

## Tree trimming improves service for all

One of the things we love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At C & L Electric Co-op, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on the main reasons, let us explain what a “right of way” is and how it may impact you. A right of way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights of way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, we must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

### Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members’ yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.



A right-of-way worker cuts away tree limbs and other vegetation that can cause power outages, especially during high winds and storms.

### Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed



Utility workers operate a Skytrim, which makes it easier to remove tree limbs and other vegetation in hard-to-reach areas.

lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

### Affordability

As you know, C & L Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

## Utility disconnects set to resume on May 3, 2021

The Arkansas Public Service Commission has issued an order lifting the moratorium on utility disconnects effective May 3, 2021. Members impacted by the pandemic are encouraged to contact our office as soon as possible. C & L Electric Cooperative will be offering extended payment arrangement as an effort to help our members. For more information, contact the C & L Electric billing department at 870-628-4221, option 1.

The federal government's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides help for qualifying members. The amount available varies on a member's income and number of people in the household. The program is currently open for applications and is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Members can contact their county office for more information.

## Sheridan student wins Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas State Spelling Bee

Avery Grayson Williams of Grant County is the winner of the 2021 Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas State Spelling Bee. The Sheridan Middle School student is the son of Nick and Summer Williams.

Williams competed with 47 other students from across Arkansas at the event that was held on Saturday, March 13, at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock.

Second place was won by the 2020 Winner Thomas Sinclair of Garland County. There was a three-way tie for third place between Charles Akin Johnson of Washington County, Sanjay Vontala of Benton County and Aiden Watson of Columbia County.

Approximately 42,243 students from 294 schools in 57 counties across Arkansas participated in local and county contests that leading up to the State Spelling Bee contest. Williams, the Arkansas winner, will proceed to The Scripps National Spelling Bee, the nation's largest and longest-running educational

program.

The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them throughout their lives.

See page 16 of this issue for more about the Arkansas State Spelling Bee. For additional images and to learn more about the Arkansas State Spelling Bee visit: [www.aecc.com/spellingbee](http://www.aecc.com/spellingbee)

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 500,000 homes, farms and businesses in Arkansas and surrounding states.



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# ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH WORD SEARCH

May is Electrical Safety Month!

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle all the bolded words in the puzzle.



E	J	E	Q	L	V	T	S	O	K	F	A	B	T	T
L	S	R	Y	S	D	E	D	D	E	H	N	Y	X	J
E	D	A	M	A	G	E	D	B	I	J	L	G	E	V
C	N	V	J	L	H	W	M	E	B	U	R	I	T	O
T	S	C	N	K	R	W	C	D	M	S	Q	A	N	A
R	B	M	Z	D	G	D	S	R	R	N	R	I	Q	I
I	J	Z	O	F	Y	D	F	O	C	O	D	O	L	F
C	S	C	Y	K	R	Z	D	O	V	N	U	V	I	D
A	Z	U	T	O	E	F	Q	M	T	T	B	R	B	Q
L	K	Y	C	K	X	A	P	N	L	A	E	J	B	W
K	I	M	W	A	Q	A	L	E	Z	R	N	L	Y	E
E	Z	K	T	A	L	M	T	A	I	G	P	X	I	D
D	R	A	Z	A	H	S	Y	S	R	F	J	J	I	J
E	F	E	B	A	S	P	K	L	V	M	Z	H	L	M
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	S	N	W	T

## WORD BANK:

- Do not use any electrical **cords** that feel warm to the touch or are **damaged** in any way.
- Remind parents or adults in your home to test **smoke alarms** every month. Alarms should be installed in every **bedroom**, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Do not overload electrical **outlets**. Overloading creates a potential fire **hazard**.
- Keep all **liquids** away from **electronics**, including TVs, computers and gaming consoles.
- Do not run **electrical** cords under rugs or carpet. This creates a **fire risk**.