

## 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

# This May, take the time to plug into safety

**T**his month, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month, and

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be sharing safety tips and reminders throughout the month to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

#### Our responsibility to you

CEMC's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we frequently present safety demonstrations in local schools and at community events. We provide electrical safety content in *The Tennessee Magazine*, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to

serve as your trusted energy adviser — now and well into the future.

#### Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at CEMC. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, CEMC is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks.

Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

As general manager of CEMC, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit the safety section on our website, [www.cemc.org/safety.asp](http://www.cemc.org/safety.asp), or [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.



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

"We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy adviser — now and well into the future."

# Young leaders learn about co-ops, agriculture at conference

Portland's TC and Emily Groves were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to join more than 300 young people from across the state at the 2017 Young Leaders Conference held Feb. 24 and 25 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin. The annual conference brings couples and individuals together from rural communities to learn about cooperatives, share their views about agriculture and discuss current issues facing rural Americans.

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

This year's event began with a guided tour of the State Capitol. Breakout sessions covered a variety of subjects aimed at educating leaders about cooperatives and agricultural issues and strengthening their leadership skills. During "Getting Started" by Peyton Fair with Farm Credit Mid-America, attendees learned how to better analyze their farm finances. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Corinne Gould led a session on "Speaking Up," and Alice Rhea of Farmers Services discussed "Keeping it Real." House Speaker Beth Harwell gave the keynote address, and humorist and motivational speaker Lisa Smartt provided entertainment.



*TC and Emily Groves of Portland represent Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the 2017 Young Leaders Conference in Franklin.*



## Member Appreciation Day

Join us at your local CEMC office on **Thursday, May 11**, for free hot dogs, chips, cookies, soft drinks AND a chance to win an electric grill.

Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at each location.

We hope to see you there!

# Local young leaders learn about government during co-op event in Nashville

Stewart County High School student Colby Warden and Montgomery Central High School student Kennedy Beck were in Nashville March 13-15 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. The juniors were chosen and sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

On Tuesday, March 14, Sen. Jim Tracy greeted delegates attending the three-day leadership and government workshop. Tracy welcomed the young leaders to the Senate Chamber of the Tennessee State Capitol where Alan Whittington, assistant chief clerk of the Senate, explained the process required to pass legislation. Students then debated and voted on a mock bill.

Reps. Mike Bell and John Lee Clemmons joined Sen. Tracy for a town hall meeting with attendees. The three discussed the legislative process and answered questions posed by summit attendees.



*Kennedy Beck participates in a mock session in the Senate Chambers showing attendees how a bill is introduced and debated.*

Delegates then had the opportunity to listen in on debate in House and Senate meetings in Legislative Plaza.

In addition to a hands-on look at state government, students learned team-building and problem-solving skills and developed a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.



*Representing Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the 2017 Youth Leadership Summit are Kennedy Beck, left, and Colby Warden. With them is CEMC Community Relations Coordinator and chaperone Stephanie Lobdell.*

"I have learned a lot about the Senate and the House of Representatives and how laws are passed," says Beck. "I'm really grateful to CEMC for the opportunity to attend the Youth Leadership Summit and improve my leadership skills."

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders and use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. "Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities," says Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. "They will be the next generation of leaders in rural Tennessee, and we want to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will face."

"These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners," says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator. "We want them to share our passion for rural communities, so it is an honor for CEMC to help prepare them for the opportunities that are ahead. The future of our rural communities depends on a new generation of strong leaders like these."

# Coopertown calls all classic cars and cakewalkers to Fifth Annual Barrel Festival

**J**oin the town of Coopertown as it hosts its Fifth Annual Barrel Festival Saturday, June 3, in the Historic District on Old Coopertown Road. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and promises plenty of activities and fun for the whole family, including two new events this year — The Barrel Festival Classic Car Show and Barrel Cake Cakewalk.

