

Your Benton REA Board of Trustees

Michael Freepons
President
District 2

Connie Krull
Vice President
District 7

Catherine Russell
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District 8

Buddy Treadway
Trustee, District 1

Bob Evans
Trustee, District 3

Vacant
District 4

Tim Grow
Trustee, District 5

Scott Fisher
Trustee, District 6

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw
mikeb@bentonrea.org

Is Your Power Out?

If your electricity is out for more than a few minutes...

Check your breaker box to see if a circuit breaker has tripped.

Then, check to see if your neighbors are without power.

Report Benton REA outages by calling 800-221-6987 or via the SmartHub app.

The Future Looks Bright

Enroll in Benton REA's first community solar project on August 6

This summer, Benton REA members can participate in the cooperative's first community solar project to be built on Van Giesen Street across from Benton REA's West Richland office.

Enrollment opens Monday, August 6, 2018, for 550 solar units in a 30.12 kW array. The solar array will be built only if the project is 100% enrolled by October 5, 2018. Enrollment will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Co-op members may reserve up to 55 units at \$200 each and will receive both a monthly credit on their bill for the solar energy produced and an annual Washington state incentive for the first 8 years or 50% of their

investment costs.

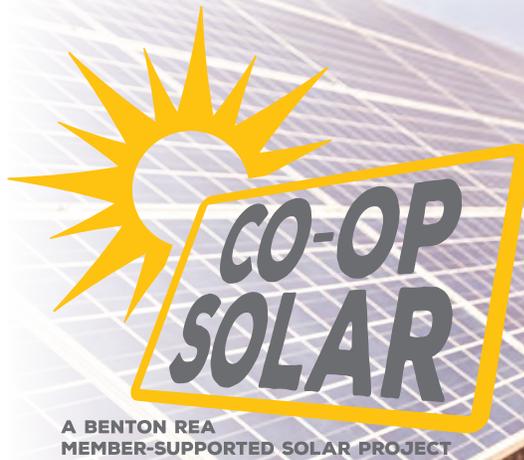
"This Cooperative Solar project is a great way for members to participate in a renewable, carbon-free energy resource without having to invest in constructing their own solar facility," said Benton REA General Manager Mike Bradshaw. "Now, almost every member who wants to participate in solar can do so, regardless of whether they own or rent their home. The future is bright for Benton REA members."

Every member of Benton REA can enroll in Co-op Solar with the exception of those who have seasonal accounts that do not receive a monthly bill and those who already participate in

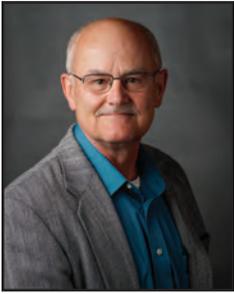
Washington state's Renewable Energy Incentive Program.

Now is your time to shine. Cooperative Solar Program Participation Agreements will be available at both Benton REA offices and online beginning Monday, August 6. Benton REA must receive a signed agreement and payment to consider a member enrolled in the program. If the project is not 100 percent sold out by October 5, the solar array will not be built and those who have reserved solar units will be refunded their full investment.

Sign-up before it's sold out. For more information, visit BentonREA.org/co-op-solar. ■



Co-op Thanks Trustee for 11 Years



Mark Platt

lived in many states, the couple wishes to return to a more diverse climate. They will soon call Sequim, Washington, their home and look forward to being near more water, trees and cooler weather.

Mark Platt resigned effective June 30, 2018, from the Benton REA Board of Trustees.

Mark recently retired from 43 years in the nuclear power industry. Having

“I would like the members to get to know their co-op,” said Mark. He explained, “This means understanding what we do and the cooperative difference. You can trust your co-op to give you the right answers about your energy.”

Benton REA wishes Mark and Ellen success and happiness in their future home and thanks Mark for 11 years of outstanding service to the members.

In Mark’s stead, District 8 Trustee, Catherine Russell, was nominated and voted into the role of Secretary/Treasurer at the June board meeting.

