



# CURRENT COMMUNICATOR

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

September 2016

Volume 25, Number 3

## BROADBAND INITIATIVE

The deadline for proposals was September 2. We'll keep you updated on the project's progress!

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative announced a rural broadband initiative designed to incentivize qualified entities to deliver world class service throughout its 14-county electric distribution territory. As outlined in a Request for Information (RFI), the Co-op is seeking to “partner with a proven, committed entity or consortium of entities to make affordable Gigabit-class broadband available to all CVEC members ...”

Specifically, the Cooperative has offered to waive annual pole attachment fees, that totaled \$1.2 million in 2016 with expected increases over time, in exchange for the deployment of a fiber based broadband network that provides a minimum of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed with no cap on data usage to any of the 36,000 CVEC members' service locations.

CVEC President and CEO Gary Wood explained the Cooperative's motivation, “Without affordable, reliable broadband communication services, rural residents are being shut off from advancements in technology that

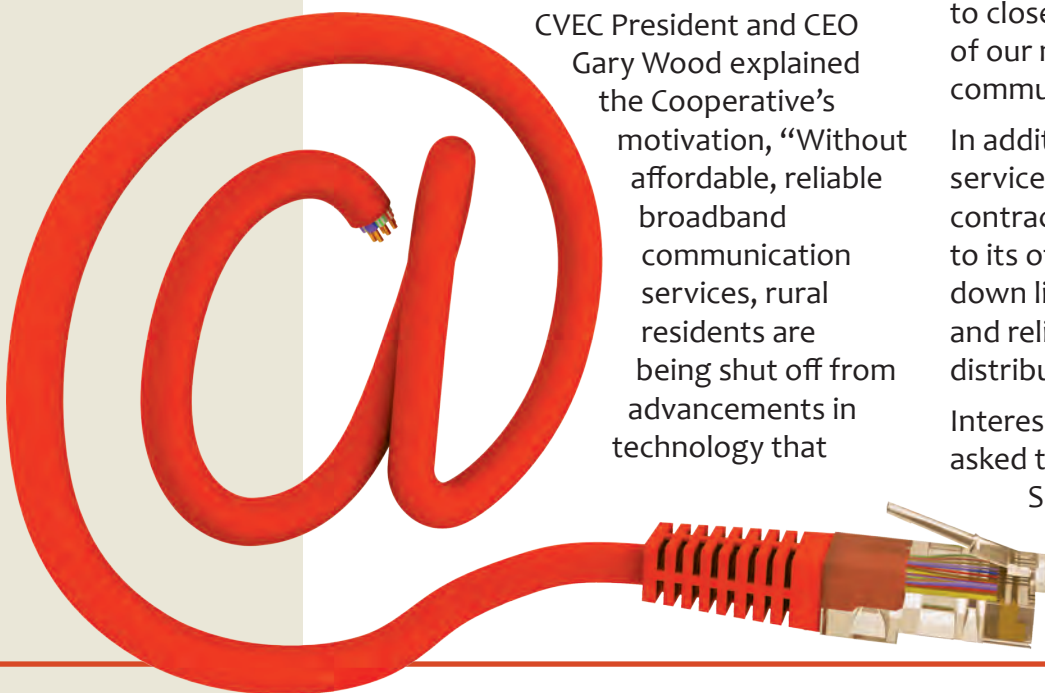
would provide jobs, better education, and a higher quality of life. When CVEC was first formed in 1937, the members came together to share the cost to extend distribution lines and make central station electric service available to every home. Now, the members are willing to join together to offer this incentive.”

Wood compared the lack of rural broadband to a time when nine out of ten farms in Virginia lacked electricity, “Fifty years after Richmond residents first began to enjoy electric service, their country cousins were still using fire to heat and light their homes, cook food, and wash and iron clothes. The formation of member-owned electric cooperatives effectively resolved the basic disparities in economic opportunity and in quality of life. Today, the Cooperative will do all that it can to recruit a working partner in order to close the digital divide, for the benefit of our member-owners and our rural communities.”

