

Current Communicator



MEMBER NEWSLETTER
OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Summer 2020 VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

Scholarships Awarded

Five CVEC students receive
VMDAEC Scholarships

June 10 Annual Meeting Postponed

New Date: September 23, 2020

Broadband Update

Process of building fiber

Be Aware of Scammers

Learn how to recognize and
avoid potential scams

A Letter from the CEO

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative has been monitoring the COVID-19 public health emergency and will continue to prioritize our concern for the health and safety of our members and employees, as well as our community. Electric utilities are considered essential businesses and our employees continue to go about the business of keeping the lights on - with some social distancing and changes, of course, to ensure they return home safely after a day of work. When the pandemic hit in March, CVEC immediately turned its attention to the supply chain, as some of the inventory is imported from foreign countries, including China. **The Cooperative made great efforts to secure the inventory needed before the demand diminished availability.**

CVEC's employees continue their work in the field and maintenance projects remain on schedule. Report times for crews are staggered to limit exposure and every effort has been made for them to avoid contact with other crews or employees. **We also ask members to exercise social distancing when employees are working in the field and on their property.**

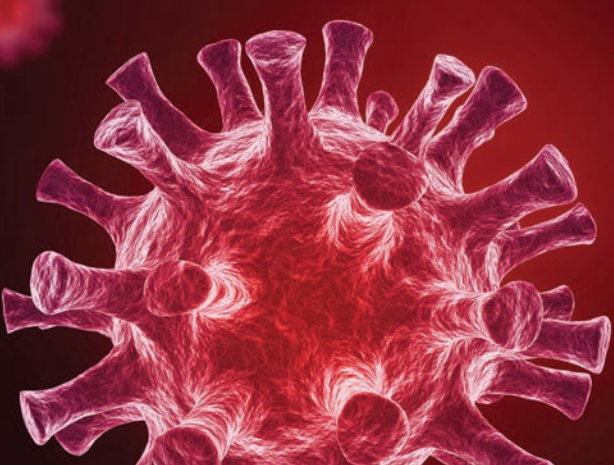
Office personnel who are able to work remotely are doing so one or more days per week to limit the number of employees in the building. **While the office is closed to walk-in traffic, Member Services Representatives are manning the phones and offices to take inquiries and assist members as usual.** Members are asked to use one of the many other payment options available to keep their accounts current, including: online, by phone, kiosk, and mail.

CVEC recognizes that the economic slowdown related to reducing the spread of the virus could impact members. **While we cannot waive electric bills, we can commit to helping members who need additional time to pay.** CVEC is owned by you, our members, and is a not-for-profit electric provider and every member is responsible for paying for the electric service consumed in their home or business. CVEC suspended disconnects for nonpayment for residential and business accounts and late fees will be waived until June 15. Electric bills will not be forgiven at the end of the restriction on disconnects. We urge members to make payment arrangements so they do not fall behind on their accounts, as well as to allow CVEC to continue to pay our employees and suppliers.

Many of CVEC's normal events and attendance at local festivals and meetings have been suspended due to restrictions on gatherings. **The Annual Meeting, normally scheduled for June, has been postponed to September 23, 2020.** CVEC will make every effort to hold the meeting in person; however, more time is needed to determine if that is possible for this year.

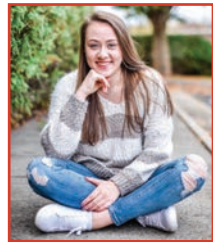
CVEC values you as our member and our owner and will keep you apprised of any updates from the Cooperative. We appreciate your patience as we navigate the impacts of the pandemic and hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

Gary Wood
President & CEO



Five CVEC Students earn VMDAEC Scholarships

Rachel Hoefner of Palmyra is a senior at Fluvanna County High School, where she is active in show choir as an alto and Mako Band as a vocalist, pianist,



and bassist. She won Battle of the Bands and received a full scholarship to Victor Wooten's Music and Nature Camp in Tennessee. Hoefner shared, *"For five years, I have been involved in the American Heritage Girls Program that enables me and other girls to grow in our faith and cultivate a heart for service; all while building upon and gaining leadership skills. I am a Patriot, leader of the color guard and mentor to the Tenderheart Unit."* She is also a member of The Dovetail Group, where she completed ballroom dancing master class levels four and five. Hoefner plans to attend Christopher Newport University in the fall to study Mathematics that will help her pursue a career in Actuarial Science.

