




Cass County Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

APRIL 2011

Community is an integral part of what it is to be a cooperative. The communities served by Cass County Electric Cooperative are made up of many inspirational people doing great things. This year, CCEC will feature a local artist in each issue of North Dakota LIVING.



C. Lizzy's

Adding a little art to your every day.

C. Lizzy's invites everyone to enjoy their creativity. Many people have taken them up on their offer and made the downtown store a success. C. Lizzy's is a little store from what you can see when you walk into their quaint setting, but somewhat of a big production – providing their handmade products to other stores throughout the U.S.

Visit their store and immediately your eyes will flash to the “Whimsy Wishers” floating in the front of the store. They’ve come to be what C. Lizzy's is known for. They’re unique copper decorations to hang on a bottle of wine or anywhere. They include an inspirational saying or wish and are appropriate for just about anyone on just about any occasion.

Glance to the right or the left and see Liz Walberg's art on a larger scale. Wall hangings and framed art work combining textures, copper and often flowers with a unique, modern twist. Wine glasses hang with “Whimsy Wishers” throughout the store, each painted by hand by Liz's daughter Cari Luchau. The store offers many unique items from jewelry to canvas art. Walking toward the back, the mother/daughter duo don't hide that their studio is connected and right through the open door. Gaze in and you may catch Liz in the act of soldering copper or down on her hands and knees

creating with discarded pieces of glass. The open door creates an atmosphere in which the customer feels they experience the art. Visiting the store is an experience, not just a shopping trip. The open door also allows Liz and Cari to go back and forth between creating and visiting with customers.

Liz's art career has evolved over the past 10 years when she and Cari first opened C. Lizzy's. The store was then located off of Broadway on Second Avenue. Although Liz has always dabbled in art, she never really focused on it, not until C. Lizzy's was born and it was then that she dove in head first.

Before C. Lizzy's, Liz worked in a Fargo dental office, but when the dentist decided to retire, Liz thought it was the time for her to take her life in a different direction. Cari, who represents the business side of the store, was also ready for a career change and thus, C. Lizzy's was brought to life. Ten years later, it has been a whirlwind of shows, new people, becoming a part of a booming downtown revitalization and happiness. Happiness because when you see Liz and Cari's faces brighten when they talk about what they've done and what they plan to do, it is a resonating word that comes to mind, along with excitement, vision and dreams.

Liz's flair for art appeared at a young age. She credits her neighbor and mentor, Leila Anderson. Liz grew up in Leonard, where she still resides. Leila was an artist and would invite Liz over to her home to draw, paint, and many other things. Leila taught art at the Leonard school, but took time outside of formal teaching to nurture Liz's natural artistic ability. Liz also experienced art through her mother who was a basket maker and enjoyed whittling flowers out of wood. Liz would create arrangements with the flowers.

Although Liz had been exposed to the arts at a young age, she didn't really find her niche until a couple years before the store was established. “I wanted to be an artist, but all my life I couldn't draw. I finally found my medium in collage,” she explained.

Now, Liz cultivates the artistic talents of her grandchildren. Her three granddaughters have “genuine artistic abilities” that she sees when she brings them to her studio to create. Recently, Cari's son spent his first five months of life at the studio, immersed in the everyday life of his mom and grandmother. Although Liz wasn't a professional artist until recently, art has been in her life since she was a child. Now she instills it in her grandkids. It has come full-circle.



Liz Walberg solders copper in preparation to create a piece for her store.

with HEATING electric baseboards

by: Jeremy Mahowald, Manager of Energy Management and Conservation, Cass County Electric Cooperative

It's a common problem for homes in cold climates to have some rooms that just don't stay as warm as others, particularly in lower levels. Electric baseboard heaters can be an effective way to add supplemental heat to cold rooms. These heaters are economical to install, and are clean and quiet in operation. Zone heating is also a real advantage to baseboard heaters, allowing you to heat the rooms you are in and allowing other, seldom used areas to be kept cooler, which can help you save on heating costs.

As with all heating equipment, safety needs to be taken as a priority for baseboard heating. There are a few things to consider when heating with electric baseboards, for example, proper air flow is a must and it is recommended that furniture not be placed within six inches of a heater. Another area to focus on is to make sure that curtains or drapes do not touch the heater. Since the heating elements get very hot, you will want to make sure children avoid coming into contact with the elements and recognize toy hazards. Baseboard heaters should be kept clean and dust free at all times. One more item to note is that you do not want to have electrical cords across or in contact with the heater.

