

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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**C. David Morgan**, Montgomery Co.

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**Joe H. Whitaker**, Sumner Co.

#### Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

## AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

# CEMC leverages new technology, good habits to improve reliability

It's a simple premise: When you flip the switch at home, the lights should come on. And at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, we work hard to ensure you have electricity every hour of every day. It's what we do; we're here for you, our members.

Even as we upgrade the distribution system to improve reliability, we face continual threats. They could be brutal winter weather or severe springtime thunderstorms. Maybe a neighbor forgets to call before he digs up his backyard. Maybe someone slides off the road and hits a utility pole. Or maybe a curious squirrel finds its way into a transformer.

Through the crippling ice storm in 1994, tornado outbreak in 2006 and historic flooding in 2010, we've experienced a lot together. And all the while, we're preparing for what may come tomorrow. It's a tall order. With 7,692 miles of electric distribution lines, we have a lot of ground to cover.

So when the lights go out, we cover it as quickly as possible.

Not too long ago, our only option

was linemen driving throughout large areas to investigate a problem. Now we have invested in smart technologies that allow us to monitor our system remotely and pinpoint problems quicker and more accurately as they occur. These advances help us keep your lights glowing and your heat and air blowing.

We also have great employees with tremendous expertise in maintaining and

repairing our infrastructure. As your locally owned and operated not-for-profit utility, we deeply care about the areas we serve. We evaluate and deploy cost-effective system upgrades and preventive maintenance strategies across our five-county service area. And we work hard all year to keep trees away from power lines to prevent outages.

This combination of expertise, technology and local focus helps us meet new challenges and exceed expectations.



*Jim Coode,  
General Manager,  
Cumberland  
Electric Membership  
Corporation*

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home's air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This actually has the effect of making the filters more efficient, but it also increases resistance and reduces airflow. Remember to check filters once a month.*

*Source: EnergySavers.gov*

# Co-op members deliver powerful message to legislators

**M**ore than 250 members and employees from Tennessee's electric cooperatives were in Nashville on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 10, for the 2015 Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference. Attendees met with their state legislators on Capitol Hill to help them better understand electric cooperatives and the issues that impact rural and suburban Tennessee.

Jim Coode, Chris Davis, Seth Roberts, Tommy Whittaker, Wesley Aymett, Shela Williams, Jeannie Beauchamp, Stephen Douglass, Charles Hancock, Andy Mason, David Morgan, Edward Oliver and Joe Whitaker represented Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at this year's Legislative Conference.

"Tennessee's electric cooperatives maintain a visible presence in Nashville and Washington, D.C., to be certain that the interests of co-op members are protected," says David Callis, general manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "We are here to represent rural Tennesseans. Our legislators make decisions and pass laws that can have serious consequences for Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the members who rely on them. It is important that we tell the



*From left, CEMC board members Wesley Aymett, Joe Whitaker and Shela Williams and General Manager Jim Coode visit Rep. Terri Lynn Weaver to discuss issues affecting Tennessee's electric cooperatives during the TECA Legislative Conference in Nashville.*

electric cooperative story and inform and educate legislators on the impacts of proposed legislation."

Attendees reminded legislators that co-ops are not-for-profit, member-owned and -regulated private businesses that impact their communities in many ways.

The primary goal during visits with their elected representatives was to share an opinion by Tennessee's attorney general that says the Tennessee Valley Authority's regulatory authority extends to pole attachment rates, effectively ending years of debate at the Capitol on a contentious issue. Lawmakers were asked to support legislation that will limit co-op liability in cases of inverse condemnation. Co-op members also encouraged the elected officials to back a resolution supporting TVA's license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for Watts Bar Unit 2.

More than 100 visits were made with members of the House and Senate during the conference. "We discussed important topics that will impact every member's wallet," says Mike Knotts, TECA director of government affairs. "Educated and informed legislators are key to our goal of providing low-cost, reliable power, and our members make a powerful impression when they come to Nashville."

"The decisions made in Nashville affect our co-op and our co-op members," says Coode, CEMC general manager. "We have an obligation to our members to see that their voice is heard."



