



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Springtime

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR when construction projects get into full swing. Here at the cooperative, we have been receiving requests from members who are starting new projects, and we are finalizing plans for our own maintenance and upgrade projects. As always, weather and other factors can alter our priority list of projects planned at any time. In addition, there are routine maintenance projects to be completed while weather permits.

Over the next couple of months, we will begin switching load from the Jarvisville 23-kV substation and the Erie 12.47-kV metering point onto the Chiefton 138-kV to 12.47-kV transformer. At this point we also will be replacing meters currently supplied by Erie with new GE meters with Aclara modules. The Jarvisville-fed meters have already been changed out. Later this summer or early fall, we will remove the Erie metering point altogether. Originally, we had planned to close and remove the Dola metering point at this time; however, because of

some other events, the Dola metering point will continue to be in use for another two or three years. We will change, if we have not already changed, all of the Dola territory over to GE meters with Aclara modules.

Either this month or in the near future, annual pole inspections will begin. We contract with Osmose to perform these inspections, and they inspect an average of about 1,200 poles each year. In addition to the pole inspections, they also check guy wires, anchors, conductors, equipment, and neutrals and make necessary repairs as they go or report more complex issues to our operations department. This work is a critical step in maintaining a healthy infrastructure.

Another project that is high on the priority list is the upgrade of the Cunningham's Run circuit. Our staking technician will be using a new electronic staking device to lay out the remainder of this project over the next couple of months. Actual construction is planned for early to late fall. This is the final project to be completed in accordance with our current Rural Utilities Service work plan. It has been a long time since the cooperative was actually able to complete all of the projects on a

Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,
CEO/General Manager



work plan without carrying anything forward into the next plan. We plan on completing this work with our own line crews, but we may bid the work out and use a contractor if the workload gets too full.

Member projects multiply this time of year, even though we have seen a downturn in requests for projects from the oil and gas industry. While there have been some speculative inquiries, things seem to be on a slower timeline until they work out some of their supply and demand issues. All of this is a bit of a double-edged sword to the cooperative because power futures tend to follow gas futures, so when one goes up, so does the other.

We all hope for warm, uneventful spring weather. For our gardeners, it is time to either plant or to get the garden ready for planting, depending on your personal philosophy. Either way, fresh produce is just around the corner to tantalize our taste buds. ☺

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Office Hours
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.



*Harrison Rural
Electrification Association
will be closed Monday, May 25,
in observance of
Memorial Day.*

Homegrown in West Virginia

Bridgeport Farmers Market offers family fun year-round

BY JACY WOODS

THE AROMA OF A FRESHLY MADE country breakfast fills your senses and makes your mouth water. Home-grown peppers and squash are spread out on tables in front of you, and extravagant cupcakes are stacked and ready for purchase. A yoga class is in session the near-by field, and a young jazz band is putting a swing in your step. You think about the meals you are about to prepare with your fresh produce and the hand-crafted art work that will adorn your living room walls. Being at the Bridgeport Farmers Market is igniting your imagination and overloading your senses.

May 2015 starts the seventh season of the Bridgeport Farmers Market in Bridgeport, W.Va. The market started in July 2009 with only seven vendors and is run solely by a volunteer board of directors. The founders, who are also board members, had discussed forming a market for years to promote locally grown foods. After a lot of dreaming, it finally became a reality.

"We knew our mission was to form a local market where vendors, all from West Virginia, could sell their quality products and we could support the local foods," said Debbie Workman, a founder and board member.

The first location was outside the local high school, where it ran for three successful years. Then Genesis Partners, owners of the master-planned Bridgeport community Charles Pointe, approached the board about moving the market to the area, where it's now starting its fourth season.

"The Charles Pointe area is perfect for the market, with the proper electric and water hookups. The employees of Genesis Partners have been very helpful with the running of this local event," Workman said.

The market is open on Sundays from 10a.m.-2p.m. — no matter the weather.

If you miss the visiting the market in the summer months, don't fret. The Bridgeport Farmer's Market can be found indoors from November through April at the Bridgeport Conference Center.

Some of the vendors are:

My Little Cupcake — elegant, homemade cupcakes

Master Gardeners — books, bags, spices and jams

Lazy J Farm — homemade butter, jams, buckwheat flour and soaps; also fresh-laid eggs

Feathered — jewelry and vintage clothing

Interested in supporting the Bridgeport Farmer's Market? The next benefit dinner will be Oct. 22.

"We have only closed one time in the seven years we have been open," Workman said. "Rain or shine, we will be there. We do leave the ultimate decision up to the vendors; some of them cannot have their products out in the rain."

The Bridgeport Farmer's Market now offers Sunday brunch and entertainment by local musicians, and it has evolved into a community event for all to enjoy. There is no charge for vendors to participate. The market operates on donations from businesses and private supporters, along with fundraisers coordinated by the board of directors.

The main fundraisers are the Bridgeport Farmer's Market Benefit Dinners, the most recent of which was April 28 at the Bridgeport Conference Center. All proceeds went to the market.

