

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road
 P.O. Box 75
 New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075
 814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177
 FAX 814/766-3319
 Website:
 www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls, President
Harry Johnson, Vice President
John R. Dively, Secretary
Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary
Dean Brant, Treasurer
David Bequeath
Timothy Newman
Ellis Sollenberger

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
1-800-270-3177

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Annual meeting notice



Rick L. Eichelberger
 General Manager & CEO

MARK YOUR calendars now for the 70th annual meeting of the consumer-members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. This year's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at the Northern Bedford County High School, Loysburg, Pa.

Attend this year's meeting and join other consumer-members in:

- ▶ Hearing reports from the officers and general manager/CEO
- ▶ Electing three directors to serve the cooperative for three-year terms
- ▶ Transacting any and all business that may properly be brought before the meeting

Official annual meeting notices and reservation cards will be mailed out sometime in late May. Only consumer-members are eligible to vote at the annual meeting (consumer-members are those

who have paid a \$5 membership fee).

The Northern Bedford County High School band students and parents will serve a family-style turkey dinner starting at 4:30 p.m. All members of the household are encouraged to attend. Two free adult and two free children's meal tickets for those living in same household will be provided for each membership present. In addition, one free guest ticket for someone living outside the household will be allowed. Additional tickets are \$3.50 for ages 10 and under or \$7 for ages 11 and above. Reservations must be made by June 5. The first 100 members to register will receive a special gift.

Southern gospel music will be provided from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. by "The Dominion Trio."

If you have paid a membership fee and have not received an official annual meeting notice and reservation card in the mail by May 24, please call our office. ☎

Co-op Notes

- ▶ The co-op will be closed on May 26, 2008, to observe Memorial Day.
- ▶ May's due date for payments and meter readings is May 28, 2008.
- ▶ Accounts with a 60-day or greater past due balance will be disconnected on May 22, 2008. If you are unable to pay the full past due bill, be sure you contact the office to make arrangements.
- ▶ Mark your calendar for June 17, 2008. New Enterprise REC's 70th annual meeting will be held at the Northern Bedford County High School. Meal reservations are due June 5, 2008.

A POWERFUL FORCE

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH. Electricity makes so many things possible, and is ever present in our homes, at work and at play. This convenience is often taken for granted. But because it is so powerful, it's important that we always exercise caution when using it.

Stay safe by remembering:

- ▶ Electricity and water are a dangerous combination. Don't leave plugged-in appliances where they might fall and make contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, NEVER reach in to pull it out — even if it's turned off. First, turn off the power source at the panel board and then unplug the appliance. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repair person.
- ▶ If you see a downed line, don't touch it! Call New Enterprise REC immediately.
- ▶ Keep kites and other objects away from overhead power lines.
- ▶ Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size fuse.
- ▶ The best place to be during a thunderstorm is inside. When you see a storm approaching, seek shelter right away. Lightning often precedes rain and can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain of a thunderstorm. Seek shelter immediately when thunder is heard — avoid trees or tall objects, high ground, water, open spaces and metal objects, including tools, fences and umbrellas. Remaining inside a vehicle is safe because rubber tires are nonconductive. When indoors, shut off appliances and electronic devices, and avoid using the telephone.
- ▶ To help prevent electrical fires, keep dry leaves and other debris swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.

Home safe home

Here are some simple checks you can make in your home to help ensure your family's safety. For more information, please visit the National Electrical Safety Foundation website at www.nesf.org.

- ▶ Bathroom safety — Use extra caution when using appliances near water. Hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors, radios and television sets should be kept away from the sink and tub.
- ▶ Kitchen safety — Never stick a metal object, such as a knife, into a toaster to retrieve a piece of toast without unplugging it first. Keep kitchen appliances away from the sink. If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.
- ▶ Light — Use lightbulbs that are the proper wattage for your light fixtures and lamps. Bulbs that are not proper

wattage can overheat causing a fire. Replace lightbulbs when they burn out. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs may overheat. And never leave an empty socket!

- ▶ Outlets — Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to a fire. Replace any missing or broken wall plates. When small children and pets are present in a home, or visit frequently, it is wise to keep outlets covered with plastic covers. These prevent children from accidentally sticking something in the outlet and suffering a shock.
- ▶ Plugs — Make sure your plugs fit your outlets. Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong fit a two-conductor outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock. NEVER FORCE A PLUG INTO AN OUTLET IF IT DOESN'T FIT. Plugs should fit securely into outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances. Make sure cords are in good condition — not frayed or cracked — and that they are placed out of traffic areas. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest any furniture on them.
- ▶ Extension Cords — Check to see that cords are not overloaded. Additionally, extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help prevent young children from shock hazards and mouth burn injuries.
- ▶ Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) — GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. They should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock. Test GFCIs regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions to make sure they are working properly.
- ▶ Tools — Inspect electric tools for damage to cords, plugs and wiring. Take tools to a qualified professional for repair. Never leave electric tools unattended where children are. Store electric tools indoors to keep them protected from damage caused by water and excessive heat. Safety devices on outdoor electric tools are there for a reason. Make sure that they are always in place before operating.
- ▶ Entertainment/Computer Equipment — Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly; look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors. ☀



