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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.

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Between the Lines

News from your local leadership

Electricity brings everyday value

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it.

Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cell phone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019), according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI).



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

The cost of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: Electricity brings everyday value. In fact, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members experience an average of 2.2 outages lasting just 176 minutes each year. Our team works hard to keep the lights on 99.97 percent of the time. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm very proud of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and lower costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

CEMC provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members, and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. CEMC is your electric co-op, and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.

Director candidates must meet Aug. 11 deadline

Members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are interested in serving on the board of directors can obtain petitions from the general manager's office. Each petition must be signed by at least 15 members.

The petition must be completed and turned back in by the deadline of **Tuesday, Aug. 11**, which is 60 days prior to the 2020 annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, at Stewart County High School in Dover.



Elections will be held for the following director positions: North Stewart, North Montgomery, South Sumner and Director at Large.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of Aug. 11 can vote in director

elections. Those applying for membership after August 11 will not be eligible to vote in this year's election but are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)

Run the ceiling fan to save energy

Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air in a room. Instead, they circulate the air so anyone who is in the room while one is running will feel a sort of breeze. That makes a person feel cooler.

So there's no point in running a ceiling fan in an empty room.

But for rooms that are usually occupied, a ceiling fan can make the room feel like it's up to 8 degrees cooler than a room without one. And because the fan circulates cool air, it gives the air conditioning system a break.

In fact, with a ceiling fan running, you can turn your thermostat up by about 4 degrees without sacrificing comfort, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Here are a few tips for getting the most energy savings from ceiling fans:

- Rotate the direction that the fan blades spin when the weather warms up. In the summer, ceiling fans should rotate counter-clockwise. That way, the blades

push cool air down into the room. In the winter, they should rotate clockwise, to draw warm air up to the ceiling and recirculate it. The rotation isn't automatic; you have to manually flip a switch on most models.

- Hang the fan 7 to 9 feet above the floor and about a foot below the ceiling.
- Fan blades should be at least 8 inches away from the ceiling and 18 inches from the walls.
- Large ceiling fans move more air than small ones. For a large room, choose a large fan.
- Likewise, large fan blades move the air around more forcefully. So if you're installing one in a home office or another room where you keep loose papers, choose one with small blades.
- Generally, the more expensive the fan, the quieter it runs.
- Fans with an Energy Star label are about 20 percent more efficient than standard models.

2021 CEMC calendar art contest winners

Young artists from schools throughout Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's service area submitted hundreds of entries for the 2021 CEMC Calendar Art Contest. The winners have been selected, and although the calendars will not be available until November, we could not resist sharing a sneak peek of a few of this year's winners!

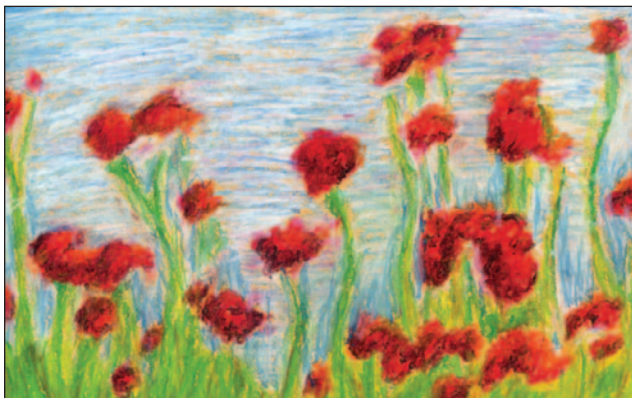
Contest winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in one of five different 2021 calendars offered this year. Calendars are free and will be available at each of CEMC's district business offices beginning in November.

If you would like to see your student's artwork featured in the 2022 CEMC calendar, be sure to watch out for the January 2021 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* for entry details.

Thank you to all who submitted artwork and the teachers and parents who encouraged participation.



*Overall Winner — Devi Bell
Merrol Hyde Magnet School*



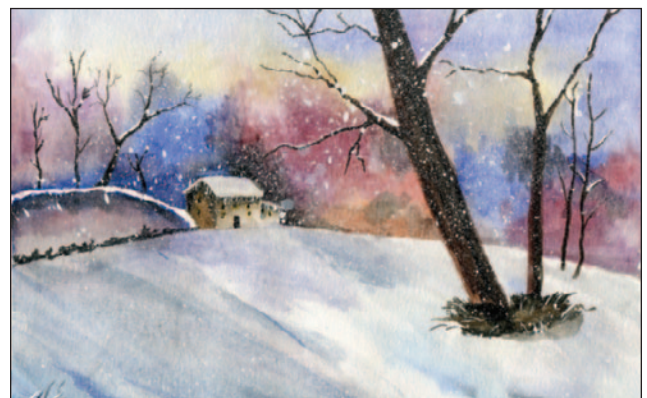
*Emily Cluck
Cheatham County Central High School*



*Savannah Hartwig
Clarksville Christian School*



*Jennifer Sanchez
White House High School*



*Jami Roberts
Cheatham County Central High School*

Staying safe if you're in an auto accident involving electrical poles or lines

Being in an automobile accident is scary, especially if you look out the car window and see a downed utility pole or power lines. In the aftermath of an accident, your instinct may be to get out of the car in order to distance yourself from further potential harm, to seek help or to check on others involved in the accident. But if there is a downed pole or lines, you need to resist that urge. The safest place is actually inside the car until utility and rescue crews arrive and ensure you can safely exit the car.