The Barrel Festival Classic Car Show, sponsored by Classic Tin Cruise In of Springfield, will offer a variety of perks, including prime parking spaces, on-site concessions and unique trophies and prizes — barrel festival style — courtesy of Gregory Repair and Towing and Nelson's Green Brier Distillery. Cars will line the north entrance of the festival on Highway 49 near Coopertown Elementary School. Awards for Best in Show, People's Choice and Barrel Festival Favorite will be given out at 2 p.m. A \$10 fee will gain entry at registration, which takes place between 8 and 10 a.m. in the front paved parking lot at the school.

Take a stroll down Old Coopertown Road toward the Chambliss store to find the new Barrel Cake Cakewalk, sponsored by Flower Wild of Springfield. Cakewalk tickets are \$1, and winners will receive authentic Kentucky Woods Bourbon Barrel Cakes. Cakewalks will begin at 10:15 a.m. and continue at a quarter after every hour until the festival closes.

Speyside coopers John Beatson and Josh Hopkins will be on hand hourly at the Chambliss store to demonstrate the art of barrel-making by hand using original tools of the trade. Barrels will be available for purchase, and a raffle for two full-sized Speyside Cooperage wooden barrels will be held at 3:30 p.m. during the final cooper demonstration. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and will be available at each festival entrance until the 3:30 p.m. drawing; you must be present to win.

A Tractor Showcase and a Cooper Contest will be among other attractions at the festival.

LifeHouse Fellowship will present free crafts, games and hands-on activities for kids of all ages in the Kids Zone, along with the Lowe's "Lil Cooper" woodworking table. The Kids Zone will also include inflatables and Honeysuckle Hill rides. Closer to the South Battle Creek Road entrance, older kids will find the new climbing rock wall offered free of charge by Flewellyn Baptist.

"Each year we try to incorporate something new into our barrel theme," says Community Development



Committee Chairman Valorie Buck. "You never know what you will see at the Barrel Festival!"

The festival will feature hogsheads from Springfield's own Hail & Cotton as well as a variety of wooden barrels throughout the festival grounds. Vendors will decorate their booths with a barrel theme in hopes of winning "Best Barrel Festival Booth." Festival T-shirts and hats will be for sale to the public at both entrances.

Exclusive festival shirts will be available to Barrel Fest 5-Miler participants who register before the 7 a.m. start time. Registration and the 5-mile race will take place at Coopertown City Hall at 2525 Burgess Gower Road. Runners can also register online at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com). Prizes will be awarded, and all race participants will receive unique wooden finisher medals.

There will be shade and seating, free shuttles, free parking and plenty of free fun for all at the Coopertown Barrel Festival.

Thanks to many community sponsors and partners, the Barrel Festival continues to grow to benefit the community within Coopertown, educate and unite its residents and honor its rich heritage in cooperage. For more information on the Speyside Cooperage, the history of coopering or a look at tools of the trade, visit [speysidecooperageky.com](http://speysidecooperageky.com).

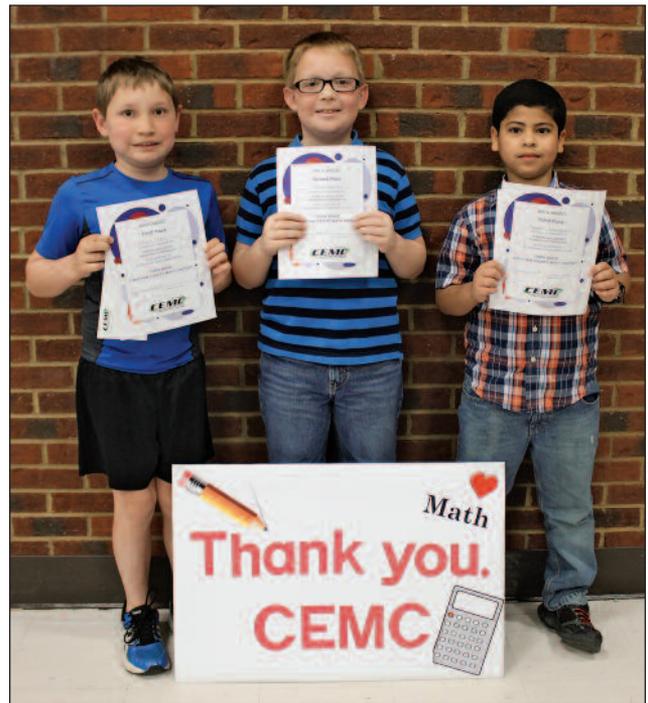
Event information can be found at these resources: [Facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival](https://www.facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival), [Facebook.com/barrelfest5miler](https://www.facebook.com/barrelfest5miler), [www.barrelfestival.com](http://www.barrelfestival.com), [www.coopertowntn.org](http://www.coopertowntn.org), [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com), or by calling the town of Coopertown at 615-382-4470, ext. 214.

