

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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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

# Practical pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Cumberland Electric

Membership Corporation is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation

International (ESFI) to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

ESFI, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety, sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school and play.

This year's campaign, "Back to the Basics," challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority. According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, one digital camera, one desktop computer and two cell phones.

Modern homes run on electricity, but if you don't properly maintain your electrical products, they can create hazards. The good news is that eliminating electrical hazards from your home doesn't have to be difficult or expensive.

Many homes and their electrical systems were built before most modern-day home electronics and appliances were even invented. Today's increased demand for energy can

overburden an older home's electrical system.

CEMC offers these tips to help

identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family and your home:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as temporary solutions and never as permanent power supplies.
- Do not place extension cords in high-traffic areas, under carpets or across



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

walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.

- Use a surge protector to guard your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.

For more information about ESFI and electrical safety, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).

# Make your yard work for you

By B. Denise Hawkins

“Location, location, location” is the mantra in real estate, but it also applies to your yard this time of year when the search is on to lower energy bills and enhance curb appeal. Positioning the right combination of plants and trees can yield shade, beautify your yard and unearth energy savings. Such smart or energy-efficient landscaping can, on average, provide enough energy savings to see a return on your initial investment in fewer than eight years, claims the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Again, think location. Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household’s energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25 percent. Using computer models, the DOE determined that proper placement of only three trees on your property can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in yearly energy costs. This spring, make your yard work for you. Just a few simple landscaping considerations can make a big difference in your home’s comfort and in the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems:

- Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner. Having shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. For good airflow and access, position plants more than 3 feet from the air conditioner.
- Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective walls that keep wind chill away from a home. That’s important because wind speed lowers outside air temperatures and ultimately saves on heating costs. Common turfgrass and other low-growing plants are ideal barriers. So are evergreens, especially when combined with a wall or fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home. For best protection, plan on leaving between two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and the protected home.

## Made in the shade

Indoors, you may be protected from the sun’s rays, but your energy bill can rise as your air conditioner works harder to keep your house cool and comfortable. Planting shade trees can add to your comfort at home by dropping the surrounding air temperature by as much as 9 degrees. But choosing just the right tree may require a compass and patience while your plantings grow to work for you:

- When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its shade canopy in relation to the height of your home. These factors are important because they should influence how far from the house you decide to plant a tree. Always avoid planting near underground utility lines.



*U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers are developing hearty plants, shrubs, grasses and vegetation that are being used as windbreaks in residential landscaping. By reducing wind speed, these barriers can help keep your home warmer in the winter and heating costs down. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture*

- Shading takes time — a 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in five to 10 years.
- Make planting shade trees due west of west-facing windows your first priority.
- Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window. If you have the space, use as many trees as needed to create a continuous row along all major west- and east-facing windows.
- Contrary to intuition, the least-energy-efficient place for a tree is to the south of a house.

Different trees can serve a variety of purposes. To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in the winter months, use deciduous trees, or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs, on the other hand, are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds. Also, keep in mind that not all shade plants are tall. Shrubs and sturdy groundcover plants also provide good shade by reducing heat radiation and cooling air before it reaches your home’s walls and windows.

Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work — a well-placed tree, shrub or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak and reduce your energy bills.

*B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

# Heflins attend Young Leaders Conference

Shawn and Leah Heflin of Indian Mound were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to participate in the Young Leaders Conference Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21 and 22, at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin. The Heflins joined more than 400 others from across the state for the annual weekend of motivational, recreational and educational segments.

The Young Leaders Conference brings couples and individuals together from rural communities to learn about cooperatives, share their views about agriculture and discuss current issues facing rural Americans. This year's event, themed "Cooperatives: Building a Better Tennessee," covered a variety of subjects aimed at educating leaders about cooperatives and agricultural issues.

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) co-sponsors the annual conference with Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers organization. CEMC is a member of TCC, an organization composed of a variety of cooperatives across the state, including electric, dairy, farm supply, telephone and tobacco co-ops as well as farm credit banks and the Farm Bureau.

Those attending the 2014 conference enjoyed sessions that covered topics ranging from leadership skills to apps and unmanned aerial vehicles. The conference also included a tour of LP Field, home of the Tennessee Titans, as well as addresses from State Sen. Jack Johnson and Butch Jones, head football coach of the University of Tennessee Volunteers. At lunch on Saturday, TCC presented a \$1,000 contribution to the John Willis Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Jerry Kirk, retired Tennessee Farmers Cooperative Communications

Department manager and editor of the Tennessee Cooperator who was also editor of The Tennessee Magazine in the late 1980s. The fund provides financial assistance to deserving college agriculture students in the state.



Shawn and Leah Heflin of Stewart County were among 400 young Tennesseans who attended the 2014 Young Leaders Conference in Franklin.

TCC board member Keith Harrison, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative marketing, advertising and promotions coordinator, said delegates to the Young Leaders Conference are the future leaders of cooperatives across the state.

