



CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Enlightener

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Lightbulb Winners

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Clint Andrews
- ▶ Brenda Butler
- ▶ Gayle Brock
- ▶ Lance Clay
- ▶ Ame Becker
- ▶ Billy Campbell

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!



Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FROM THE MANAGER

Power On: October is National Co-op Month

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community — and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of CMS Electric, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and CMS Electric has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on stag-

gered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who have needed help with their electric bills, we have waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

And while we certainly missed visiting with you in person, we found new ways to stay connected.

I tell you about all of these efforts not to boast about CMS Electric but to explain how much we care about this community — because we live here too.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

CMS Electric was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do — Power On.



Kirk Thompson

Preparing for the Big Hunt: Consider Electrical Safety, Too

As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind that along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should also be top of mind.

You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt, but be sure to look up for power lines. Never place a tree stand near a power line. Contact with the power line, utility pole, or related equipment can alter the electricity's path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source. Even coming within 10 feet of the line can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.

In addition, do not shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: Those who get within 50 feet of the downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

CMS Electric and Safe Electricity remind hunting enthusiasts of these electrical safety tips:

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the area before heading out to hunt. Take note of power lines and equipment, especially when hunting in densely wooded areas.
- ▶ Observe all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when scouting a location for your tree stand.
- ▶ Do not use power poles to support a tree stand.
- ▶ Do not place a tree stand near a power line or pole.
- ▶ Be in the habit of looking up and out for power lines and do not come within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.
- ▶ Never climb a utility pole.
- ▶ Please report any damage to a line or other related equipment to us so we can address it. Although we perform routine maintenance, damage may not be noticed for weeks or months due to the vast amount of lines that cover our service area.

Of course, always take the time to observe general hunting safety measures as well. Stay safe out there!

For more information about safety around power lines and other sources of electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to
power your life.
October is National
Co-op Month.
#PowerOn



Fall Back on Nov. 1

On Sunday, Nov. 1, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. It is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.