*From left, State Sen. Mark Green of Clarksville speaks with CEMC General Manager Jim Coode and board members Shela Williams and Stephen Douglass during the electric co-ops' annual day on the hill.*

# Clarksville readies for music and more at Rivers and Spires Festival

Country duo Love and Theft, one of the genre's hottest young acts, will headline the 2015 Rivers and Spires Festival in downtown Clarksville Thursday, April 16, through Saturday, April 18. Love and Theft will take the Public Square stage Friday at 9 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Three-time Country Music Association Vocal Duo of the Year-nominated Love and Theft is made up of longtime friends Stephen Barker-Liles and Eric Gunderson. The duo, already known for their number one smash hit "Angel Eyes" and Top 10 hit "Runaway," has just released their third album, "Whiskey On My Breath."

"We are very excited to have Love and Theft on stage at the 2015 Rivers & Spires Festival," said Jessica Goldberg, Festival Director. "The Festival this year will have, by far, the most diverse entertainment lineup, and we can't wait to release more names as the weeks go by."

Contemporary Christian band Sanctus Real will also make a stop at the Clarksville festival. On the heels of the release of the group's newest single, "Lay It Down," the band will hit the Family Fun Stage at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, bringing a night of music and ministry with fan favorites



Country music duo Love and Theft will headline the 2015 Rivers and Spires Festival in downtown Clarksville. Love and Theft will perform on the Public Square stage at 9 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

and songs from its newest album, "Dream." Sanctus Real is presented by First Baptist Church of Clarksville.

In addition to the headline performers, the three-day festival will include a host of other musicians and entertainment, including local artists and talent competitions such as Aspire to Stardom, an award-winning youth talent show featuring everything from singers and dancers to magicians and comedians; Last Band Standing, featuring local rock bands competing in a battle of the bands; and the Step Team Competition, which showcases the creativity, showmanship and skills of step teams from throughout the region. The festival will also include arts and crafts, Quilts of the Cumberland, car shows, the Festival of Nations, the River Queen Pageant and the Marketplace of vendors selling everything from sunglasses to antiques, great food and much more.

There will be plenty of activities for the kids, too! Don't miss the Family Fun Zone, an area filled with over 60 free events for kids of all ages to enjoy; Sports Zone; children's parade; and Gig City Gaming, which promises a game and console for gamers of all ages. Be on the lookout for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's Louie the Lightning Bug in the Family Fun Zone.

Festival admission is free, and all events are open to the public. For a complete listing of events and activities, visit [www.riversandspires.com](http://www.riversandspires.com).



Contemporary Christian group Sanctus Real will perform on the Family Fun Stage April 18 at 6:30 p.m.

# Portland to celebrate 74th Annual Strawberry Festival May 1-9

The Portland Chamber of Commerce invites you to join the community Friday, May 1, through Saturday, May 9, to celebrate the history of the strawberry — the fruit that made Portland famous — at the 2015 Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival. Planners have organized a fun-filled week of activities and entertainment the entire family can enjoy.

This year's event, themed "May the Berries Be With You," will feature "Star Wars" characters from the 501st Legion Mid-South Garrison serving as grand marshals of the parade. "Star Wars" fans will have an opportunity to attend a dinner and photo session (tickets are required for this event) with characters from the 501st Legion on May 8 and can also visit with the characters on May 9, the main festival day.

Be sure to review the following lineup of events and make plans to join the fun! For additional information about the 74th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival, visit [www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.com](http://www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.com) or call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032. And don't forget to pick up some of Portland's famous strawberries at the festival!



**May 1-2:** Strawberry Pageant

**May 5-9:** Come enjoy the carnival fun all week long at Richland Park

**May 5:** 8 a.m. Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Ky.

**May 5:** 6 p.m. Game Show Night at J.W. Wiseman Elementary School. Admission is \$5.

**May 6:** Strawberry Story Hour from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

**May 7:** Music on Main Street

**May 8:** "Star Wars" Character Dinner. Admission is \$20; please call 615-325-9032 for tickets.

**May 9:** The main festival day:

- Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast
- Strawberry Stride 5K and Fun Run
- Game stage featuring strawberry-eating contests
- Kid Town USA featuring inflatables, climbing walls and more. Kids can jump and play all day for \$5.
- Visit more than 100 vendor booths.
- Strawberry Festival parade begins at 4 p.m.
- Strawberry Jam featuring live entertainment
- Visit Strawberry Lane to purchase strawberries and festival T-shirts and meet "Star Wars" characters.

