

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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**Todd Hesson**,  
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**Nicky Roberts**,  
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#### 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*

### Lives on the line

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's lineworkers maintain 7,822 miles of line in CEMC's service territory, and without these employees, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep CEMC running smoothly, but on April 10, we honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations so our lives can be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave individuals repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the

time — day or night, weekday or weekend — if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need during a major outage.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers — both locally and around the world — who light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!



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

### Annual meeting notice

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is preparing for its 2017 annual meeting, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at Rossview High School in Clarksville. Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration, and the business session will begin at 10 a.m. Join us for a complimentary breakfast, browse through the selection of door prizes offered, visit our information booths and be sure to check out the Youth Corner. Watch for additional information in future issues of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

# CEMC pays \$4 million in property taxes

**A**s a business locally owned by its members, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation pays our fair share of ad valorem property taxes in Cheatham, Dickson, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner counties.

This year, we will pay more than \$4 million in property taxes. The taxes we pay are based on the assessed value of

the cooperative's electrical distribution system (consisting of such items as poles, wires, transformers, meters and property) located in the counties we serve.

The taxes we pay are used by our communities to pay teachers, police officers and firemen, build roads and parks and many other activities important to our co-op members.

## Comparison of 2015 and 2016 ad valorem taxes

	2016 taxes paid	2015 taxes paid	Dollar difference	Percentage change
<b>Cheatham County</b>	\$359,949.00	\$374,428.00	(14,479.00)	-3.87%
Ashland City	13,733.00	13,300.00	433.00	3.26%
<b>Dickson County</b>	5,554.00	5,355.00	199.00	3.72%
<b>Montgomery County</b>	1,222,446.00	1,193,922.00	28,524.00	2.39%
Clarksville	132,609.00	117,976.00	14,633.00	12.40%
<b>Robertson County</b>	931,063.00	925,695.00	5,368.00	0.58%
Adams	6,058.00	5,501.00	557.00	10.13%
Cedar Hill	1,074.47	988.84	85.63	8.66%
Coopertown	6,288.28	-	6,288.28	100.00%
Greenbrier	16,799.13	16,939.95	(140.82)	-0.83%
Springfield	11,554.00	16,223.00	(4,669.00)	-28.78%
White House	22,665.00	22,463.00	202.00	0.90%
Ridgetop	11,503.00	11,729.00	(226.00)	-1.93%
Portland	8,839.49	8,456.22	383.27	4.53%
Millersville	2,752.00	2,816.00	(64.00)	-2.27%
<b>Stewart County</b>	310,259.00	295,591.00	14,668.00	4.96%
Cumberland City	2,747.80	2,832.08	(84.28)	-2.98%
Dover	45,537.00	45,546.00	(9.00)	-0.02%
<b>Sumner County</b>	772,686.63	822,268.48	(49,581.85)	-6.03%
Gallatin	21,767.00	24,276.00	(2,509.00)	-10.34%
Hendersonville	17,093.00	17,771.00	(678.00)	-3.82%
Millersville	3,760.00	4,055.00	(295.00)	-7.27%
Mitchellville	6,482.17	7,107.73	(625.56)	-8.80%
Portland	71,531.15	72,083.14	(551.99)	-0.77%
White House	27,656.00	30,815.00	(3,159.00)	-10.25%
<b>Total Taxes Paid</b>	4,032,407.12	4,038,138.44	(5,731.32)	-0.14%

# CEMC thanks area schools that make youth programs possible

*Partnership among local schools and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation creates big opportunities for area students*

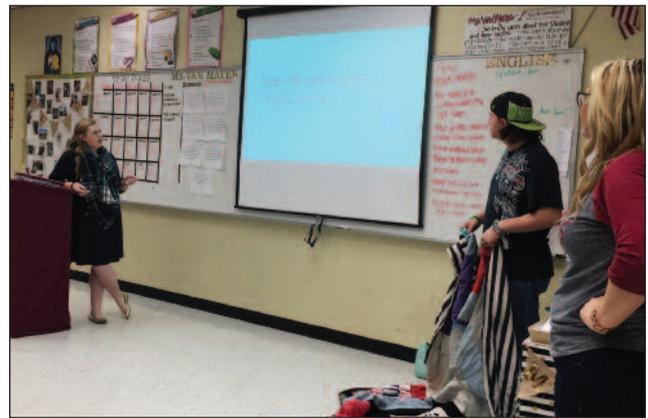
Each summer, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation sends 12 rising high school seniors to spend a week exploring Washington, D.C., learning about government and cooperatives and developing their leadership skills. This opportunity is made possible thanks to a strong partnership with area high schools and their teachers.

Students earn spots on the tour by writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires” that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power. It’s all a part of the annual Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Contest.