Alisha Hunsaker

of Keswick is a senior of Fluvanna County High School and the Blue Ridge Governor's School. Hunsaker is a member of the Student Government Association and served as an intern at VA Discovery Museum. She also designed, fundraised, and created a sensory walk at Carysbrook Elementary School and was a high school athlete. Hunsaker says, *"Lacrosse was a big part of my life. I served as mostly attack, and some defense for our Varsity Girl's Lacrosse team for three years. I decided not to play my senior year so I could obtain a job. I received a varsity letter, along with the lacrosse pin and two varsity bars."* She loves to be crafty and is using this time in quarantine to put her talent to good



use by making baby hats to donate to the local hospital. Hunsaker was born in Logan, Utah, so it only felt natural for her to become the 5th generation to attend Utah State University. She plans to study Elementary Education and Early Childhood to pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher.

Shaniya Johnson

of Appomattox is a senior of Appomattox County High School and Central Virginia Community College, where she will graduate with her Associate's Degree. She participated in a variety of community events and activities through National Honors Society. She played basketball and was team captain. *"Throughout my high school career, I have been awarded with 1st Team All-District, 1st Team All-Region, and 1st Team All-Area Honors. I was named Dogwood District Player of the Year for my senior year. I also broke three school records and achieved my 1,000-career points milestone,"* says Johnson. Once basketball season ended, Johnson moved right into softball where she stood guard at 3rd base and also received honors of 1st Team All-District and 1st Team All-Region. She is currently focused on completing her Associate's Degree during quarantine and playing basketball right outside her house. Johnson plans to attend Longwood University in the fall to study Business Administration/Accounting and pursue a career in finance or human resources.



Brooke Nazar of Palmyra is a senior of Fluvanna County High School. Nazar serves as Class Council Ambassador for Student Government



Association and played club soccer for 13 years, where she served as team goalie. She is missing her last soccer season with all her other senior teammates. She received several awards that include the Unsung Hero Coach Award, All-Jefferson District Girls Soccer Second Team Goalie, and All-Region 3C Girls Soccer Honorable Mention. Nazar says, *"I am enjoying time with my family. We have family puzzle time and have completed eight puzzles so far during quarantine."* She is a Harry Potter fan and loves to take her dog, Potter, out for a good walk every day. Nazar will be majoring in Biology, but is still deciding between James Madison University and Virginia Tech in the fall where she will pursue a career as an optometrist.

Malena Stallard

of Palmyra is a senior of Fluvanna County High School, where she supported her school from the sidelines as a cheerleader. She also participates in her Student Government Association. She coached youth players through an Upward Cheer program at Effort Church. *"I am enjoying the family time and painting throughout quarantine. This time can be stressful, and I like to relax and pick up a paintbrush,"* says Stallard. She is also working towards completing her Certified Nursing Assistant certification. Stallard will attend Longwood University and will major in Early Childhood Education.



At CVEC, we are overjoyed to see what the future holds for you! You and your class have shown strength, perseverance and grace during this historic time in our history. Carry that in your hearts as you go forward!

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING VIRGINIA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES CASE NO. PUR-2020-00023

On February 10, 2020, the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives ("VMDAEC" or "Association") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an Application to Initiate a Rulemaking ("Application") pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-110 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Specifically, VMDAEC seeks a rulemaking to revise the Cooperative Streamlined Rate Case Rules contained in 20 VAC 5-200-21(C) (the "Streamlined Rate Case Rules" or "Streamlined Rules"). According to VMDAEC, these revisions would assist electric cooperatives subject to regulation by this Commission by making ratemaking proceedings more efficient through the increased use of the Streamlined Rate Case Rules outside of a general rate proceeding.

VMDAEC states that the Association has worked through a collaborative process with various stakeholders to propose the revisions, which would:

- Limit streamlined cooperative rate increases to 4% of total operating revenues;
- Remove references to the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for purposes of calculating rate change minimums or maximums;
- Add a new and additional Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) limit of 2.5 (or other appropriate metrics), consistent with the Commission's history of rate regulation for electric cooperatives;
- Allow for participation from member-consumers affected by rate changes;
- Remove references in the current rules that would limit use of the rules by the cooperatives in a period of years from their last general rate case;
- Limit use of the Streamlined Rules to no more than three (3) times in any ten (10) year period;
- Limit use of Streamlined Rules such that any such rate change approved by the Commission would also limit use of a cooperative's statutory authority, limiting rate changes to once every three years (absent other order of the Commission); and
- Make other miscellaneous updates to the Rules, including adding references to websites and the use of electronic mail in addition to traditional notification methods.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Application for further details of the Association's proposals.

