

# CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

## 2017 Washington Youth Tour

Eighty-three of Kentucky's best and brightest rising high school seniors descended upon the nation's capital in June, representing electric cooperatives on the annual Washington Youth Tour.

Clark Energy sponsored five delegates on the all-expenses-paid, week-long experience: Tonyalee Martin, Hannah Meadows, Katlyn Sorrell, Victoria Spencer, and John Sain.

En route on two motor coaches, the journey began with visits to the home of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, followed by more than 40 miles of walking to monuments and museums in Washington, D.C.

The students visited Capitol Hill on the same day as the shooting of Louisiana Congressman Steve Scalise and four others at a baseball practice. Despite the incident, Kentucky's congressional delegation kept their commitment to meet with the students, candidly talking about security concerns

and answering a wide variety of questions from the students.

Coordinated by the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, the tour was led by KAEC's Mary Beth Dennis and 13 chaperones.

"The Washington Youth Tour was an awesome experience that gave me the chance to learn more about our

nation's history and our great government and to meet new people and make great friends," said one of this year's student delegates.

Information about the 2018 Youth Tour will be made available in December in high school counselors' offices and online at [www.clarkenergy.com/youthtour](http://www.clarkenergy.com/youthtour).



TIM WEBB/TIM WEBB PHOTOGRAPHY

# From the President's Desk

## Contact Us

### CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

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**To report an outage, please call  
(800) 992-3269.**

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## Membership is ownership

### The benefits of receiving service from a cooperative business

It seems customer service has gone out the window at most places. Whatever happened to the old saying "the customer's always right"?

Fortunately, at Clark Energy, you are not a customer. You're a member-owner. And that's a big difference.

Cooperatives serve our member-owners. That's about the simplest explanation you can give for a cooperative business. Everything we do, we do with you in mind.

The most important thing we do for you as a member-owner is provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service so you can power your homes, your businesses, our schools, our hospitals, and any other place where your electric service provides a better quality of life.

Another reason you are considered a member-owner, and not a customer, is that you own Clark Energy. You are the one who votes for your board of directors. You are the one who takes part in the business meeting during the annual meeting. You are the one who ensures Clark Energy continues to provide service to you.

As a member-owner of Clark Energy, you are part of the most democratic form of business. Clark Energy is not owned by stockholders, whose only interest is to make large profits.

Co-ops focus on service, not profits. As a not-for-profit business, your co-op places an unusual emphasis, not on building profits, but on delivering the best combination of price and service to you.

Your cooperative also adheres to seven principles that guide cooperative businesses and encourages transparency and accountability through that democratic member control and education of members.

You are a member of our community. And Clark Energy is proud to have the same distinction. That's why we believe it's very important for your cooperative employees to be a part of the community as well. Our employees accomplish this by volunteering their time for various community organizations and participating in Clark Energy-sponsored events.

The next time you are somewhere and feel like you're not getting the customer service you deserve, just remember at Clark Energy, you're not a customer, but a member-owner. We're here to help.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO

# Take advantage of Labor Day appliance sales

You can save a bundle on major appliances during Labor Day sales.

At this time of year, stores are making room for next year's models of refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, microwave ovens, and washers and dryers, which they introduce in September and October.

So they offer deep discounts at end-of-summer sales.

Look on retailers' websites for coupons that shave even more off the price of kitchen and laundry room appliances. You can also check [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) to see if the model number is currently ENERGY STAR certified and receive a rebate back.

Not ready to buy? Mark your calendars for upcoming sales year-round, especially on:

- Columbus Day, the second Monday in October.
- Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. Look for appliance "packages"; you'll save extra if you buy several appliances from the same store at once.



- The week after Christmas. All of next year's new models will be fully in stock by then, so stores will put 2017 appliances on clearance.
- New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday are big sale days in January. And look for big sales on Presidents Day in February.

During the spring, stores advertise sales on small appliances

like microwaves and coffee-makers that might interest high school and college graduates who will need to furnish dorm rooms or new apartments in the coming months.

Look for sales on major appliances around Mother's Day and Memorial Day in May, and on tools and electronics in mid-June, when children are buying gifts for Father's Day.

