

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

CEMC Management and Staff

Chris A. Davis,
General Manager
David Abernathy,
Engineering and Operations
Division Manager
Annebelle Chester,
Administrative Division Manager
Mark T. Cook, P.E.,
Broadband Manager
Michael Blackwell,
District Operations Manager
Jonathan Fielder,
Engineering Services Manager
Seth Roberts,
Member Services Manager
Brad Taylor,
Financial Services Manager

CEMC Co-op News Editor
Julie Wallace
P.O. Box 3300
Clarksville, TN 37043

District Operations Supervisors:
Ashland City office
Josh Gill
Clarksville office
Kenny Davis
Dover office
Bobby Joiner
Gallatin office
Travis Akins
Portland/White House offices
Scott Brown
Springfield office
Chad Crabtree

CEMC Board of Directors

Tommy G. Whittaker,
Sumner Co., President
Wesley H. Aymett,
Cheatham Co., Vice President
Shela K. Williams,
At Large, Secretary-Treasurer
K. Jean Beauchamp, Robertson Co.,
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.
Charles R. Hancock, Stewart Co.
Michael A. Mason, Robertson Co.
C. David Morgan, Montgomery Co.
Edward L. Oliver, Montgomery Co.
Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner Co.

The Tennessee Magazine
(ISSN 0492746X), Volume 63,
No. 4, is published monthly by
Tennessee Electric Cooperative
Association, 2964 Sidco Drive,
Nashville TN 37204. Periodicals
Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at
additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to *The Tennessee Magazine*,
PO Box 100912, Nashville TN
37224-0912.

Between the Lines

News from your local leadership

A month of days

According to the National Day Calendar, more than 1,500 national days of remembrance or recognition will be celebrated in 2020. Many of these take place in April. Some of these special days are important and worthy of consideration.

April 2 is World Autism Day, an opportunity to celebrate the millions of individuals and families affected by autism. April 9 is National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, a time set aside to honor the courageous men and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation. April 19 is National Oklahoma City Bombing Commemoration Day in remembrance of those impacted by this tragic event in 1995.

Other days seem far less important, like National Deep Dish Pizza Day on April 5, National Reach as High as You Can Day on April 14 and National Lima Bean Respect Day on April 20.

However, three days on this month's calendar are particularly meaningful for your electric co-op.

Monday, April 13, is National Lineworker Appreciation Day. We have 81 lineworkers at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who go above and beyond to provide reliable energy to the communities we serve. They have a dangerous job that frequently requires them to leave their families for days at a time. Help us celebrate their service and sacrifice by shaking their hands if you see them



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

around town or by using hashtag #THANKALINEWORKER on social media.

April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, an annual event to celebrate and protect our planet. Our power supplier, the Tennessee Valley Authority, has reduced carbon emissions by 60 percent from 2005 levels — about twice as much as the U.S. energy industry as a whole for the same time period. We applaud these efforts to balance environmental stewardship with affordable, reliable energy.

Finally, National Arbor Day is celebrated on April 24, the last Friday in April. Trees beautify our environment, provide oxygen and habitat and protect our topsoil from erosion. The safe and reliable operation of our electric system often requires us to manage the growth of trees near power lines. All of our trimming practices follow guidelines established by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Whether it is National Vitamin C Day (April 4) or National Picnic Day (April 23), you can be confident that the entire team at CEMC is here to provide safe, affordable, reliable and clean energy to our communities day in and day out.

How will you celebrate Earth Day?

By Anne Prince, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Earth Day is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use:

Audit your lightbulbs. Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

Maintain your HVAC system. Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently — keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Examine your smart or programmable thermostat. Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. Though this is one of the best tools at

your fingertips, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Seal windows and doors. Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions worthy of a press release or event, they do make a difference. And Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is always here to help if you want more information on how you can save energy. Give us a call at 1-800-987-2362, or visit our online Energy Resource Center at www.cemc.org.

As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community — and our beautiful planet.

50th Anniversary of Earth Day
April 22, 2020, marks the golden anniversary of Earth Day. Here are a few environmental milestones we've achieved over the years.