Copies of the Application and the Order Establishing Proceeding that the Commission entered in this case may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Association, Samuel R. Brumberg, Esquire, VMDAEC, 4201 Dominion Boulevard, Suite 101; Glen Allen, Virginia 23060, or via email to sbrumberg@vmdaec.com.

Copies of the Application and the proposed Streamlined Rules also are available for interested persons to review at the website of each Virginia Electric Cooperative. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website and the Association's website: <http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information> and <http://www.vmdaec.com/streamlined-rules/>.

On or before September 7, any interested person wishing to comment on the Association's Application may comment on or propose modifications or supplements to the Streamlined Rules by following the instructions available at the Commission's website: <https://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments>. Refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00023. Any person needing to hand deliver or physically file or submit any pleading or other document may need to contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery, pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice, as amended by the Commission's COVID-related Revised Operating Procedures Order, available at the Commission's website at: <http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information> and <https://scc.virginia.gov/docketsearch/DOCS/4lyc01!.PDF>.

CVEC Plans Transmission System Inspections

While COVID-19 has forced many businesses to cease operations, utilities are classified as essential businesses and remain open. CVEC is continuing its efforts to provide safe and reliable electricity by maintaining and upgrading its 4,700 mile electric system.

Aerial Inspections Using Drones: CVEC inspects over one thousand miles of power lines annually. CVEC will use unmanned aerial systems (drones) again this year. Altitude Imaging, a local drone provider, will assist in the inspection process of the distribution and transmission lines. In previous years, this work was done using a helicopter. However, drones allow for a more detailed inspection of our infrastructure because they fly at a lower speed and altitude. Altitude Imaging drone operators are specifically trained to maneuver the device along electrical lines. *As a reminder to members: never attempt to fly any type of device near electrical equipment.*

For more information on CVEC's use of drones, visit www.mycvec.com.



Pole Inspections From the Ground: In addition to the electrical lines and components, CVEC contractors also inspect thousands of utility poles annually. Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., an authorized contractor, will be inspecting CVEC's transmission poles located across the system for decay or damage. The inspections will include above ground tests using a visual inspection and possible boring with a gas-powered drill. Below ground tests may involve hand-digging around poles approximately 1' wide and 1.5' deep. Trucks will park and the crew will use ATVs to access the poles. If a pole is rejected, construction crews will be back at a later date to replace it.

While CVEC line crews and contractors work throughout the year to maintain and upgrade the wires and poles, right-of-way contractors stay busy keeping the corridor beneath and around the power lines clear. Members might see contractor trucks and equipment inspecting or performing maintenance on the lines or poles on their property.

Sometimes, crews may need to cross members' property to access our equipment. Contractor vehicles will be marked with a magnetic sign indicating that they are authorized to perform work for CVEC. Should you have any concerns about whether a contractor is from CVEC, give us a call at 800-367-2832.

We appreciate your understanding as we work to provide safe and reliable electricity to you, our member-owners.

Tips for Managing Energy Use during COVID-19

- **Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings.** Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5%.
- **Do full loads of laundry and wash with warm water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- **Air dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50%.
- **Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs.** Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.
- **Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12% of energy use.



PREPARE FOR AN OUTAGE



STORM SEASON IS APPROACHING ARE YOU PREPARED?

Outages can happen at any time. Don't wait until an outage has occurred to prepare.

KNOW HOW TO REPORT OUTAGES

CVEC offers multiple ways for members to report outages.

- Online at mycvec.com
- MyCVEC Mobile App
- By phone at 800-367-2832

Please do not report outages via email or through social media. These forms of communication are not linked to our outage management system.



PREPARE AN OUTAGE KIT

A fully stocked outage kit will be crucial if extended outages occur. Stock your kit with items such as flashlights with fresh batteries, non-perishable food, manual can opener, cash, medication, personal hygiene products, first aid kit, pet supplies, and an emergency contact list.