## CEMC donates electric car to STEM Academy

Carksville-Montgomery County School System's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Academy at Kenwood High School recently received an electric vehicle donated by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. The go-cart will serve as an excellent learning tool for students, allowing them to gain hands-on experience building and understanding electronic and mechanical principles. Once the machine is built, students will have an opportunity to ride in it and eventually even compete against other schools.

STEM teachers at Kenwood are very excited about the hands-on learning experience this machine offers. "I love that the kids can do something with their hands as opposed to reading from a book or a Power Point presentation," says science teacher Megan Pitts. "When it's tangible, it becomes real to them, and they will actually learn something."

"The kids are having fun, and they don't even realize they're learning," says math teacher Warren Everett.



*Luis Romo with EV Masters, far right, spent a few days with STEM Academy staff members, from left, Cynthia Dickey, Megan Pitts and Warren Everett to show them how to get started building the electric vehicle.*

"We believe in education," says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell. "CEMC is proud to be a part of this hands-on learning experience."

## CEMC pays \$3.9 million in property taxes

**F**or the year 2014, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation paid a total of \$3.9 million in ad valorem, or property, taxes to local governments. This was a total increase of 6.06 percent over the cooperative's tax bill for 2013.

The payments represent taxes on CEMC's investment in power lines, buildings, substations and other items necessary to distribute electricity to the co-op's membership.

Within the CEMC service areas, all but four communities received more taxes from the co-op than the previous year.

Local governments use these tax dollars for a variety of purposes, including education, road improvements and public safety, all of which strengthen and improve the areas where we live.



*Cheatham County Trustee Dot Jones accepts payment of CEMC's 2014 ad valorem taxes from CEMC Ashland City District Operations Supervisor Josh Gill.*

### Comparison of 2013 and 2014 ad valorem taxes

	2014 taxes paid	2013 taxes paid	Dollar difference	Percentage change
<b>Cheatham County</b>	\$363,941.00	\$353,823.00	10,118.00	2.86%
Ashland City	14,343.00	14,026.00	317.00	2.26%
<b>Dickson County</b>	5,750.00	5,731.00	19.00	0.33%
<b>Montgomery County</b>	1,139,708.00	1,146,682.00	(6,974.00)	-0.61%
Clarksville	111,935.00	112,220.00	(285.00)	-0.25%
<b>Robertson County</b>	879,539.00	852,786.00	26,753.00	3.14%
Adams	3,386.00	2,791.00	595.00	21.32%
Cedar Hill	924.02	774.60	149.42	19.29%
Greenbrier	17,130.27	16,157.31	972.96	6.02%
Springfield	13,334.00	11,205.00	2,129.00	19.00%
White House	23,394.00	22,392.00	1,002.00	4.47%
Ridgetop	11,916.00	11,688.00	228.00	1.95%
Portland	8,570.21	8,439.27	130.94	1.55%
Millersville	2,981.00	2,815.00	166.00	5.90%
<b>Stewart County</b>	295,813.00	288,875.00	6,938.00	2.40%
Cumberland City	3,099.32	3,168.83	(69.51)	-2.19%
Dover	45,530.00	39,081.00	6,449.00	16.50%
<b>Sumner County</b>	809,998.98	648,039.70	161,959.28	24.99%
Gallatin	24,666.88	14,535.86	10,131.02	69.70%
Hendersonville	14,377.00	14,403.00	(26.00)	-0.18%
Millersville	3,927.00	3,740.00	187.00	5.00%
Mitchellville	7,159.44	7,040.60	118.84	1.69%
Portland	73,243.85	71,551.35	1,692.50	2.37%
White House	30,809.00	30,378.00	431.00	1.42%
<b>Total Taxes Paid</b>	<b>\$3,905,475.97</b>	<b>\$3,682,343.52</b>	<b>\$223,132.45</b>	<b>6.06%</b>