

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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**Terry Odom**,  
District Operations Supervisor  
Gallatin office

**Travis Akins**,  
District Operations Supervisor  
Portland/White House offices

**Todd Hesson**,  
District Operations Supervisor  
Springfield office

**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

# The life of a lineman

**T**hey wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee and prepare for another day's work. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's linemen climb into their trucks and head out. They form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather rolls in.

We often take power — and those who provide it — for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smart and efficiently — all while 40 feet in the air and wearing sturdy, thick, rubber gloves. On a typical day, lineworkers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses. They have a lot on their plates. But when our dispatch center calls crews with a problem, everything else takes a back seat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineworker's to-do list. These men are always on call. We have crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day — even in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to face storms. Our

lineworkers face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

Lineworkers also focus on safety; the lives of co-workers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no slip-ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. That's one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They're family.

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is cooperation among cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their time of need, and they extend that service to us, too. It's reassuring to know that if a severe storm strikes, a national team of lineworkers stands ready to answer the call.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At CEMC, lineworkers go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment gets tested regularly, too.

These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them. CEMC's lineworkers are the heart of the Co-op Nation, proud and strong.



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

# Take storm safety measures when thunderstorms, tornadoes strike

By B. Denise Hawkins

**B**eware. Spring can usher in more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in, and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way:

- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs.
- Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- If in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.
- Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.
- Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.
- Remember: There is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning are occurring, avoid touching metal or



*Storm clouds erupt with lightning. The current in a lightning bolt can produce tens of thousands of amps and more than 100,000 volts. When storms strike, find shelter indoors and unplug electrical devices. Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

- other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become projectiles.
- Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report them immediately to Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at 1-800-987-2362.

Learn more about storm safety at [www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/thunderstorms](http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/thunderstorms).

*Sources: NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory, American Red Cross. 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.*

# Rivers and Spires Festival brings music and more to downtown Clarksville

Clarksville's award-winning Rivers and Spires Festival returns for its 12th year this spring, promising plenty of fun and free activities for the entire family. The festival, which runs Thursday, April 24, through Saturday, April 26, in historic downtown Clarksville, has lined up some exciting entertainment this year, including country music artist Randy Houser. Houser, the event's headliner, will take the Public Square stage at 7 p.m. on Saturday. The Morning Rises Tour, featuring Aaron Shust, will headline the Family Fun Zone Stage beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. A host of other musicians and entertainers will perform throughout the three-day festival.

The always-popular Family Fun Zone has lots of great activities for kids of all ages. This year, all of your favorites, including Toddler Town, Kids Zone, Teen Zone and Green Zone, are being combined into one family-friendly area located along Hiter and Commerce streets. There you will find more than 60 free events, including music, inflatables, performers, demonstrations, face-painting, carnival games and interactive entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to look for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's mascot, Louie the Lightning Bug, in the Fun Zone. CEMC will also have a booth in the Green Zone with energy-efficiency information, details on various programs offered and interactive demonstrations.

Festival-goers will have an opportunity to purchase unique gifts and novelties at the Rivers and Spires Marketplace, which has everything from eclectic home items, toys and games to clothing and jewelry. Artisans from all over the country will show and sell their



Country music star Randy Houser will headline the 2014 Rivers and Spires Festival in downtown Clarksville. Houser will perform on the Public Square stage on April 26 at 7 p.m.

handmade artwork, jewelry and woodworking crafts in the Arts Galore area.

If you've never attended the festival, be sure to mark your calendar and come prepared to have a great time. Lined with craft and food vendors, five music stages, activities for the kids and artisan booths, the streets of downtown Clarksville transform each year as Rivers and Spires gets into full swing. Hours for this year's events are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. April 24-25 and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 26. The Family Fun Zone hours are Friday, April 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about the 2014 festival, please visit [www.riversandspires.com](http://www.riversandspires.com), become a fan on Facebook or follow @riversandspires on Twitter.



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

*These days, it may be easier to trim your refrigerator's energy use than it is to trim your waistline. Consider this energy-saving and maintenance regimen to keep your refrigerator in shape: Set the refrigerator temperature above 37 degrees. Make sure door seals are in place and are snug when closed. And keep outside coils unobstructed and clean; dirty ones could over-work the unit's compressor.*

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*

# Portland prepares for Strawberry Festival

The 2014 Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival is coming to Portland Friday, May 2, through Saturday, May 10, and you are invited to attend! The Portland Chamber of Commerce has organized a week jam-packed with fun, family-friendly activities designed to give visitors a taste of Portland's small-town charm.

This year's festival, themed "Just Good Ol' Berries," will feature actor James Best, perhaps best known for his roles as Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane on "The Dukes of Hazzard" and Jim Lindsey on "The Andy Griffith Show," serving as grand marshal of the parade. Best will also perform in a "One Man Show" Friday, May 9, at Portland First Baptist Church.



