

# Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

10700 Fairgrounds Road  
P.O. Box 477  
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477  
814-643-2650  
1-800-432-0680  
www.valleyrec.com

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## Guest Column



# Start young with energy efficient habits

By Ethan DeVore, *Director of Member Services*

WITH school starting back up for the year, kids are forced to come out from summer vacation to put their minds back in focus. Before they get overloaded with school work, you may want to take advantage of the increased brain activity and teach them something simple that is often overlooked — energy efficiency.


There is probably a pretty good chance that your children aren't very conscious about their own electric consumption. Truth be told, they are probably the ones burning through most of the kilowatt hours on your electric bill. After all, the never-ending need to be constantly connected to the modern-day internet-dominant world requires quite a bit of power. Between charging devices such as smartphones, tablets, and computers to supplying power to TVs and video gaming stations, the youngsters quietly generate higher use. Even though their lives seem more dependent on electronic devices than ever, how can we still teach our kids how to be energy efficient in a world that requires non-stop power?

Making your children aware of the simple things they can do to build energy-saving habits can help. Be sure to constantly remind them to turn off lights, devices, computers and video game consoles when they aren't in use. Show them that by opening blinds and curtains during winter days, it will help let the warm sunlight in. While you're at it, explain that closing them during the hot summer days can help keep the cool air inside. Another ener-

gy efficiency tip you can show them if they are old enough is to run the dishwasher or washing machine during off-peak energy hours. These tips, along with many others not mentioned, can reduce your electric bill. The question is: how are you going to sell the pitch to your kids?

One strategy you could use is by answering "What's in it for me?" The obvious answer to that question if you're asking yourself is a lower energy bill. If you can answer that question on behalf of your kids, you may finally crack the code that gets the results you're looking for.

Maybe try to make them understand that by not building energy-efficient habits, extra money is needed to pay for the consumption, which in turn means less money for fun activities or maybe even new toys. Once they can make that realization, you'll likely be surprised by the outcome. By finding a way to teach the youngsters through helping them relate to the reason they are changing their habits, you've given them incentive to modify their behaviors.

Becoming more energy efficient may be an abstract concept for your children. Creating the habit can be greatly influenced by you. So, the next time you come home for lunch during work and see a bathroom light left on while the kids are at school, consider taking a little extra time to teach them about becoming more energy efficient. After all, when is there a better time than now to start saving on your electric bill? 

## Classic cars on co-op lines

By Ethan DeVore  
Director of Member Services

COLLECTING “things” can be a fun and interesting hobby. Those of us who have the fortune to see times change as the decades pass might decide to take advantage of the opportunity by collecting belongings that may one day become relics. From comic books to toys or trading cards to vinyl records, these items often carry a significant sentimental value to the owner who invested the time to build the collection over the course of a lifetime.

For Sam Shade, a Valley REC member for over four decades, his interest in convertible cars began at a very early age.

“In 1957, I watched singer Pat Boone in a movie where he lived on his uncle’s farm,” Sam says. “He found a ‘41 Ford convertible in the barn, cleaned it all up, and rode around singing hit songs. Watching that is when I got bit by the convertible bug.”

Sam and his wife, Sarah, live in Masseyburg of Barree Township. They are also my grandparents. I have always known about my grandfather’s classic car collection, but it wasn’t until recently that I had the opportunity to



THE COMET: Sam Shade’s second convertible, a 1963 Comet purchased brand new, is a veteran of numerous car shows and parades.

sit down and talk with him about the stories behind each of his automobiles. I was quite intrigued with some of the findings.

His car collection started in 1959, when he bought a 1953 Ford Crestline convertible. Coincidentally, the car was bought brand new by a man named Wilbert DeVore, who went by the name Mike. Mike happens to be my other

grandfather, who passed away before I was born. Making this connection gave me somewhat of a wistful yet fascinated feeling for not having known about the family history of the car previously. That Ford convertible — still in Sam’s possession — was the car that helped him realize his dream of owning a convertible.

“After mounting a 45-rpm record player under the dash, putting the top down, and playing my favorite music, my dream came true in this convertible,” he says.

Shortly after acquiring his Crestline, Sam bought a brand new 1963 Comet convertible. The car is in 100 percent original condition to this day. He has used this car in numerous car shows and parades, where he has hauled fire queens, politicians, and even the 1987 Miss Pennsylvania.

“The sticker price on the Comet was \$2,979,” says Sam.

It took a few moments for that comment to set in. It made me realize just how much times have changed since the 1950s and 1960s. After doing some additional research, I found out that \$3,000 in 1960 is roughly the equivalent of \$25,000 in today’s standards.



“LIL HUFF”: Sam Shade’s 1961 Ford Econoline pickup, purchased in 1983, sits in mint condition after over a year’s worth of modifications.

