RR 6, Box 502 Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502 304-624-6365

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



www.harrisonrea.com

Your Co-op membership has its privileges

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric Cooperative. Not only are Co-ops locally owned and controlled by you, the member/customers, they also are locally run to serve your needs.

While many investor-owned utility customers pay their power bills to companies that answer to faraway stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots for electric Co-ops. Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big dividends for investors. Instead. Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7President
Greg Robertson, Dist. 2Vice President
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6SecyTreas.
C.B. SharpDist. 1
Glenn Cox, JrDist. 3
James Stuart Dist. 4
Ron WatsonDist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager Terry StoutOffice Manager Alan CoxOperations Manager Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer Nada McNemarEditor

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

Unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who must consider Wall Street profit pressures, your Co-op's directors, (who are fellow members, by the way), have only one thing in mind — keeping the lights on and keeping the costs down. That is why you elected them, and that is what's so great about Co-ops. If you don't like the direction your Co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric Cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural citizens banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then. Co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize that the Co-op approach — members working together to achieve price and service benefits — can work for them just as effectively as it has worked for rural Americans for years.

The principles upon which electric Co-ops were founded voluntary and open membership,

Manager's Corner By Gary Jackson, CEO/General Manager



democratic member control and members' economic participation, among others — are as meaningful today as they were when electric Co-ops began in the 1930s.

The Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the member, have. We are accessible to our members. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and be assured that someone here is listening. And at our annual meeting, you can visit with us in person and share any thoughts you might have about how your business is being run.

In these days of deregulation, soaring profits and billion-dollar mergers and acquisitions in the power industry, those of you who get your electricity from Co-ops should count yourselves lucky. As locally owned-and-operated businesses, electric Co-ops have a real understanding of the people we serve. Cooperative management and employees share the same values and have the same pride of place because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors, because we are neighbors.

And that's the Cooperative difference.

Garden tips from the weather vane almanac

When choosing the site for your home garden, some factors to consider are the amount of sunlight it will receive and the characteristics of the soil. Welldrained, deep, fertile soil is essential for a successful garden. If possible, the garden should receive full sunlight all day. The composition of the soil within your garden is another factor that should be taken into consideration. Onions, celery and late cucumbers do well if part of your plot is low and moist. If you have an area that is high, warm and dry, you could place vegetables that need a soil that warms up quickly there. Keep in mind that some vegetables can be grown in flower beds or containers. Since many vegetables are ornamental in appearance, you might consider working them in around your shrubbery.

Open letter to the members

For the last several years, your board of directors has been aggressively working with our local elected officials to pass a bill amending Chapter 11 of the State Code to include nonprofit electric corporations for the same property tax exemption that is given to other nonprofit utilities that provide water, natural gas and/or sewer services.

We are pleased to report that with the leadership of Senator Joe Minard, who introduced Senate Bill 101, and the driving force of delegates Ron Fragale, Tim Miley, Richard Iaquinta and Sam Cann, the governor signed the amendment into law this past week. This action will be a cost savings of more than \$200,000 annually to the Co-op.

We would appreciate your taking the time to thank each of these men for their efforts:

Senator Joe Minard 510 Haymond Highway

510 Haymond Highway Clarksburg, WV 26301 304-622-6488

Delegate Ron Fragale

503 East Main Street Clarksburg, WV 26301 304-622-3609

Delegate Tim Miley

23 Valley View Road Bridgeport, WV 26330 304-848-0102

Delegate Richard Iaquinta

139 Vermont Avenue Clarksburg, WV 26301 304-622-4813

Delegate Sam Cann

P.O. Box 1570 Clarksburg, WV 26302-1570 304-842-4031

It is a pleasure serving you. We are sincerely, Mike Cross, C.B. Sharp, Jim Stewart, Glenn Cox, Greg Robertson, Jack Powell, Ron Watson

> Harrison Rural Electric A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

This could save room in your garden plot for additional vegetables. You don't have to wait until after frost to plant, either. Some vegetables should go into the ground early. Transplants of cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, kale, English peas and Irish potatoes need about three to four weeks' head start on warm weather.

