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Eddie Swan, Sumner Co.

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 community

Youth education: Investing in a brighter Tennessee

Many of you are probably aware that Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation maintains an ongoing presence in our local schools. From conducting in-person classroom demonstrations to providing online educational resources to teachers, your children know more about how electricity works and how to stay safe around it — thanks to experiences and information provided by your co-op.

But what some folks may not realize is just how deep our commitment is when it comes to reaching out to young people. The foundation of our responsibility is found right there in one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that define CEMC's business model: "Education, Training and Information." Since our establishment 83 years ago, we have provided educational opportunities to a number of groups — members, elected officials, directors, community leaders and employees. But perhaps none of our outreach efforts has been more impactful than those directed toward youth.

We've built a strong relationship with local school systems by providing interesting and age-appropriate energy education that engages students while helping their teachers meet core standards. Though the bulk of these presentations is made to public school students, CEMC personnel also share energy education information with scout groups, civic organizations, college students, groups of homeschoolers and those attending STEM camps and summer library programs.

One of our signature offerings has been sponsoring area high school juniors on a weeklong, expense-paid trip to visit our nation's capital — along with the opportunity to win scholarships. Although last summer's Washington Youth Tour had to be canceled due to

the pandemic, we're back on for 2022! Participants see places of cultural and historical significance, network with their peers from across Tennessee and the U.S., and get a deeper understanding of and appreciation for our system of government. They also come away from the experience with a feel for just how important electric cooperatives are to the communities they serve. A similar, closer-to-home experience is offered when we make it possible for students from our service area to attend the annual three-day Youth Leadership Summit in Nashville.

As wonderful as these opportunities are, there is an underlying reason for our involvement with youth outreach that goes beyond the fundamentals of energy education. The fact is, many of the young people impacted by CEMC's educational efforts will grow up and start families of their own right here in our service area. Today's students become tomorrow's consumers — and the next generation of our members. As the years pass, a number of these young people will step up and become leaders in their communities. Some may even come to work for us or provide service as a member of the cooperative's board of directors. With each new generation, CEMC's responsibility continues — to help those we serve fully understand the power of electricity and the life-changing power of co-op membership.



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

Coming next month: CEMC's 83rd annual meeting

Don't miss next month's issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*; it will contain everything you need to know about Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 83rd annual membership meeting.



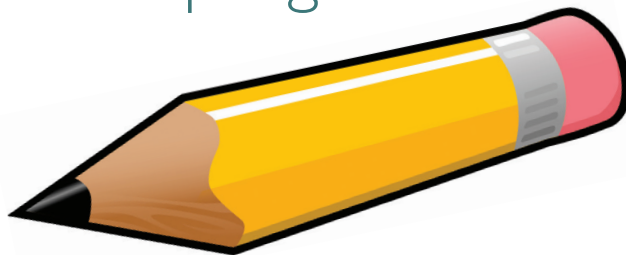
elections will be held, a complimentary breakfast will be served, musical entertainment will be provided by the Back Lot Pickers and some exciting prizes — including various electric bill credits — will be given away.

We hope you will join us at Stewart County High School in Dover on Saturday, Oct. 2, for our co-op's biggest event. CEMC's business meeting and director

to returning to our traditional annual meeting this year. Mark your calendars for Oct. 2, and make plans to join us as we celebrate 83 years of serving our members!

CEMC provides educational programs

As students and teachers return to schools this month, so will employees of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. We provide various educational and informative programs to support the important work of the schools in the communities we serve. Contact Susie Yonkers, CEMC community relations coordinator, at syonkers@cemc.org to schedule one of these programs for your school, community or church group.



Washington Youth Tour | High school juniors

The annual Electric Cooperative Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition gives high school juniors the opportunity to compete for scholarships and other awards, including a trip to our nation's capital to learn about history, public policy and electric cooperatives.