In addition to targeting universal service for its members, CVEC envisions contracting for broadband connectivity to its offices, electric substations, and down line equipment to enhance control and reliability of the 4,500 mile electric distribution system.

Interested broadband providers were asked to submit proposals to CVEC by September 2, 2016.

We'll keep you updated on the project's progress. ⚡



## WORK IN YOUR AREA

Because reliability is our goal, new upgrades and work projects become necessary. Our linemen are doing some of the work, but they also have maintenance and service work to keep up with. So, it becomes essential for your Co-op to contract some of the construction and rebuilding work.

You will see their trucks and crews working in our rights-of-way and on our poles. The trucks are seldom red like ours! We are working hard to inform our members when there will be contractors in their area.

We will also inform you when there is a planned outage, whether due to localized work being done by CVEC and its contractors or by one of our energy suppliers that could affect the whole substation.

We are sending postcards, making phone calls, and sometimes knocking on doors. **Keep your eyes and ears posted for mail and pre-recorded phone messages coming from CVEC so you'll know if we'll be working in your area.**

As always, if you have questions, feel free to contact us at

**800-367-2832** or  
**ms@mycvec.com**



## When the trucks aren't red ...

CVEC contract crews will be working in these areas over the coming months.

### Clearing rights-of-way:

- Free Union
- Mission Home
- Glenmore
- Mt. Rush
- Zion
- Troy
- Ferncliff

### System improvements:

- Stoney Creek
- Wintergreen
- Diggs Mountain/Centenary (Arrington)
- Green Acres (Lovingston)
- Mount Pleasant (Amherst)
- Rockfish Run Road (Scottsville)
- Georgia Creek Road (Scottsville)
- Bridgeport Road (Arvonias/Scottsville)
- Paynes Pond Road (Scottsville)
- Bransford & Ridge Rd. (Arvonias)

### Pole inspections

- Cartersville (Whole substation)
- Columbia MP (South circuit)

*All crews who are NOT Co-op employees will have a sign identifying them as CVEC contractors.*



## AT THE 2016 CVEC ANNUAL MEETING

CVEC members returned 1,220 proxy ballots by mail and 90 in person as part of the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Members' Meeting on June 22. They elected the following Directors:

**Roberta I. Harlowe** | Fluvanna County, serving the East District

**Henry Chiles** | Albemarle County, serving the West District

**Frank H. Baber III** | Cumberland County, serving the South District



Roberta I. Harlowe  
East District



Henry Chiles  
West District



Frank H. Baber III  
South District

In 2015, The CVEC Board of Directors elected the following officers to a two year term that will end in 2017:

**Chair: Roberta I. Harlowe** | Troy, Fluvanna County

**Vice Chair: H. T. Brown, Jr.** | Massies Mill, Nelson County

**Secretary: Frank H. Baber III** | Cartersville, Cumberland County

**Treasurer: George N. Goin** | Scottsville, Fluvanna County

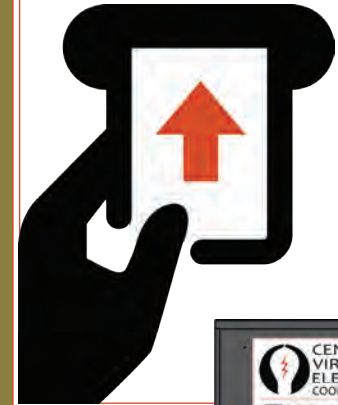
During the annual meeting program, President and CEO Gary Wood spoke about CVEC's goal of becoming one of the Top Co-ops in the U.S. He shared CVEC's ongoing efforts of improving member satisfaction, controlling costs, and increasing service reliability with a particular emphasis on the increased right-of-way budget, the 4,000 danger trees that were cut or trimmed in 2015, and the installation of fuses at the head of each tapline to help contain outages to smaller areas. 📍



RIGHT: Metering Supervisor Ben Toms with his daughter Alyssa Toms wearing the CFL Charlie suit.

