

Special points of interest:

- ▶ **CWEC Pancake Breakfast**
October 10
Serving 8am – 11am,
Rosholt Legion Hall
- ▶ **CCWEC Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast**
October 31
Serving 8am – 11am
Main Office in Iola,
150 Depot Street
- ▶ **MainStreet Messenger First Alert Systems**
for more details call
715-445-2211 or
1-800-377-2932
- ▶ **SmallBizU-Small Business Owners Survival Kit**-found on our website at www.cwecoop.com
- ▶ Please visit us at www.cwecoop.com.

Get the Jump on Drafty Windows

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth, and ventilation. But when winter sets in they can have a downside.

Placing your hand against a window pane on a chilly fall morning proves the point: if the pane feels cold, it's a good bet you can reduce energy costs by either insulating your existing windows or installing new, energy-efficient upgrades.

Insulating with draperies is a low-cost quick fix to drafty windows and can reduce heat loss from a room up to 10 percent. And they're just as helpful in hot summer months by blocking sunlight. White plastic-backed drapes can reduce heat gain by up to 33 percent.

Interior storm window panels are another low-cost fix (available at most hardware stores), and consist of flexible or rigid plastic installed over or adhered to existing windowpanes. Installation is fairly simple, and panels are either taped on or mounted with Velcro, magnetic strips, or snap-in seals. Put them up in autumn and remove them in spring to reduce winter heat loss by up to 50 percent.

If you're in the market for new windows altogether, be sure to choose energy-efficient models that will shave heating, cooling, and lighting costs year round.

Energy Star® has established a set of energy performance ratings, tailored to four climate

zones across the United States, to guide you in selecting windows perfect for your home. These performance ratings are broken into several categories, although the two most basic are U-Factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC), which can be found on window stickers or packaging.

In simple terms, U-Factor measures how easily heat can flow through a window, not counting direct sunlight. The lower the number, the more energy efficient the window.

SHGC measures how much heat from sunlight can be absorbed by the window. A high number means the window remains effective at collecting heat during winter. A low number provides greater shading ability and may be best for Southern climates.

Here in CWEC's service territory, windows for the North climate zone are best. Look for a U-Factor of 0.35 and a SHGC of any. You can also visit www.energystar.gov for more details on our climate zone and other criteria to consider when shopping for new windows.

Note to editors: to determine your climate zone and corresponding U-Factor and SHGC numbers, visit: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=windows_doors.pr_crit_windows

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy Star

Electric Line

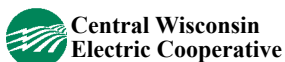
Electric Line is published quarterly by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. This publication is designed to provide information about the cooperative to our member-owners.

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Attention Small Business Owners

We are pleased to offer an online resource for all entrepreneurs, or as we like to call it "A Small Business Owners Survival Kit." You can access SmallBizU by logging on to our website at www.cwecoop.com, simply click on the SmallBizU logo on our home page to learn more or to sign up for a course.

SmallBizU™

Here you will find real world tools and information to teach you the "3M's – Money, Management & Marketing. Courses vary from beginner level classes such as: Marketing 101 and Finding Money, to more advanced courses such as: Market Insight and Research and Strategic Planning and Execution. **Best of all it's free!**

Electrical Safety – Lesson # 1 for College Students

As college and university students make their treks to campuses nationwide - whether into dorm rooms or apartments - it is vital that they first learn about electrical safety. Oftentimes students innocently plug in all of the typical college tools – study lamps, laptops, TV's, stereos, grooming and other electrical devices – unaware of the potential dangers. Rather than risk an accident that could be avoided, make sure your student is educated on safe appliance use and precautions against electrical hazards.

In its most recent report, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that US fire departments respond to an average of 2,460 fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities and barracks each year. The tragic results: an average of five deaths, 73 injuries and nearly \$30 million in direct property damage per year.

“The limited number of electrical outlets in student rooms can tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating shock and fire hazards,” warns Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. “Student residences crammed with books, papers and bedding can allow the smallest spark to quickly become a blaze.”

Safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing include:

- Purchase and use only UL-rated electrical appliances and power cords.
- Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Never use extension cords on a continuous basis; they serve as temporary solutions only.
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface, or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs or furniture.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps. If no indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts. And use cooler, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) when possible.

- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains and other flammable material.
- Make sure outlets around sinks are GFCI equipped before use.
- Unplug small household appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.

Older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to the landlord or campus housing staff.

A fire escape plan is essential for every student. It is important that apartment and dorm residents know evacuation procedures and emergency exit locations in the event of a fire.

Emphasize to students that smoke detectors should never be disabled, nor should fire alarms ever be ignored or taken casually as a drill. If a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building. Apartment and dorm doors should be closed behind to prevent the spread of fire.

“It is important to stress to students that in the event of a fire, follow safety procedures and get out of harm's way immediately,” remarked Hall. “Property and valuables can be replaced, but lives cannot.”

For more fire and electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Christmas is Coming...

Well, kind of. If you head out to do some early Christmas shopping, please keep those less fortunate in mind. We will once again hold a Toys for Tots drive. Last Christmas, through the generosity of our members, we were able to help put smiles on the faces of more than 500 children. All indications are that the amount of children in need will be even higher this year, so please help us if you can. Please watch for locations of toy drop-off boxes scattered throughout our service area. All toys collected are distributed locally.

Pancake Breakfast

October 10th
8:00am – 11:00am

Rosholt Legion Hall
Rosholt, WI

- ▶ Come join the fun, as Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will host a pancake breakfast as a way to show its appreciation to its members.
- ▶ **Door Prizes**
- ▶ **Toys for Tots** - Bring a new toy to donate to our toy drive and we'll enter you in a special door prize drawing.

Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

October 31st
8:00am – 11:00am

Main office in Iola
150 Depot Street

- ▶ Come join the fun, as Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will host a pancake breakfast as a way to show its appreciation to its members.
- ▶ **Door Prizes, Costume Prizes, Exhibits**
- ▶ **Toys for Tots** - Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to our toy drive and we'll enter you in a special door prize drawing.