Larger vegetable gardens need some perennials, grouped together where they cannot interfere with the annual crops. Asparagus is a good choice and is one of the earliest of the spring vegetables. One-year-old plants with a root spread of at least 15 inches are recommended. If set in beds, plants should be 1-1/2 ft. apart each way. For rows, they should be 1-1/2 ft. apart and the rows themselves from 4 to 5 ft. apart.

Eggplant is a warm-weather plant extremely sensitive to the conditions under which it grows. Eggplant should not be set outdoors until the soil is well warmed, and it requires high day and night temperatures. For best results, plant in fertile, well-drained soil in an area that receives full sun all day. You need only a few plants to produce a large number of fruits.

Pinch off blooms of flowers before planting. The plant will put its initial energy into establishing roots and foliage, not flowers. Favorite flowers for potting in sunny locations include dahlias, nasturtiums, geraniums and marigolds. For shade, impatiens, ferns and tuberous begonias do well.

Your garden requires an inch of rain a week for best plant growth. Keep weeds pulled out, they will compete with your plants for moisture. Did you know that there are about 170 pounds of weed seed in a 50 x 50 ft. garden plot? Mulch will moderate the soil temperature around plants and help to control weeds. Plants spaced close together allow the leaves from neighboring plants to shade the soil, conserving moisture. During periods of no rainfall it is recommended to water thoroughly about once a week. Hard-packed clay soil should be loosened to allow the water to penetrate. Soaker hoses are a good choice because they are relatively inexpensive and conserve water. If you must use overhead sprinklers, keep in mind vegetables such as tomatoes, zucchinis and cucumbers are susceptible to fungal disease and should not have water left on their leaves. Conserve water resources by watering during the cool of the early morning. To minimize evaporation, install a soaker hose or drip irrigation system in your garden. Save rainwater for watering your garden. It saves on your water bill and is better for your plants.

Lastly, did you know that if every homeowner in the country planted two deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall), those trees, when grown, would remove more than 18 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air and save us more than \$4 billion in utility bills annually?

Justin Yerkey chosen for Youth Leadership Council

Justin Yerkey, son on lineman Ron Yerkey and bookkeeper Debbie Yerkey, attended the NRECA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, Calif., this past Febru-

ary.

Justin represented HREA as our 2007
Youth Tour student, and was chosen to serve on the Youth Leadership Council at the 2008
NRECA Annual Meeting. Justin's main responsibility was to help organize the other youth who attended the meeting. He is an old hand at managing students, since he assists



Justin got to go to Disneyland while he was in Anaheim, but he said the best part of the trip was

Brittany Greathouse receives honorable mention at science fair

Brittany Greathouse, daughter of receptionist April Greathouse and her husband, Tim, competed in

the Regional Science Fair held at Fairmont State University.

In order to be eligible for the Regional Fair, Brittany first had to place in her school's science fair. There were more than 80 projects turned in divided into different divisions. Brittany placed in the chemistry and biochemistry division with her project "What is the better



carpet cleaner?" Brittany first came up with a hypothesis, observed the results of her experiment and then gave her final conclusion.

Brittany received honorable mention at the Regional Science Fair, and the dean of the university presented her with a silver beaker from the chemistry department.

Brittany is a sixth grader at Doddridge County Middle School. She enjoys playing softball and scrap-booking.

Congratulations, Brittany, on a job well done!

getting to see some of the other Youth Tour students he had made friends with while on the Youth Tour. He also toured Los Angeles by car and saw some of

the sights there.

When asked if he would recommend the Youth Tour to other students, Justin said he definitely would. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and made many new friends.

Justin is a junior at Doddridge County High School where he travels with the ball teams and videotapes their games. He is a member of the

Student Council, is on the prom committee and recently became a Demolay. He plans to join the Air Force upon graduation and wants to get his degree in engineering while he serves his country.