There are a few misconceptions about electric baseboards. One question that we are often asked by homeowners is "If I replace an old baseboard heater with a new one, is the new one more efficient?" The answer is no. Typically an electric baseboard will either work or not work and its efficiency does not decrease with time.

Homeowners sometimes are tempted to set the heater at a higher temperature to heat the room faster. The reality is that you should just set it at the temperature you want the room to be at because setting it higher to begin with and then turning it down will not heat the room any faster. We recommend digital line voltage thermostats for their precise temperature control with a lower temperature swing. These can be programmed to set-back to a lower temperature when you're away, saving you energy. For both savings and comfort, the digital thermostat will make a good investment.

Another question that comes up from time to time is "what is more efficient to operate, a 120 volt plug in heater or a 240 volt baseboard heater?" The electricity costs for a heater are determined by the wattage of

the heater and the amount of time it runs. A 1500 watt, 120 volt heater will cost the same to run as a 1500 watt, 240 volt heater for the same amount of time. The difference is in the amperage and a 120 volt heater will draw twice as many amps as the 240 volt heater, meaning that fewer of the 120 volt heaters can be run on the same circuit.

If you're adding electric baseboard heat as supplemental heat to gas, propane, or an oil heated home, you should consider putting these heaters on off-peak. During peak times, your electric heat would get interrupted and in return, you receive a discounted heating rate which is more than 35% lower than the regular rate. Air -source heat pumps, central air conditioners, electric storage water heaters, and other electric heat that has a backup system can be placed on the off-peak program.

Baseboard heating can offer comfort in some of those hard to heat areas and by following a few simple safety recommendations, may be a perfect solution for some of your heating needs. We encourage you to visit our website at www.kwh.com for other heating ideas.





CEILING FANS

A ceiling fan may be the answer to a more comfortable home and energy savings! "Ceiling fans and room fans are a good way to stay cool in the summer, and can save energy if used properly. They can allow you to feel just as comfortable with a higher thermostat setting, or eliminate the air conditioning altogether on many summer days. Fans

won't reduce humidity, but they're a great way to beat the heat. Just remember to shut them off when you leave the room, they provide no benefits if there is nobody in there to feel it," explained Jeremy Mahowald, Manager of Energy Management and Conservation at Cass County Electric Cooperative.

In the summer, use the ceiling fan in the counterclockwise direction. While standing directly under the ceiling fan you should feel a cool breeze. The airflow produced creates a wind-chill effect, making you "feel" cooler. Remember to adjust your thermostat when using your ceiling fan - additional energy and dollar savings could be realized with this simple step!

CASS COUNTY ELECTRIC 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 18
5:30 P.M.
holiday inn fargo
3803 13TH AVE S, FARGO

Looking Out
for You

- 5:30 - 6:45 Registration
- 5:30 - 6:40 Meal
- Music by Tucker'd Out
- 6:45 Business Meeting
- Director Election
- Open Discussion
- Prize Drawing
- Adjournment

*Doors open at 5:30.

DON'T MESS AROUND WITH POWER LINES

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, stay in your vehicle and wait until the local electric utility arrives on the scene and ensures that lines have been de-energized. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the scene.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, tens of thousands of accidents each year occur where power poles are struck by cars or large equipment. Each one of these accidents has the potential to bring down power lines. Surviving the accident itself might not be enough to stay alive without awareness of the right moves to make.

In the vast majority of those incidents, the safest place to remain is inside the car. Only in the rare instance of fire should people exit a vehicle. Then, they must know how to do so safely, jumping free and clear, landing with feet together, and hopping away. It's difficult to get out without creating a path for current to flow, which is why one should get out only if forced to.

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on anyone's mind," Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall notes. "We're often more concerned about whether anyone was injured, or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking bodily exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines."

More power line important safety facts: Downed power lines can look relatively harmless, but don't be fooled. They likely

carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. These tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage one—and it could do that through your body.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even normally non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed lines.
- If you are in a vehicle that is in contact with a downed line, stay in the vehicle. Use your cell phone to call 911. If you do not have a phone, honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
- If you must leave your vehicle because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid making contact with the energized vehicle and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the vehicle to the earth.