In July, members in District 4 who

have a residential electric account were mailed a list of the minimum qualifications and instructions on how to apply. Members who wish to represent District 4 as a Trustee must apply by August 27. For more information, please contact Missy Jasso, executive assistant, at 509-786-8260 or missy@bentonrea.org. ■



**Catherine Russell
District 8 Trustee
Secretary/Treasurer**



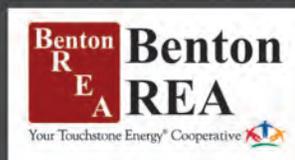
MORE THAN POLES AND WIRES. A LAUNCH PAD.

Ever driven by Benton REA crews? They’re doing more than replacing poles. New poles and wires mean greater reliability for local farms and irrigation. Energy will be here when we need it. And that same foundation forms a launch pad for future growth.

Hops grow fast. So does Benton REA.

We are
MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER.

To learn how you and Benton REA are #MorePowerfulTogether, visit BentonREA.org.



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COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Prosser Office
402 7th Street | P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-2913
Toll Free 1-800-221-6987
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen,
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2921
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Office Closed for Lunch Noon - 12:30 p.m.

www.BentonREA.org
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MEMBER SERVICES

This newsletter is a product of the Benton REA Member Services and Economic Development Office

Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Elicia Copenhaver, Marketing and Communications
May Hays, Community Relations Coordinator
Ron Mitchell, Electrical Advisor
Eric Miller, Energy Services

Library Seeks Images for West Richland Mural



Mid-Columbia Libraries (MCL) invites community members to submit historic photos of the West Richland area and community taken before the 1960s; the farther back photos date, the better.

The photographs will be considered for inclusion in a historic mural for future display at Mid-Columbia Libraries' West Richland Branch, located at 3803 W. Van Giesen.

Community members are encouraged to take clear photos of their historic

images on their mobile phone or device and send the digital files to comm@midcolumbialibraries.org with "West Richland Historic Photos" in the subject line. Images may also be sent as low-resolution scans. All images should be available for MCL to borrow and scan at a high-resolution if selected for the project.

The deadline to submit photos is August 31, 2018. For assistance or questions, the public can contact 509-737-6365, comm@midcolumbialibraries.org or stop by the West Richland library. ■



Capture historic photos with your smart phone camera.

Photo courtesy of Mid-Columbia Libraries

Peterson Brothers Dial 811

Did you know digging without calling 811 first increases the chances you'll knock out utility service to you and your neighbor? Don't make a judgement call, make a phone call.

Call 811 a few days before digging of any kind to have underground utilities marked. An underground line is damaged once every six minutes because someone didn't call 811.

You don't want to be the person who cuts the cable and prevents people from watching their favorite television shows.

And you certainly don't want to be the reason someone gets accidentally electrocuted.



August 11 is 8/11 day, to remind you to call 811 a few days in advance of your digging plans.

Ag Safety Advocates and YouTube stars, The Peterson Farm Brothers, (@petersonfarmbros) want farmers to dig safe, farm safe, by always calling 811 to verify the location and depth of underground lines before starting work on the farm. Watch their music video, "Call Before Ya Dig" on YouTube. ■

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.





Rebates Available

It pays to save energy with Benton REA's residential rebate program. As you plan your summer and fall DIY projects and home improvements, consider how much money you could save by upgrading your water heater, heating and cooling system, windows or thermostat.

Currently Available Residential Rebates

- Energy Star Clothes Washers - up to \$50
- Energy Star Clothes Dryers - up to \$175
- Smart Thermostats - up to \$125
- Heat Pump Water Heaters - up to \$500
- Windows - up to \$3/square foot
- Heat Pump - up to \$1,300
- Ductless Heat Pump - up to \$1,000
- Insulation - up to \$0.65/square foot

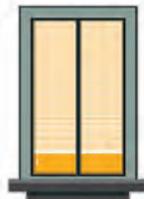
All rebates are listed here are at maximum value and may vary depending upon your purchase. Download rebate applications at BentonREA.org/rebates. ■



Photo by Lincoln Barbour, Courtesy of NEEA

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.