Youth Leadership Summit | High school juniors

Each spring, electric co-ops from across the state take students to Nashville for three days of leadership training. Students meet elected officials and learn about state government.

4-H Electric Camp | Sixth and seventh grade students

Students in sixth or seventh grade can participate in 4-H Electric Camp, a weeklong experience that focuses on science, technology, engineering and math. Participants learn about energy, robotics and other technology through hands-on activities.

Electric Safety Demonstration | All ages

Young people take notice when our safety demonstration arrives. This mobile education

display run by our own co-op employees gives young people a memorable lesson in the power of electricity and helps them understand how to make smart choices when electricity is involved.

CEMC Calendar Art Contest | Students in kindergarten through 12th grades

Local students submit their best entries, and winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in CEMC's calendar, which is displayed in homes, schools and businesses throughout our service area. Calendars are free and available at each of CEMC's offices beginning in November of each year.

Senior Scholarship Program | High school seniors

Twelve graduating high school seniors from CEMC's five-county service area are each awarded \$1,000 in academic scholarships each year. Each scholarship is to be used toward tuition, textbooks and/or required class materials after the winner has enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited Tennessee college, university or trade school of his or her choice.

To learn more about CEMC's educational programs, visit us online at cemc.org/community.html.

Affordable electricity powers quality of life

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind that it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones and powering computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

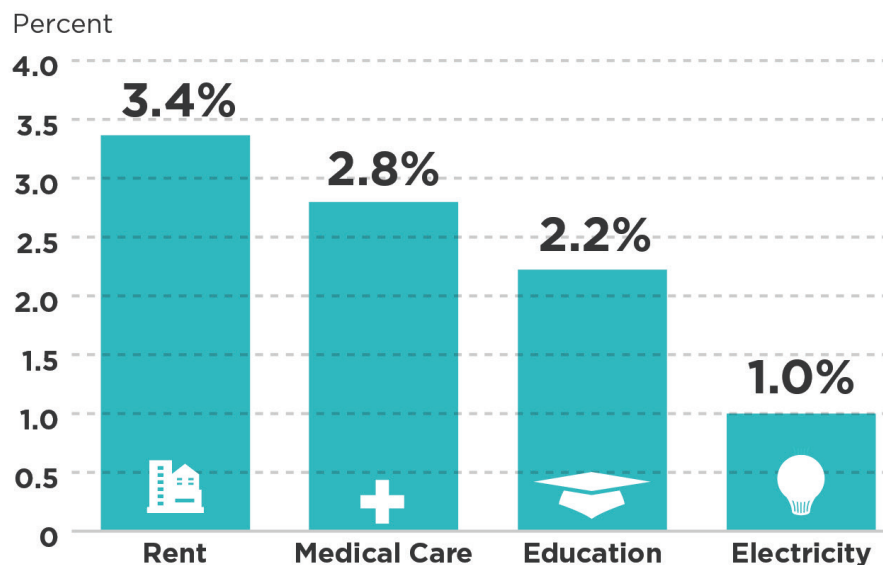
Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically, when demand goes up, so, too, does the price, as is the case with most goods or services like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4 percent, medical care increased 2.8 percent and education increased 2.2 percent. But the cost of electricity only increased 1 percent. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably, fulfilling our mission of *Connecting you to your Best Life!*

Whitaker retires, Swan appointed to board

Joe H. Whitaker of Gallatin retired from the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation board of directors on May 28.

Whitaker, who joined the board in 1999, represented South Sumner County. He served as board president from 2000 to 2013.

“We are thankful for Mr. Whitaker’s dedicated and loyal service to CEMC and the membership,” says General Manager Chris A. Davis. “We wish him all the best in future endeavors.”

Edgar “Eddie” Swan has been appointed to fill Whitaker’s unexpired term representing South Sumner County. A state-licensed optician, Swan is the owner of Gallatin Optical Co., where he has been



Joe H. Whitaker



Edgar “Eddie” Swan

employed for the past 43 years.

