

CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE

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PC Electric makes

CHARITABLE DONATIONS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Recently, PC Electric presented West Baton Rouge Funds for Academic Excellence, Pointe Coupee Council on Aging, and Pointe Coupee Health Services Foundation with donation checks. PC Electric continues to support these local charities with a one-thousand-dollar donation and these funds were matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. (Lucky Number: 2236900) The Sharing Success program was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$25 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

PC Electric is proud to partner with CoBank in donating funds to each of these well deserving organizations. •



Left to right: Desiree Lemoine, PC Electric Director of Governmental and External Affairs; (Lucky Number: 2259500) Brian Prejean, former Chairman and Board Member; Jarja Carville, Director; Myron Lambert, PC Electric General Manager and Susan Harris, Sec./Treasurer



Left to right: Jeanine Thibodeaux, Administrator Pointe Coupee Homebound Health Services and Pointe Coupee Hospice; Myron Lambert, PC Electric General Manager; Jeremy LaCombe, Pointe Coupee Health Services Foundation; Desiree Lemoine, PC Electric Director of Governmental and External Affairs.



Left to right: Desiree Lemoine, PC Electric Director of Governmental and External Affairs; Becky Bergeron, Pointe Coupee Council on Aging; Myron Lambert, PC Electric General Manager

SMART

THERMOSTAT OPTIONS

*A Comparison of the
Market's Smartest and
Most Popular*

Heating and cooling costs account for around half of a user's energy bill according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. (Lucky Number: 74102) The right thermostat settings could yield energy savings of 8-15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

The Nest 3rd Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most popular and sophisticated devices in this category, but a simple internet search can provide the consumer with many other options. Both devices are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats. Both can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa device (the



Smart thermostats, like the **Ecobee** model shown here, are Wi-Fi connected and can be controlled through your smartphone, tablet or voice. Photo Credit: Ecobee

Ecobee4 even has a built-in Alexa-enabled speaker). And both thermostats can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing—using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically adjusting the temperature. Nest's geofencing works with multiple phones, while Ecobee supports just one phone. Ecobee makes up for this with its more sophisticated sensors.

The Nest and Ecobee offer for purchase, remote sensors that allow the thermostat to take readings from any room throughout your home and adjust the temperature accordingly. This can be an advantage if your thermostat is located near a draft or in direct sunlight. The Ecobee's sensors go one step further with occupancy sensing, which notices if there is movement in the house, in order to override geofencing if the primary phone user leaves the house and someone is still there.

While many of the features are similar, there are a few that are notably different and can help you determine which is right for you. (Lucky Number: 322603)

Nest, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. When you begin using Nest, it makes a few assumptions and creates a baseline for its schedule. As you adjust the temperature up or down, Nest records it, and after a week, learns your schedule and the temperature settings you prefer. From then, it continues to learn and respond to your adjustments. Nest also records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days. Nest also sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use compared to previous months and other Nest users.

Ecobee must be hardwire installed, utilizes



The **Nest** thermostat, powered by a rechargeable battery, is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule. Photo Credit: Nest

a touchscreen and can analyze HVAC data for 18 months. All temperature and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded, and can be accessed online by the owner to help you monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

The two thermostats also can connect with various energy devices in your home. Ecobee recognizes dehumidifiers and ventilators, and Nest recognizes heat pumps and auxiliary heat.

For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+ is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

Whichever fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever. ●

5

Fall TIPS

for a Healthy Yard

While many homeowners think lawns need less care during the fall months, it's actually the perfect time to give your yard the extra boost in needs to make it through a dormant winter.

Giving your lawn a little autumn attention as it works to absorb energy, moisture and nutrients to sustain it through the colder months can pay dividends with a lush, healthy yard next spring. Consider these tips to take advantage of the fall growing period:

1 MOW

Grass continues to grow until the first frost, so it's important to keep mowing throughout the fall. Ideally, you should keep your yard at 2 1/2-3 inches in height, which is short enough to prevent matting and fungi like snow mold yet long enough to keep the root system deep enough to withstand the cold and dryness of winter. Leaving small clippings on the yard can also add organic matter, moisture and nutrients to the soil.



2 AERATE

Because your yard typically suffers some degree of soil compaction and heat stress, which can lead to brown or thinned grass, regular aeration can prevent soil from compacting and defend against thatch – a layer of roots, stems and debris – that blocks water, oxygen and fertilizer from reaching the roots. This process removes soil plugs from the yard to encourage root growth and free up passageways for nutrients.

3 RAKE

When leaves fall on your lawn, they can block out sunlight and, if left too long, stick together to form a suffocating mat on your grass, potentially leading to fungal diseases. Start raking as soon as leaves begin to fall or blow into your yard, and rake at least weekly. Alternatively, use your lawnmower fitted with a collection bag attachment to remove leaves from your lawn's surface.



4 FERTILIZE

Because grass grows slower as the weather cools, fall is the ideal time to fertilize. In mid-to-late-fall, apply a dry fertilizer to your grassy areas to provide necessary nutrients and encourage deep roots and denser growth that can better compete with weeds and tolerate disease and insects. For optimum coverage, use a drop spreader, though crank-style broadcast spreaders also work.