After owning a few convertibles, Sam decided in 1983 to purchase an old 1961 Ford Econoline pickup truck. These truck models were built from 1961-67. The condition of the truck wasn't very good when he bought it and it took him roughly a year and a half to restore it back to its former glory. The truck, which he named "Lil-Huff," has been modified from its original version. He put in a Mustang 289 V8 engine, an automatic transmission, power windows and door locks, dual sunroofs, and black walnut interior trim with a walnut truck bed.

"Lil-Huff is certainly an eye catcher," Sam says.

The most recent convertible added to Sam's garage is a 1994 Mazda Miata, which he purchased in 2001. He bought this car as a Christmas gift for his wife because he wanted her to have her own convertible. After slapping a red ribbon on top of the car and parking it outside of his house on Christmas morning, Sarah discovered it as a surprise.



FORD CRESTLINE: Sam's first convertible, a 1953 Ford Crestline purchased in 1959, sports a 45-rpm record player mounted under the dash.

In addition to his car collection, Sam's love for convertibles has led him to even modify a few golf carts into convertibles, which he uses to get around his multiple-acre property.

Upon asking Sam what his views are about how cars have changed over time he replies, "Cars nowadays are ob-

viously built more economical and last quite a bit longer, but they just don't look quite as good. Cars built in the decades I grew up in looked sharper, in my opinion."

After spending the afternoon in his garage to take look for myself, I think I'd have to agree. 🌞



MAZDA MIATA: Sam and Sarah Shade of Masseyburg and their dog, Tink, stand behind their 1994 Mazda Miata, which Sam bought for his wife in 2001 as a Christmas present so she could have her own convertible.

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# brighter future

## Scholarship Program

### Valley REC awards 15 \$1,000 scholarships to local students

VALLEY REC awarded 15 \$1,000 scholarships earlier this year to local students enrolled in post-secondary institutions this fall. Fourteen of those students graduated from high school this past June, while one student had already been attending a university.

The co-op provides these scholarships through the Brighter Future Scholarship Program (BFSP), which was established in 2010 to assist eligible students who are cooperative members or a member's dependent. Valley has provided nearly \$200,000 in scholarship grants to date.

The money to finance this initiative comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that had previously been turned over to the state treasury. Now, thanks to the efforts of the cooperative's political advocates, these funds can now be kept in local communities. Along with funding the BFSP, the monies can also be used to help consumers who are facing financial hardships, support civic organizations and fund educational programs through the cooperative's Community Service Grant Program.

The Bright Future Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievement, school activities, and community service. The following 13 public high school seniors received the award:

Bedford County: Tussey Mountain High School – Emily E. Buseck of

James Creek, daughter of Richard and Pam Buseck, attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Blair County: Central High School – Yvonne M. Longenecker of Williamsburg, daughter of Doug and Yvette Longenecker, attending Penn State University; and Cassie A. Mock of Martinsburg, daughter of Rob and Danielle Mock, attending Juniata College; Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School – Daniel C. Calvert of Hollidaysburg, son of William C. and Renee M. Calvert Jr., attending Shippensburg University; and Seth A. Lowey of Duncansville, son of Amy Lowey and Thayne Lowey, attending George Washington University; Williamsburg High School – Nathan A. Ross of Williamsburg, son of Tom and Missy Ross, attending Juniata College; and Olivia K. Hostler, also of Williamsburg, daughter of Daren and Alice Hostler, attending Penn State Altoona.

Huntingdon County: Huntingdon Area High School – Abigail P. Casner of Huntingdon, daughter of Frank and Cheryl Casner, attending Kutztown University; Juniata Valley High School – Sara E. Hutchison of Petersburg, daughter of David and Karen Hutchison, attending Clarion University; Mount Union Area High School – Katrina A. Bliss of Huntingdon, daughter of Timothy and Jacquita Bliss, attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and Andrea N. Eichelberger

of Mapleton Depot, daughter of Kevin and Sherry Eichelberger, attending South Hills School of Business and Technology; Southern Huntingdon County High School – Katie M. Morgan of Shirleysburg, daughter of Mike and Pam Morgan, attending Penn State University; and Mason D. Hart of East Waterford, son of J. Hunter and Heather Hart, attending Rutgers University.

Also receiving the scholarship was Linden C. Markley of Tyrone, daughter of Jennifer and Bill Markley, a 2018 graduate of The Grier School planning to attend Penn State University.

Wrapping up the field of 15 students who received this year's award was a student currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution, Lacey M. Bradshaw of Needmore, Fulton County. She is the daughter of Mark and Kay Bradshaw and a 2016 graduate of Southern Fulton Junior/Senior High School, attending Wilkes University.

Valley Rural Electric is a member-owned cooperative providing electric service to consumers in eight counties of south-central Pennsylvania, including Bedford, Blair, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata and Mifflin.

For more information about Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Brighter Future Scholarship Program, call 800-432-0680 or visit [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com) and follow the Programs and Services link to the Scholarships section. 