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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Make a *SPLASH* at Neodesha's Aquatic Center

When the summer days begin to reach the 90's there is no better place to be than at your local swimming pool or aquatic center. Recently the community of Neodesha opened their new aquatic center.

Unfortunately, for the citizens in the town of Neodesha, the local pool has been closed as a result of the devastating flood in July 2007. Since that time, during the summer, the local children of Neodesha were bused to Fredonia and Independence to swim.

This year, the Neodesha Splash Zone Aquatic Center opened its doors on Memorial Day weekend, less than three years after the flood. The opening day featured a ribbon cutting, and volunteers serving hot dogs to the first day visitors.

The aquatic center is located just west of Northlawn Elementary School. The land was donated by USD 461 for the project.

The 4,693 sq-ft pool features an American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) zero-entry, deck sprays, kiddies' slide, one meter and three meter diving boards, three 25 yard lap lanes, open flume water slide, and swimming area, which can accommodate up to 270 swimmers.

Visitors to the pool can sit in shaded areas or work on their tan in the sun. The aquatic center also houses a concession area that serves the swimming pool and the public.

The bathhouse features amenities includ-



Splash Zone Aquatic Center opened this summer in Neodesha.

ing: women and men's changing rooms, locker rooms and family changing rooms.

"This aquatic center has one filter controlling the chlorine and acid level, and is accomplished automatically by the pump," said J.D. Moffat, an employee of the City of Neodesha's public service department. "If Neodesha should have a heavy rain storm, the pool will not run over the sides, as the pump will begin to pump the water back into a storage tank, then when the water level goes down, the pump will kick on and refill the pool back to its set level."

The aquatic center is open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Neodesha is one of several communities around Radiant's service area with aquatic centers. Other communities include: Maring Aquatic Center at 400 S. Highland, Chanute; Coffeyville Aquatic Center at 1906 N. Buckeye St., Coffeyville; and Riverside Beach Family Aquatic Center located in Riverside Park, Independence.

Be Aware of Electrical Fires When Using Combines

Electrical malfunctions in machinery can be a fire hazard. Combines can be a particular problem because of the grain fines and crop residues that are readily combustible.

- ▶ Check a combine's hydraulic and fuel systems for leaks, and inspect all electrical components, including battery terminal connections, for proper operation before the harvest season. Be sure to check weekly during harvesting.
- ▶ Shut off the machine as quickly as possible if a fire is suspected.
- ▶ Turn off the ignition and remove the key to prevent electrical current flow to the area of the fire and to prevent someone else from restarting the engine.

Holiday Closing



The Radiant Electric office will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Monday, July 5.

Welcome New Members

Andrew Papanek—Altoona
Dallas Wolfe—Buffalo
Norma Johnson—Coffeyville
Charlotte Riley—Coffeyville
Tim Russell—Coffeyville
Robert Donaldson—Fall River
Ryan Carr—Fredonia
Dale Fritz—Fredonia
Cindy Biehler—Independence
David Butler—Independence
Jennifer Scott—Neodesha
Shirley Osburn—Thayer
E & B Natural Resources Mgt—Bakersfield, CA
Jeff Martin—Jane, MO
T Mobile—Mandan, ND

Keep Food Safe During a Power Outage

We've all been there: a summer storm rolls through, toppling trees and damaging power lines. The lights go out. Although it may only be a matter of minutes or hours before Radiant Electric gets things up and running again, thawing food in the refrigerator and freezer can make that relatively short time seem like an eternity.

It's important to keep cold food safe during a power outage, and a little advanced preparation and know-how can keep your family safe from food-borne bacteria. First and foremost, keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature: if unopened, a refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about four hours; a full freezer will do so for about 48 hours (24 hours if it's half-full).

A sure-fire way to know if food is safe is to monitor its temperature. Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs should be refrigerated at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit and frozen food at or below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. If the power goes out, a digital, dial, or instant-read food thermometer and appliance thermometers will help you know if the food remains at safe temperatures.

If the power stays out for a prolonged period, there are a few ways to aid your refrigerator and freezer



If the power stays out for a prolonged period, there are a few ways to aid your refrigerator and freezer in the fight to keep things cold.

in the fight to keep things cold. The simplest tip is to keep your freezer full. If it's not full, group items close together to preserve the cold.