Swan is a member of the Gallatin Sertoma Club, Quarterback Club and Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the board of the Sumner Farmers Co-op and is chairman of the Gallatin Volunteer Fire Department board.

“As a lifelong resident of Sumner

County, I am honored to serve my community on CEMC’s board,” says Swan. “I am a proud member of many Gallatin organizations and a business owner, farmer and committed member of the county.”

He and his wife, Laurie, reside in Gallatin. They have two children — a son and a daughter — and one grandson.



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Understanding power surges and blinks

By Abby Berry

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've found a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts — this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives or external sources like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation encourages all members to install surge-protection devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.



Animals such as squirrels can cause faults (short circuits) on power lines, which can make your power blink. Photo credit: Carina Hofmeister

Any of these events can cause your power to blink, but you might also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, CEMC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help, too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 1-800-987-2362.

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.

Want to grill outdoors but don't have space? Go electric!

When you think of grilling burgers, steaks and veggies outdoors, the debate usually is between gas and charcoal. But a third option is the right one for a lot of grilling fans: electric.

Some of the electric grill's most attractive features include:

- It requires no fire or flame, so it's not necessary to keep it a safe distance from your house. This is a great benefit for those who live in apartments or townhouses.
- It heats up quickly. Just plug it in and start cooking. There's no wait for coals to turn white-hot.
- It's easy to clean. Because the grill does not create any charcoal ash, it creates very little mess while cooking.
- If you buy an indoor/outdoor model, you can grill all year long.

If you decide to buy an electric grill, consider:

- If you plan to shuttle your grill between the kitchen and the patio, buy a portable model that fits on a tabletop.



Did you know your co-op sells electric grills? Stop by your local Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation district office or give us a call at 1-800-987-2362 for information on how to order a Meco Deluxe Electric Cart Grill.

- Choose a model made from commercial-grade stainless steel so it will resist corrosion, especially if you plan to grill outdoors.
- Look for a brand that offers a lifetime warranty. The least expensive models come with warranties as limited as 90 days to three years.
- Electric grills are powerful and should be the only appliance plugged into an outlet. If they have to compete for power, preheat times lengthen.
- Most electric grills are designed for outdoor use only, so if you want to use it inside, choose a model designed to direct food drippings outside of the unit as a fire safety measure.

Work, play safely around water

Few things are more refreshing on a hot day than cool water — in the shower or pool, under a sprinkler or even from a garden hose.

Yet few things are as dangerous around the home as water that comes into contact with electricity. So:

1. Keep electrically powered toys, appliances, outdoor TVs, electric grills — anything with a plug — far from the pool, bathtub, sprinkler system, sink and hoses. And keep the devices out of the rain, even if it's only sprinkling.

2. If an electric toy or appliance lands in water, don't touch it — and teach your children the same. Electricity travels quickly through water, so touching anything

electrical that's wet can lead to a shock — or, worse, electrocution.

