

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to meeting the needs of our membership by delivering safe, affordable and reliable services the cooperative way.

The Tennessee Magazine

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Co-op Concerns

News from your community

High praise

Each year, we recognize the second Monday in April as International Lineworker Appreciation Day. This year, it falls on April 12, and we invite you to join us to celebrate the important work lineworkers do for the communities we serve. Here at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, we have a team of dedicated lineworkers who keep the power on for more than 100,000 members across our five-county service area.

It takes years of training, and linemen are on call 24 hours a day to restore power, often in brutal weather conditions. It is a difficult job, but they take great pride in providing an essential service to their neighbors and friends.

In 2019, Tennessee's electric cooperatives coordinated an effort to honor the state's lineworkers with a specialty license plate. Today, more than 3,000 Tennessee motorists have Powering Tennessee specialty plates on their cars to show support for the state's electric lineworkers.

Beyond simply showing support for these essential employees, there is a higher purpose behind the plates. Proceeds from the Powering Tennessee plates go to the Tennessee Lineworker

Lifeline fund. Lineman is consistently ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in America. While we take extraordinary precautions to keep our team safe, accidents sometimes occur, and the Lineworker Lifeline Fund was established to support linemen and their families should tragedy strike. In just over a year, more than \$50,000 has been raised for the fund.

You don't have to be a lineman — or even work at a utility — to get a Powering Tennessee plate. Any Tennessee motorist can have one. Whether it is International Lineworker Appreciation Day or any other day of the year, Powering Tennessee plates are a great way to show appreciation to these servants who give so much to our communities.



By Chris A. Davis
*General Manager,
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation*



Switch to paperless billing for a chance to win a \$100 electric bill credit!

Looking to cut down on the amount of paper cluttering your desks and countertops? Give paperless billing a try! A member enrolled in paperless billing receives an email each month when his or her bill is ready, and it's conveniently filed online instead of the overflowing file cabinet!

Still not convinced? How about an incentive? All Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members enrolled in paperless billing prior to Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day), will be entered in a drawing for \$100 electric bill credits! A total of five lucky members will win!

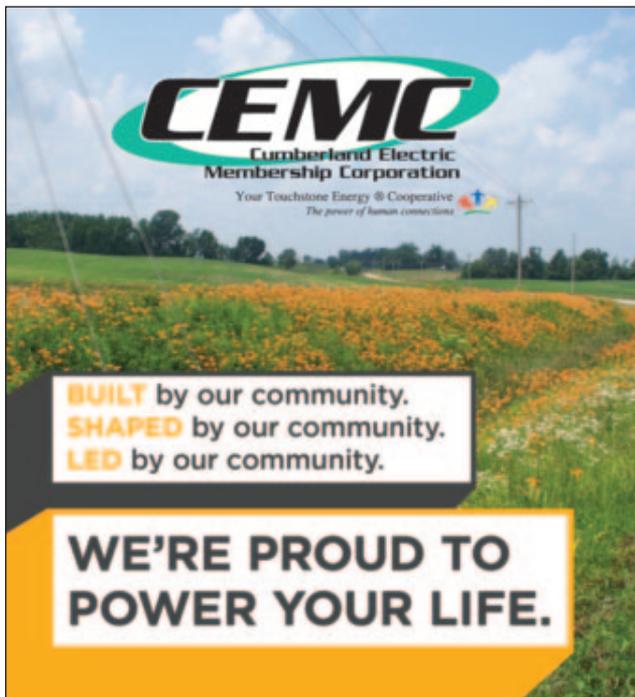
To sign up, visit cemc.org, log in to your SmartHub account and choose "Yes" when prompted to turn off paper bills. It's that easy! You can also turn off paper bills through the SmartHub mobile app.

Members who are already signed up for paperless billing will be entered into the contest automatically.

