

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*

Why we plan outages

Have you ever received a notification from the folks here at Cumberland Electric Membership

Corporation informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “What is a planned outage?” and, “Why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. As a way to keep you and our crews safe, when this happens, we plan an interruption to electric service.

Doing our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, we often stage these planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning the outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they improve reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment are also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for the project and repair or replace the line, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. We try to notify you a few days before an outage so you can be prepared. We also keep you aware of when line crews will be working in your area.

Here at CEMC, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.



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

Join us for Member Appreciation Days

Join us at your local Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation office on these dates for free hot dogs, chips, cookies and soft drinks AND a chance to win an electric grill:

- Friday, April 8 — Dover
- Wednesday, April 13 — Springfield
- Thursday, April 14 — Gallatin AND White House
- Wednesday, April 27 — Portland
- Thursday, April 28 — Ashland City
- Friday, April 29 — Clarksville

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

How to start saving energy and money

Three quick tips toward energy efficiency

By Paul Wesslund

Celebrate Earth Day on Friday, April 22, by making your home more energy-efficient.

Below are three efficiency tips from energy expert Brian Sloboda of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association:

1. Look around your home for no-cost ways to be efficient. Close the curtains in the summer, and open them in the winter. Turn off your computers overnight. Also turn off video game consoles when they're not being used. Better yet, keep them off and send the kids outside to play baseball.
2. Look for small steps you can take, and do it yourself. Caulk around drafty windows. Check the attic for the correct amount of insulation. Switch to LED lightbulbs. Plant a deciduous tree on the sunny side of your house; in a few years, shade from the leaves will cool your home from the sun in summer, then fall off to let the sun's rays warm your home in the winter. Old cable TV boxes use a lot of energy, so if yours is not ENERGY STAR-rated, call your cable provider and ask for a new one. If you have a major appliance like a refrigerator, washing machine or dryer that's more than 10 years old, don't repair it. The energy efficiency of a newer model will likely pay for itself with energy savings in a few years. Before buying any appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR label, and learn to read when comparing products.

3 STEPS to ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Identify ways to save energy when using appliances and electronics in your home. Buy ENERGY STAR-rated appliances when possible, and turn off electronics such as computers and gaming consoles when not in use.

DIY projects can help you save energy. Caulk around drafty windows, use LED bulbs and check insulation levels in your home.



Check with your electric co-op about energy-saving programs.

3. Call Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation about energy-saving programs. Your co-op may be able to offer advice, appliance rebates or a home energy checkup. You might be surprised to find out what's really driving up your energy costs.

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues 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.

DOWNTOWN CLARKSVILLE



RIVERS & SPIRES
Festival
TENNESSEE

~ An Entity of Visit Clarksville



Country music artist Kellie Pickler will perform on the Public Square stage Saturday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Rivers and Spires, the award-winning, family-friendly and always free festival, returns to historic downtown Clarksville for its 14th year this spring. The festival, which runs Thursday, April 14, through Saturday, April 16, will feature five stages of live music and entertainment, arts and crafts, great food, gaming and plenty of activities for all ages.

Headlining the event this year are country music artist and television personality Kellie Pickler and Christian recording artist and songwriter Plumb.

Pickler, who will perform on the Public Square stage at 7:30 p.m. on April 15, rose from a small-town country girl to American celebrity. You might know Kellie from the 2005 “American Idol” season where she finished sixth or from her numerous singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs list like “I Wonder,” “Best Days of Your Life” and “Red High Heels.”

She also starred on “Dancing with the Stars” in 2013, partnering with Derek Hough. Most recently, Pickler, with songwriter husband Kyle Jacobs, stars in her own reality show, “I Love Kellie Pickler,” on CMT.

Plumb, otherwise known as Tiffany Arbuckle Lee, will perform on the Christian stage Saturday at 7 p.m. Best known as a Christian rock artist, she’s sold more than 500,000 albums and 2 million singles worldwide. Making Christian artist Plumb will perform on the Christian stage Saturday, April 15, at 7 p.m.



inspirational music for more than a decade, Plumb has landed many singles and albums on the Billboard charts including “One Drop,” “Need You Now” and “Drifting.”

In addition to the headline performers, the three-day Rivers and Spires Festival will include a host of other local musicians and entertainers, local artists and talent competitions such as The Beaver Country Songwriter Search and Last Band Standing. The festival will also include car shows, the Festival of Nations, Quilts of the Cumberland, an arm-wrestling competition, the Military Zone, Sports Zone and the Marketplace, where a variety of vendors will be set up to sell everything from sunglasses to antiques and much more.