Youth Tour delegates also have the opportunity to win a share of \$16,000 in scholarships from CEMC and Tennessee’s electric cooperatives.

“We recognize how important it is to prepare the next generation of rural leaders,” says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator. “We could not do this without the support we receive from area schools and teachers.”

CEMC works with teachers throughout its five-county service area to promote the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. As schedules permit, Lobdell visits schools, making



2016 Washington Youth Tour winners Shelby Adcock, left, and Dalton Love speak to classmates about their experience on Youth Tour during a CEMC presentation at Cheatham County Central High School. At right is teacher Kathryn Van Mater.

presentations about Youth Tour in January and February each year. **(NOTE: The deadline for the 2017 contest has already passed.)** Winners of the 2017 Washington Youth Tour contest will be selected and notified this month and announced in the June issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

## Member Appreciation Day

Join us at your local CEMC office on **Thursday, May 11** for free hotdogs, chips, cookies, soft drinks AND a chance to win an electric grill.

Lunch will be served from **10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** at each location. We hope to see you there!

# Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival returns to Portland May 13

The Portland Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to celebrate the 76th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival Tuesday, May 9, through Saturday, May 13. Festival planners have organized a fun-filled week of activities and entertainment the whole family can enjoy.

This year's event, themed "Berry Sweet Traditions," will feature country music artist Bucky Covington as parade grand marshal. Covington, who finished eighth on the fifth season of the Fox Network's popular singing competition "American Idol," will also perform a free concert Saturday, May 13, at 7 p.m. on Market Street.

For more information on the 2017 Strawberry Festival, visit [www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.com](http://www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.com) or call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032. Be sure to check out the following lineup of events and make plans to join the fun. And don't forget to pick up some of Portland's famous fruit at the festival!

**April 28-29:** Strawberry Pageant sponsored by Portland High School cheerleaders.

**May 9-13:** Enjoy the Carnival all week at Richland Park.

**May 9:** Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Kentucky. \$360 per team; includes barbecue lunch.

**May 10:** Strawberry Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

**May 12:** Music on Main featuring Generation Worship. Bring your lawn chairs and come out for a night of free entertainment on Main Street. Music begins at 6:30 p.m.

**May 13:** Festival Day!

- Portland Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast — 7 a.m. at First Baptist Portland.

- Strawberry Stride 5K and fun run sponsored by Portland Athletics — 8 a.m. at Portland High School
- Game Stage — Strawberry-Eating Contest and more games begin after the parade. (Games are free; limited space; preregistration suggested)



Don't miss the free Bucky Covington concert and fireworks display on Main Street on Saturday, May 13.

- Kid Town USA, where it's all about the kids. Main Street is full of inflatable jumps, obstacle courses and more. Play all day for \$5.
- Strawberry Jam Live Entertainment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Market Street.
- Strawberry Lane: Strawberries for sale beginning at noon, while supplies last.

- Visit more than 100 vendors in three locations.
- Parade begins at 4 p.m. (applications for entry available online).
- Free Bucky Covington Concert on Market Street at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy great music!
- A fireworks display immediately follows the concert.



# Make every day Earth Day with simple energy-savers

Earth Day is on April 22 this year. Here are 10 ways to celebrate by saving energy at home:

1. Call a qualified air-conditioning technician to service your central air-conditioning system. HVAC equipment needs service every year to head off major problems and keep the system running smoothly all summer.
2. As long as the spring weather is mild, open a window instead of turning on the air conditioner. Draw soft spring breezes into the home by turning on your ceiling fans.
3. Cook outside on the grill as soon as the weather permits. When you don't turn on your kitchen's cooktop or oven, you don't heat up your house.
4. Close the shades. It's tempting to leave them open on beautiful, sunny spring days. But if it's hot outside, that heat can find its way into your house through the windows and tempt you to crank the air conditioner up unnecessarily.
5. If it's sunny but not hot outdoors, throw those curtains open and let the natural daylight illuminate your home. Then, turn off the lights. You won't need them.
6. Don't have a programmable thermostat yet? It's time. Sometimes spring weather calls for heat, and sometimes you need the air conditioning. A programmable thermostat will help you limit how much energy you use for either by automatically turning the temperature up or down as needed.
7. Seal the ducts in your central air-conditioning system. Leaky ducts can push your cooling costs up by as much as 30 percent.
8. Likewise, caulk around windows and electrical outlets so cool air can't escape your house and hot air can't get in.
9. Keep your home's humidity levels low by running kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans — but only until the smoke or steam clears. Running them for too long will suck more than humidity and odor from your home. Those fans can send your comfortable, conditioned air out of the house.
10. Change your air conditioner's filter. A clogged filter forces your system to work harder and use more energy. It also can send the dust and allergens it collects right back into your indoor air.