5 WAYS TO SPRING INTO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Spring is a perfect time of year to make your home more energy-efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money. To learn about additional ways to cut your energy bill this spring, visit TogetherWeSave.com, or contact an energy expert at Cass County Electric Cooperative at 701.356.4400.



1. Seal the cracks and gaps around your home. Spring may be the right time to put away those storm windows, but it is also a good time to add weather-stripping and caulking around leaky window panes. TogetherWeSave.com shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around your house around doors, vents, ductwork and windows.



2. Change filters regularly. Furnace and air conditioner filters need to be changed monthly and this can really help lower monthly energy bills. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system and make it work even harder on hot summer days.



3. Clean the refrigerator inside and out. Now is a good time to not only throw out the leftover fruit cake from the holidays, but also to check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees the attached freezer at five degrees for maximum operating efficiency.



4. Think sun block. TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates that by pulling the shades on your windows this spring and summer, to block solar gain. Your local hardware or do-it-yourself stores have lots of inexpensive window coverings.

You can learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting **TOGETHERWESAVE.COM** or by calling the energy experts at Cass County Electric Cooperative.



5. Enjoy the spring breezes. Use a clothesline throughout the warmer months to let the sun and breeze dry clothes naturally. This will reduce energy bills, and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

NEWS COOPERATIVE

The price of electricity will rise 10-15% in 2011 because the cost to produce electricity is rising. For more information visit kwh.com.

In January, CCEC launched the Co-op Connections card. The cards were mailed out to members with their bill statements. There are currently over forty local business signed up to provide discounts to their friends and neighbors.

CCEC had a booth at the Red River Home and Garden show February 25-27 where we offered information on energy efficiency, heating products and more. Attendance was up this year, with the Fargodome hosting over 10,000 attendees.

CCEC has been preparing for the possibility of spring flooding by filling sandbags and solidifying flood plans.

CCEC's Kindred headquarters building has been sold and the Kindred staff will move to the Fargo location by April 1. CCEC has been headquartered in Kindred since it was organized in 1937. CCEC will now be headquartered in Fargo.

CCEC's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, April 18 at the Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND. Registration opens at 5:30 the business meeting we begin at 6:45. Entertainment will be provided by local band, Tucker'd Out. Join us and make your voice heard!



Cass County Electric Cooperative urges members to apply for energy efficiency rebates while they are still available. There is \$935,287 remaining. To date, CCEC members have claimed \$338,000 in rebates through the program. CCEC encourages members to call with questions about equipment and rebates.

"Now is an ideal time for our members to purchase energy efficient equipment for their home or business. The North Dakota State Utility Rebate Program makes these purchases much more affordable, especially when combined with federal tax credits,"

said Jeremy Mahowald, manager of energy management and conservation at CCEC.

Rebates are available for insulation, heating and cooling and water heating equipment. Individuals can qualify for residential rebates up to \$5,000. Businesses can apply for rebates up to \$15,000. Qualifying equipment must have been purchased after June 1, 2010. Rebates are available on a first come, first served basis until the funding has run out or until December 31, 2011.

More information can be found on Cass County Electric's Web site, kwh.com or members can call 800.248.3292.

HEADQUARTERS
491 Elm Street,
Kindred, N.D. 58051
Service Center:
4100 32nd Ave. S.W.,
Fargo, N.D. 58104

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wendy Loucks, chairman
Russell Berg, vice chairman
John Froelich, secretary
Douglas Anderson, treasurer
Sid Berg
Bill Bertram
Robert Huether
Steve Swiontek
Jeff Triebold

EXECUTIVE STAFF
Scott Handy, president/CEO

Brad Schmidt, senior vice
president of transmission and
distribution services

Chad Sapa, vice president of
corporate services/CFO

Marshal Albright, vice president
of member and energy services

Tim Sanden, vice president of
information technology/CIO

EDITOR
Carrie Joyce

DESIGNER
Jocelyn Lura

POWER CONTROL/ SYSTEM
MONITORING HOURS
24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
365 days a year. Our power
control center monitors our
system and handles outage
situations. If you are a Cass
County Electric member and
encounter an **emergency** or
power outage, please call
(701) 356-4499 or (888) 277-4424.

WEB SITE
www.kwh.com

E-MAIL
info@kwh.com

BILLING QUESTIONS OR START/
STOP SERVICE
(701) 356-4400 or
(888) 277-4422

OTHER QUESTIONS
701-356-4400 or 800-248-3292

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
811 or 800-795-0555