If you have little ones, you won’t want to miss the Family Fun Zone, which offers more than 60 free activities for the kids, including inflatables, Velcro climbing walls, painting and more. And don’t miss Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s own Louie the Lightning Bug in the Children’s Parade.

Hours for this year’s events are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on April 14 and 15 and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on April 16. Family Fun Zone hours are Friday, April 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information about the 2016 festival and a complete listing of events, activities and performers, visit www.riversandspires.com.

Portland celebrates 75th Annual Strawberry Festival May 10-14

The Portland Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend the 2016 Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival Tuesday, May 10, through Saturday, May 14. The chamber has organized a fun-filled week of activities and entertainment for the whole family.

This year's event, themed "There's No Place Like Home," welcomes back previous parade grand marshals Ronnie McDowell, Mountain Man, Corey Brewer and many more. A special dinner with the grand marshals will be held May 14 at First Baptist Church. (Tickets are required for this event.)

Additional information about the 75th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival can be found on the event's website, www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.com, or by calling 615-325-9032. Review this lineup of events, and make plans to join the fun:

April 29-30: Strawberry Pageant sponsored by Portland High School cheerleaders.

May 10-14: Come enjoy the Carnival fun all week long at Richland Park.



Don't miss the free Ronnie McDowell concert and fireworks display at Richland Park on Saturday, May 14.

May 10 at 8 a.m.: Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Ky. \$360 per team; includes barbecue lunch.

May 11: Strawberry Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.



May 12: Music on Main. Bring your lawn chairs and come out for a night of free entertainment Thursday night on Main Street. Music will begin at 6:30 p.m.

May 14: Festival Day!

- Portland Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast
- Strawberry Stride 5K Run and a fun run sponsored by Portland Athletics
- Game Stage Strawberry Eating Contest and more games begin at 9:30 a.m. (Games are free; limited space; preregistration suggested)
- Kid Town USA, where it's all about the kids. Main Street is full of inflatable jumps, obstacle courses, climbing wall and more. Play all day for \$5.
- Strawberry Jam Live Entertainment from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Market Street.
- Strawberry Lane Strawberries for sale until they are all gone. Festival T-shirts and more are also available.
- More than 100 vendors in three locations
- Parade begins at 4 p.m. (applications for entry available online).
- Grand Marshal Dinner begins at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Dinner tickets are \$20, and VIP tickets are \$25 and include reserved parking and seating at the free Ronnie McDowell concert.
- Free Ronnie McDowell Concert at Richland Park at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and come out to enjoy some great music.
- A fireworks display immediately follows the concert.

Products to avoid

By Tom Tate

When it comes to saving energy, caveat emptor is alive and well. We are all bombarded by claims that border on outright falsehoods, so it pays to view savings claims from third parties cautiously. Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it generally is.

Electric space heaters drain energy savings from your home if used incorrectly. Companies make elaborate claims about the amount of money you can save and charge exorbitant sums for their products. The advertisements frequently target those on a fixed income, presenting false hope while extracting precious dollars from their customers. I have seen a number of these space heaters and admit they appear to be well made, but they typically offer no better economy than any other 1,500-watt electric heater. Bottom line: Electric space heaters should only be used to heat small spaces — not your entire home.

Black boxes that claim to clean up power, protect appliances and reduce energy use come and go. These often require an electrician to install and claim to improve power quality, smooth out power fluctuations and store energy so you can reduce your bills. Save your money. The concepts they present are already in use by your co-op and require utility-size equipment to deliver them. Something that can fit in a shoebox is not going to deliver any value, at least not in the areas promised.

When you see the ad that reads, “The power companies don’t want you to know,” skip it. These are generally claims around building your own renewable energy source from parts easily obtained at the local hardware store or a motor that produces limitless “free” electricity. I would equate these with the emails I get from foreign countries telling me I can receive millions of dollars by simply sending all my banking information. At least in the case of the homemade renewables and limitless motor you get some cool plans and parts lists. You decide if it’s worth \$50 to \$200. I’ll pass.