## Enjoy the hot weather while it lasts

With summer at its hottest, it's tempting to hide inside to escape the heat. Instead of cooping yourself up indoors with the TV and your computer, how about taking advantage of the last month of vacation season with some fun in the sun?

Here are four nearly free, fun activities you can engage in with friends and family—and you won't have to crank up the a/c to enjoy them:

- Throw a cookout. Even if your

patio doesn't have a roof, you can set up umbrellas in your backyard or on the deck and fire up the grill. Plug in a few portable fans. Then, make it a party by inviting a few friends over.

- Jump in the pool. Pile the kids in the car and drive to the community pool or to a nearby lake or beach. Pack a picnic and make a day of it. Turn the air conditioner at home up a few degrees before you go.

- Take a hike. A great way to end the summer is to take the family on a hike on a nearby trail. The forest is full of refreshing shade.

- Go shopping. Malls are always cool—no matter how hot it is outdoors. The kids will be glad to tag along for a smoothie or an ice cream cone.

Sure, it's hot outside. But you can't have summer fun in the winter. Enjoy the sun and warm weather while it lasts.

## Your Safety Matters

# Check surroundings and equipment before trimming bushes and trees

Summer and fall are key seasons when homeowners often trim overgrown trees and bushes, so put safety first if you attempt to do these jobs on your own.

If you trim trees, survey the area around you for power lines. Do not work or use tools within 10 feet of power lines.

Electricity can arc from power line to tool resulting in electrical injury.

Remember, a cut tree limb can fall on power lines risking electrocution, and a falling limb can also easily injure you or someone below unless proper precautions are taken.

For safety, it's wise to hire a professional to trim trees instead of doing it yourself.

And if you need to trim bushes, never use electric hedge trimmers in damp or rainy weather to avoid the risk of electric shock. Make sure the cord is behind an operating hedge trimmer to avoid cutting into it.

Be extremely cautious when repairing electrical cords or sockets. Incorrectly rewiring outlets or equipment can be fatal.

Check electrical cords for damage before plugging into an electrical socket. Also, keep chainsaw and trimmer blades sharp and in excellent condition.

To protect your eyes and hands,



SHUTTERSTOCK

remember to wear safety glasses and gloves.

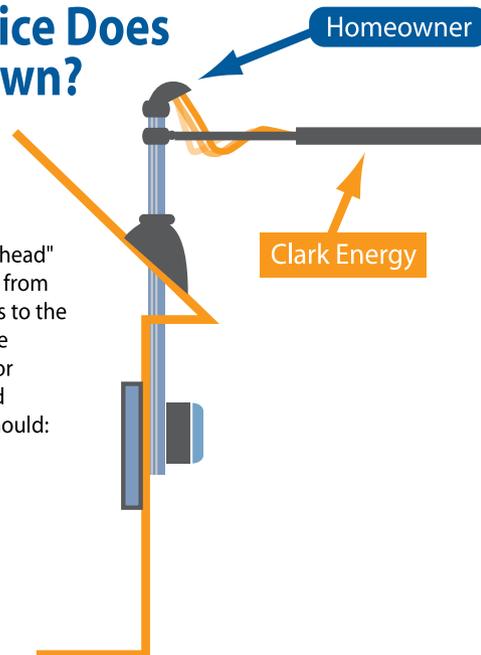
Clark Energy wants you to be safe when trimming bushes and trees. Be alert and stay safe.

## What Part of the Electric Service Does the Homeowner/Consumer Own?

When a residential service is overhead, a wire called the "service drop" runs from the utility pole to the home. This wire belongs to Clark Energy.

However, the service drop connects to the house at the "weatherhead" or "masthead"-a vertical, pipe-like structure that extends upward from the box that houses the electric meter. The weatherhead belongs to the homeowner/consumer. When damage occurs, make sure that the service box and adjoining weatherhead are intact. The conduit (or pipe) should be bolted to the house and should not be separated or pried from the building. If there appears to be damage, you should:

- Turn off main breaker.
- Contact Clark Energy immediately at 1-800-992-3269. We will dispatch a serviceman as soon as possible to make the area safe.
- Contact a licensed electrician to make repairs to any damaged electrical equipment attached to your home.
- After the service has been repaired, and if any required inspections are made, contact Clark Energy to request power be restored.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative