

living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

JUNE 2018

Mark your calendar now: Co-op's Annual Meeting is Monday, Aug. 6, 2018, at Honey Creek Resort

What you don't know about electric cars could thrill you

We talk with
students from the first
Youth Tour – in 1958!

Visit our website at www.cvrec.com

**Will solar power work
for your home?**

**Rural broadband:
You signed the
postcard, now what?**

SAVE THE DATE!

CVEC ANNUAL MEETING 2018

Annual Meeting of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Monday, Aug. 6, 2018

Honey Creek Resort



Be sure to check next month's issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine! It's our special Annual Meeting Edition and will include director candidates, 2017 Annual Meeting minutes, financial and officer reports, schedule for the event and all the exciting details of our fun-filled evening!



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

You signed the postcard, now what?

BY BRYON STILLEY

By now, you may know CVEC is actively seeking grants and funds to deploy a much-needed broadband service to our members. High costs and low population density remain the biggest obstacles to expanding rural broadband access.



In order to close the digital divide for the 23 million rural Americans who lack broadband internet access, an expanded combination of federal grant and loan funding through the U.S. government and the USDA is essential. We are excited and hopeful for these grants and the low-interest loan opportunities through the Community Connect Grant Program and a new \$600 million pilot program recently authorized through the 2018 omnibus spending bill. CVEC has submitted our application, maps and support letters for our opportunity to be awarded up to \$3 million that will make our broadband project feasible.

Nearly 100 electric co-ops, including Chariton Valley Electric,

are investing in rural America by bringing high-speed internet access to homes, business and schools.

These newly connected co-op communities are creating new jobs, attracting new employers and directly jump-starting local economies.

This is a positive step toward connecting the rural economy and closing the digital divide. Expanded broadband access is equally

important to the people who live in rural America and the operations of the electric co-ops that serve them!

We plan to keep our membership updated as we navigate through this process. On behalf of Chariton Valley Electric, I also want to personally thank our members, area businesses, schools, and state and U.S. legislative leaders who took the time to sign and return support postcards and letters. Your signatures and support were needed, and we are unbelievably thankful! ⚡

Bryon Stilley is the general manager of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

CVEC returns more than \$14,000 in rebates during March!

Smart energy choices make a home more comfortable and power bills more affordable. That's why Chariton Valley Electric offers many valuable rebates for members to take advantage of.

During March, CVEC returned \$14,615 in rebates to members who installed energy efficient water heaters, central air units, heat pumps, geothermal systems and commercial LED lights. Visit our



website at www.cvrec.com to find more information about our rebate programs. ⚡

What is grid resiliency – and why is it important to you?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric utility industry today. It recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid and resulted in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. "Lack of resilience" became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here in Iowa, what does grid resiliency mean for you? It's many things: reliability in your electric service, our ability to efficiently restore your power and being able to meet the demands of new technology – plus, it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that's designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as wind, solar, coal and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. In addition, the way our systems react to advancements in technology – from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles – all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep everything running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage;



it was the result of years of neglect taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, tune-ups and tire rotations, we must properly maintain the grid. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has termite damage, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Living in Iowa, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially during the spring and summer storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of tornadoes or river flooding, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out! ⚡

Convenience fees dropped on electronic payments

Beginning June 1, 2018, a convenience fee no longer will be charged to members paying with a credit card, debit card or e-check.

This is just another example of how CVEC is listening to our members and working to meet their wants and needs! ⚡



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a wireless smoke alarm kit, and install a home fire safety network in just minutes



Endorsed by the American Red Cross, this Kidde Home Protection Kit includes two Kidde Model P4010DCS-W photoelectric smoke alarms that interconnect wirelessly – so they'll both go off to warn your family in the event of a fire. You can add more alarms to the wireless system, such as an ionization smoke detector, for the most complete fire detection system – and even monitor the system from your smart phone.

To enter the contest for this \$80 Home Protection Kit, visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com no later than June 30, 2018. ⚡

Scholarships are granted to local graduating seniors

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., is pleased to announce this year's \$500 scholarship winners.

Ben Mason, son of Rhonda Mason and Kyle McCombs of Albia, plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in electrical engineering.



Shannon McLain, daughter of Marti and Joyce McLain of Albia, will attend the University of Iowa and major in business marketing.



Cade Crall, son of Kevin and Jill Crall of Albia, will attend the University of Iowa and major in marketing with a minor in sports and recreation management.



"Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative congratulates this year's deserving scholarship recipients," said CVEC board president Mike Miller. "We are pleased to be able to help students from families who are members of CVEC as they strive to further their education." ⚡

OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe and happy holiday!



CVEC demonstrates electrical safety for local students

CVEC recently participated in a safety demonstration at the Monroe County Farm Bureau/Albia FFA Ag Safety Day. More than 150 students from three schools – elementary through middle school – watched as our co-op employees promoted electrical safety around electric lines.

Safety and education are two of Chariton Valley Electric's top priorities, and we're excited to have opportunities like this one to help educate our local youth on the importance of safety around



electricity. If your school or organization would like information on CVEC's safety programs, please contact our office at 641-932-7126. ⚡

Your child's life jacket can't save her from electric shock drowning.

Education can.



The danger cannot be seen. It can be silently lurking within the water where kids swim. Electricity from boats plugged into shore power can leak into the water if not properly equipped and maintained.

Poor boat and dock wiring may create hazards that can electrocute swimmers, boaters and people on the dock. They should be maintained and inspected often by professionals. *Prepare for a safe summer on the water.*



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