

# Beyond the lines

*Carroll Electric exists to serve our members with safe, reliable, and convenient electricity at the lowest possible cost.*

## Strawberry Pretzel Salad

### Crust

2 cups crushed pretzels  
3/4 cup butter, melted  
3 tablespoons white sugar

### Topping

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened  
1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed  
1 cup white sugar  
2 (3 ounce) packages strawberry flavored gelatin dessert  
2 cups boiling water  
2 (10 ounce) packages frozen strawberries

Reserve 1/4 cup of pretzels to use as topping. Mix rest of pretzels, 3 tablespoons sugar, and melted margarine. Pat into 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Let cool. Cream softened cream cheese. Beat in 1 cup sugar; fold in whipped topping. Spread over cooled crust. Chill. Dissolve gelatin dessert mix into boiling water; stir well. Stir in frozen strawberries, including juices. Pour on top of cheese layer. Chill until firm. Sprinkle reserved crushed pretzels over top before serving.



## Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar. Start with your air conditioner. Spring and early summer are good times to make sure your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust build up.
- Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Check out your roof. See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak, even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles, repair leaks, and clear gutters.

Make your Cooperative a resource. The energy specialists at Carroll Electric can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit will help find more savings. You can also visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings as temperatures outside climb.



# Geared up for safety

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near high voltage electricity? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air, and sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman and line clearance tree trimmer.



These brave men answer when called – and they do so to ensure you are provided with safe, dependable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? A full-time safety department trains and monitors safe work practices to prepare linemen and line clearance tree trimmers to perform their jobs as safely as possible. In addition, Carroll Electric Cooperative line personnel are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times when on the job to keep them safe.

Let's take a look at a line worker's PPE.

- **Fire resistant (FR) clothing.** While our line workers do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash – an explosion that results from

a low-impedance contact with a grounded object to the electrical system. FR clothing will self-extinguish, thus limiting injury due to burning or melting.

- **Insulated gloves.** Line workers must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on or in close proximity to an energized electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn, and are tested at up to 40,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

- **Hard hat.** No matter how tough or “hardheaded” our line workers are, they still need protection. Electrically-rated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows, falling objects, and electrical contact.

- **Heavy duty work boots.** These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields line workers from gouges and gives extra ankle support when climbing poles and trees. The rugged soles provide a better grip when walking and working in steep rough terrain.

- **Safety goggles.** Line workers must wear protective goggles or glasses, whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights of way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a line worker's basic PPE. While



working on or near electrical lines, they also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps, and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds – that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.



So, the next time you see an electric utility lineman or a line clearance tree trimmer – be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank them for the things they wear and do all in the name of safety. We all benefit from their safe practices and hard work.

## Energy News

### Hydropower: Time-tested renewable energy

You may not realize it, but a rush of water likely helps keep your lights on every day. Nearly 7 percent of the power purchased for Carroll Electric members comes from hydropower. Three of these plants, located on the Arkansas River, are run-of-the-river plants that use the available water flowing downriver to generate electricity without ponding water or changing the rate of flow from what the Corps of Engineers would normally release. Run-of-the-river plants operate at dam sites where there is less than 20 feet difference between the upstream and downstream sides of the dam. Hydropower is a low-cost source of power using a natural renewable resource.



Carroll Electric  
Cooperative Corporation

920 Hwy. 62 Spur  
P.O. BOX 4000  
Berryville, AR 72616

1-800-432-9720  
[www.carrollecc.com](http://www.carrollecc.com)