A dense lawn not only looks good, but also helps protect against weeds. Over-seeding your existing turf can help fill in any thin or bare spots and also introduces the resilient grass seed. For best results, over-seed immediately after aerating when the ground is still warm, nights are cooler and the sun is not as hot during the day. ●

5 OVER-SEED



(eLivingtoday.com)

For more strategies to build a healthy, better looking lawn, visit eLivingtoday.com.

RAISE YOUR VOICE!

By: Desiree Lemoine
Director, Governmental and
External Affairs
PC Electric

There is an old political saying, "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This is a blunt description of what happens when you do not engage in the political process. If you do not vote, you're allowing others to chart your future. PC Electric is encouraging all its members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020, by registering to vote, if you are not already registered.

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life. Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it is an election for parish president, local mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or even your local co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote. Not

only does voting raise your voice in the community, it also holds those elected accountable for their time in office. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback.

Strong voter participation shows investment in the community and ensures that the entire community benefits, it also reflects a consensus on the will of the people.

Democracy is not a spectator sport- Research candidates and learn more about issues that may be on the ballot. Be an informed voter!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day, visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org. To review your specific sample ballot, please visit the Louisiana Secretary of State at www.sos.la.gov. ●

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors



1

Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



2

Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators. (Lucky Number: 2069900)



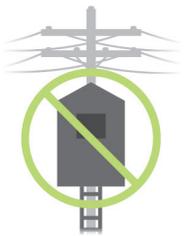
3

Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt



4

Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



5

Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



6

Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. (Lucky Number: 1856901) Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews. ●

Notice of

NOMINATING COMMITTEES

DISTRICTS 1 AND 7

The PC Electric nominating committees for Districts 1 and 7 will meet November 2, 2020 at the PC Electric office at 2506 False River Drive in New Roads.

The purpose of these committee meetings is to nominate candidates from PC Electric Districts 1 and 7 to run for seats on the Board of Directors of the cooperative. (Lucky Number: 1281201)

The following PC Electric members appointed by the Board of Directors at the scheduled board meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020, have agreed to serve on the nominating committees. Committees will meet on November 2, 2020 at the times shown below. ●

DISTRICT 1 — 9:00 A.M.

Mr. Kent Ewing
8591 La Hwy 418
Batchelor, LA 70715

Mrs. Kathleen Mounger
3127 La Hwy 971
Lettsworth, LA 70753-3635

Mrs. Lynn Gaspard
8170 La Hwy 418
Batchelor, LA 70715

DISTRICT 7 — 9:00 A.M.

Mrs. Marla Berthelot
39435 Bayou Pigeon Rd
Plaquemine, LA 70764

Mrs. Cindy Vaughn
36825 Hwy 75
Plaquemine, LA 70764-7701

Miss Kristen Settoon
36491 Highway 75
Plaquemine, LA 70764

Mrs. Patty Phillips
38815 Highway 75
Plaquemine, LA 70764



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH



Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation. ●
Source: energy.gov



NO-PEEK PORK CHOPS AND RICE

This is a super easy dinner recipe that doesn't require you to stand in front of the stove! Pair this dish with a seasonal vegetable or a side salad. **SO easy** and everyone will clean their plate!

Ingredients:

8 boneless pork chops	
1 Tbsp seasoned pepper	2 cups chicken broth
1 (10.75-oz) can cream of chicken soup	1½ cups long grain rice uncooked
1 (10.75-oz) can cream of mushroom soup	1 packet dry onion soup mix

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray a 9x13x2-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Pour cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup, chicken broth, rice and onion soup mix in the bottom of the baking dish. Whisk together. (you can do this in a bowl and pour it into the baking dish if you prefer).
3. Season both sides of pork chops with seasoning of choice and place them on top of rice mixture.
4. Cover tightly with foil and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes.

Service ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER



Pamela David
Member Records
14 Years



Keith Derozan
Line Superintendent
12 Years



Tracy McLin
Collection Supervisor
5 Years

OCTOBER



Craig Magruder
Manager of Operation
35 Years



Jill Copeland
Manager of Member Services and Communications
12 Years



Tyler Bordelon
First Class Journeyman & Lineman & Lead Right of Way
12 Years of Service



Dante Smith
2 Years of Service

Lucky NUMBERS

LOOK FOR YOUR LUCKY ACCOUNT NUMBERS!



If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by Oct 31, 2020 to receive a \$25 credit on your bill. **Your account number can be found on your bill statement. (Lucky Number: 1005504) Good Luck!** ●

REMINDER

PC ELECTRIC REMINDS LOCAL FARMERS AND AREA RESIDENTS TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AROUND POWER POLES, ESPECIALLY WHEN BURNING.

A chemical used to preserve electric power poles make them easy to burn and caution should be taken in starting fires anywhere along utility rights-of-way that could easily set the wooden poles on fire.

When stubble is being burned in a field, a firebreak should be created around any power poles to prevent damage. PC Electric also encourages farmers when working in the field to be aware of overhead power lines or guy lines that may come into contact with farm equipment. For more information, visit our website at www.pcmec.org. ●