# Cheatham students rewarded for math skills

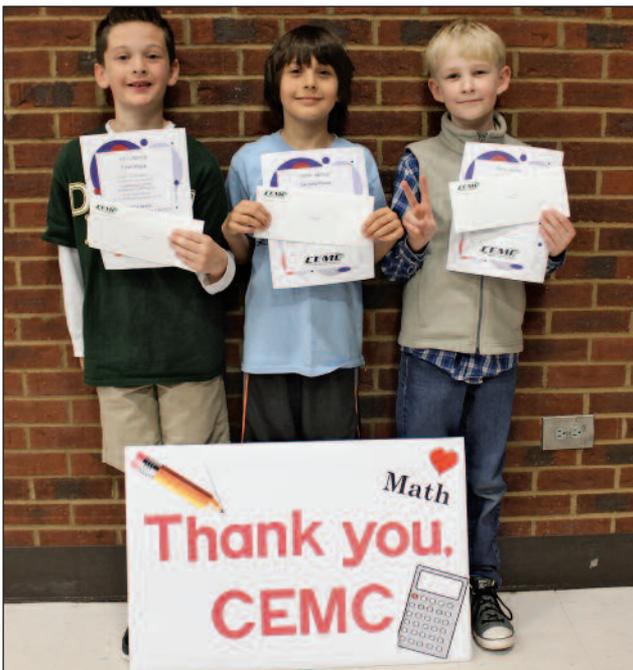
The Cheatham County School District held its annual math contest for grades 3-5 on March 24. Winners from each grade level were awarded cash prizes courtesy of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

Participating schools were Ashland City Elementary, East Cheatham Elementary, Kingston Springs Elementary, Pegram Elementary, Pleasant View Elementary, West Cheatham Elementary, Cheatham Middle, Harpeth Middle and Sycamore Middle.

“We are happy to sponsor the math contest each year and could not be more proud of these students and their achievements,” says CEMC Community Relations Supervisor Stephanie Lobdell. Congratulations to all!



Winners of the Cheatham County math contest from the third grade are, from left, Chase Steel, Pleasant View Elementary, first place; Cade Krantz, West Cheatham Elementary, second place; and Aymin Tawadrous, Ashland City Elementary, third place.



Cheatham County fourth-grade math contest winners are, from left, Luke Glasgow, East Cheatham Elementary, first place; and Aaron Higgs, Kingston Springs Elementary, and Sam Miller, Pleasant View Elementary, who tied for second place.



Cheatham County math contest winners from the fifth grade are, from left, Brooklyn Hager, Sycamore Middle, first place; Gabe Scott, Sycamore Middle, second place; and Jackson Earle, Sycamore Middle, third place.

paperless   
billing



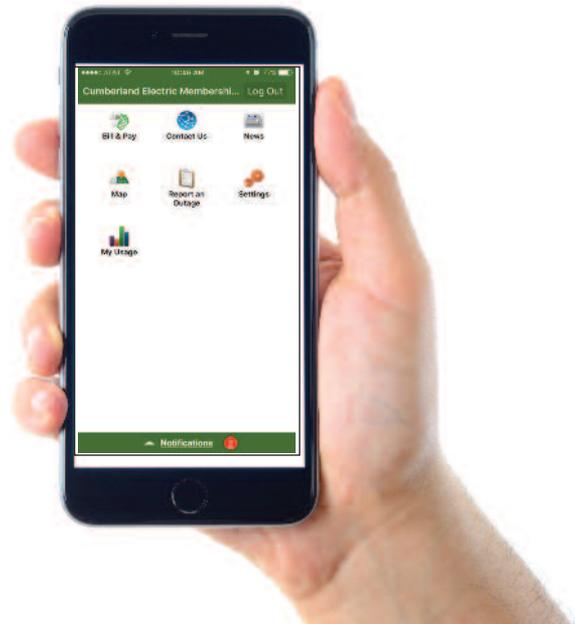
**Switch to paperless billing and you could win a \$100 electric bill credit!**

