

# The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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September 2017

## SIGN UP FOR THE BUDGET PLAN!

While you can't predict Michigan's weather, you can count on PIE&G's Budget Plan to help keep your energy costs steady year-round. The Budget Plan lets you spread out your annual energy costs into equal monthly payments. It's a great way to help manage your household budget.

The Budget Plan\* starts in October each year and runs through September. Your monthly budget bill is estimated for the coming year based on your previous 12 months of usage history. The annual estimated total is averaged into 11 equal payments. For the 12th month (September), any differences from the budget are reconciled. The September bill will include any remaining unpaid charges if you used more energy than what you paid during the budget year. If you used less energy than your budget billing and you overpaid, you'll receive a credit for the overpayment.

If you are already enrolled in the Budget Plan and all paid up, there is no need to take any action. Your enrollment will continue. **If you are enrolled in Auto Pay Plan, please review your September bill to insure sufficient funds are available to cover your reconciliation balance, which may be higher than your usual budget payment.**

*\*Eligibility requirements apply. Members participating in assistance programs, such as the Winter Protection and Shut-off Protection Plan, are not eligible for the Budget Plan.*



## ANNUAL MEETING



Mark Your Calendar & Plan to Attend!



In accordance with its bylaws, PIE&G will

conduct its annual membership meeting on **Friday, October 27 at the Posen High School**. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The general business session begins at 10:00 a.m., where members will hear various reports on the cooperative. The meeting concludes with director election results and door prizes. Lunch will be provided after the meeting.

For more information about the meeting and your director candidate ballot, please refer to your September-October issue of *Country Lines* magazine which should mail around Labor Day.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

## HOME HEATING CREDIT (HHC)

For help with winter heating costs, apply for a Home Heating Credit if you have a low income, are receiving agency assistance, or are receiving unemployment compensation. Eligible customers must meet guidelines based on household income, exemptions, and heating costs. **The HHC may ONLY be used to pay for home heating costs (gas, propane, oil) and may not be used for your electric bill unless you use electric heat at your home.**

The Michigan Department of Treasury determines eligibility and issues the payment vouchers (energy drafts). You do not need to file a state income tax return to receive the HHC. Forms are available at most public libraries, post offices, and Secretary of State offices. The form can be found online by searching for "2016 Michigan home heating credit claim". Click on the link to the "Michigan.gov/documents" form MI-1040-CR7. You must file (postmark) your claim by September 30, 2017. For more information, search the web for "2016 Michigan home heating credit utility tips" and click on the link to 2016 Home Heating Credit – State of Michigan.

You may designate that your HHC is payable directly to PIE&G or other registered Heat Providers. The name on the HHC must match the name on the account. Everyone named on the HHC must sign to authorize payment.

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

### *Carbon Monoxide Can Be Deadly*

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but at high levels, it can kill in a matter of minutes. Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. If appliances that burn fuel are maintained and used properly, the amounts of CO produced are usually not hazardous. However, hundreds of accidental CO poisonings are caused each year by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances. Even more die from CO produced by idling cars. Fetuses, infants, the elderly, and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

## SCHOOL'S OPEN

### *Please Watch for Students!*

Motorists are urged to use caution when driving in school zones. Stop and keep a safe distance behind when school buses are stopped and flashers are visible.



**IF YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A GAS LEAK, CALL 1-800-655-8565 IMMEDIATELY**

## UTILITY FLAGS IN THE GROUND



When a homeowner or company contacts the Miss Dig system, all utility companies must mark their own underground facilities with flags within 3 days of the request. The flags mark the location of underground facilities so the homeowner, contractor or other utilities can avoid digging in those marked areas. These flags must remain in the ground for three (3) weeks. Removing the flags before that time could result in damage to nearby property and may cause serious personal injury.

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## SPEEDS YOU'LL FALL FOR.



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