
2 c. powdered sugar  
1 15-oz can solid-pack pumpkin  
5 tsp cinnamon, divided  
½ tsp ground ginger  
4 sheets refrigerated pie pastry\*  
4 tsp sugar

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add powdered sugar, pumpkin, 1 tsp cinnamon and ginger; beat until smooth. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Roll out pie pastry on lightly floured surface to ¼-in thickness. Cut with a floured cookie cutter. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Reroll scraps if desired. Combine sugar and remaining cinnamon and sprinkle over cutouts. Bake at 425 degrees for 6-8 minutes or until firm. Cool and serve with pumpkin dip.

\*Can use gingersnaps or sugar cookies in place of pie pastry, if desired.

## How to Submit

Submit the following information:

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

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)

## 12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!

Day 1

**What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 2

**What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 3

**Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 4

**Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 5

**Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 6

**Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 7

**Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 8

**Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 9

**Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts and curtains.

Day 10

**Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 11

**Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 12

**Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

# It's that Time of Year Again BY DOUG RYE

Now is the time of year when I hear this question over and over—"should we buy an individual room heater?"

As winter inches closer, you will start seeing an assortment of individual room heaters for sale near the entry of home centers, drug stores, grocery stores, farm stores and other retail outlets.

You may get different types of mail explaining why you should buy a certain room heater. You might see a full page ad in a newspaper or magazine telling you that you might save up to 30 to 40 percent on your heating bill if you purchase and use a certain room heater.

There are tall heaters and short heaters. There are heaters with lights and heaters with no lights. Some have fans and some do not. Some swivel back and forth to blow the air in different directions. Some look a little like a wood-burning fireplace. Others are in a nice looking cabinet with a cat sleeping on the top. And lastly, some cost \$50 and others may cost \$350. Well, it all sounds interesting, but it can also be confusing.

Many of you ask me or the folks at your local electric co-op for

advice. We, in turn, just try to give you the facts. Then you can make the decision. First, please understand that some room heaters are safer than others. I shudder when I hear a story about a child who has thrown a blanket over an open heater and a fire has occurred. Many fires occur each winter related to room heaters. I think that you will find that just about all of the advertised room heaters are rated at about 1,500 watts because that is about the maximum that you can plug into a regular 110-volt outlet without overloading the breaker.

The formula is: amps x volts = watts. A typical outlet would be 15 amps x 110 volts = 1,650 watts. At 1,650 watts, that circuit could support a room heater and a couple of table lamps. (A typical handheld hair dryer uses 1,500 watts.) Another formula that applies is: watts x 3.4 = British thermal units (Btu) per hour.

So, regardless of how the 1,500-watt heater looks or sounds, or whether it uses lamps or elements, it can deliver a maximum of 5,115 Btu per hour for heat. In most cases, they deliver less than the maximum and are rated at 3,500 to 4,500 Btu per hour. My calculations show that a 12-foot by 12-foot room with four inch R-11 insulated walls, a six inch R-19 insulated ceiling and two to three foot by four foot windows would require about 4,400 Btu per hour of heat on a cold winter day. A 1,500-watt heater would probably heat that room if you kept the door to the room closed.

Now, for the rest of the story. ALL space heaters, regardless of their fuel source, cost money to operate. However, electric space heaters are 100 percent energy efficient and do not emit moisture or harmful carbon monoxide. When used properly, they are safer alternatives to firewood,

propane or natural gas space heaters.

Some manufacturers proclaim their heaters use about the same amount of electricity as a small coffee pot, which may sound really good. Others say their heater only uses 15 cents per hour, which may also sound good. The truth is, on a cold winter day, electric heaters cost about \$3.60 per day or \$108 per month to heat one room if the unit is running 24/7. Propane and natural gas units, which have more volatile fuel costs, can cost even more to operate. Many find these facts quite a shock to their wallet. But, there is an affordable solution to home comfort and manageable utility bills.

That solution is proper energy efficiency construction and a properly installed heat pump or geothermal system. I can heat two and a half rooms with a heat pump for \$2 a day, and with geothermal, I could heat five rooms for \$2 per day. At a new house built to our energy standards, we could heat about 3,000 square feet for \$2 per day.

It is not my intent to suggest that you buy or not buy a room heater, because that is none of my business. I just want you to know the facts. Generally speaking, the only time that I think it is feasible to use an individual room heater is when one simply can't afford to heat the whole house.

**DOUG RYE** is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



Doug Rye

### Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Sept. 2011	Sept. 2010
Meters Billed	5,582	5,524
kWh Sold	6,710,610	6,781,225
Total Revenue	\$ 979,041	\$ 915,371
Purchased Power	\$ 487,885	\$ 397,179
Operating Expenses	\$ 158,640	\$ 176,777
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 49,569	\$ 47,043
Interest Expenses	\$ 27,492	\$ 20,534
Other Expenses	\$ 266	\$ 153
Operating Margins	\$ 255,189	\$ 273,685
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,801	\$ 11,928
Total Margins	\$ 256,990	\$ 285,613
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 221,792	\$ 331,529