

Youth Tour goes VIRTUAL

This spring 2 high school juniors from the C&L Electric service area will have the opportunity to be a part of a virtual program that could allow them a chance to earn scholarship money. The winners of an essay writing contest will participate in the virtual program June 18-26. To be eligible for the contest, a student must be a high school junior, a good student, participate in extra-curricular activities, and his parent(s) or guardian(s) must be a member of C&L Electric Cooperative.

Although the Washington Youth Tour will not take place this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas will offer this year's participants a virtual program that will allow them to connect and learn with each other. Essay winners will have an opportunity to engage our state and federal elected officials and learn about the cooperative business model. The virtual tour will also focus on public service allowing participants to conduct a public service project, similar to those done in Boy Scouts (Eagle) and 4H. The projects will then be evaluated by judges, who will award college scholarship money to winners. Students will not be required to commit to a public service project to participate in Youth Tour.

If you have additional questions about the contest or the Virtual Youth Tour Program, please contact Karen Rauls at (870) 628-4221 ext. 104 or by email at KRauls@clelectric.com.



Contest entrants will be required to submit an essay of at least 250 words on WHAT LEADERSHIP MEANS TO ME. Essays will be judged on originality, content, composition, neatness, and grammar. All entries should be typed and include a cover sheet with student name, parent or guardian's name, address, student's grade point, and school and community activities. The cover sheet, along with the essay, will be part of the selection process. Please submit all essays to C & L Electric Cooperative, Attn: Karen Rauls, P. O. Box 9, Star City, AR 71667. The essays must be received at C & L by March 19, 2021.

IDENTIFY BURIED LINES: CALL 811

Before building a fence, planting a tree or beginning other projects that require digging, remember to dial 811 first.

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

Even simple tasks like installing a mailbox post can damage utility lines, disrupt service to an area, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Never assume the location or depth of lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury.

Arkansas One Call



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

C&L Electric is pleased to announce a new toll-free outage line.

1-855-881-8093



C&L Electric is pleased to announce its new outage line. To report any power outage, members can now call 1-855-881-8093 any time of day, any day of the week. This toll-free number will direct power outages through C&L's call center, allowing members to report information specific to their particular outage. Directing calls to the call center will help the restoration process, allowing C&L crews to respond to the outage more efficiently.

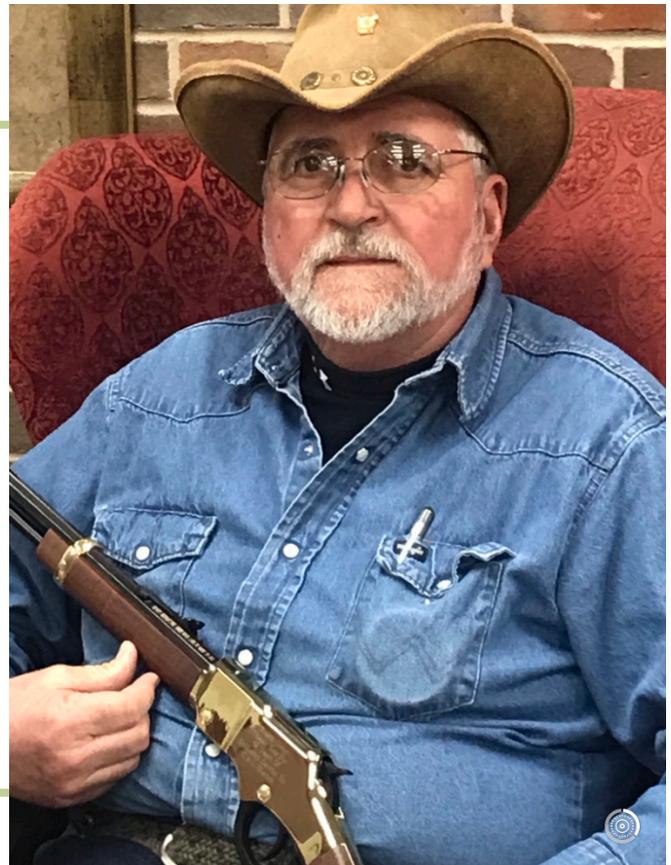
Congratulations to Truett Owen on his retirement

Truett Owen, Line Foreman for C&L, retired on Jan. 4, after 43 years of service. Truett, the son of Martha Owen and the late James Melvin Owen, grew up in the Palmyra community, just outside of Star City.