Don't forget to restock your kit after an outage.

SAFETY DURING AN OUTAGE

- Stay away from downed lines.
- Always refuel appliances outside.
- Turn off large electric appliances so that lines are not overloaded when power is restored.
- Don't leave fireplaces or candles burning unattended.
- Have generators installed by a certified electrician and inspected by your county's building inspector.



CVEC crews are on call and will respond 24 hours a day to restore service as quickly as possible.

For more information, visit www.mycvec.com

IMPORTANT UPDATE

CVEC's June 10 Annual Meeting has been POSTPONED

New date set for September 23, 2020. Additional information will be mailed to all members.



NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CVEC Members Eagerly Await Fiber Construction

Over 600,000 Virginians do not have internet service and the prospect of having access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet seems impossible to many cooperative members who have been living without it.

Rural Americans need to have high-speed internet for education and business and can reap many benefits from using internet for medicine, security, and good old entertainment! The fiber build will pass all 37,000 homes and businesses that receive electricity from CVEC by 2023. For many, that seems like an eternity, but the process of building fiber takes 12-18 months start to finish for each substation circuit and we are moving as fast as we are able. In addition to the CVEC employees who oversee the fiber build, over 180 contractors are working on multiple circuits each day to build the fiber. We are tracking the progress here on our dashboard as of May 15, 2020:



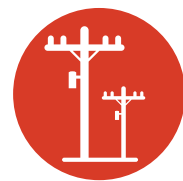
9,176
homes
passed
in Phase 1



4,913
service
requests



2,590
homes
connected



2,499
poles
replaced
with new



3,186
anchors
placed

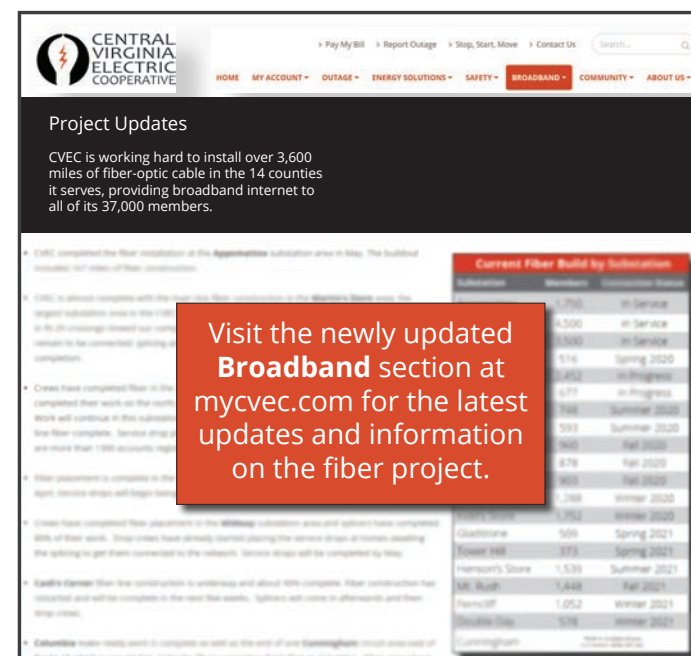


**1,014 of
3,600**
miles of fiber
constructed

Funding Continues for the CVEC Fiber Build: The total cost of the fiber build will be about \$120 million and CVEC has been working to secure funds to help offset the cost. CVEC and its subsidiary, Central Virginia Services, Inc., have been granted over \$52 million in funds for the fiber build from local, state, and federal grants! This impressive total includes the most recent grant award of \$14 million from the federal ReConnect grant (with an additional \$14 million low interest loan). There have been delays in getting the funding to begin work in the areas that were selected for the grant, in part, due to the pandemic's impact on businesses and processes.

Fiber Project Updates: CVEC understands that the need for high-speed internet is greater now than ever before. While the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly impacted the build by delaying funding and the acquisition of certain materials, CVEC is diligently working to keep the project on target and to make sure members have access to important updates.

Visit the newly updated **Broadband** section at mycvec.com for information on the fiber project, including: an overview of the project, important updates and construction status, and frequently asked questions.