Dry ice can help keep freezers chilly: find it by scanning for "ice" or "carbon dioxide" in the phone book. It will take 25 pounds or so to keep a full, 10-cubic foot freezer safe for three to four days. Fifty pounds of dry ice should hold an 18-cubic foot full freezer for two days. Wear heavy-duty gloves or use tongs when handling dry ice—the temperature of dry ice is -216 degrees Fahrenheit—and separate it from food with cardboard to prevent freezer burn.

Power back on? Make sure your food is still safe by either checking its temperature or looking for ice crystals. If frozen food is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below or ice crystals are visible, it's safe to refreeze. Discard any perishable refrigerated food (meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) that have been above 40 degrees for two hours.

Lightning & Summer Storm Safety Tips

Summer is often a peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena—lightning. Lightning strikes year round. According to the National Weather Service, an average 62 people are killed each year by lightning in the United States. In 2008, there were 329 people struck in the USA, with 302 injured and 27 killed. Given these statistics, it's extremely important to take lightning seriously and to stay educated on lightning safety.

Radiant Electric urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children also understand the importance of lightning awareness and how to stay safe.

Don't be fooled by blue skies. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service has adopted the saying: When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining, even if you don't see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance.

A good idea is to use the '30-30 Rule.' According to this rule, if you count less than 30 seconds between a lightning flash and the thunder following it, you should seek shelter from the storm. A smart thing to do is count your 30 seconds inside away from all threatening weather. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before

going back outside.

If you are caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in a building, take the following precautions:

- ▶ **Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof.** Close the windows and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths, such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter, or radio.
- ▶ **Avoid water, high ground, or open spaces.**
- ▶ **Do not seek shelter under** tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.
- ▶ **Do not stand near** power, light or flag poles, machinery, fences, gates, metal bleachers, or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.
- ▶ **If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike.** Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself

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Know What's Below: Call Before You Dig

Whether it's a dreamed up deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, summer is a great time to take advantage of the weather and execute outdoor improvement plans.

If your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

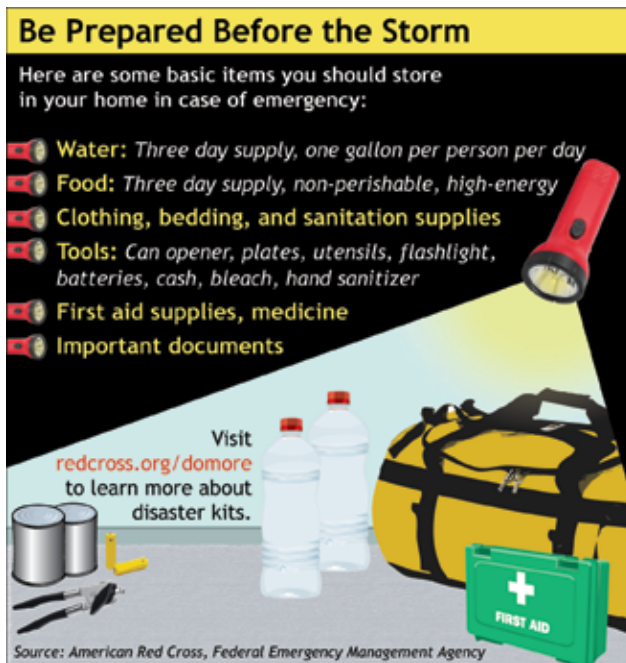
To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, however other seemingly simple tasks, like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post, can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.



Local Event Calendar

CANEY

JULY 10-12—Caney Saddle Club 50th Caney to Pawhuska Trail Ride: For more information call Patty O'Shields 620-289-4705.

CHANUTE

JULY 4—Fireworks at Santa Fe Park.

JULY 22-26—Neosho County Fair: Fair Grounds in Erie.

COFFEYVILLE

JULY 4—4th of July Celebration: Walter Johnson Park.

JULY 24—Downtown Coffeyville Movie Night: 5 p.m.

DEARING

JULY 3—Fireworks and live music by the Dearing Fire Department: Fireworks start at dusk.