"It's amazing how most of the attendees have connections to all the cooperatives that are part of TCC," Harrison said. "And it's important for these future leaders to be involved and trained to prepare them for their leadership roles when their turn comes. The

networking among all the conference participants enhances cooperation in the long term."



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

*A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of vegetation you choose is as important as where it is planted. Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs. In the winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves and let warmth into your home.*

*Source: energy.gov*

## Dover presents Eagle Fest 2014

The Town of Dover invites you to attend its Eighth Annual Eagle Fest, which takes place Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, in Stewart County.

The festival will be held at the City Park in Dover and will feature tons of activities for the entire family, including inflatables, arts and crafts, a rock climbing wall, pony rides, music, a petting zoo and more. Be sure to check out the variety of vendor booths offering unique gifts and novelties, and don't miss the fireworks show Saturday night at 9.



Eagle Fest truly offers something for everyone. You won't want to miss this opportunity to experience patriotism, plenty of family-friendly fun and all the small-town charm Dover has to offer.

## Annual meeting returns to Portland

Mark your calendar to attend the 2014 Annual Member Meeting of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, at Portland High School in Sumner County.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration, breakfast and voting in director elections. Musical entertainment will be provided prior to the business session, which begins at 10 a.m. Members can register for door prizes as well as the grand prize, and children are invited to the Youth Corner for kid-friendly activities and special age-appropriate prizes.

Make plans to attend and join CEMC as we celebrate serving YOU!



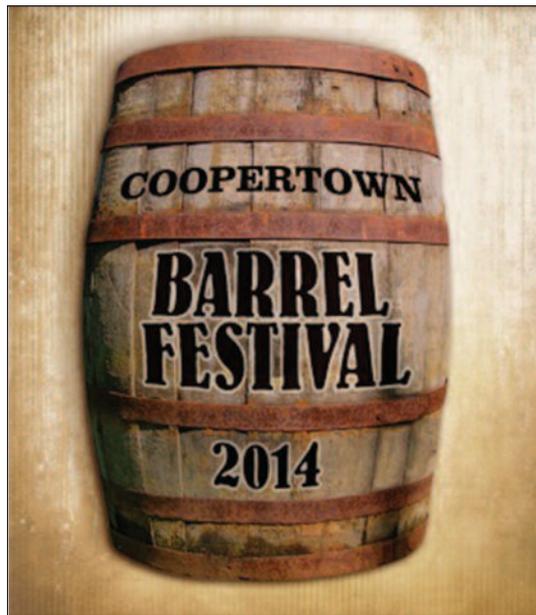
## Coopertown hosts barrel festival

The town of Coopertown will host its second annual Coopertown Barrel Festival Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This outdoor rain-or-shine event will take place in the historic district on Old Coopertown Road between Woods and Battle Creek roads.

In celebration of Coopertown's rich heritage in cooperage, more than 150 vendors will offer their wares, including jewelry, crafts, antiques, farmer produce, baked items and woodwork. There will be something for everyone with two live music stages featuring

entertainment provided by Bobby Bowen Ministries, Julie Gribble, MIRA Band, Springfield Guitar, The Main Stage Music and Dance Studio and Jessica Ford; the Honeysuckle Hill Kids Zone featuring unlimited inflatables and games; corn hole and checkers tournaments; wooden barrel races; a tractor display; historical exhibits; and many more fun, family-friendly activities. Also, don't miss the opportunity to sample some of the area's finest foods prepared in the Southern style.

This event offers free admission and free parking. We hope to see you there!



# Read Across America

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was privileged once again this year to participate in Read Across America, an event created by the National Education Association designed to promote youth literacy. CEMC employees and board members were invited to serve as guest readers at Cumberland Heights Elementary and North Stewart Elementary as each school celebrated this event.



Charlie Hancock, farmer and CEMC board member, shares "On the Farm" with Ms. Kristy Radford's kindergarten class at North Stewart Elementary during Read Across America Day.



Board member Stephen Douglass entertains Mrs. Christy Durham's kindergarten class, also at North Stewart Elementary, with Dr. Seuss' classic "The Cat in the Hat."

# CEMC honors super spellers



From left, following the Cheatham County School System's annual fourth-grade spelling bee on March 11, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Member Services Manager Barbara Harper presents prizes to the top three contestants: Avery Hickerson, Pegram Elementary, first place; Laney Corlew, Kingston Springs Elementary, second place; and Kyler Hartley, Pegram Elementary, third place.



Winners of the annual Cheatham County Middle School spelling bee on March 12 are, from left, Trish Nguyen, seventh-grade, Harpeth Middle School, first place; Echo O'Connor, fifth-grade, Harpeth Middle School, second place; and Alexis Ford, eighth-grade, Cheatham Middle School, third place. CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell presented prizes to the top three contest winners.