Phases of Fiber Construction



Make Ready Engineering

After an in-house autodesign of the fiber build, field engineers go to each pole to determine if any modifications are required in order to support the fiber and its associated steel strand. These engineers create design sheets showing where to move items at the pole to create more space, as well as where poles need to be changed out to add height or strength. During this time, inspectors will “ride out” the build to ensure every member will be included in the fiber build. This phase can take two to four weeks.

Make Ready Construction

Line crews will change poles, move transformers from one side of the pole to another, move wires on the pole, add new anchors to the poles, and perform other work to allow the fiber to be placed later. The make ready construction phase can take four to twelve weeks as a rule of thumb. This work has the widest variance in time of all construction phases.

Fiber Construction

Fiber crews place steel strand along the pole line and return to place the fiber optic cable against the steel strand. A lashing machine is used to secure the fiber to the strand. In locations where the electric is underground, the fiber optic cable will be placed in a small plastic pipe underground by either boring or plowing. Asphalt and concrete driveways will be bored under and a pedestal may be placed next to a transformer or junction box to allow for a service drop. Areas of disturbance are restored to their original state. Fiber construction can take four to eight weeks on a circuit.

Splicing

Once the strand and fiber is placed, splicers will make splices at each end and tap point. They splice the necessary cables at each point and mount the splices in enclosures secured to the distribution poles or in pedestals. The splicing work can take another three to six weeks for the main lines.

Service Drop Construction

The next step is service drop construction. This work can be done in parallel with some of the earlier work, or it might be done after the main line fiber is in place. The drop crews extend the fiber from the nearest splice point to the structure receiving service and leave coils of fiber in each location.

Drop Splicing

The final outdoor step in fiber construction is the splicing of the drop. The splicer connects the last length of fiber at the tap point and also mounts a network interface device (NID) at the structure with the final splice inside the NID. The service is now ready to turn over to Firefly for installation.



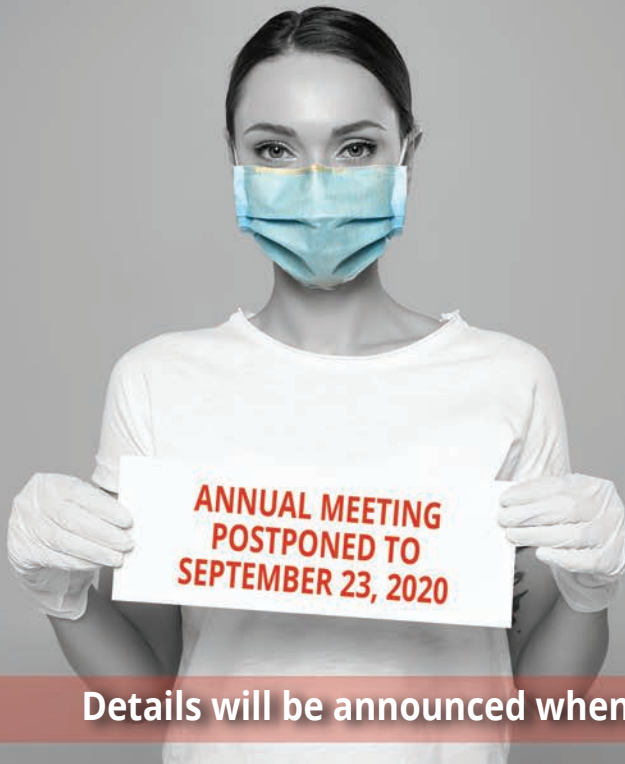
Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

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

PAYMENTS: Dept. 1340 | P.O. Box 2153 | Birmingham, AL 35287-1341

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Details will be announced when plans are confirmed. See page 5 for more details.

Be Aware of Scams During COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the United States, scammers are using this opportunity to prey on consumers.

Each week, CVEC members report calls from scammers requesting payment information over the phone to avoid disconnection of service. Remember:

- CVEC will NEVER ask for payment in the field or for your credit/debit card information over the phone.
- Never let anyone in your home who claims to be with the electric company. CVEC employees and contractors will NOT ask to enter your home.
- CVEC trucks and authorized contractor vehicles will have appropriate CVEC signage.



Scammers aren't just targeting utility customers, so it's important to stay informed. Scammers will often spoof phone numbers to trick you into answering or will send text messages with suspicious links. Do not respond to calls or texts from unknown numbers or any others that appear suspicious. Do not click any links in a text message. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to make sure they weren't hacked. Never share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone.