



## Holiday Office Closures

Community Electric Cooperative offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday;
- Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday; and
- Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

CEC directors and employees wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



## Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 6

Remember to set your clocks **back** one hour before you go to bed Saturday, Nov. 5. It's also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

### CONTACT US

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

**Phone** 757-242-6181 **Website** comelec.coop

**After-hours Outages**  
1-855-700-2667



**Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**President/CEO**  
Steven A. Harmon

**Local Pages Editor**  
Jessica Parr

Community Electric Cooperative is an Equal  
Opportunity Provider and Employer.



## Take the Trip of a Lifetime!

*Apply for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour*

**C**ommunity Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 19-23 2023.

Picture this: a free trip to Washington, D.C., meeting nearly 2,000 other students from all over the U.S., a tour of Capitol Hill, meeting congressional representatives, and so much more! All of this is available to three select high school students. All applicants must have their primary residence in CEC's service territory and must also be a current public, private or home-school sophomore or junior in high school.

### WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

Youth Tour was inspired by Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in 1957. The senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." NRECA organized its first Youth Tour in 1964, and approximately 400 high school students from 12 states participated. Since then, thousands of high school students from electric co-ops in 47 states have gathered on Capitol Hill.

### THE 2023 TOUR

After the Youth Tour Committee reviews applications, CEC will reach out to students who have an interest in history and government, and who demonstrate strong leadership qualities and community involvement. These students, along with more than 1,900 students nationwide, will meet congressional representatives, tour museums, historic sites and memorials, and enjoy special events and entertainment.

Students may also apply for NRECA's Youth Leadership Council. Candidates will be interviewed on the first day of Youth Tour. YLC selects one student representative from each state. Those students will be recognized during the tour on Youth Day and later will attend the 2024 NRECA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

### HOW TO APPLY

Visit [comelec.coop/youth-tour](https://comelec.coop/youth-tour) or pick up an application at the office. Completed applications must be dropped off at the CEC office, faxed, emailed or postmarked by 5 p.m. Jan. 31, 2023.

Applications and letters of recommendation should be mailed to:  
CEC, Attn: Jessica Parr  
P.O. Box 267  
Windsor, VA 23487



## Whitley to Coordinate Co-op Administrative Services



Lucy Whitley

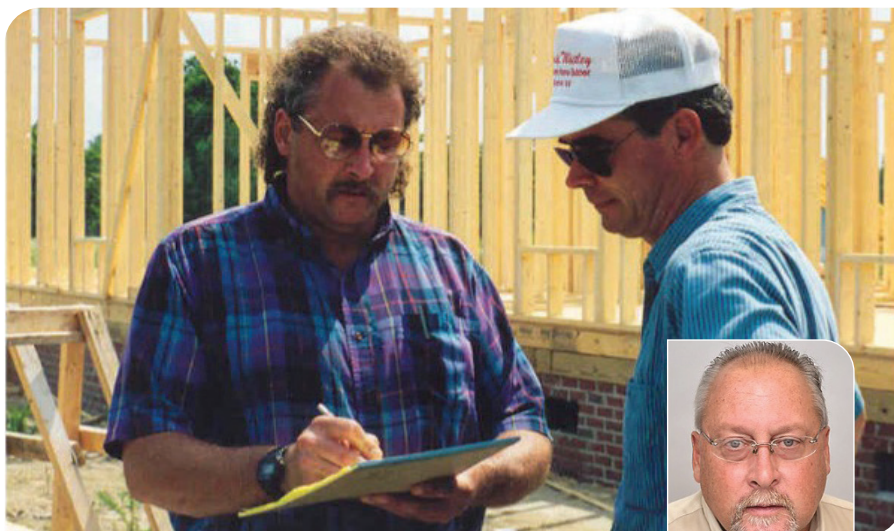
On Sept. 19, Community Electric Cooperative welcomed Lucy Whitley to the organization as Administrative Services Coordinator. Whitley has extensive experience in customer service and in leadership roles, including approximately 18 months serving as a branch manager for Farmers Bank in Windsor.

Whitley is originally from Southern California and has lived in Virginia for the past 12 years. Prior to working at Farmers Bank for more than three years, Whitley held customer service positions in local government and at a local credit union. She is fluent in Spanish.

"I am delighted that Lucy is joining our team," CEC President and CEO Steven Harmon says. "She has experience and capabilities that are vital to Community Electric's mission. We know she is going to enhance the interactions and experiences that our members have with us."

Whitley said she often "heard great things" about Community Electric from co-op employees and others who transacted business at the bank.

"This is a new beginning for me and a chance to know more of the members through CEC," she says. "I could tell they have a great atmosphere, and I'm looking forward to being part of the company and building my career and friendships."



