

living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

JANUARY 2019

Win a sous vide cooker with Wi-Fi! ▶ See Page 5

**New year,
new legislature,
new opportunities**

**Rural dentistry –
Something to
smile about!**

**Proactively reducing
outage causes**

**Recipes for
healthy eating**

Visit our website at www.cvrec.com



You're more than a customer

BY BRYON STILLEY

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative's philosophy toward our members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a *member* of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1947, CVEC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the



community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create CVEC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are so much more. We are a co-op that is continuously evolving to meet

the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as legislative forums throughout the year. We host events to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as our member

portal that assists in managing your energy use and cost. We are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technologies and shifting consumer expectations.

CVEC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations and events throughout the year. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future. ⚡

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



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Website

www.cvrec.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

We accept



ATTENTION MEMBERS

New payment mailing address!

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative recently implemented lockbox deposit services with our billing software provider South Eastern Data Cooperative (SEDC). Effective immediately, remittance coupons included on our members' invoices will reflect a new payment mailing address of:

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Department 1340
PO Box 2153
Birmingham, AL 35287

Members who use online bill pay systems or have stored payment information in accounting systems may need to manually update their records to reflect the new mailing address. **In order to receive proper credit for your payment, please include the remittance**



invoice stub with your check.

Payments will still be accepted by visiting our office or dropbox locations at our headquarters in Albia or via the payment portal at www.cvrec.com.

For more information or questions, please contact our office at (641) 932-7126. ⚡

Toys and joy!



This year, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative continued helping our community with the annual Toys for Tots drive organized by the Marine Corps Reserve. The drive accepts donated toys for families who cannot afford to buy toys for their children during the holidays.

CVEC knows donating items over the holidays is a worthy cause.

“We strive to create community-

wide participation in the toy drive,” says Bryon Stillely.

The drive was a great success, as CVEC collected a surplus of toys, which will be distributed by Tyler Boley of Mossy Oak Properties-Boley Real Estate.

A huge “Thank you” and “Merry Christmas” to all the CVEC members and staff who helped and donated to bring holiday cheer to those in need. ⚡

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Sous Vide Cooker with Wi-Fi!

Once the well-kept secret of professional chefs, this smart sous vide precision cooker makes it easier than ever for home cooks to prepare a perfect meal. Designed to work with any pot in your kitchen, the cooker features a full-service app that includes time and temperature guides, 1,000+ recipes, and allows you to start, stop and monitor your cooking from your mobile device. For details, visit www.williams-sonoma.com and enter 6561828 in the search bar. The retail value is \$200.



Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest for a Sous Vide Cooker by visiting the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com no later than Jan. 31, 2019. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. ⚡

It's time to apply for the 2019 Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour

Iowa's local electric co-ops believe in youth. That's why CVEC sponsors the Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. — a weeklong summer trip that allows participants to explore our nation's historic sites and see government in action.



Who can attend?

Youth Tour participants are chosen by their cooperatives. High school students typically are eligible to apply during their sophomore, junior or senior years.

Is it fun?

Absolutely – an action-packed week awaits! Tour historic sites. Meet congressional leaders. Spend a day on Capitol Hill. Explore the Smithsonian museums. Take a cruise on the Potomac River. Make new friends from Iowa and across the nation.

Don't miss the chance of a lifetime!

Become one of hundreds of Iowa youth who have experienced Youth Tour. You'll be glad you did!

When does it happen?

June 14-20, 2019

How do you apply?

For an application, click on Community Tab/Youth Tour link on our website at www.cvrec.com, call Anna Kerber at 641-932-7126 or ask your guidance counselor at your high school. Your application must be marked no later than Feb. 28, 2019. ⚡

Resolve to be energy-efficient this year!

Here are five efficiency ideas, which can save you energy dollars:

1. **Hire a chimney sweep** – Each year, before you fire up the furnace or build a fire in the fireplace, play it safe and hire a professional chimney sweep to clean out your flue and check out the equipment. A clean furnace, fireplace and flue will not only be safer but will burn more efficiently, thus saving fuel and energy dollars.
2. **Replace that old refrigerator in the basement** – If you have an old “second” refrigerator in the garage or basement, you’re spending more than you should on energy usage. Look for an ENERGY STAR-qualified model and see how much money it saves on your utility bill.
3. **Schedule a home energy audit** – An audit, by a qualified professional, will find all kinds of improvements to make to your home’s energy “envelope.” You’ll have a list of changes to make over time to save energy dollars. Check with Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative to see what we offer.
4. **Install ceiling fans or buy portables** – Simply using a fan to move warm air in the winter and cool air in the summer will make you feel about 4 degrees F warmer or cooler, respectively. That may prevent you from fiddling with the thermostat and spending more energy dollars.
5. **Caulk your windows** – Sealing windows, particularly ones you don’t open, with clear silicone caulk on the inside of the window can reduce air leaks and keep out those pesky Asian beetles that swarm in the fall and squeeze into your house through miniscule leak holes around windows and doors. ⚡

A stroll through time

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. once again participated in Albia’s Victorian Stroll, demonstrating Cooperative Principle No. 7 – Concern for Community. This year’s window theme was “Merry and Bright Christmas Market.” The window consisted of hand-painted recycled light bulbs. A variety of Victorian store items were donated by Antiques and More in Albia to create an authentic Victorian storefront feel. Many of CVEC’s employees and their family members spent countless hours painting and refurbishing the old light bulbs. Once all 100 light bulb ornaments are sold, the Victorian Stroll will receive \$1,000 from the proceeds of this fundraiser. ⚡



ZONE IN ON SAFETY

You never know who’s watching, especially in a work zone.

Tougher laws, higher fines and stiff penalties are in store if you get caught speeding or texting. Most states require drivers to follow these steps when approaching anyone on the side of the road:

- 1) Change lanes if possible.
- 2) If that’s not possible, you must slow down.
- 3) If your lane is blocked and you can’t move over, stop!
- 4) Then proceed with caution.

Don’t drive distracted. Stay focused when driving near utility roadside work zones. Their lives and your life are at stake.

See the story at

Safe
Electricity.org

TLC

TEACH what you know.
LEARN what you need to.
CARE enough to share it.