Truett and his wife, Margaret, have two children, Anthony (Heather) Owen and Skye Bullard. They also have three grandchildren, Zeb Owen and Samantha and Matthew Hatcher.

Truett is looking forward to traveling, taking care of his cows, and enjoying the rifle his fellow co-workers purchased in honor of his retirement.

C&L employees and directors wish Truett the very best in his retirement!



Can I recycle that?

Find your way through the rules of recycling

Can I recycle my mail with the stapled paper and plastic envelope windows? Do I need to break down cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin? Or should I just give up on recycling because it's way too complicated?

Three of every five U.S. households have curbside recycling pickup, according to a study by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition. Another 14% have curbside service available but do not subscribe.

Reasons to recycle are both environmental and financial. Recycling 10 plastic bottles, for example, saves enough energy to power a laptop computer for more than 25 hours, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Recycling can also help out with your tax bill. Local governments pay for disposing home and office waste, traditionally by burying it in a landfill. But if some of that waste could be sold for reuse, the income would reduce the cost of the waste management program.

The list of recycling rules is long and complicated, but a way to help master them is to try three different types of thinking:

Think like a sorter: When your curbside bin gets emptied, it's taken to a Materials Recovery Facility where it is dumped onto a conveyor belt where workers pull off items that will gum up the next step in the process, a large screen that jiggles items into a different bin. Think about items that might cause problems with sorting.

Think local: There are about 300 Materials Recovery Facilities around the country, and many of them have different equipment, meaning every community has its own set of rules for what can be recycled.

Find out who handles recycling in your community, and they will have a list of what can be recycled. And of course, there's an app for that. Two popular apps are Recycle Coach and ReCollect. Just type in your zip code to learn how your local recycling program treats individual items.

Think like an accountant: You might be thinking, "It sounds like I'm doing the work for the recycling program." And you are. You could just dump anything and everything in your recycling bin and let the workers sort it out. They would do that — for a price. You can help keep recycling costs low by following the rules.

Here are some of the most-wondered-about recycling rules:

- **Mail:** With one exception, all mail can go in the bin. Staples and plastic windows get sorted out by the machinery.



PHILLIP JEFFREY

Recycling offers environmental and financial benefits for our local communities.

The exception is magazines wrapped in plastic.

Food containers: When you're done with the peanut butter jar, no need to rinse it out. It can go right in the bin.

Cardboard boxes: The only reason to break them down is to save space in your bin. They'll get well-crushed in the truck that picks them up.

Pizza cartons: Don't leave crusts or garlic butter containers in them, but recycling equipment can handle a greasy pizza box just fine.

Plastic bottle caps: Screw the lid back on, and recycle both the bottle and cap.

Labels: You don't need to remove them.

Plastic straws: Can be recycled, but smaller items tend to fall off the conveyor or through the screen sorters and onto the floor, where they get swept up and hauled off to a normal landfill.

If you want to take the next step in recycling, think about the big picture — the point is to reduce the waste from your home into the world. First, reduce — if you don't really need to buy something, don't buy it. Second, reuse — bags and wrapping paper, for example, can have more than one life.

Remember, recycling helps our environment but can also reduce the cost of local waste management programs. Check with your local waste management program to learn more about recycling rules in your community.

For more information, visit: epa.gov/hwgenerators/links-hazardous-waste-programs-and-us-state-environmental-agencies