All CEMC members enrolled in paperless billing prior to June 12 will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 electric bill credit**. A total of five lucky members will win! To sign up, visit [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org), log in to your SmartHub account and choose "Yes" when prompted to turn off paper bills. It's that easy! If you are already signed up for paperless billing, you will be automatically entered in the contest.

Paperless billing members receive email notification when the bill is ready each month.

## Have you downloaded CEMC's SmartHub App?

- ✓ Track use
- ✓ Make payments
- ✓ Report outages
- ✓ View bill history
- ✓ Update contact info



Available free in the iTunes and Google Play stores.



Stay connected with your electric co-op!  
Visit CEMC's Facebook page,  
**[facebook.com/cumberlandelectric](https://www.facebook.com/cumberlandelectric),**  
to get the latest news, including energy tips, program updates, community events, youth opportunities and more!

# Include appliances in spring cleaning

**A**s long as you have your bucket and mop out, add your appliances — large and small — to your spring-cleaning to-do list. Don't overlook the built-up dirt and grime on your:

**Dishwasher** — Even a cleaning machine needs a good washing every now and then to remove food, built-up detergent and other grime that could prevent your dishes from getting their cleanest and your appliance from working efficiently.

Empty the dishwasher and place a bowl of distilled white vinegar on the top rack. Run a full-length, hot-water cycle. Next, sprinkle baking soda on the bottom of the dishwasher and run it again. Finally, leave its door open while the dishwasher dries out.

**Refrigerator** — Empty it — completely. Remove drawers and shelves that are designed for removing, and wash them by hand with a mix of warm, soapy water and baking soda. Wipe down the sides and floor of the fridge's inside, and dry everything before putting it all back together. Then, pull the fridge away from the wall and vacuum the back of it and the floor.

**Washing machine** — When you wash your clothes in hot water, the machine cleans itself. Still, once a month or so, run an empty load on the hot cycle with about a cup of white vinegar. When the cycle stops, wipe down the inside of the machine to get rid of any leftover scum and germs. Let it dry thoroughly.

**Microwave** — Fill a glass bowl with water, distilled white vinegar and a sliced lemon. Place it inside the appliance and microwave on high for three or four minutes. When you open the door, steam should pour out.

While the inside is still wet, wipe it down with a dry cloth.

**Countertop appliances** — You may clean your coffee maker, juicer, food processor and toaster every time you use them, but do you clean them thoroughly?

Make time to do that now. Take apart any pieces that detach and wipe them down with a clean, damp cloth. Run the appliance with a white vinegar and water solution so the inner workings get clean, too. Thoroughly dry all parts immediately.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.*

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*

# Don't overload your circuits

**W**ith so many electrical devices in every room of the home, there's a good chance you're overloading your circuits. That means you're plugging too many devices into a single outlet — via a multi-plug power strip — or you're plugging in devices that require more power than your home's wiring can handle.

If your circuits are overloaded, it's time to call a licensed electrician to upgrade the home's electrical system so it can keep up with the demands new technology places on it. Here's how to tell if your home's circuits are overloaded, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- Lights are flickering, blinking or dimming.
- Electrical receptacles on the walls are warm to the touch or have become discolored.

- You smell a burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches.
- Circuits trip on a regular basis.

And here's how to prevent that from happening:

- Do not plug large appliances into extension cords or power strips. They need an outlet all to themselves.
- Get rid of extension cords. They're meant for temporary use — not permanent. Don't rig your year-round devices like lamps or TVs up to extension cords.
- Notice how many extension cords you use. If it's a lot, that could signal that you don't have enough outlets. An electrician can add more.
- Don't mistake a power strip for extra juice. All a power strip does is allow you to plug more devices into a single outlet. Doing so can overload that outlet.