- Cleaner Air and Water**
In 1970, the Clean Air Act was greatly expanded, and the Clean Water Act passed in 1972.
- Getting the Lead Out**
Lead was phased out as a gasoline additive by 1988.
- Restoring the Ozone Layer**
Ozone-depleting chemicals were banned in 1989.
- Better Bulbs**
Today, lightbulbs use 80% less energy and last 25 times longer.
- Rising Renewables**
Today, renewable energy sources account for 11% of U.S. energy consumption.

Switch to paperless billing, and you could win a \$100 electric bill credit!

All Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Members enrolled in paperless billing prior to Wednesday, 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 www.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. Good luck, and thanks for going green with paperless billing!



The graphic features a green circular logo with three leaves and arrows on the left. To the right, the word "Paperless" is written in a large, black, cursive font, with "BILLING" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. Below this, the text "Go green with paperless billing for a chance to win a \$100 electric bill credit!" is written in a green, sans-serif font. At the bottom right is the CEMC logo, which includes the text "CEMC Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation" and the tagline "Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative" with a small logo.

CEMC Member Appreciation Day coming May 7

Join us at your local CEMC office on Thursday, May 7, for Member Appreciation Day! We’ll be serving a FREE picnic lunch consisting of hot dogs, chips, cookies and soft drinks from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at each CEMC office (Dover, Clarksville, Ashland City, Springfield, White House, Portland and Gallatin locations).

Members can also register for a chance to win electric grills, one of which will be given away at each location. (Only one entry per household, please. Only members in attendance can register.)

We hope to see you there!



Members enjoy food and fellowship at last year’s Member Appreciation Day in Portland.

Young leaders learn about co-ops, agriculture at conference

More than 300 young adults from across Tennessee, including Nick and Chasidy Greene from Cumberland Furnace, met in Nashville on Feb. 21 and 22 for the 2020 Young Leaders Conference. The Greenes were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to attend the annual conference that brings together rural Tennesseans to learn about cooperatives and discuss issues facing their communities.

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) co-sponsors the annual conference with Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers organization.

Keynote speaker Temple Grandin, author, inventor and consultant to the livestock industry, shared her experiences living with autism. Grandin was the subject of 2010's Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning semi-biographical film "Temple Grandin."

"Robots and computers will not replace plumbers, electricians, mechanics and welders," said Grandin. "There are different types of thinkers, and we need to encourage those with autism and attention-deficit disorders to find their own ways to be independent and successful."

Other presentations at the conference covered a variety of subjects aimed at educating leaders about cooperatives, building leadership skills and exploring topics important to rural Tennesseans.

"We were proud to have the Greenes representing CEMC at this year's conference," said



Nick and Chasidy Greene of Cumberland Furnace represent Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the 2020 Young Leaders Conference in Franklin.

General Manager Chris Davis. "We are investing in the future of the communities we serve, and that is not limited to infrastructure. Each year, the Young Leaders Conference brings together talented young leaders from across Tennessee to learn and share ideas. We are excited to see the impact this will have on our communities in the years to come."

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives is a statewide organization supported by Tennessee's 60 member cooperatives, including 23 electric cooperatives and 29 farmer cooperatives.

Portland celebrates 79th Annual Strawberry Festival

The Portland Chamber of Commerce is planning a fun-filled week of activities and entertainment for the whole family during the 79th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival. This year's event, themed "Super Berries," will kick off with the Strawberry Slam wrestling event Saturday, May 2, and run through Saturday, May 9, which is the main festival day.

For more information about the 2020 Strawberry Festival and a complete schedule of events, visit www.MiddleTNStrawberryFestival.com or call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032. Review the following lineup of events, and make plans to bring the family.

And don't forget to pick up some of Portland's famous fruit at the festival!

May 2: Strawberry Slam Wrestling Event at 7 p.m. at the Portland High School gym. Visit www.prowrestlingent.com to purchase tickets.

May 5-9: Enjoy the carnival fun all week long at Richland Park.

May 5: 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 6: Strawberry Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

May 8: 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 9: Festival Day!

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



Bring the whole family to enjoy Portland's 79th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival, May 2 through May 9. Visit the event's website, www.MiddleTNStrawberryFestival.com for more information. Photo courtesy of Dobbs Family Photography.

- 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.
- 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.
- Magic Shows on the North Russell stage at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Visit over 150 vendors in five locations
- Meet-and-greet with Super Heroes and Robocars
- 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 8 a.m.

