



## REMINDER:

### Scholarships Available to High School Seniors

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative will be awarding several scholarships to graduating high school seniors of member families through our Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Program.

Each scholarship is worth \$500, and applications can be obtained from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative ([cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com)) or by calling 715.239.6800.

Eligibility will be determined according to the following criteria:

- The student must graduate in 2017 and be enrolled in a post-secondary program at a college, university, or vocational school.
- The applicant's parents (or legal guardians) must be members of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, and they must currently be receiving service.
- The applicant must display average or above-average academic records.
- The applicant's family income will not be a deciding factor in awarding the scholarships.

The completed scholarship applications must be received at the cooperative office by April 1, 2017. The applications will be reviewed by a special Scholarship Committee, and the scholarships will be awarded to the students at an honors ceremony or at graduation.

If you have any questions about the scholarship program, please call Nicole at Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, 715.239.6800 or 800.300.6800.

## COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFERED

For the program period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, our utility offered the following Commitment to Community Programs:

### Low-Income Program

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative collects Commitment to Community funds in accordance with current regulations and then sends funds quarterly to the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

### Energy Efficiency Programs

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative collects Commitment to Community funds in accordance with current regulations and offsets the cost of the following energy programs:

1. Dual Fuel Heating & Cooling Incentive Program
2. Water Heater Load Control Program
3. Lighting Incentive Program
4. Appliance Incentive & Customized Large Farm/Business Programs:

Details on the different programs, possible savings, rebates, and credits are available online ([cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com)) or at the office. Audited reports of revenues and expenditures are available for member review at office. Procedure to review: Written request with member number, no longer than a three-day wait, and proper identification at time of review.



### Daylight Saving Time will soon begin again!

It will soon be time to spring forward! Make sure you set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11.

# Beware of Galloping Power Lines



**G**alloping power lines may sound ridiculous, but they really do occur and can be very dangerous. These lines can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage, or even fall to the ground.

The most common cause of galloping lines is ice that builds up on one side of a power line as a result of strong winds. This buildup creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the normally round line. This change in air flow can cause the power line to start to bounce.

Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it until winds die down. This is why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These are devices placed on power lines to help reduce the galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

If you encounter galloping lines, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact your utility. In addition to the possibility of power outages, there is a danger of the lines or other electrical

equipment breaking loose and falling and of ice being dislodged from the lines and falling to the ground.

Storms at any time of the year can pack damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines, causing power outages. The Safe Electricity program encourages you to keep the following safety tips in mind after a wind storm:

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making them dangerous. So stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Downed power lines could also be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see.
- Watch for other objects, such as chain link fences and metal culverts, that could have become energized by a downed power line falling over it.
- Keep in mind that a line that is “dead” could still become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators. Assume any power line you see is live.
- Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to come crashing down.
- If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. Only exit the car in the case of fire; and, in doing so, be sure to jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away while continuing to keep both feet together.

Learn more about electrical safety at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audio-tape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## IMPORTANT OUTAGE INFORMATION

**If you have an outage, please call 715-239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800.**



### When your power is out:

1. Check to see if electricity is off over your entire premises.
2. Check to see if there is power to your meter by physically walking out to your meter(s). If your meter is a digital meter and no numbers are displayed, then your power is out and you need to contact Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative. If numbers are visible on the display screen it is not a Chippewa Valley Electric outage; it is a problem on your end and your responsibility.
3. If you have a circuit breaker system, check that the breaker is not tripped. Push handle to "Off" position before flipping it to the "Reset" position. Be sure to check all breakers wherever they are located.
4. Check if fuses are blown and that they are secured in the holder.
5. Check with your neighbors to see if they have electricity. Knowing the extent of the outage will help find the reason faster. If the meter has a digital display, then you have power to the meter and the problem is within the consumer's electrical wiring; an electrician will need to be contacted to fix any problems on the consumer's side of the service.
6. The cooperative is allowed to perform service up to the meter. Any wires from the meter to your buildings belong to you and their repair are your responsibility. In most instances when the damage is to your wires, it is best to contact an electrician in your area.
7. When you've determined the outage is not on your wires, call the cooperative and give the following information:
  - Your name and the name of the person who is receiving service at the location. (Often we will receive a call from someone other than the person whose name the service is in and it is impossible for us to locate the outage.)
  - Your Chippewa Valley Electric account number. The account number is listed on the left side of your monthly billing invoice.
  - Cause of the outage, if known. This will assist the crews in locating the problem and restoring the electricity.

**To report outages, call 715-239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800  
(Answered 24 hours per day, seven days a week)**

*Please Note: A \$50 fee will be assessed if a crew is dispatched to the service site during business hours and the outage is found to be a consumer electrical wiring problem. A \$150 fee will be assessed if a crew is dispatched after business hours and the outage is found to be a consumer electrical wiring problem.*



## ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF THE AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

Sign up and receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill!



Credit is for first-time ACH participants only. ACH (Automated Clearing House) allows transfer of funds from your checking or savings account directly to Chippewa Valley Electric's account to pay your electric bill. A direct withdrawal would be made on the due date of each month for the amount of your bill.

If you are interested in participating in this convenient payment method, please fill out the form below and return it to our office with the required information. The sign-up deadline is March 31, 2017.

### I want to participate in the Automatic Payment Plan

Name(s) on CVEC Bill \_\_\_\_\_

CVEC Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If your payment is to be delivered from a checking account, enclose a blank check. Write VOID across it and DO NOT SIGN IT. If your payment is to be deducted from a savings account, enclose a deposit slip that includes your account number. Please allow one month for the set up of the Automatic Payment Plan.

CVEC has the right to cancel use of the Automatic Payment Plan. I will write to CVEC if I decide to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan.

Account Holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Only first time ACH participants are eligible for the \$20 credit. Member must remain on ACH for a minimum of 18 months. Sign-up deadline is March 31, 2017. Mail this form with your current payment or mail it separately to CVEC, P.O. Box 575, Cornell, WI 54732. For more information, call 715-239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800.

### Dean Ortmann, President/CEO

317 S. 8th St., P.O. Box 575, Cornell, WI 54732  
715.239.6800 • 1.800.300.6800  
www.cvecoop.com

### Nicole Whipp Sime, Editor



**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

*CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*