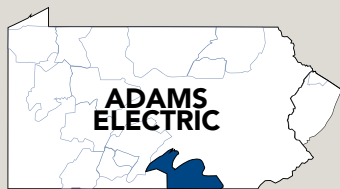




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1338 Biglerville Road
P.O. Box 1055
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055
1-800-726-2324

Gettysburg District

1380 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

York District

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

Shippensburg District

10 Duncan Road
P.O. Box 220
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*By pre-scheduled appointment only

Check out adamsec.coop

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Local Pages Editor: Kami Noel, CCC

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Guest Column



Power blinks and faults

By Chad Thoman, Manager, *Engineering Electrical*

MAY IS Electrical Safety Month. It's also a good time to remind you to always be safe around electrical wires and to stay clear of downed power lines. Always assume that a downed line is energized and could be dangerous. Call Adams Electric Cooperative to report outages and issues. It is also a good time to discuss blinking lights and how our system is designed to improve reliability by keeping things that may make contact with the energized conductors from damaging equipment.

In general, when a tree, small animal or bird contacts the line, it creates a fault. Devices on the line are set to detect these faults and will open in an attempt to clear them.

Utilities use several different types of devices to protect the system, such as fuses and reclosers. Fuses are single shot, which means they will only blow open once to isolate the fault from the rest of the system. To fix the outage, a crew must repair and re-fuse the device before power can flow again. Reclosers will open and close three times in attempt to clear the fault from the line. The opening and closing actions create blinking lights. If the recloser is unable to clear the fault after three attempts, it will lock out and stay open on the fourth try. The recloser's main goal is to remove temporary faults from the lines to avoid a sustained outage and prevent the need to send a crew. This is what is happening when members notice their power going off and coming back on after just a few seconds.

While it is annoying to have to reset

clocks and other electrical equipment following a blink, the system is built this way because upward of 75% of faults are temporary. Momentary outages are a means to prevent longer, sustained outages on the system. Typically, blinking lights occur more often during times of severe weather, such as wind, heavy, wet snow and ice, because conditions move conductors (like power lines) and objects (like tree limbs) closer together.

However, blinking lights should not be an everyday occurrence. Please call the co-op if blinks occur multiple times throughout a day or over the course of several days since this could indicate failing equipment or a tree branch too close to the lines. Frequent blinking requires a crew to patrol the circuit to find the issue before it becomes a sustained outage. Fortunately, most fault information is recorded by the cooperative to help determine likely locations of the trouble, which can make finding the problem easier for the crew.

Again, as we "celebrate" electrical safety this year, please remember to be smart when working around electrical lines and equipment. Know where your underground wires are located by calling 811, the Pennsylvania One Call System, before you dig. Look up to see where overhead wires are running before trimming trees and using ladders. And know that when your clock is blinking at your house that we may have lost a good squirrel, but the lights came back on as designed, avoiding a prolonged outage. ❁

COMMUNITYconnections

POWERING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Garden tour brings community together for charity

By Kami Noel, CCC, *Communications/Member Relations Coordinator*

THERE'S a camaraderie among garden people, each creating their own canvas on the Earth but not being afraid to share their secret with the curious neighbor next door. Garden tours bring these groups together so they can talk shop about plants and flowers.

"It's about idea building," says Carolyn Ambrosius, owner of Roundtop Acres, a greenhouse on co-op lines in Glenville, York County.

Ambrosius started her business in 2001 with a small-scale operation that sold market packs to a modest number of customers. Now, she maintains a mailing list of more than 700 clients. As business grew, she started looking for a way to give back, and in 2014, she hosted her first public garden tour.

"This year will be our fourth, as we only do it every two years," Ambrosius explains. "We work with some of our clients to help them get their gardens ready and then we sell tickets, with all the proceeds going to charity."

The 2022 tour will take place Saturday, June 18, and the recipient of the ticket sales will be Jessica and Friends, an organization that supports adults

and families impacted by autism and intellectual disabilities.

"Each ticket is \$30 per person and includes a bag lunch somewhere on the tour," Ambrosius says. "The tour is self-guided and includes six to eight properties."

"Each garden is different, from a family-farm setting to a backyard pond in an in-town development to an outdoor kitchen setting," she adds. "Each host's personality comes out in their landscapes."

While the settings will be varied from sun to shade, one thing will be the same — the beds will all feature plants from Roundtop Acres and the "Proven Winners" plant brand.

"Maybe 10,000 of our 14,000 starters in stock are Proven Winners," Ambrosius says. "They're genetically superior, and we want people who want to garden to be successful in their hobby."

