

Your energy provider yesterday, today and tomorrow.

NEWSLETTER

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

September 2014

Sue Hartzell Retires

Sue Hartzell retired on August 8th. She worked as our billing clerk since April 2000 and was the voice on the other end of the phone that most of our members talked to when calling in. Sue also handled account changes and processed the monthly electric billings.

Sue was a valuable asset for Chippewa Valley Electric. She was dedicated and worked hard to help members with billing questions and concerns. She was an integral part of the Cooperative family and we will miss her.

Sue's retirement plans include gardening, creating cement leaves, traveling and spoiling her grandchildren!

All of us wish Sue the very best in her retirement and want to thank her for the years of dedicated service.

—Todd Howard, President/CEO



Attention Dual Fuel Customers

All of our electric meters record kWh usage locally, as well as reporting back to our system in Cornell.

A power failure message is received in Cornell whenever a meter is without power, due to either an outage, or in the case of a Dual Fuel Meter, a circuit breaker powered off. It is a requirement of the Dual Fuel program that the meter be powered on at all times.

Our Dual Fuel Meters require a connection to the Load Center (fuse box), generally via a dedicated circuit breaker, which

should be tagged to be powered on at all times.

Please confirm your Dual Fuel Meter is powered on. If you have a meter with a digital display, the display should alternate with information about the electricity being delivered to your account, including Voltage and kWh. If the display is blank, the meter is not powered on. If you have a mechanical meter with the spinning disk, please look for a small red light in the lower half of the meter.

If you have any questions, please contact our Member Services Department.



This is an excellent time of the year to have your heating system inspected and serviced. We encourage you to contact your HVAC contractor for an inspection and tune-up. For Dual Fuel customers you may only rely on your backup heating system for a few hours at a time, but keep in mind it will most likely be the coldest, most miserable days!

Consider Safety When Planning Landscaping Projects

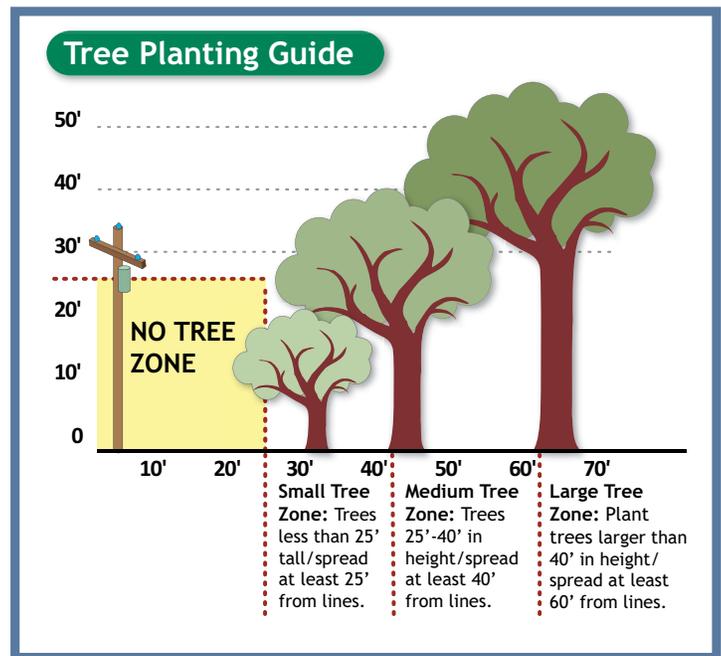
Putting in some new landscaping or trees before winter arrives? Here are some tips to keep you safe around electricity.

As you plan your tree and landscape plantings, consider that trees and shrubs need space to grow both above and below ground. Reduce fire hazards, power outages, and the need for frequent pruning with proper selection and planting of trees near utilities.

In our part of the country, we use dense windbreaks to protect homes from harsh winter winds. Winter sun should be able to reach south-facing windows. Refer to the helpful graphic below to determine which species to plant in various locations on your property.

Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine, and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. Medium trees, 40 feet or less in mature height, include hawthorn, pagoda dogwood, star magnolia, and Amur maple, while smaller trees suitable for planting near distribution utility lines might include crab apple, sumac, burning bush, or winterberry.

- Take care to plant trees away from underground utilities, as tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables, and wires. Future repairs could damage the health of nearby plants and trees.
- Always look up for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact Chippewa Valley Electric.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers, or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.



- If you have trees that appear to be growing into or leaning toward power lines, contact Chippewa Valley Electric. Never try to prune them yourself.

Call Before You Dig

Will your outdoor projects include installing a new mail box or doing some fall planting? At least 72 hours before engaging in any type of digging, call 8-1-1, the national "Call Before You Dig" number, to have the location of underground utilities on your property marked. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster. Calling 8-1-1 before you dig is free, it is easy, and it's the law.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

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