ELK CITY

JUNE 12—Trades Day at Community Building: PRIDE will sponsor swap meet. Also tables and booths will be set. Opens at 8 a.m.

FREDONIA

JULY 4—4th of July Fireworks: After dark at Pryor Stadium.

JULY 9-19—Relay for Life Wilson County: From 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Pryor Field/Gene John.

JULY 22-26—Wilson County Fair, Fredonia.

JULY 25-26—Wilson County PRCA Rodeo: Blankenship Arena in Fredonia Stadium.

INDEPENDENCE

JULY 4—Fireworks at Riverside Park.

Hot Dad's Cook-Off: For more information, contact Main St. Office at 620-331-2300.

SYCAMORE

JULY 4—Community 4th of July Celebration:

- ▶ Parade at 5 p.m. with crazy floats, buggies, and tractors all decorated in red, white and blue.
- ▶ Community picnic starts at 6:30 p.m. with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs sponsored by the Sycamore Volunteer Fire Department at the Saddle Club Arena. Bring side dish or dessert.
- ▶ Silent auction, snow cone machine and a craft table for children will also be held.
- ▶ Fireworks show at dark.

TORONTO

JULY 2-4—35th Annual Toronto Days:

- ▶ **JULY 2**—Medallion Hunt and Street Dance.
- ▶ **JULY 3**—American Legion Pancake Breakfast, parade, baby contest, Masonic Lodge Hamburger Feed, mud volleyball tournament and horseshoe pitching in Toronto. Night fireworks display at Cross Timbers State Park at Toronto Point Area.
- ▶ **JULY 4**—CMBA 4x4 and ATV Mud Run.

Lightning & Summer Storm Safety Tips

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the smallest target possible.

Plan outdoor activities around the weather and be prepared to seek shelter if the weather turns threatening.

If thunderstorms and lightning are approaching, the safest location is indoors—away from doors and windows with the shades drawn.

Avoid water, electric appliances and other objects that could conduct electricity, and use only cordless or cell phones to make emergency calls.

Phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the U.S. A direct strike is not necessary for lightning voltage to enter your home through phone lines, electrical wires, cables and plumbing. Other recommendations to avoid lightning shock and damage include:

- ▶ **Turn off and unplug appliances well before a storm nears—never during.** Don't expect a surge protector to save appliances from a lightning strike, unplug it as well.
- ▶ **Stay away from electrical outlets,** appliances, computers, power tools, and TV sets. Take off headsets and stop playing video games.
- ▶ **Turn off your air conditioner** to

protect the compressor from a power surge and avoid a costly repair job.

- ▶ **Avoid water and contact with piping, including sinks, baths and faucets.** Don't wash dishes, shower or bathe during a thunderstorm. Also avoid washers and dryers since they not only connect with the plumbing and electrical systems, but also contain an electrical path from the outside through the dryer vent.
 - ▶ **Do not lie on the concrete floor** of a garage as it likely contains a wire mesh.
 - ▶ **Basements typically are a safe** place to go during thunderstorms, but avoid concrete walls that may contain metal rebar.
 - ▶ **Don't forget your pets.** Dog houses are not lightning-safe and dogs chained to trees can easily fall victim to a strike.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim. More information on lightning safety can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

Visit a Local Farmers Market

Visiting a farmers market is the perfect place to purchase locally grown fresh seasonal produce, baked goods, plants, and arts and crafts.

Farmers markets can be found in most communities; they can range from large organized markets with numerous vendors, to a small stand on the corner. Whichever is found in your community, it is sure to be an enjoyable summer activity to visit. Here are a few of the Farmers Markets in our service area:

CANEY—Farmers Market held daily: South of 75 HWY and 3rd Street.

COFFEYVILLE—Farmers Market each Tuesday and Saturday: At the Condon National Bank drive-thru, Tuesday, 4 a.m. until items are all sold; Saturday 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

FREDONIA—Open Air Farmers Market: Held north of Methodist Church each Tuesday and Friday from 11 a.m. until the items are sold out.

INDEPENDENCE—Farmer's Market each Saturday: The market begins with the ringing of the bell at 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., located at Penn and Myrtle.