Tree planting and maintenance

NOW THAT warm weather is here, many homeowners are back in their yards and gardens. Not only are flowers and vegetables being planted, but trees are going in as well. Before planting a tree, you should consider several important factors. In addition to beautifying your home, trees can help you save energy when they are planted in the proper areas. They also provide shade, absorb heat and control wind. Some tips to consider are:

- ▶ Plant deciduous trees, which shed their leaves during the winter. These trees provide shade and block heat during hotter months. By dropping their leaves in the fall, they allow sunlight in the colder months.
- ▶ Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home.
- ▶ Evergreens, which keep their needles year around, serve as a windbreak to save energy during the heating seasons.
- ▶ Evergreens should not be planted on the south or west side of your home because they will block warming sunlight during the winter. These trees also provide shade during summer.

Although trees are very beneficial in helping save energy, they can also be a danger if they are not planted in the proper areas.

With proper planning, you can have a variety of beautiful trees without having to worry about them conflicting with power lines in the future. When planting trees remember the following:

1. Visualize the tree at its full-size height and width when preparing to plant.
 2. Avoid planting trees near a power line.
- New Enterprise REC has a 20-foot right-

of-way on either side of the power lines.
3. Plant trees that will grow large in an area where they will maintain a safe distance from the power line when fully grown, and be sure to allow for wind sway.

Avoid planting trees near underground power lines. If there are underground power lines on your property, be sure to call 811, the "Call Before You Dig" number.

Existing trees

For many years, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative has had a right-of-way maintenance program. The entire service territory has been trimmed, cut or sprayed once and we have been working on the second cycle for a number of years. It is important to keep our rights-of-way clear of trees and vines. The number of outages caused by trees has greatly decreased since our right-of-way maintenance program was put into action.

We believe keeping our rights-of-way clear is very important. When a tree or large branch falls onto a power line, your electricity can go out. In some cases, trees can break poles and wire, tearing down the entire line.

Not only is a downed line an inconvenience to you, it also can be a hazard. If anyone touches a downed power line that is still energized, the result can be serious injury or even death.

Never attempt to clear a tree from a downed power line. If you have a dead tree or limbs close to the power lines, call New Enterprise REC to remove this hazard. We hire subcontractors to do most of our right-of-way cutting, trimming and spraying. These contractors and our employees are trained in safely cutting and trimming trees. ⚡

Youth tour student selected

EACH YEAR, New Enterprise REC sends students to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year, one student from our service territory will be attending this fun-filled week.

Robert L. Walls II, the son of Robert and Melissa Walls of Raystown Road, Hopewell, attends the Pennsylvania Leadership Charter. Robert spent one month in China in an immersion program. He lived with a Chinese family and attended a Mandarin Chinese Language and



Robert Walls

Culture School. During the weekends, Robert visited many Chinese historical sights.

Robert was one of 12 students selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School's "Leadership Retreat."

His extracurricular activities are 4-H and volunteering at the Hopewell Senior Citizens Center. In 2002, he was Bedford County Junior Overall Shooting Champion. He has received first-, second- and third-place ribbons for art and garden yields at the Bedford County Fair.

His pastor remarks, "Beyond Robert's ambition and ability to achieve as he set his goals in life, he is a very compassionate young man, with good standards and morals. A young man that not only we as his family can be proud of, but a young man in these difficult times that our community and even our great country can be proud of!"

New Enterprise REC is glad to have Robert representing us at the 2008 NRE-CA Youth Tour. ⚡



Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project.

A new, federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number – 811 – was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call, even the small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

Smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Whether you are a homeowner or a professional excavator, one call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for FREE.

KIDZCORNER

The truth about Electric Shock!

THIS IS SO IMPORTANT! Electricity can shock, burn or kill you! You never know when contact with electricity will be fatal, but you can count on it hurting. It's not only power lines that can kill or injure you if you contact them; you can also be killed by a shock from an appliance or power cord in your home if you don't know how to take precautions!

Avoid Electric Shock!

- ➡ Never climb utility poles or play on fences around substations.
- ➡ Keep electrical cords and wires away from heat and water.
- ➡ If you are touching water, never touch electrical devices such as light switches, hair dryers, curling irons, mixers or toasters.
- ➡ Don't pull on electric cords to unplug them.
- ➡ Keep kites away from power lines and never fly metallic balloons outside.
- ➡ Don't put your fingers in a lightbulb socket.
- ➡ If you see a fallen electrical wire, stay away!
- ➡ Tell someone if you see a frayed cord.
- ➡ Don't swim during an electrical storm.
- ➡ Don't climb a tree that has power lines running through or near it.
- ➡ Don't use an electrical appliance when you're wet.
- ➡ Tell your parents about damaged plugs and cords on outdoor and indoor appliances.
- ➡ Don't touch anyone or anything that is touching a downed wire.



Why do people get shocked?

Electricity flows through water almost as easily as it travels through the wire that brings electricity to your house.

Your body is 70 percent water, so if you touch electricity, it will flow through you and you will be badly hurt.

The amperage of the electric current and length of time you're in contact with it determines the injury.

People who work with electricity use special protective gear. You do not have this gear, so stay away from danger!