## Call before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but if any of your projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried gas, water and electric lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, the majority doesn't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of



homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

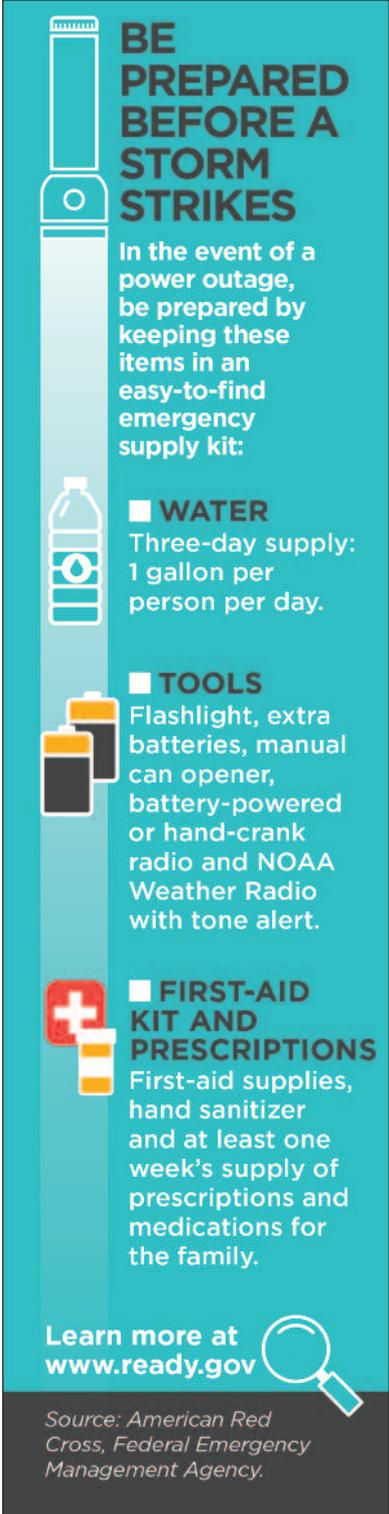
Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit

**[www.tnonecall.com](http://www.tnonecall.com)**.

# Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

**W**hen thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA weather radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Shutter windows and securely close outside doors. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or otherwise use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces in and outside the vehicle that conduct electricity.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.



**BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES**

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping these items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit:

- **WATER**  
Three-day supply: 1 gallon per person per day.
- **TOOLS**  
Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio and NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- **FIRST-AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS**  
First-aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

*Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

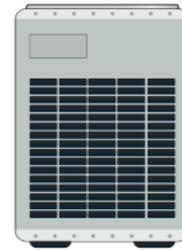
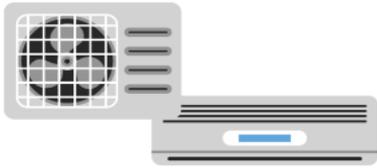
# PROPERLY SIZING YOUR HVAC UNIT



An improperly sized HVAC unit can wreak havoc on your home. An oversized unit can cause your system to “short cycle” — turning off and on. An undersized unit will run constantly to keep up with demand. Consider these factors, and choose an HVAC system that works best for your home:

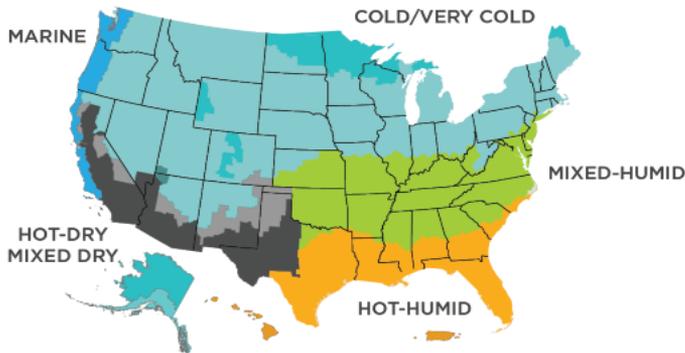
## SIZE MATTERS

The square footage of your home can help determine the load capacity of your HVAC unit, but it should not be the only factor considered when reviewing unit sizes. Enlist the help of a licensed professional to determine the best HVAC unit for your home.



## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The region in which your home is located will factor into how much capacity you need per square foot.



## HOME'S ORIENTATION

How sunlight hits your home during different times of the day impacts the load capacity required to properly heat or cool your home.



## INSULATION EFFECTIVENESS

The better insulated your home is, the fewer British thermal units (Btu) per square foot your home will need to stay at the desired temperature.



A reliable energy partner will help you determine how each of these factors affects your system's load capacity. Contact your electric co-op for more information.

*Source: Department of Energy*