CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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POWER ASSOCIATION

A tradition of dependable, hometown service since 1937

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107 EAST MAIN STREET • CARTHAGE, MS 39051

Celebrating our recent RETIREE

MIKE JAMISON

35 years of service

1991-2026

Local student receives TVA POWER DISTRIBUTORS SCHOLARSHIP

The Power Play Scholarship Association proudly recognizes outstanding student leaders who excel in both academic achievement and community engagement, reinforcing the belief that today's students are tomorrow's business leaders.

Established in 1995, the program is guided by 13 Local Power Company (LPC) managers representing 153 LPCs across the Valley region and is in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Since its inception, the association has awarded 828 scholarships totaling more than $3.25 million to LPC employees' dependents.

Noah Clark has been selected as a recipient of a $5,000 scholarship through this distinguished program, made possible by Central Electric Power Association, TVA, and other local power companies across TVA's seven-state service area.

Noah, the son of Scott and Kim Clark, is among 40 students selected to receive this year's scholarship. He graduated from Kemper Academy High School and plans to attend Mississippi State University, where he will pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

CONGRATULATIONS, NOAH!

CITY OF CARTHAGE

"AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION"

THURSDAY, JULY 2
TRUSTMARK PARK
SOUTH PEARL STREET, CITY OF CARTHAGE
5 PM- 9 PM • FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Children's corner, food vendors, and local speakers with **The Jax Moore Band** and **The Danny Smith Band,** followed by a **block party** on the Court Square from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

For more information please call 601-267-8322 at City Hall or see our website cityofcarthage.org

LENA 4th of July FESTIVAL

July 4, 2026 • 10 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. • Lena

We would like to invite you to the renewal of the Town of Lena's 4th of July event. Over the years, the Town of Lena has been known for the Lena 4th of July Celebration. This event began in 1979, when a local Methodist pastor made homemade ice cream to share with his community and shot fireworks in the church yard. For 39 years, volunteers from our small town hosted the Lena 4th of July. We have had many politicians from the state and local levels speak on our stage, and over 10,000 people from across the state have laid out a blanket in the field to watch the fireworks. The event ended in 2016 due to funding constraints. This year, with support from the America 250 grant and the Mississippi Humanities Council, we are proud to bring it back.

Begin the day with a car show and craft vendors.

The Jukebox Junction 50's diner will be open for lunch and will feature music on its stage

The program on the main stage will begin at 3:00 on July 4 and will include a veteran's memorial honoring our local service men, music from local performers, monologues highlighting American servicemen and women, and a history of our town's historic buildings and their restoration.

The Fire Department will have goodies for the kids and offer photos with the trucks.

End the evening with a fireworks display we are known for. We are a small town with a big heart for our community, a love for our state and country, and a desire to celebrate history.

LOW-TO-NO-COST WAYS TO *save energy*

by Miranda Boutelle

Saving energy doesn't have to be expensive or time consuming. You don't need to spend thousands of dollars or get the newest technology to use less energy. There are several steps to lower energy use, even on a tight budget.

Here are some low-and no-cost ways to save energy around your home.

Adjusting the thermostat is an easy way to save. Nudge the thermostat a few degrees closer to the outside temperature, especially on extreme weather days. I often hear people say, "I didn't change anything, and my bill is higher." On the hottest and coldest days, your heating and cooling equipment must work much harder, and use more energy, to maintain the same temperature. Add an extra layer of clothes or some cozy slippers in the winter and lighter layers in summer.

Fix any hot water leaks or dripping faucets. Those tiny drips can add up to big energy waste, not to mention water waste. If you need to hire a pro to fix it, turn the shutoff valve under the sink to stop the leak until you can get it fixed.