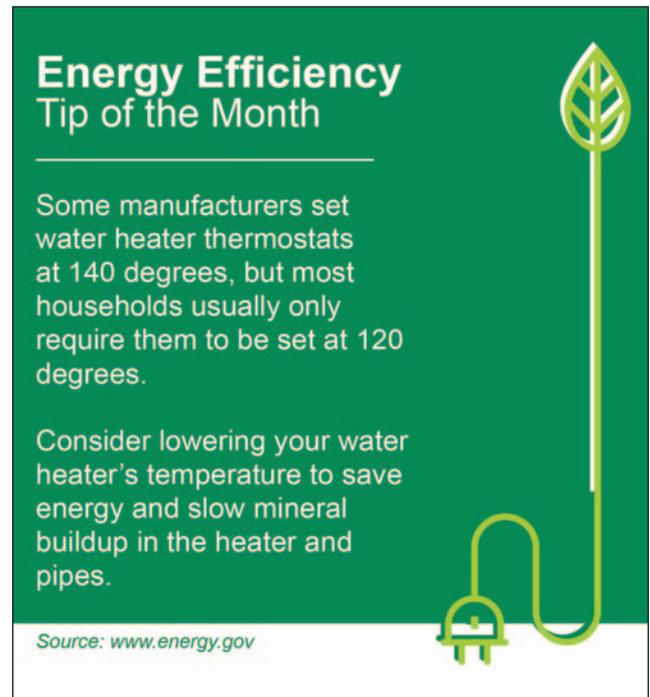


The graphic features a green circular logo with a leaf and arrows, the word "Paperless" in a script font, and "BILLING" in a bold sans-serif font. Below this, the text reads: "Go green with paperless billing for a chance to win a \$100 electric bill credit!". At the bottom is the CEMC logo.

Good luck, and thanks for going green with paperless billing!



The graphic shows the CEMC logo over a field of yellow flowers. Text boxes at the bottom read: "BUILT by our community. SHAPED by our community. LED by our community." and "WE'RE PROUD TO POWER YOUR LIFE."



The graphic has a green background with a leaf-shaped plug icon. The text reads: "Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month" followed by "Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees." and "Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes." The source is cited as www.energy.gov.

Know what's below: Steps for safe digging

By Abby Berry

Spring has arrived, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects — especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one while digging is not the reminder you'll want — trust us! Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation reminds all members who are planning digging projects to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting call811.com/811-In-Your-State. Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Hitting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 811 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



4. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

Plant trees to save energy

When homeowners look for opportunities to improve efficiency, they frequently look inside. You should also consider how projects outside your home can impact energy use. Spring landscape projects can have a major impact on your home's efficiency.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, shading your home is the most cost-effective way to reduce heat gain from the sun and reduce your air conditioning costs in the summer. Having more plants and trees in your yard can reduce the air temperature by up to 6 degrees.

Planting deciduous trees on the south, southwest and west sides of your home can cut heating during hot summer months while allowing sunlight through during the fall and winter when the trees have lost their leaves. When planting trees, consider the expected shape and height of the mature trees and where they will shade your home. A tree with a high mature height planted on the south side of a home, for example, will provide all-day roof shading in the summer while a shorter tree to the west can protect your home from the lower afternoon sun.

If your home is in an open area that has few structures around it, cold winter winds can increase your heating bills. A windbreak on your property can help deflect these winds over your home. The most common type of windbreak uses a combination of evergreen trees and shrubs to block wind from the ground to the top of your home. For the best windbreak effect, plant these features on the north and northwest sides of your home at a distance of between two and five times the height of the mature trees. Incorporating a wall or fence can further assist with the windbreak.

There are a few safety tips to consider when planting trees. Contact Cumberland Electric

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact CEMC or visit www.ArborDay.org

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES	MEDIUM TREES	SMALL TREES
Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maple• Birch• Oak• Sweetgum• Spruce• Linden• Pine	Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington hawthorn• Goldenrain tree• Eastern redbud• American arborvitae• Dogwoods	<i>Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.</i> Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Star magnolia• Crabapple• Lilac

Diagram illustrating tree placement relative to a house and power lines. The house is shown with a 40ft height. A tree with a height of 40ft or less is shown to the left. A tree with a height of 25ft to 40ft is shown to the right. A tree with a height of 25ft or less is shown to the right of the house. A utility pole is shown to the right of the house, with a tree pruning zone indicated. The maximum tree height is 25ft. The distance from the house to the utility pole is 20ft. The distance from the house to the tree is 10ft. The distance from the house to the utility pole is 0ft.

Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Membership Corporation before planting trees near power lines. We can recommend safe planting distances based on the type of tree. You should also call 811 before digging to avoid underground utilities on your property. Visit us online at cemc.org/vegetation-management.html for more information about CEMC's vegetation management.

The goal of most lawn and garden projects is to bring beauty to your outdoor space, but a well-designed project can also improve your energy bill and increase the overall value of your home.

Portland celebrates 80th Annual Strawberry Festival

The Portland Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 80th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival! Organizers have planned a week jam-packed with family-friendly activities and entertainment beginning Friday, April 30, with a quilt show and running through Saturday, May 8, which is the main festival day.

