

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Plug Into Electrical Safety – Power Cord & Extension Cord Safety Tips

According to a recent estimate, approximately three people die each day in residential electrical-related incidences in the home. A great many of those are related to problems at the outlets, power cords and extension cords. To help reduce those numbers, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is encouraging consumers to “Plug Into Electrical Safety” with the following safety tips:

Outlets

- ◆ Have a qualified, licensed electrician inspect your outlets and electrical system.
- ◆ Plugs should fit fully and securely into outlets, but should not be forced.
- ◆ Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets to protect children.
- ◆ If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot or discolored by heat, shut off the circuit and have it professionally checked.
- ◆ Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips.

Power cords and extension cords

- ◆ Check that all electrical items, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA Group, ETL, and MET labs.
- ◆ Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; unplug and safely store them after every use.
- ◆ Do not place power cords and extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs or furniture, and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.
- ◆ Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet.
- ◆ Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used.
- ◆ All electrical items and extension cords should be kept in good condition. If damage is discovered, take the item to an authorized repair center or cut the cord and dispose of it safely.

For these and other electrical safety tips, visit ESFI on the web at www.electrical-safety.org or call 703-841-3229.

—Courtesy of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI)



Springtime Allergy Survival Tips

- ▼ Don't exercise outdoors between 5 and 10 a.m., when pollen counts are highest.
- ▼ Avoid yard work. Keep your home's windows closed when your neighbors cut their grass.
- ▼ Wear glasses or sunglasses while outdoors.
- ▼ Wash your hands and face after exercising outdoors; wash your hair if you have time.
- ▼ Use your car's air conditioner instead of opening the windows.
- ▼ Don't hang clothes outdoors to dry.
- ▼ Avoid open fields or freshly cut lawns when taking a walk.
- ▼ Walk or exercise after a rain, when pollen counts are lowest.

Grant County Rural Safety Day

The Grant County Rural Safety Day will be held June 14, 2005 at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster, Wisconsin. It will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Children that will be in grades 2 through 8 in the fall are invited.

This Rural Safety Day is designed to provide youth with the skills to keep themselves and their families safe. They'll learn how to identify potential hazards, prevent possible accidents and to respond correctly if an accident does occur.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Grant County Health Department at 111 South Jefferson Street, Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813 or phone 608-723-6416.

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Meter reading days for May are 21, 23, 24, and 25.

Currently Cooking



This variation of rhubarb pie is taken from the Dairyland Power 60th Anniversary Cookbook.

Can't Believe It's Not Coconut Rhubarb Cream Pie

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 2 eggs | ½ tsp. salt |
| 1 ½ C. sugar | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 3 Tbsp. flour | 2 C. rhubarb |
| ½ C. sweetened condensed milk | |

Combine all ingredients in a food processor and blend. Pour into a 9-inch unbaked piecrust. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, then lower the heat to 350 degrees for about 45 to 50 minutes.

Upcoming Auction

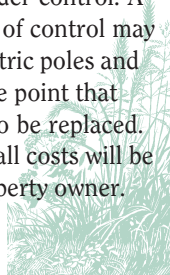
Help support your local Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society sponsored event held throughout the counties.

The Relay in Lancaster is having an auction this year. It will be held Friday, June 10th, at 7:00 in the evening at the high school track. There will be a wide variety - something of interest for everyone - ranging from \$25 - \$500.

Hope to see you there!

Grass Burning

If you need to burn grass on your property, take care to have the fire under control. A fire burning out of control may damage our electric poles and equipment to the point that they may need to be replaced. If this happens, all costs will be billed to the property owner.



Just For Fun



Worth A Fortune

Old folks are worth a fortune: With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs. I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old girl. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed—with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do—all the time. No matter where I am—in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement—I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?"

Audit Report

Those members that would like to view a copy of our 2004 CPA Audit Report may do so by contacting our office manager, Linda Bendorf at our Lancaster office at 800-236-2141, extension 106 to set up a time.

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Joan Wagner, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

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EARTH NOTES

Fuel Cell Automobiles

It sounds too good to be true; a car that runs on an inexhaustible power source and doesn't harm the environment. Two Japanese auto makers have put the world's first fuel cell cars on the road. Toyota Motor and Honda Motor are leasing a handful of the cars to the Japanese government and several public establishments in the United States in an experimental program that marks the biggest step yet towards the mass marketing of fuel cell vehicles (FCVs).

The ultimate "green car", FCVs could be part of the solution to smog, global warming and other ecological problems that conventional cars help cause. The only by-products from this fuel are heat and water. The water is so pure the Apollo astronauts drank it.

They haven't figured out how to make them affordable for the average consumer. Right now the leasing price is thousands of dollars a month. The price of a clean planet may be high. Another concern is building fueling stations to accommodate them. Hydrogen in its natural gaseous state is potentially dangerous to store, Japanese regulations prohibit permanent hydrogen fueling stations. Only three state-run sites exist, strictly on an experimental basis.

Japan's goal is to have 5 million FCVs on the road by 2020, which is 1 out of every 14 cars. Wouldn't this be an answer to our dwindling oil supplies? Hopefully science can perfect it so that it will be affordable for consumers.