



Community Foundation 2020 Scholarship Awards

The CVEA Community Foundation (Foundation) is proud to offer educational scholarships to graduating seniors, leadership scholarships to sophomores and juniors, and to make contributions to local nonprofit organizations each year.

In 2020, the Foundation awarded two \$1,000, and two \$500 general scholarships to students in each district to help further their educational goals. Although scholarships were offered for students to attend the Youth Rally, the 2020 event was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. The opportunity will be extended to qualified students in 2021.

COVID-19 changed many things related to the scholarship program. In order to help mitigate the potential spread of the virus, all committee meetings and student interviews were held via teleconference. Thanks to the flexibility of the committee members and stu-

dents, everything worked well, and everyone could be together, while socially distanced.



The Foundation is grateful to committee members Anne Branshaw, Stephanie Morgan, and Angela Reese in the Valdez District, and Michelle Eastty, Mark Somerville, and Ramona Henspeter in the Copper Basin District.

Funding of the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits that have reverted to the Cooperative, members who have made one-time or recurring donations to the Foundation, and from those who participate in Foundation fundraisers.

Through the Foundation, CVEA is making an investment in our youth and in our future. Please join us in congratulating the 2020 CVEA Community Foundation scholarship winners. ■

Copper Basin Scholarship Winners



Celia Chmielowski
Copper Basin
\$1,000



Cassidy Matthews
Copper Basin
\$1,000



Ruth Finau
Copper Basin
\$500



Jacob Gottschalk
Copper Basin
\$500

Valdez Scholarship Winners



Sophia Palomar
Valdez
\$1,000



Gage Critchlow
Valdez
\$1,000



Jacklynn Stewart
Valdez
\$500



Tiffany Larcom
Valdez
\$500



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Alaska
DIGLINE, INC.

Construction Season is Under Way

Summer has arrived and home building, renovations, upgrades and yard work are going to be completed at a rapid pace. As you move forward on your projects, here are a few things to remember.

If your building plans include a new electrical service or existing service upgrade, email construction@cvea.org or call your local office.

CVEA can evaluate your needs and schedule a site inspection. If you have questions regarding construction specifications, visit the Electrical Service, Construction Information

section at www.cvea.org.

Call Before You Dig

Anyone planning an outdoor project that requires digging, regardless of the depth or the size of the project, must contact Alaska Digline by calling 811 before you dig.

Alaska Digline serves as a message handling and notification service, taking information about planned excavations and providing this information to CVEA. Digline serves as a single point of contact for all utility locates. One call will do it all!

Advance notice will still be

required. Alaska law requires anyone engaging in any type of excavation to provide advance notice. This notice must be at least 48 hours/2 full business days prior to the start of excavation, and the project must begin within 15 working days from when the locate is requested. Requests for locates after 5 p.m. will be processed as if received at 8 a.m. the next business day.

When calling in an emergency locate request, inform the Alaska Digline call center operator that an emergency exists and be prepared to explain the situation and/or

conditions.

Alaska Digline asks callers to be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name, address, and contact information
- Location at which the excavation/demolition will take place
- The type and extent of the work involved
- What the depth of the excavation will be
- The start date and time of the planned excavation/demolition

The Pandemic Bill Blues

Tips to reduce the financial effects of spending more time at home

By Michael Rovito

With more Alaskans staying home to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, electricity use is likely to increase for residential consumers.

Summer in Alaska is usually a time of lower electric bills as constant sunlight removes the need to use interior lights, and the winter cold gives way to warmer temperatures and the chance to shut off the furnace for a few months.

While the summer weather will allow more outside time—with social distancing, of course—the pandemic is forcing many Alaskans to spend more time at home and find ways to entertain themselves without going anywhere.

This inevitably means more electronics. From smart TVs to video game consoles, computers to recharging small electronics, our digital lives require more power even in normal times.

According to a New York Times article from May 7, 2016, headlined “Just how much power do your electronics use when they are turned ‘off?’” about 50 devices and appliances in a typical American household are always drawing power, even after a homeowner has switched them to off mode.

This phenomenon is due, in part, to so many of our electronics being connected to the internet and requiring some amount of power at all times to maintain that connection, even when you’re not using them. This phantom power can be remedied by connecting devices to a smart power strip that can be programmed to shut down at certain times. A lower tech approach is to simply unplug electronic devices when they are not in use.



PHOTO BY JULIA SUDNITSKAYA/ADOBESTOCK

Always be sure to know how completely powering off a device will affect its operation before doing so.