Damaged power lines can still be electrified even if you can't see visible signs such as arcing or sparks. Always assume that power lines are energized.

Even if the lines are not touching your vehicle, you could be putting your life in danger by stepping out of the car. Despite surviving the accident, the moment your foot hits the ground, you can become the path for a lethal flow of electricity.

If you find yourself in a situation where you or someone else has hit a power pole and lines are down, the best thing to do is stay in your vehicle and call 911. If you see well-meaning people who aren't first-responders or utility workers approaching the vehicle, tell them to stay away and that you've called for help.

Despite what you see in TV car accidents, fires following crashes are rare, but they sometimes occur. If the car is on fire, you will need to exit the vehicle quickly — and safely. In these situations, experts recommend jumping clear of the car while making certain you don't touch it and the ground at the same time. To help prevent accidental contact with the vehicle after you leave it, remove any loose clothing before opening the door. Open the door by the handle without touching the door itself. Stand with your feet together on the frame, tuck your hands and elbows in close to your chest and stomach, then hop off to a spot free of power lines. To prevent falling back against the vehicle or onto downed lines, know your limitations and don't try to jump too far at once.

**WHAT TO DO:
IF YOUR CAR
CRASHES INTO
A UTILITY POLE**

Accidents happen. Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS NO FIRE:
Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.
Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS A FIRE:
Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.
To exit safely:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

Once you are on the ground, continue to hop away, keeping your feet together, or shuffle your feet in slow, short strides. This sounds odd, but it minimizes the risk of a voltage difference between your feet that could be dangerous under the right circumstances. Continue doing this until you are at least 40 feet away from the burning vehicle.

Electricity provides us with safety, convenience and connection, but it can also be dangerous. Our crews are trained to be everyday safe and make smart choices around energy, and we want to help your family do the same. Visit cmcc.org/safety.html or everydaysafe.org for more electrical safety tips.

Support local businesses during the pandemic

As restrictions on retailers and restaurants ease up a bit, make an effort to patronize local businesses so they'll have a shot at a full recovery.

Here are five ways to support neighborhood tradespeople, according to MarketWatch.

1. Order take-out or delivery. If you're not ready to take a seat in or outside of your favorite restaurant, buy food and take it home as often as you can afford it.

2. Buy gift cards. That's an immediate sale for a local business that sorely needs the cash. But don't spend the gift card now. Save it until the store or café is back on its financial feet. In the meantime, keep spending cash there.

3. Buy online — but locally. If you want to shop online, shop at local stores that are taking online orders.

4. Tip everyone. Tip waiters, delivery drivers and baristas — even if you don't usually tip. They're

probably working fewer hours than normal and serving fewer customers, so they're collecting less tip money.

5. Keep paying your housekeeper. They might not be able to come to our homes anymore, but they — along with trainers, piano teachers and other individuals who rely on the income they make by providing you with personalized service — need the money. If you can afford to, continue to pay them at least something.



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Enjoy a staycation in Robertson County

With so many of our traditional festivals and events being cancelled this year, we know you are looking for safe, fun things to do with your family. Robertson County has the answer!

The 11 cities and the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce have joined together to create “Experience Robertson County,” a unique event that gives visitors an opportunity to learn about all the interesting sites, attractions and history of the county while driving through 304,460 acres of natural beauty, farmland and historic towns. This event will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One of the state’s most important agricultural producers, Robertson County boasts amazing farm stores where you can find locally grown meats, vegetables, honey, flowers and more. Robertson County was also the original site of one of the largest distilleries in the United States, and that heritage is alive and well in Greenbrier. Adams is home to the legendary Bell Witch, and you’ll need to be careful she doesn’t hop in and take a ride home with you! Beautiful golf courses and a trail of murals and public art will also be on the agenda.



Guests will find a designated stop in each of the 11 municipalities, and each stop will have an “experience” activity. When you complete the experience, you will collect a stamp in a keepsake “passport” and drive to the next stop. Pick one city or all 11 — your choice based on

your time. This is not a race! The goal is to allow guests to learn all about Robertson County and find reasons to come back!

When you’ve experienced all you can handle, swing by the historic courthouse square in downtown Springfield where the chamber crew will validate your passport and give you a ticket for each stamp you collect. At the end of the day, four tickets will be drawn on Facebook Live. Each winner will receive a cash prize — the grand prize is \$1,000 — and one student/child traveler will win an iPad!

The entire event is FREE, and guests are encouraged to travel with their families. All of the stops have outdoor options perfect for social distancing!

For more information, visit the event’s website, experiencerobertsoncounty.com, or its Facebook page, “Experience Robertson County.”



Two stops along the Experience Robertson County tour are Orlinda’s Bernard Farms, left, and Adams, above, where the Watts family gives a history of the Bell Witch and tobacco.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs, and keep clear of electrical equipment.



Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles, and don't climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any nonelectrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazard to our line crews.