There is a product that claims it will replace basement dehumidifiers and save tons of money. It basically is a fan system that vents all the basement air outside. Yes, dehumidifiers can be expensive to run and are a nuisance when you have to empty the water. Knowing that, I asked the Cooperative Research Network (an arm of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) a



Be wary of do-it-yourself solutions to build your own renewable energy source from parts easily obtained at the local hardware store. The old adage again rings true: “If it sounds too good to be true, it generally is.”

few years ago if these products delivered on their savings claims. The experts said no. The problem is that when you blow all the basement air outside, it is replaced with conditioned air from other parts of the house, forcing your HVAC system to work harder and dramatically reducing the promised savings. Here’s my solution: I set my dehumidifier to 60 percent and run a hose to my floor drain. This resolves the water-emptying hassle and really reduces the power use while keeping my basement acceptably dry.

I will close with a warning that’s not technology-related: Scammers love to call or stop by your home, claiming they represent the local power company. Never give personal or financial information to anyone who claims to be a Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation employee without confirming his or her identity. Ask for a call-back number from the caller, then check with CEMC. Ask the door-to-door person for a valid CEMC ID. If it’s really a co-op employee, he or she will be able to prove it.

Most of us want to save energy and keep our bills manageable. Technology can help do this, but be careful. Call CEMC at 800-987-2362 before making any investments in technology that seem too good to be true. You’ll be glad you did.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues 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.

New homes with no worries

Efficient from the ground up

By Joseph Woodard, CEMC Energy Programs Inspector

As many homeowners quickly discover, maintenance and upgrades to a home are efforts for the life of the house. The manicuring and curation of lawn and landscaping may seem never-ending. Paint and trim seem to need to change with the season. While a pink tiled bathroom may have been appreciated for style and flash in the 1960s, it may make modern homeowners feel as if they are living in a Barbie Dreamhouse (ask me how I know!).

As much as changing décor and cosmetic remodeling are part of owning a home, upgrading the efficiency of a home is as vital to comfortable living as the drapes. While all homes can benefit from upgrading in key areas such as insulation, envelope-sealing and HVAC systems, the result of such upgrades can be difficult and offer less than optimal benefit due to the home's initial construction methods. These and other factors may lead a homeowner to consider building new to truly make the house a home.

Comfort without the cost

Choosing a contractor, procuring permits, designing and specifying materials, appliances, fixtures and more can be an overwhelming experience for the average homeowner. As important as that walk-in closet may be, ensuring that the home is being constructed to the highest level of energy efficiency can provide the longest-lasting investment. A home that costs little to operate can begin payback from the start.

EnergyRight New Homes Program

For those planning to build a new home or who are in the construction phase, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to bring the EnergyRight New Homes program to our membership. The program is designed to use a prescriptive standard to follow in constructing new homes to be as efficient as possible. By specifying insulation values, HVAC design and quality and air-sealing measures, a homeowner can ensure that the operating expense can be lowered as comfort level rises.

Upgrade for benefits

On top of energy savings gained over the life of the home, incentives are awarded for building with energy use in mind. Each home is rated with a Home Efficiency Rating System (HERS), which can measure the results of the upgrades.



A structure scoring 95-86 on a HERS index is considered an EnergyRight Home and is eligible for incentives of \$500 to the applicant. A HERS index score of 85 and below registers as an EnergyRight Platinum home, and an applicant receives an incentive of \$600!

On top of the primary incentive for the home's rating, additional \$100 incentives are offered to applicants utilizing advanced water heaters. Advanced water heating such as a heat pump/hybrid tanked system or geothermal plumbing can significantly lower baseline use and typically pays for itself in as little as two to three years.

If you are interested in participating in the EnergyRight New Homes Program, here are some things to keep in mind:

- The home must be all-electric, meaning the HVAC, water heater and cooking systems must be electric (gas logs and cooktops are allowed, as are dual-fuel heat pumps).
- You must submit a builder application, which can be found at www.cemc.org.
- Once the application is received, an energy programs inspector will set up an appointment. During the inspection, the inspector will conduct a performance test of the HVAC system and verify the insulation R-values and duct system performance. Upon completion, the inspector will rate the home and process the incentives to be mailed to you!

Building for efficiency does not necessarily increase time or cost of construction. As most modern building codes have been adopted, the majority of these efficiency upgrades are already being performed. The further steps and verification through the inspection process can ensure that your family can live comfortably while saving energy dollars for years to come.



Don't TOY with your SAFETY

When you're playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home.



Flying remote-controlled toys is a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and, in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites or remote-controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck on a power line, call your electric co-op.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.