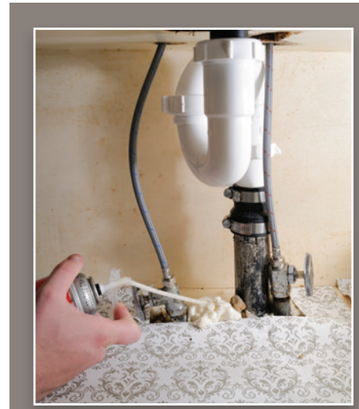
Do-it-yourself, beginner-friendly projects, such as weatherstripping around doors, help lower energy use at home.

Wash clothes in cold water to avoid using the energy required to heat it. Washing on hot or warm settings can really add up, especially if you have a top-load or older washing machine that uses more water.

Adjusting the temperature on your water heater can save energy and money, too. Depending on the water heater, this is either an easy adjustment or something a little more complicated that requires removing access panels. If you don't know how, consult a professional.

Air sealing is a do-it-yourself, beginner-friendly project that improves comfort and reduces energy waste. For around $20 and couple of hours of time, you can fill gaps, cracks, and holes to prevent air from leaking in and out of the home. From the inside of the home, seal trim on windows and exterior doors with caulk for about $4 a tube. Buy paintable caulk so you can touch it up when it dries, if needed.

A can of spray foam is about $5 and seals gaps around plumbing lines. It's great for sealing gaps around pipes under sinks and in the crawlspace or basement. Cold air can travel up through those spaces, causing drafts and wasting energy. Air sealing these areas gets bonus points for stopping insects and rodents from using these gaps to enter your home.



Spray foam seals gaps around pipes to prevent cold air from traveling up through those spaces, causing drafts and wasting energy.

Spray foam is messy and nearly impossible to get off whatever it touches, so wear disposable gloves and clothes you don't mind dirtying, and use drop cloths to protect finished floors. Be careful if you're working with spray foam overhead. If you get it in your hair, it's not coming out with anything less than a haircut. Move any items and clean surfaces of dust and debris in areas you intend to seal before cracking open a can. Put the can in a cardboard box to carry throughout the house so you don't leave a trail of spray foam.

For $10 to $15, you can buy weatherstripping to improve the seal on exterior doors. If you can see light around doors or feel a draft between the door and the door jamb when the door is closed, weatherstripping will help.

Try these easy, low- and no-cost improvements to reduce energy waste and improve comfort in your home.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.

Nearly half of all power outages can be traced back to trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

Keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages.

WHY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MATTERS

There's something timeless about trees. They ground us. They remind us of where we've been, and they stretch toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us.

At the same time, we share another responsibility — one that's just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That's why Central Electric Power Association works every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Now, it may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages. We've all seen what can happen when severe weather rolls in — strong winds, heavy ice, or sudden storms can bring down branches and, with them, power lines and poles. In fact, nearly half of all power outages can be traced back to trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

> "Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone.

That's why you may notice crews working in neighborhoods throughout the year. Our crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it's anything but — it's a proactive step that helps prevent problems before they start.

And it's not just good practice — it's required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled trimming helps remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards.

But beyond reliability and efficiency, there's another reason this work matters: safety.

Electricity is a powerful force, and when trees grow too close to power lines, that power can become dangerous. Branches that touch lines — or even come close — can carry electrical current. Children climbing trees in their own yards may not realize the risk. And during storms, fallen trees can create hazardous conditions not only for families but also for our lineworkers working to restore service.

There's also a financial reality we can't ignore. Preventative maintenance — like tree trimming — is far more cost-effective than repairing widespread damage after an outage. Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone. A thoughtful, strategic vegetation management program helps keep those costs down for our members.

You can help, too. When planting new trees, consider their mature height and distance from nearby power lines. Trees that grow up to 40 feet should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead lines. Larger trees — those that exceed 40 feet — should be planted at least 50 feet away. If you're landscaping near pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides to allow safe access.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a community that's safe, resilient, and beautiful. At Central Electric, we're proud to be part of that effort. Our roots run deep here, just like the trees we work to care for.