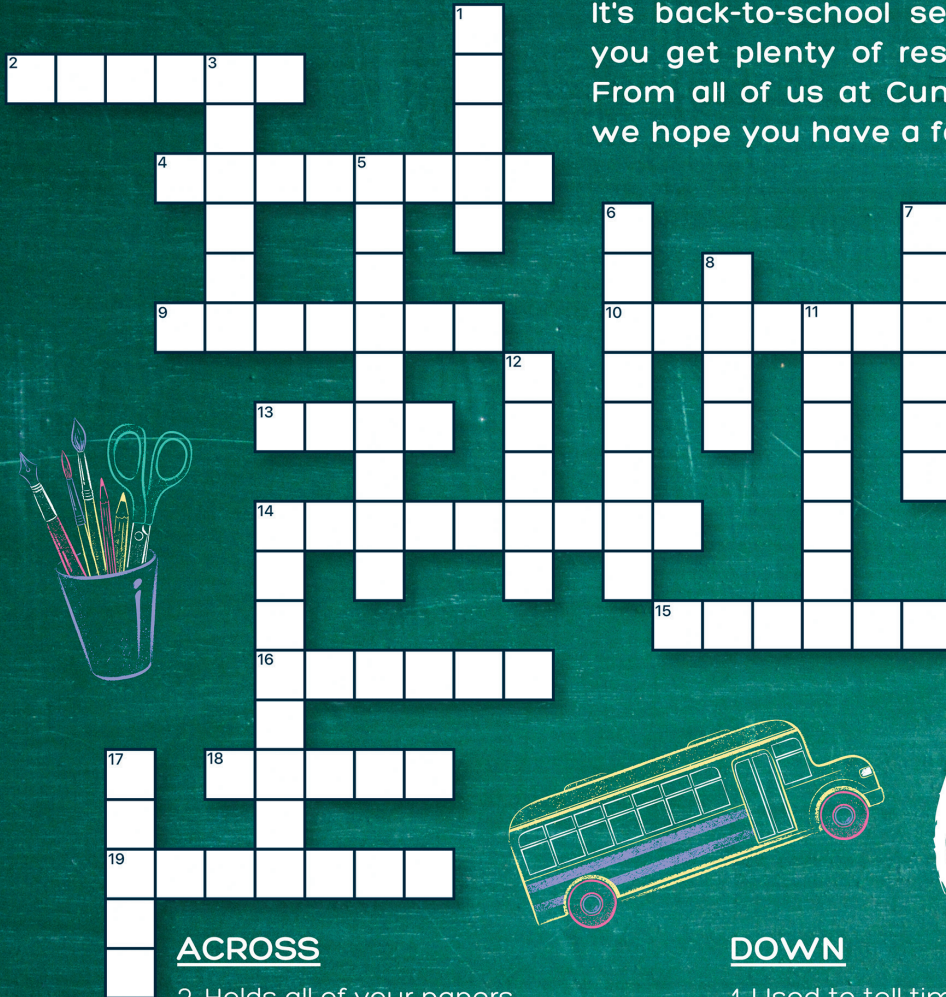
3. Have an electrician check the electrical connections to pools, hot tubs, fountains and other outdoor water sources. The connections should be grounded.

4. If you use extension cords to reach outlets for washers, dishwashers, air conditioners or other appliances in wet spaces, disconnect them. Those appliances should be plugged into grounded outlets, not flimsy extension cords.

5. Teach everyone in your household where the home's circuit breakers are located and how to switch them off during an emergency.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

It's back-to-school season, so be sure you get plenty of rest and study hard! From all of us at Cumberland Connect, we hope you have a fantastic year!

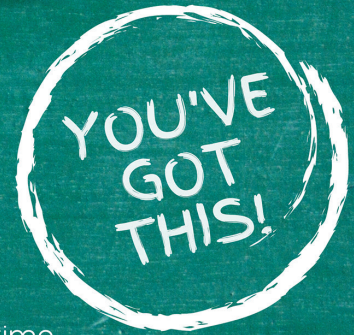


ACROSS

- 2. Holds all of your papers
- 4. Helps you carry all of your books
- 9. People you like being around
- 10. A person who helps you learn
- 13. After you study, it's time for the ____
- 14. A place where you gather to learn
- 15. A tool used for coloring
- 16. A tool used for writing
- 18. Be sure to do this before the test!
- 19. A room with all kinds of books

DOWN

- 1. Used to tell time
- 3. Used to get rid of mistakes
- 5. The person in charge of the school
- 6. Full of blank pages for writing
- 7. Used to write on the whiteboard
- 8. A subject involving equations
- 11. A subject about events in the past
- 12. To gain new skills and knowledge
- 14. Used for writing & using the Internet
- 17. Used to measure objects



www.CumberlandConnect.org

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