### COMING IN THE FALL OF 2016:

*Payment kiosks  
at all  
division offices!*



24/7!



### Care to join a CVEC Solar Advisory Council?

With more than 100 members generating energy from photo-voltaic arrays, and others considering solar panel installations, CVEC is forming a solar advisory council. The group will allow us to listen to questions and concerns from members. We can also provide information and updates about future plans to include solar energy in the Co-op's energy mix and for Cooperative members.

Interested in working with this council? Please let us know at [comm@mycvec.com](mailto:comm@mycvec.com).



# WANT TO KNOW YOUR NEW INVOICE?

## CVEC has upgraded our customer information computer systems.

This will help your Co-op operate more efficiently and allow for more member options in the future. You, the member, will see a few changes. 📍

Your current account number will stay the same. Be sure you always use the account number printed on your bill!

## New Invoice and Payment Address

CVEC redesigned our electric bill. Below is an introduction to the new look and information provided on your bill.

**NOTE:** If you submit payments by mail, you need to send it to a new address: **CVEC, Dept. 1340, PO Box 2153, Birmingham, AL 35287-1340.** The address is also on the invoice and will show in the window envelope provided.

If you utilize your bank's bill payment service, you will need to provide them with the new address!

### Front of residential bill

**Account info: name, phone #, account #, pole #, & service address/location**

**Graphic comparison of last 13 months of energy usage**

**Check here for special and timely messages**

**Note that the current due date is different from the cut-off date.**

**Meter info and current reads**

**Basic Charge \$5.75/metering & billing and \$22.98/ cost of distribution connection prior to energy usage**

**Energy Usage 7.603¢ per kWh**

**Distribution Usage 2.691¢ per kWh for cost of distribution system to move energy from substation**

**Power Cost Adjustment Monthly adjustment related to power costs**

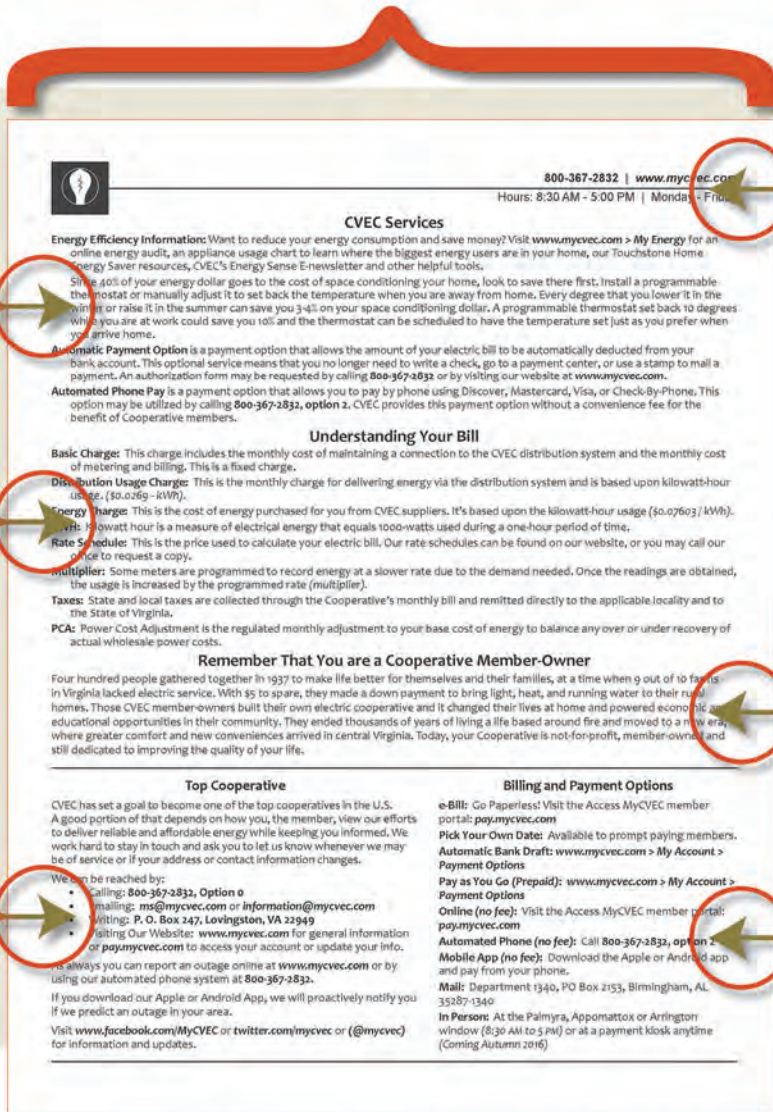
# Online & Phone Payments

- ☉ CVEC has switched to a new payment processor, both for online and phone payments.
- ☉ To pay online, visit **Access MyCVEC** on our website and enroll in our new portal. There are clear and helpful instructions on the sign-up / sign-in page.