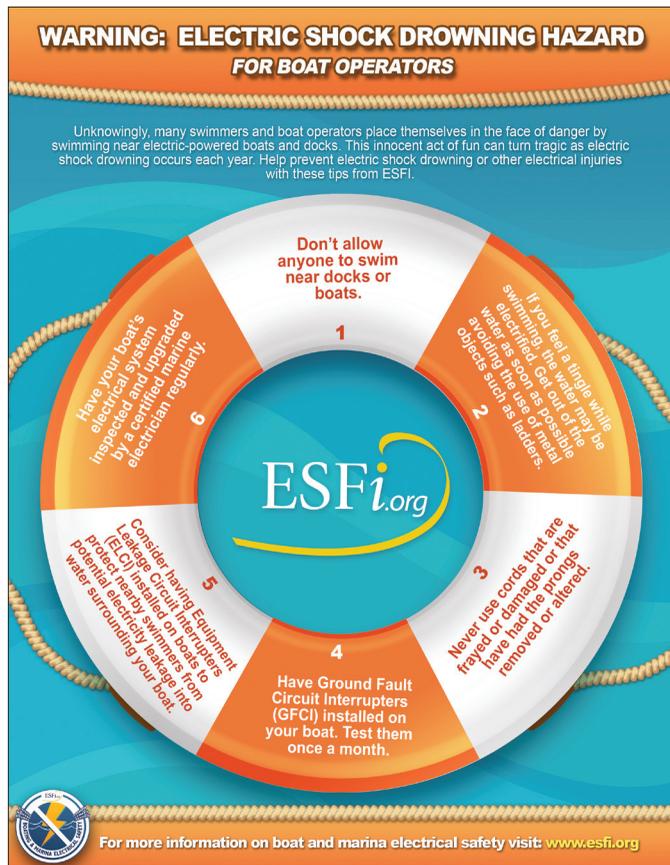
Here are some additional ideas to help save on energy costs:

- **Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load’s energy use in half. Using cold water will save even more.
- **Air dry dishes.** This cuts your dishwasher’s energy use by up to 50%.
- **Substitute LEDs for conventional lightbulbs.** Lighting can amount to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs cut lighting costs by 75%.
- **Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of energy use.
- **Use natural light.** Many Alaskans

incorporate blackout shades to block out the near-constant summer sun so they can sleep better. Remember to open those shades during the day so natural light can flood the home and make the use of interior lights unnecessary.

Many Alaska electric utilities offer apps that can help you keep track of how much electricity is used by your house each day. This data can be a good guide for families to consider when thinking about daily energy use. Contact your local electric utility for more information on available apps.

It isn’t clear how long the COVID-19 pandemic will last, or how long Alaskans will be required to spend more time at home than usual. By taking stock of the items in your house that use electricity and making some adjustments, you can increase efficiency and save money in the long run. ■



Remember Electrical Safety As You Play This Summer

Always Use Caution Around Equipment

By Abby Berry and ESFI

As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, CVEA reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

Trees

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground.

If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call CVEA or 911 for assistance.

Boating

Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous. While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard remains that is often overlooked.

This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low level alternating current (AC) passes through the body, which causes muscular paralysis and eventually leads to drowning.

According to ESFI's president Brett Brenner, "although there are reported incidents every year, there is a lack of awareness about the dangers of Electric Shock Drowning." In addition, Electric Shock Drowning deaths are usually recorded as drowning because victims show no signs of burns, so many instances remain undocumented.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these handy tips from ESFI:

- Don't allow yourself or anyone else to swim near docks and avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat
- Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines
- If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified, get out as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders
- Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70
- Have GFCIs installed on your boat, and test them once a month
- Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat
- Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL)
- Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered

- Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches
- Electric Shock Drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, so have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC)

Toys

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns.

Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment. Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly, if contact is accidentally made with a power line or a

transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity

- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable
- High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy

Here at CVEA, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun!

Visit cvea.org for more electrical safety tips. For ESFI's complete collection of Boating and Marina Safety resources, visit esfi.org. ■



Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. To learn more about ESFI and

Don't TOY with your SAFETY

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call your electric co-op.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.





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P.O. Box 45
 Glennallen, AK 99588
 www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District

907-822-3211
 Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

907-835-4301
 367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line
 866-835-2832

Important Dates

June

CVEA Board Meeting: The June meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020, in Glennallen

July

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed Thursday, July 2, 2020, for Independence Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The July meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 2020, in Valdez

AK-34

Copper Valley Electric 2020 Election Results

The 2020 Board of Director election results were announced via a Facebook video on CVEA's Facebook page and cvea.org on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. CEO Travis Million and Credentials and Election Committee Chairmen, Anita Fannin (Valdez) and Shannon Saavedra (Copper Basin) were on hand to share the results. To date, this video has been viewed 857 times.

The Copper Basin District elected Mark Shorten (left) and the Valdez District re-elected Jeff Saxe (right), each to a three-year term.



The Credentials and Election Committees reported voting results for the director election as follows:

<u>Copper Basin</u>		<u>Valdez</u>	
Ballots Received	283	Ballots Received	246
Ballots Counted	272	Ballots Counted	227
Tod Hand	114	Jeff Saxe	227
Mark Shorten	158		

CVEA welcomes returning directors and appreciates the participation of everyone involved in the election.

Special thanks to the 2020 Credentials and Election Committee members: (Copper Basin) Shannon Saavedra, Jan Maslen, Sue Roscovius, Karen Hoefl, Milt Peters, and Jamie Cooley. (Valdez) Anita Fannin, Mary Ellen Murphy, Lorisa MacDonald, Bobby Gibbs, and Colette Loftin.

Winners of the ballot drawing for a \$50 energy credit were: Ashley Hicks in the Copper Basin, and Ryan Ambacher, in Valdez.