



Community Electric Cooperative News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Nominating Committee to be Appointed

In accordance with the Cooperative bylaws, the board of directors will appoint, at their May 17 meeting, a committee on nominations.

Following the May board meeting, a list of the committee members and their meeting date will be posted at the Cooperative office.

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for selecting three Cooperative members for the position of director to be voted upon at the annual meeting. After the committee meeting, a list of those members nominated for director positions will be made available at the Co-op office.

Director qualifications and the election process are outlined in Article IV, Section 1 through 5, of the Cooperative bylaws. At the annual meeting in August, you will have the opportunity to take an active part in the operation of your member-owned Cooperative by participating in the election of directors.

COMMUNITY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

52 W. Windsor Boulevard
P.O. Box 267
Windsor, VA 23487-0267
757-242-6181

After-Hours Outages: 1-855-700-2667

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

www.comelec.coop

President/CEO

Steven A. Harmon

Local Pages Editor

Annette Dickey, CAP-OM

Community Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sign up for Budget Billing by April 1

Your Cooperative offers a monthly payment plan to help residential members plan for their monthly bills in an affordable manner — **Budget Billing**. Once you are enrolled in Budget Billing, you will no longer need to wonder how much you will be spending per month on electricity. Instead, you can avoid the swing of high seasonal bill payments and pay the same amount each month for 11 months (*April statement through March statement*). The final month of your Budget-Billing Plan year (*March*) is the settlement month. In that month any over- or underpayment to your account will either be refunded to you or charged to you. You can monitor your balance with the actual usage information provided on your monthly electric bill to track the anticipated settlement amount.

In order to be considered for the Budget-Billing program, you must meet these initial requirements:

- Be a residential member billed under the Cooperative's residential rate;
- Have 12 months established billing history at present location; and
- Have zero balance on your account at the time of sign-up.

There is no charge for participation in Budget Billing. Just complete and sign the application and send it to us by April 1.

Call 757-242-6181 or email member@comelec.coop for more information.

Accounts currently on the Budget-Billing Plan need not reapply. Your account will continue on the Plan unless you cancel, and you will be notified of any change in the monthly amount.

APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR BUDGET BILLING

If your monthly electric service bill varies more than twenty percent (20%), you may wish to take advantage of our Budget-Billing Plan. The monthly Budget-Billing Plan allows you to pay an estimated fixed amount for eleven (11) months during the Plan year, with the twelfth (12th) month being the settlement month. The final bill prepared in March will show either a balance due or a credit.

If you wish to be placed on Budget Billing, you must pay the March statement in full, complete the agreement at the bottom of this form, and return it to your Cooperative by April 1. Your April statement will be your first Budget Bill.

You will still be required to make your payment by the due date of each month in which the bill is received.

I wish to have my account placed on Budget Billing as offered. I understand that my account will remain on the Budget Plan until I request that the account return to the regular monthly plan or fail to meet the provisions of the Plan. Failure to pay the monthly fixed budget payment each month will result in the account being removed from the Budget-Billing Plan.

NAME (Please Print)

ACCOUNT NO.

SIGNATURE

(Upon completion of your application, the Co-op will notify you of your Budget-Billing amount and allow you the opportunity to cancel.)

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those nice evenings. If any of your spring projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.



Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel-thrust away from turning a spring project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local “one-call” center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage-prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety-outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

CEC Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Community Electric Cooperative (CEC) recently recognized employees for their continued and faithful service to the Cooperative. The following employees were presented awards for their years of service to the Cooperative: J.R. Jones (journeyman lineman) – 15 years; Jonathan Thompson (chief operations officer) – 10 years; and Erik Thiede (journeyman lineman) – 10 years.



The service awards went to, from left: J.R. Jones, Jonathan Thompson and Erik Thiede.