Ambrosius and her sales manager, Sheri Berwager, opened the greenhouse to the public on April 20 for the spring season and will close around mid-June. They specialize in raising their plants from plugs to starters in 4-inch pots and custom planters as well as some hanging baskets.

The biggest seller is the Bubblegum Supertunia, a bright pink petunia hybrid that is an easy-to-care-for annual (which means it needs to be replanted every year). Also wildly popular this year are decorative succulents, like Hens and Chicks, String of Pickles, and Mother of Thousands, which love the sun and don't take much water.

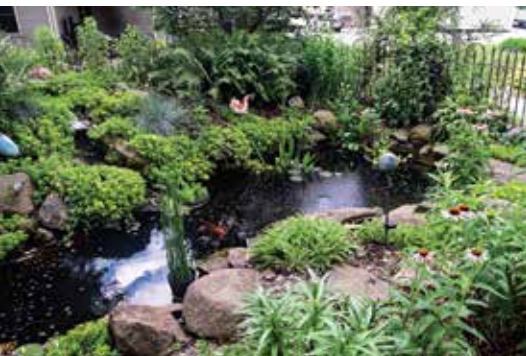
"These are all the rage right now," Ambrosius says. "And since we love a challenge and love to get creative, it's great when people just back in with a truckload of containers and tell us to do our thing. Then, they come back in a week and pick up their masterpieces."



PLANT PARADISE: Carolyn Ambrosius, right, owner of Roundtop Acres on Trone Road in Glenville, and her sales manager, Sheri Berwager, tend to nearly 14,000 starter plants in two greenhouses as they prepare for the spring planting season, which runs from April to June.



BRIGHT IDEA: Custom planting of unique planters is one of the specialties Roundtop Acres offers clients, and succulents like those above are very popular this season.



TOUR DU JOUR: Co-op members Glenn and Doris Bange of Hanover participated as garden hosts in the Roundtop Acres Garden Tour in 2020 and are back on the tour again this year. Doris' flower beds have some 40-year perennial gardens as well as a featured water garden, shown above. Glenn is the board president for Adams Electric Cooperative.

For greenhouse hours of operation, visit [facebook.com/roundtopacres](https://www.facebook.com/roundtopacres), and to purchase tickets for this year's garden tour, call 717-229-2633. Tickets must be bought in advance and before June 11. 🌸

Protecting your home electronics and appliances

SPENDING more hours working or learning from home? Need more protection for your electric-powered devices? There are several options you can consider.

Adams Electric Cooperative members, for example, can participate in SurgeHELP, which is independently administered by HomeServe, a third-party vendor. SurgeHELP is similar to insurance, in that it helps cover the cost to repair or replace electronics and appliances inside the home that have been damaged by a power surge. Depending on your chosen level of protection, SurgeHELP covers electrical damage expenses up to \$5,000 a year.

Members can choose the plan that best fits their lifestyle, from \$3.50 a month for \$1,000 of coverage up to \$9.50 a month for \$5,000 of protection. These monthly payments can be added to your monthly electric bill, and members can cancel the coverage at any time.

Adams Electric has been offering the optional SurgeHELP service plan to members since 2013. All claim questions and policy cancellation requests, however, go through HomeServe, which also sends the terms and conditions/welcome packet to new



SAFE SWITCHING: Stand-by generators, like this Generac version, must always be used outside because of the carbon monoxide fumes they can produce. In addition, to avoid backfeeding power onto the electrical system, generators must be connected safely using a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch, which can be installed with assistance from Adams Electric Cooperative and a licensed electrician.

clients of the program. Learn more at adamsec.coop/surge-help.

Adams Electric also sells a meter hardware protector for the whole house. These devices are connected at the meter base or inside the home and help to protect major appliances, such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, dryers, etc. Each device the co-op

sells carries a 15-year manufacturer's warranty and sells for \$112, plus tax. The co-op will install the device for members for \$187, plus tax.

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) is another option for members. This battery backup system supplies power long enough for equipment to properly shut down when the electricity blinks or shuts off. It minimizes the stress a hard shutdown causes on electronic equipment.

The UPS also protects connected devices from power problems, which can damage or affect their performance. During power outages, a UPS automatically switches over to battery power. Typically, this provides enough time to physically power down devices and prevent data loss.

Finally, members can also invest in stand-by or automatic generators. During major outages, many members without power turn to generators to run heating and cooling systems, keep food fresh, lights on, and medical equipment operating. However, if used or installed improperly, generators can be a hazard to you, your home, the public, and those working to get your power back on. Electrocuting, fire and carbon monoxide poisoning are all potential consequences of improper generator use.

If you connect an electric generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house, the generator could backfeed power onto Adams Electric's distribution system and electrocute workers who are repairing the electric lines. To avoid backfeeding electricity, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install either an automatic or manual double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and the cooperative's distribution system, in compliance with all state and local electrical codes.

For more information about protecting your electronics and appliances from power fluctuations, visit adamsec.coop or call 800-726-2324 to have a conversation with a member services representative or energy use specialist. ❁



WHO'S HAPPY?: Members and guests at Adams Electric Cooperative's first in-person member meeting in three years show they are happy to be together again. The meal, which included a presentation and question-and-answer session, was held March 22 at the Wyndham Garden ballroom. It was one of three member meetings held at three locations in March.

NEWSworthy

NOTES FROM AROUND YOUR COOPERATIVE

Adams Electric conducting aerial power line inspections

EACH YEAR, Adams Electric Cooperative surveys its power system via helicopter, looking for damage that's hard to spot from the ground, especially in more remote locations.

The co-op recently completed a comprehensive aerial inspection of its York District power system. Patrols of critical line feeds in the Shippensburg and Gettysburg districts continue.

Adams Electric service is intermingled with investor-owned utilities, mainly Met-Ed and Penelec, in the distribution of electricity in Adams County, as well as parts of lower Cumberland, upper Franklin, and western and southern York counties. There are also several accounts in Perry County.

Crews are on the lookout for broken cross arms, damaged or floating wires, and other electrical issues, such as burnt pole tops and tree interference.

Aerial inspections can take a few months to complete, depending on weather and other interruptions. According to Mike Feathers, manager of operations, the crew flies an average of six to eight hours a day when conditions are appropriate.

If you see a problem with a power line, utility pole or electrical equipment, never attempt to correct the situation. Report problems immediately to 800-726-2324. If you have questions or concerns with these inspections, please call the cooperative. ❁

Apply now for adult or undergrad assistance

Adams Electric Cooperative offers college scholarships to undergraduate college students and adult members working toward advanced education or training.

Children of co-op members who are already enrolled in and have completed one semester at a post-secondary school or accredited training program may apply for a \$1,000 scholarship. Up to 10 will be given away. Cooperative adult members with their name on the account who have been accepted into (or are attending) a post-secondary or accredited training program may also apply for one of up to 10, \$1,000 scholarships.

Scholarship criteria and guidelines can be found at adamsec.coop. Applications will be accepted online

through July 15, 2022.

The co-op works in partnership with the Adams County Community Foundation to administer these scholarships. Applications are reviewed and recipients are nominated by Adams Electric's Scholarship Committee in August of each year and then recommended to the board of directors for final selection. Winners are typically announced in early September.

Scholarships are awarded from unclaimed Ownership Rewards monies and do not affect rates. For details, eligibility and to apply, visit adamsec.coop. ❁



Linemen earn promotions

The co-op congratulates Mitch Orchowski of Gettysburg, who was chosen March 1 to fill the General Serviceman A position. Orchowski will relocate from the Gettysburg District to the headquarters office, joining the safety/key accounts/accounting department.



Mitch Orchowski

Orchowski joined the co-op in 1990 as an apprentice lineman and worked his way up to becoming a journeyman first class in 2001. He was named lead lineman in 2008 and line serviceman in 2017.

In addition, following a skills test and a written exam, lineman Adam Waldron of Aspers moved up to journeyman third class at the Gettysburg District on March 17. He started with Adams Electric in 2013 as a service dispatcher before joining the operations department. ❁



Adam Waldron



ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH
Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

SURGE PROTECTION

FOR YOUR HOME

AFFORDABLE OPTIONS TO HELP PREVENT POWER SURGES THAT CAN ENTER YOUR HOME THROUGH ELECTRIC, PHONE, CABLE, OR SATELLITE DISH LINES

SURGEHELP

a program available for purchase through the SurgeHelp program, made available by Adams Electric and independently administered by HomeServe for your home's electronics and appliances in the event of a power surge.



METER HARDWIRE PROTECTORS

are connected at the meter base or inside the home. This device is used to protect major appliances, such as refrigerators, washing machines, etc. The device carries a 15-year manufacturer's warranty.

Unit Price: \$112 (Plus tax)

Unit & Installation Price: \$187 (Plus tax)

HOW WARRANTIES WORK

Quality surge protectors, like those offered by Adams Electric, come with warranty coverage against surge damage that can range up to \$6 million. Most warranties require that the protector be properly grounded in a three-prong outlet and that the protector be damaged by a surge in order to cover any loss.

Call for terms and conditions. HomeServe, PA #053636 is an independent company separate from Adams Electric Cooperative and offers this optional service plan as authorized by the service contract provider, North American Warranty, Inc., 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.