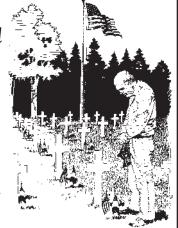
Good luck, Justin, from all of us. We know you will succeed in whatever you do. Thank you for being such a fine representative of our Cooperative.

HREA's 2008 service awards

The following employees each will reach a personal milestone this year for years of service to your electric Cooperative: Billing clerk Melissa (Missie) Stephenson and lineman Jon Paul McAllister will each complete 10 years of service this year. Lineman Rob Davis began working for HREA 15 years ago, and staking engineer Rick Fox will complete his 25th year with the Co-op. Leading this group is lineman John Holt, who has an amazing tenure of 35 years!

Congratulations to all these dedicated employees! Harrison Rural Electric certainly is lucky to have each and every one of you working for our member/owners.

Harrison Rural
Electrification
will be closed
Monday,
May 26 in
observance of
Memorial Day.



I'm OK

I have been accused of everything in the book. Some say I run when nothing is operating in the house (I creep!), they say I make too much noise, and that I even run at outrageous speeds.

I'm really a very capable guy. I am one of the most accurate measuring devices in modern times. I work day and night, and I don't have any ill feeling toward anyone.

I only do my job of letting you know how much electricity has been used. Sometimes because of a loose seal around my face, I get dirty and begin to slow down because of the added weight of the dirt. And once in awhile I get struck by lightning and I stop dead.

I just can't understand it. My cousin (a gasoline meter) never gets blamed for poor gasoline mileage in the family car. Maybe it is because you can't see electricity and you can gasoline.

Some families use more hot water, cook more and entertain more. Some people take showers, others tub baths, and some only once a week or less. Others have only one hot meal a day and some have three hot meals, which uses more electricity.

Even if all of the appliances in homes were identical, people's living habits would make the difference. And then there's the possibility of bad house wiring, which makes me run at a terrific speed.

Sometimes I am really depressed. I work tirelessly, and I do a good job, and still I'm the object of a lot of criticism.

But, when most people think it over, they begin to realize that I do my job well, and that electricity is the cheapest servant to be

found.

So, you see I'm not a crook at all. I only record the amount of work your efficient electric servants do for you.

Start the mowing season safely

Looking for an excuse not to mow the lawn this summer? Try this: Each year, nearly 80,000 Americans require hospital treatment from injuries caused by lawn mowers, according to a study conducted by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The researchers also concluded that the number of injuries from lawn mowers is increasing, with the majority of injuries occurring in children under age 15 and adults age 60 and older.

The most common injuries were caused by strikes from debris, such as rocks and branches, propelled by the mower's spinning blades.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that no one under age 16 should use a riding mower, and no one under age 12 should use a push mower.

A recent study showed that more than 663,000 people were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for lawn mower injuries between 1996 and 2004. More than 80,000 people required hospital treatment for lawn mower injuries in 2004, which means about 2 out of every 1,000 injury-related emergency room visits is because of a lawn mower injury.

The following safety tips are recommended to avoid mowing-related injuries:

- Wear goggles, long pants and close-toed shoes with gripped soles;
- Clear the yard of debris before mowing;
- Keep everyone, especially small children, away from the yard while mowing;
- People with histories of chest, back or joint pain should reconsider mowing;
- Use care and wear protective gloves when servicing mower or changing blades;
- Many injuries occur while lifting a mower get

help if needed;

- Never service the mower while it is running;
- Mow only in good weather conditions avoid mowing in high heat;
- Do not use riding mower on steep hills or embankments:
- Do not carry passengers on riding mowers or tow passengers behind the mower;
- Do not allow children under the age of 16 to operate riding mower;
- Store lawn mowers in area with minimal traffic and not accessible to children.

Source: ConsumerAffairs.com



Harrison Rural Electrification wishes all mothers a joyous day on May 11.