"The Benefit Dinner is an event favorite for the community," Workman said. "It is \$20 a ticket, and we are happy to say that all the proceeds benefit the market. The dinner is very casual and kid friendly with entertainment and great food. The food is all proudly made with locally grown ingredients."

The market is also known for its social events, such as the Country Roads Kickoff, this year on Aug. 2. It's a cooking contest using local produce, and the contestants are to make one dish with 50 samples for the prize of a People's Choice Awards. The contest is open to the public and is made up of teams or individuals. For more information on how to be involved in the event, please e-mail bridgeportfarmersmarket@yahoo.com.

On behalf of the entire volunteer board of directors, Workman sent a huge thank-you to the community for its continual support and dedication to making the dreams of supporting local products and produce a reality.

"The Bridgeport Farmer's Market has formed into an amazing community event where families can come and enjoy West Virginia's finest products," she said. "The volunteers who have dedicated their free time to this market are proud of what it has become." ☺



Spring into safety

BY SAM SATTERFIELD, OPERATIONS MANAGER

As we move out of a winter mode into a spring mode, we need to get into the mindset for increased outdoor activities and associated safety awareness. The sun is getting hotter, yardwork needs attention, and our little folks are getting out playing and enjoying the warmer weather.

It is important to remember to apply sunscreen before getting started on outdoor plans. Plans may be to enjoy a day outside with the kids or working in the yard. It may even mean a day on a trout stream or a lake. Either way, extensive exposure to the sun can be damaging.

Getting started on yardwork is another activity that has safety risks. After a long winter, inactive muscles can lead to sprains and strains. Don't go out and overdo it. Start off slowly, with a safe plan to complete outdoor tasks. Lawn mowers, garden tillers, weed eaters and some chainsaws that have been sitting idle through the winter will need inspected for safe working conditions, along with any safety gear to be used with the outdoor equipment. Prior to starting the yardwork, folks need to remove loose debris that can be turned into a projectile while mowing or running the weed eater. When

pruning trees, be sure to stay away from overhead power lines, no matter what material your ladder is made of.

When children are riding bikes or skateboards, make sure that they have helmets that fit them properly and that they are educated on road safety. While playing a game of catch or Frisbee, it is important to remember road safety. Motorists are more distracted than ever in today's world. Children wanting to help in yardwork need to be educated on the use of safety items. Showing them how important eye protection is can go a long way for their futures. As they grow older they may be running a mower, weed eater or even a chainsaw if properly trained.

Keeping a mindset on safety will help everyone be safe and healthy to better enjoy the summer months that are around the corner with family and friends.



New meter system helps improve service

BY LLOYD MASON

As our automated metering infrastructure (AMI) project comes to a close, we are presented with another opportunity to discuss some real benefits this huge project brings to the table.

PLC stands for “power line carrier,” which simply means the meter signal travels at the same frequency as the electricity being delivered. We have installed equipment that will communicate with a meter through the substation or metering point. The signal is then sent back to our offices and is interpreted by the AMI server.

This direct and almost instantaneous communication will help in some fantastic ways. For instance, we will be able to use that data in a software suite known as an outage management system. We will be able to take calls reporting power outages, enter them into the system in real time, and see a visual representation on our maps of the services that are on and the services that are off. The end result will be more efficiency in restoring power.

Another huge benefit is the troubleshooting po-

tential. We are now able to analyze our power delivery and test the devices between the cooperative and the member. Another benefit is that the meter is read 24 times a day, which is helpful in several ways. For example, if a piece of equipment in the home, such as a refrigerator, starts to go bad, it will typically pull more power than it would under normal circumstances. By understanding what happened to electric use on a specific date — even at a specific time — we can help our members tie that information together with events in their own lives that may have been the cause of the use increase.

These are just a few of the benefits this system can supply. Service analysis is a good thing for all of us, and we look forward to using this new equipment to the betterment of our membership!

Til next time @TECH CORNER.

LLOYD MASON is the manager of information technology at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our cooperative and members.

Put safety first this May and through the year

EVERY MAY, HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION Association recognizes National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the

importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of you and your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

POWERFUL FACTS

WHAT IS A POWER SURGE?

A power surge, or transient voltage, is a sudden and unwanted increase in voltage that can damage, degrade and destroy the sensitive electronic equipment in your home or business.

CAUSES

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) estimates that 60-80 percent of surges are created when large appliances, like air conditioners, turn on and off. The most powerful surges are caused by lightning.

IMPACT

A spike in voltage can be harmful to electrical devices in your home if the increase is above the device's intended operating voltage. This creates heat that can damage electrical components.

PROTECT

To protect your electrical equipment from power surges, install outlet surge suppressors throughout your home and consider a surge protector at your main circuit panel.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be kept away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top of the cooking range and the area above it should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Lighting

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition, not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center or replace the item.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
 - Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year, or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
 - Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. Include small children in planning an emergency escape route — they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.
- For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org.