The chamber and the city of Portland look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at the 79th Annual Strawberry Festival. Don't miss this opportunity to join the fun and celebrate the rich history of this festival. Use hashtags #VisitSumnerTn and #MidTNStrawberryFest on social media to share your posts.

MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER WITH SMARTHUB



ONLINE OR DOWNLOAD THE APP

HOW DO I GET THE APP FOR MY PHONE? LOOK FOR OUR NAME IN THE APPLE STORE® OR IN GOOGLE® PLAY. SEARCH: SMARTHUB, IF DUPLICATES APPEAR THE CORRECT APP IS PROVIDED BY OUR PARTNER, NATIONAL INFORMATION SOLUTIONS COOPERATIVE.



PAY YOUR BILL

Pay your bill using SmartHub through the app or online. View an image of your bill, view your billing history, update your contact information, view daily usage, all with just a few clicks.

REPORT OUTAGES

Report an outage through SmartHub. Our crews work day and night to restore service if an outage occurs. Keep us in the know when you experience an outage so we resolve it as soon as possible.



STAY UPDATED

Sign up for email, text and mobile notifications. See banners and messages with important announcements. Connect with CEMC and Cumberland Connect on social media through the SmartHub app.

SIGN UP FOR CUMBERLAND CONNECT

Sign up for fiber internet services through SmartHub online and through your app. Once signed up, you can manage your account and make changes to your services and account when needed with ease and convenience.



www.CEMC.org

www.CumberlandConnect.org

Call before you dig: 811 service protects homeowners

Planning to put in a new pool before the hot days of summer arrive? Maybe you'll beautify your yard with some pretty flowering trees or shrubbery. Before you dig any holes or excavate part of your yard, be sure to take an important safety step in calling 811. This is imperative for small jobs such as installing a new mailbox as well as larger ones such as building new fencing or a deck because the depth of utility lines varies. You don't want to be the neighbor who inadvertently knocks out utility service to your entire neighborhood, not to mention potentially causing harm to yourself or your family.

Tennessee 811 is a nonprofit organization that helps homeowners and contractors locate underground utility lines so that digging can proceed safely. With one call, you can notify the owners of various underground utility lines who, within a few days, will mark the locations of the lines. Calling is required by law. If you dig without calling and damage utility lines, fines can

be assessed, and repair costs will come out of your pocket.

Note that private utility lines will not be covered by



a call to Tennessee 811.

Examples of private lines are water and sewer lines that run from your meter to your house. Also not covered are customer-owned lines such as those for invisible fencing, outdoor lighting and irrigation. You might need to contact your local or city government, tax assessor or registrar of deeds to help locate these lines. Tennessee 811 maintains a list of private

locators; the professionals might charge a fee for their services.

The call center for Tennessee 811 is open to calls and requests for e-tickets (for utility line marking) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by calling 811 or 1-800-351-1111 or via an online e-ticket program at tenn811.com. The website also has an FAQ section to answer more specific questions about the process and what to expect.

Find electrical hazards before they find you

You can't see all the electrical hazards in your home unless you go looking for them. Here are five invisible hazards that your family should avoid:

1. Overload. Especially if your home is older, it might not have the capacity to handle all of today's energy-intensive gadgets. When your home was built, for example, it didn't have to handle phone chargers, electric treadmills or even automatic coffee pots. Invite an electrician over to evaluate your home and upgrade its electrical capacity.

2. Old circuit breaker boxes. A box that feels hot is probably faulty and needs replacing.

3. Constantly tripping breakers. It's annoying when your hairdryer stops working mid-blow dry or you trip a breaker whenever you plug in your curling iron and clothes iron at the same time. But those are

warning signs that you're overloading your circuits. Call an electrician.

4. An outdated fire extinguisher. The life-saving devices don't come with expiration dates, but that doesn't mean they will work when you need them. Fire extinguishers last for between five and 15 years. Check the pressure gauge on yours every month. Only if the needle is in the green area is it good to go.

5. Hot outlets. Regularly touch your outlets. Warm or hot outlets could signal an electrical overload or wiring that's melting. While you're at it, have an electrician switch out your old outlets for those with GFCIs, which will shut off in case of a hazard.

For more electric safety tips, visit us online at www.cemc.org/safety.