## Wayne Carroll Retires



Longtime employee, H. Wayne Carroll, was the face of the Cooperative for many years. But his path took some turns to get there. Wayne started out as a lineman trainee in 1979, and then became a truck driver in 1982. His direction changed to staking engineer in 1989 and the rest was history. He was the front line for new members to get service connected on the phone and in the field. Retirement life will have Wayne spending time with his first grandchild, born in September. Congratulations on your retirement, Wayne. It is well deserved.



## CEC EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Meghan Cole Member Service Representative

#### What was your first job?

A sales associate at Kirkland's

#### What was your job prior to working at CEC?

I worked at Sentara as a medical biller.

#### What does your job mean to you?

It means being able to gain our members' trust. I try to make sure our members are provided the best customer service they can be given.

#### What is your favorite thing to do when you're not at work?

I enjoy traveling with my family. We really enjoy spending time at the beach!

#### What is your favorite movie, author, song?

Movie - "The Holiday"

Author - Emily Griffin

Song - "Bloom" by the Paper Kites

4 YEARS  
OF SERVICE





# 15 Holiday

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

1. Buy lights with low-wattage bulbs that UL safety approved. LED lights last longer and are energy-efficient. 
2. Check lights before use — place them on a nonflammable surface and plug them in for 15 minutes to ensure they don't smoke or melt.
3. Check lights for broken bulbs, cracked sockets or loose connections. Check wires for frayed or cut insulation. 
4. Don't overload circuits, outlets and extension cords. 
5. Follow manufacturer's guidelines on how many strings of lights can be safely connected together. 
6. When stringing outdoor lights, use a dry wooden or fiberglass ladder and stay clear of overhead power lines.
7. Don't use nails, tacks or staples to hang lights. Use insulated clip hangers instead. 
8. Don't use indoor lights outdoors — they are not waterproof. 
9. Don't use outdoor lights indoors — they burn hotter than indoor lights.
10. Artificial trees should be flame resistant.
11. Water your live tree daily to avoid risk of fire. 
12. Illuminate a metal tree with a spotlight. Never use regular tree lights. 
13. Unplug lights when changing a bulb and don't connect lights while adjusting them on a tree. 
14. Don't leave holiday lights on while sleeping or away from home or office.
15. Don't run extension cords under rugs or carpet. 





**Community Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Source: The Electrical Alliance



## Veterans Day is Nov. 11.

Be sure to thank a veteran. We're thankful for ours every day.



**GLEN PRESSON**

Manager of Operations

U.S. Marine Corps, 1985-89, E-4 Corporal



**MITCH SIMMONS**

Manager of Information Technology

U.S. Navy (4 years), E5/PO2



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# Improper Generator Use Can Be Deadly

**S**evere storms leave many without power every year. Unfortunately, the majority of the deaths attributed to these storms is often linked to improper use of generators. There are two major types of generators: portable and standby or permanent. During long-term power outages, many rely on portable generators for emergency power. Their growing popularity has resulted in millions of them being placed in homes and small businesses. With only a small percentage estimated to be installed correctly, Community Electric Cooperative urges members to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

Without taking the proper precautions, using a generator could endanger your life or the lives of others, including your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

“We cannot emphasize this enough: NEVER use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages (even if garage door is open), crawl spaces or basements,” advises CEC Operations Manager Glen Presson. “Make sure the generator has 3 to 4 feet of cleared space around it and place it at least 20 feet away from all doors and windows. Do not use in an area that is wet or damp, and never plug a generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home’s wiring. Carbon monoxide emitted from generators is an odorless, colorless, toxic gas, making it extremely dangerous, and just being exposed to it for a few minutes can be fatal,” Presson warns.

## PERMANENT STANDBY GENERATORS

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

All standby generators require a permanently (and professionally) installed transfer switch. (High-end generators permanently installed to power some or all rooms of the home typically have the switch built into the system. Other generators require you to manually throw the switch.) The transfer switch has an important job, and that is to break the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and electric utility repair crews from “backfeed,” which occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity “back” through the power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

“Safety for those who use generators and for those who work to restore power cannot be over-emphasized,” says Presson.

“Consult a qualified electrician to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding, as well as to prevent circuit overloads and to meet local electrical code.”

For more information on permanent generators and to receive a free quote, please visit [comelec.coop/standby-power](http://comelec.coop/standby-power) or contact Glen Presson at 757-242-9259, option 1.



## PORTABLE GENERATORS

Many homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Safe Electricity offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- Maintain adequate ventilation. Generators emit carbon monoxide. NEVER operate a generator in your home, garage or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
- Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home’s wiring. This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical backfeed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling. Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.
- Protect your appliances. Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- Use proper extension cords. Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
- Shut down generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Remember maintenance between uses. It is important to drain the gasoline from the generator before storing it away. It’s also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality, and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Community Electric suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.

Source: [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)