The main festival day is Saturday, May 10, beginning at 7 a.m. with the Rotary Pancake Breakfast. Other events and activities include the Strawberry Stride; Strawberry Lane, where you can purchase some of Portland's famous homegrown strawberries; Kid Town USA, where kids can jump and play all day for \$5; Strawberry Jam, featuring live music on Market Street; two vendor areas; the Game Stage, featuring a strawberry-eating contest, bingo and more; and the Strawberry Festival Parade, which begins at 4 p.m.

For a complete list of activities or more information on the festival, contact the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032 or visit its website at [www.portlandcofc.com](http://www.portlandcofc.com).

## Spring safety reminder

If spring weather sends you into remodeling mode, be sure to check with professionals before hitting the nearest hardware store. While home improvement projects can be very satisfying to complete, they pose risks when it comes to electricity. Always contact Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at 1-800-987-2362 for the correct procedures before tackling any electrical project.

Working outside? First check the area where you will be working and identify potential hazards. Always look up for power lines, and avoid using long poles or ladders within 10 feet of overhead wires.

Does your project involve any digging? To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 or 1-800-351-1111 a few days prior to digging. 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.tenn811.com](http://www.tenn811.com).



Tami Morgan, Stewart County Public Library children's coordinator, accepts a Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation donation from Terry Odom, CEMC's Dover District operations supervisor. The contribution will benefit the library's summer reading program.

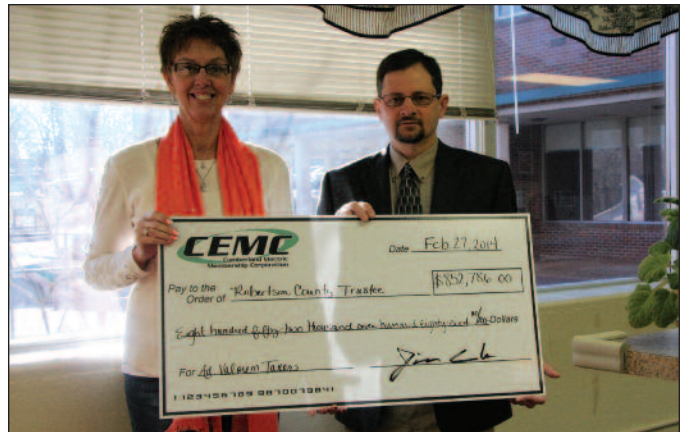
# CEMC pays \$3.6 million in property taxes

**F**or the year 2013, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation paid a total of \$3.6 million in ad valorem, or property, taxes to local governments. This was a total increase of 5.54 percent over the cooperative's tax bill for 2012.

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

Within the CEMC service areas, all but three 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 ultimately improve the communities in which we live.



*Robertson County Trustee Sandra Head accepts payment of CEMC's 2013 ad valorem taxes from Springfield District Operations Supervisor Nicky Roberts.*

## Comparison of 2012 and 2013 ad valorem taxes

	2013 taxes paid	2012 taxes paid	Dollar difference	Percentage change
<b>Cheatham County</b>	\$353,823.00	\$341,815.00	\$12,008.00	3.51%
Ashland City	14,026.00	13,789.00	237.00	1.72%
<b>Dickson County</b>	5,731.00	5,658.00	73.00	1.29%
<b>Montgomery County</b>	1,146,682.00	1,103,092.00	43,590.00	3.95%
Clarksville	112,220.00	100,554.00	11,666.00	11.60%
<b>Robertson County</b>	852,786.00	805,192.00	47,594.00	5.91%
Adams	2,791.00	2,519.00	272.00	10.80%
Cedar Hill	774.60	682.05	92.55	13.57%
Greenbrier	16,157.31	15,220.17	937.14	6.16%
Springfield	11,205.00	7,175.00	4,030.00	56.17%
White House	22,392.00	17,713.00	4,679.00	26.42%
Ridgetop	11,688.00	11,208.00	480.00	4.28%
Portland	8,439.27	7,848.44	590.83	7.53%
Millersville	2,815.00	2,870.00	(55.00)	-1.92%
<b>Stewart County</b>	288,875.00	281,160.00	7,715.00	2.74%
Cumberland City	3,168.83	3,188.64	(19.81)	-0.62%
Dover	39,081.00	36,543.00	2,538.00	6.95%
<b>Sumner County</b>	648,039.70	606,888.78	41,150.92	6.78%
Gallatin	14,535.86	12,936.08	1,599.78	12.37%
Hendersonville	14,403.00	14,073.00	330.00	2.34%
Millersville	3,740.00	3,584.00	156.00	4.35%
Mitchellville	7,040.60	7,111.28	(70.68)	-0.99%
Portland	71,551.35	64,714.80	6,836.55	10.56%
White House	30,378.00	23,679.00	6,699.00	28.29%
<b>Total Taxes Paid</b>	<b>\$3,682,343.52</b>	<b>\$3,489,214.24</b>	<b>\$193,129.28</b>	<b>5.54%</b>