

# NEWS Central

MAR 2021

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## Spring “energy-efficiency” cleaning

*The ground is beginning to thaw, the birds are chirping and the sun is setting a little later each day; spring is just around the corner! Spring is typically the time of year when you start to think about ways you can tidy up your home. Here are a few things you can add to your list to help save energy (and money):*

### Service your air conditioner

Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system’s energy consumption. Also, the first day of spring could serve as a reminder to check your air conditioner’s evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.

### Caulk air leaks

Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out – and cash in your wallet.

### Cook outside

On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.

### Install a programmable thermostat

You can save money on your heating and cooling bills by simply controlling the temperature of your home when you are asleep or away. You can do this automatically by installing a programmable thermostat, which will allow you to adjust your thermostat on a pre-set schedule. By installing a programmable thermostat, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by automatically turning your thermostat back for 8 hours a day from its normal setting.

For even more ways to save, visit the “Energy Efficiency” section at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).



**MARCH 14** is daylight savings, so don’t forget to “spring” your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed!

**MAY 1** is the deadline for applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships. Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) for more details.



# POINT OF VIEW

## Maintaining ROW is key

*From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham*

“ There are many ways the co-op provides its members with safe and reliable service. One of the most important and highly visible ways is right-of-way (ROW) clearing. ”

The spring and summer months are right around the corner, and while maintaining reliable service to our members is a top priority year-round, the warmer months bring more daylight and opportunity to complete important work projects.

There are many ways the co-op provides its members with safe and reliable service. One of the most important and highly visible ways is right-of-way (ROW) clearing. ROW refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that the co-op has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping the power flowing to your home. Without an effective ROW clearing program, power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines. Tree branches are also extremely dangerous when they come in contact with power lines as they can become energized just like the power line. An effective ROW program not only helps keep you connected, but it also helps keep you and other members of our community safe by ensuring tree branches do not become energized due to contact with power lines.

In order to maintain an effective ROW clearing program, the co-op invests a portion of its operating budget to cutting back trees and shrubs that grow too close to the power lines. We accomplish this with bucket trucks, chainsaws, chippers and mowers to ensure that trees grow at a distance far enough from our lines where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but the

general guideline the co-op follows in maintaining a safe ROW is 20 feet of clearance on either side of primary conductors and 10 feet of clearance below the neutral line. This ensures a safe distance between trees on your property and the dangerous lines carrying electricity to your home.

The co-op is committed to maintaining our ROW areas to ensure the safety of our community and also the reliability of our service to you, our member-owner. Remember to always contact the co-op rather than trying to trim or remove trees near power lines. We can send a crew to your home to trim the tree back until our ROW crews are able to fully clear the lines near your home.

While this is just one of the many ways we keep your lives powered, we are working hard each and every day to continue providing the superior service you have come to expect. This not only includes the reliability of the electricity going to your home, but also the programs and services we provide to you. Our commitment to you, our members, is unwavering; to be your trusted energy partner now and well into the future.

If you have any questions about our ROW clearing program, or any other services provided by the co-op, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are always here to answer any questions you may have.

Until next time,





# Reliable power depends on maintenance

Trimming trees and overgrown vegetation around power lines is essential to providing you with safe and reliable service 24/7/365.

**In addition to reducing outages due to vegetation, maintenance also:**

- Speeds up outage restoration because crews can more easily access problem areas.
- Keeps crews and members safer from downed trees, especially in right-of-way (ROW) areas along roads.
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs related to accessibility issues.

In the coming months, you may see ROW crews working in the following service area locations:

- Niagra/Carthage Rd.
- Joel Rd.
- Vass/Carthage Rd.
- Buffalo Lake Rd.
- Micro Tower Rd.
- HWY 24/87
- Marks Rd.
- Pittsboro area

**ROW maintenance. One more way Central Electric keeps you connected.**



# Youth Leadership Opportunity

This summer, Central Electric is sending a rising sophomore, junior or senior to Cooperative Leadership Camp hosted by the N.C. Cooperative Council. The camp is designed to provide a learning experience that concentrates on the cooperative way of doing business, building a better understanding and appreciation for the cooperative model. Each year, five campers are selected to receive leadership awards for their unique leadership abilities and receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Institute on Co-op Education at Virginia Tech University. All campers will also be eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Jim Graham Cooperative Leadership scholarship their senior year of high school.

The week-long, overnight camp is currently scheduled to be held at White Lake, N.C., June 21-25. During this time of uncertainty, the camp will continue to follow CDC guidelines for group gatherings and will adjust as needed moving forward.

The deadline to apply is May 15. For more information or to apply, visit the "Cooperative Leadership Camp" section at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com).

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

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The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance effort is the General Manager. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [https://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](https://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



128 Wilson Road  
P.O. Box 1107  
Sanford, NC 27331

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### CONTACT

Phone: (919) 774-4900  
Bill Payment: (866) 488-5011

Eddie Oldham  
CEO & General Manager

### DIRECTORS

Rebecca G. Cogan, *President*  
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