- ☉ By phone, members should still call **800-367-2832, Option 2**. You will be prompted with the necessary steps to pay your bill.
- ☉ For payment by E-check you will also need to create a member profile on **Access MyCVEC**.
- ☉ Visit **Access MyCVEC** or <https://pay.mycvec.com>.

[www.mycvec.com](http://www.mycvec.com)



## Back of residential bill



Contact info, website & office hours

Info about CVEC services & payment options

Definitions of terms found on your bill

You are a member-owner

Ways to Stay in Touch

Billing and Payment Options

As always, if you have questions, call 800-367-2832 Option 0 or email [ms@mycvec.com](mailto:ms@mycvec.com)



## How to win \$500 (without leaving home!)

Every year, in conjunction with the CVEC Members' Annual Meeting, we offer a chance for cash prizes to all members who can't attend, but who send in their proxy ballot.

Ten proxies are drawn and those members receive a \$100 credit on their power bill.

### The 2016 winners are:

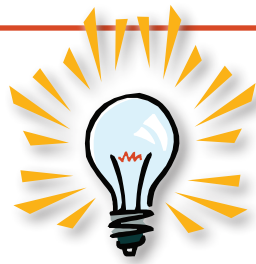
- ♦ **Donnie R. Dunn** | Buckingham
- ♦ **Charlcie F. Fielding** | Troy
- ♦ **Holly J. Foster** | Scottsville
- ♦ **John Lambert** | Appomattox
- ♦ **Roy B. Miller** | Dillwyn
- ♦ **Margaret K. Mucklo** | Faber
- ♦ **Marion Schaeffer** | Palmyra
- ♦ **Berry Smallwood** | Cumberland
- ♦ **Clinton Vanzandt** | Wintergreen

The 10<sup>th</sup> winner, a Wintergreen homeowner, anonymously donated his winning to Unity for Community to be used for a CVEC member in need.

We also give one Grand Prize. The winner receives \$500 cash! This year's lucky recipient was:

**Frank M. Knott, Jr.**  
Buckingham, VA

Congrats to all, and thanks for participating in your Cooperative! ♡



## SHORT BURSTS

### Sign up for Texting

Want to receive outage updates on your smart phone? You can access the service at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com); search **Texting** for instructions and the link for signing up! ♡



## Visit CVEC at the Railroad Festival



CVEC will be at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, on Saturday, October 8.

We'll have our Live Line demo that teaches safe practices around "live wires," as well as exhibits and handouts with energy saving tips. Stop by and say hello! ♡

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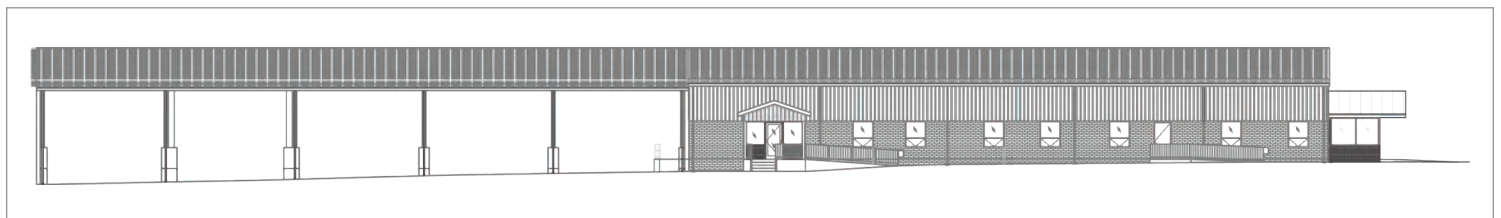
*Journeyman Matt Wilbur discusses electrical safety using CVEC's Live Line demonstration.*