This year's event, themed "Super Berries," will include a free concert featuring Resurrection — A Journey Tribute on May 7 at 7 p.m. A fireworks show will follow at 8:30 p.m.

For more information about the 2021 Strawberry Festival and a complete schedule of events, visit www.MiddleTNStrawberryFestival.com or call 615-325-9032. Check out the following lineup of events and make plans to join the fun! And be sure to pick up some of Portland's famous fruit while you're there!

April 30-May 1: Strawberry Quilt Show at Richland Park.

May 4-8: Come enjoy the carnival all week long at Richland Park.

May 4: Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Kentucky. Entry fee is \$500 per team and includes breakfast, lunch, mulligans and games package.

May 7: Free Strawberry Jam Concert featuring Resurrection — A Journey Tribute at 7 p.m. on the Old Hickory Credit Union Stage. Live music and vendors begin at 5 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or rent one for \$2 while supplies last. A fireworks display immediately follows the concert at 8:30 p.m.

May 8: 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.
- 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 beginning at 9 a.m.
- Strawberry Jam Live Entertainment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Market Street and Section C.
- Strawberry Lane: Strawberries for sale — while supplies last — beginning at 10 a.m.
- Mechanical bull rides — \$5 per ride, cash only.
- Magic Shows on the North Russell stage at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Meet-and-greet with Super Heroes and Robocars.
- Visit more than 200 vendors in five locations.
- Bingo beginning at 1 p.m.
- Mascot meet-and-greet at 3 p.m. followed by Mascot Race at 3:45 p.m.
- Parade begins at 4 p.m. Applications for entry are available online.
- FREE parking and shuttle at Portland High School beginning at 10 a.m.

Don't miss this opportunity to join the fun and help celebrate the rich history of the Strawberry Festival! Use hashtags #VisitSumnerTN and #MidTNStrawberryFest on social media to share your posts.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE WORD SEARCH



Read below for some great tips to help you stay safer online!

Read the web safety tips below, then find and circle the keywords in the puzzle.

https://usa.kaspersky.com/resource-center/preemptive-safety/

P	N	E	C	N	M	P	Q	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	R	A	O
V	I	W	A	E	H	A	I	Z	O	V	R	U	D	F	C	J	N
Q	N	G	R	T	B	S	X	T	P	S	I	X	O	K	O	I	L
S	T	D	E	W	B	S	S	R	R	E	J	T	W	W	N	M	I
T	E	Y	F	O	R	W	U	O	T	U	F	A	N	E	N	I	N
A	R	E	U	R	O	O	O	W	F	G	S	T	L	B	E	Z	E
Y	N	Y	L	K	W	R	Z	Z	I	T	O	T	O	S	C	Y	R
S	E	E	F	U	S	D	Y	R	N	F	W	U	A	I	T	W	P
A	T	R	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y	X	I	A	D	T	I	N	G
F	J	D	E	G	N	J	Y	D	J	V	A	A	R	E	O	M	Q
E	W	E	B	Q	G	G	H	G	S	E	C	U	R	E	N	E	P
Z	K	B	Q	V	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L	H	U	W	M	A

STAY SAFE!

WORD BANK

- Practice **secure**, safe **browsing**. Only browse on pages that start with "https://" and have a lock (🔒) next to their **web** address.
- Being safe on the Internet can help **protect** your **privacy**. Don't give out your **personal** information to strangers!
- Always use a strong **password** for your **online** accounts. Create a complex password that includes a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters.
- Be **careful** with what you **download**. Don't ever download any programs from a suspicious **website**, and only install **software** from websites that you **trust**.
- Just like in real life, be wary of strangers on the **Internet**. Not everyone is who they say they are!
- Make sure you browse using a secure **connection**. Be careful when using public **Wi-Fi**, such as a **network** at a coffee shop.

THANK A LINEWORKER!

This month, we're recognizing lineworkers for the amazing job they do to make sure we have electricity! Think about all the ways you use electricity every day. Do you use a phone, watch TV, play video games or turn on lights? You're able to do *all* of these things because of lineworkers.



Below is space to write a short thank you note to your local lineworkers. Write your note, then ask an adult to help you send it back to us so we can share it with our crews.



WE ♥ OUR
LINEWORKERS

Send your note to the mailing address below:

CEMC
Attn: Member Services
P.O. Box 3300
Clarksville, TN 37043