## New Palmyra Division Facility

CVEC has broken ground for a new division office in Palmyra. Located on the same property of the aging facility, the updated building will be accessed from Salem Church Road.

It will meet the needs of CVEC members and employees, as well as the vehicles and equipment, for the next 40 years. ♡



# OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH!



**Every October, cooperatives across the US are recognized for the qualities that make their business model unique.** We celebrate the power of working together for the common good and bettering the quality of life for our friends and neighbors.

Seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses:

- » voluntary and open membership
- » democratic member control
- » member's economic participation
- » autonomy and independence
- » education, training and information
- » cooperation among cooperatives
- » concern for community

Co-ops can be:

- » for-profit or non-profit,
- » worker or consumer owned,
- » created to collaboratively produce or purchase.

Cooperatives work in all parts of the economy, from:

- » healthcare to housing,
- » credit unions to child care,
- » farms to manufacturing,
- » food co-ops to utilities.

There are:

- » roughly 30,000 co-ops in the US, owned by more than 350 million people.
- » more than 900 electric cooperatives, serving 42 million in 47 states.
- » 600,000 (and growing) cooperative electricity accounts in Virginia alone.



## Fuel Assistance Reminder

Fuel Assistance is awarded by the Virginia Department of Social Services. If you or someone you know are having trouble paying your monthly energy bills during very cold or hot weather, you may wish to contact one of these local services.

You can visit our website at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com) and search **fuel assistance** to find a list of local organizations that may be able to assist you.

Please keep track of the amount allocated by Social Services to ensure that your account is kept current. You can check your balance online or by calling our automated system:

**800-367-2832, Option 2**




## WANT TO GO GREEN?

### CVEC Members can purchase Green Energy ... and it's easy!

CVEC offers renewable energy certificates that can be combined with your regular monthly usage for an additional 1.5¢ per kilowatt-hour. The certificates represent the renewable component of energy generated at another location that has been offered into a market, where they are verified, tracked and retired.

Even if you cannot add a solar array at your home, you can turn your energy from CVEC into verified green energy.

Interested? Read more about it and learn how to sign up at [mycvec.com](http://mycvec.com). Choose the **My Energy** icon at the top of the page and then **Green Energy** in the left menu. 



Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

CORRESPONDENCE: P. O. Box 247 | Lovingson, VA 22949

PAYMENTS: Dept. 1340 | PO Box 2153 | Birmingham, AL 35287-1340

(800) 367-2832

PRESORTED STANDARD

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

PERMIT NO. 094

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## 80 YEARS ... OUT OF THE FIRE!



CENTRAL VIRGINIA  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**80<sup>TH</sup>** ANNIVERSARY

*This year CVEC is celebrating the beginning of our 80<sup>th</sup> year of providing rural electric service . . .*

a seemingly unremarkable event unless you consider that prior to it, for thousands of years, people relied on fire to heat and light their dwelling, cook food, and wash and iron clothes. Indoor plumbing was a

luxury, so families hauled and heated water for a weekly bath that began with the father and ended with the baby ... who was hopefully removed before the bath water was tossed!

We get a brief reminder of how our comfort and convenience has increased with electricity when a power outage stops a good portion of our world. But these days, we all know that service will be restored and we will resume our normal activities. Today, there are fewer and fewer members who recall the days before electric service replaced fire for our basic needs and ushered in all of the modern appliances and convenience items we enjoy today.

*Eighty years ago, CVEC helped change our world to the one that we enjoy today. ♡*

