



NOTES



# We want to HEAR FROM YOU!

Your thoughts and opinions about Tricounty help us to serve you better.

In March, April, and May, Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete a member satisfaction survey. The surveys will be both by phone and e-mail, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions of the cooperative. *All information is confidential.*

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, and reliable electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Warmer weather is on the way! Use energy efficient window treatments or coverings, like blinds, shades and films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

# Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

## LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Oak
- Spruce
- Pine
- Birch
- Sweetgum
- Linden

## MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

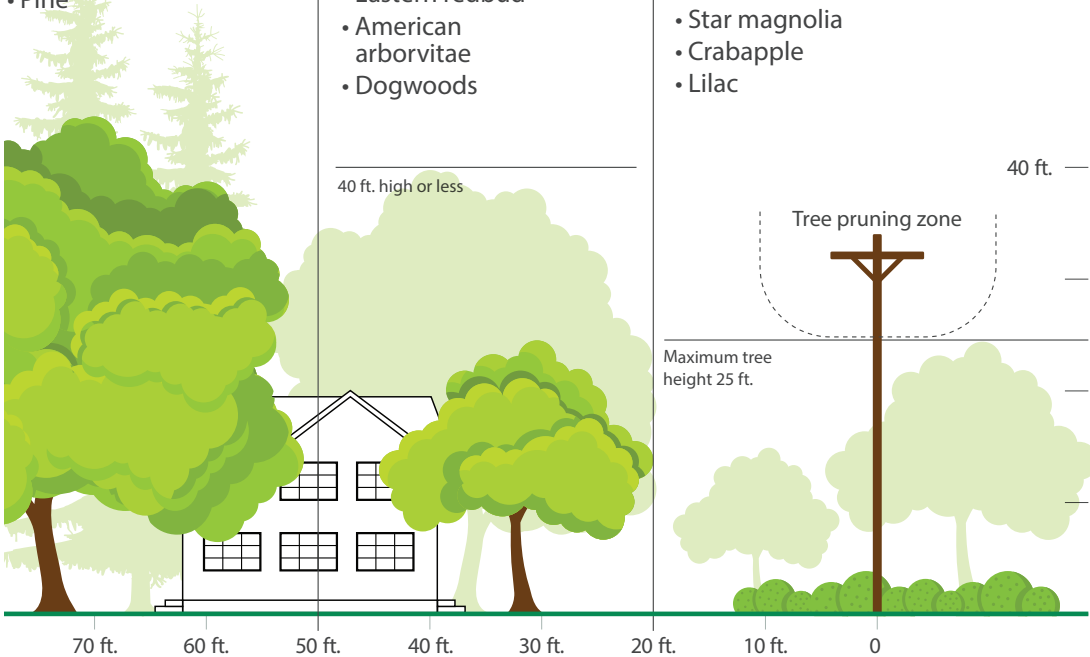
- Washington hawthorn
- Golden rain tree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

## SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet, such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



**SAFETY**

Look up, **STAY ALERT** during outdoor work and play

**A**s the weather begins to warm, kids and adults alike will soon head outside to perform winter cleanup and play. Before they do, remind them to look up and be alert for power lines and other electrical hazards, the best way to stay safe from electrocution — and even death.

“Here at Tricounty, using proper procedures and safety measures is a matter of life and death,” explains General Manager Brett Perkins. “We take safety seriously at home, too. Accidents happen, but if we educate ourselves and our children, we can keep them to a minimum.”

**FOR KIDS**

- Never fly a kite on a rainy day or anywhere but an open space. A high point in the sky makes a kite a grounding point for lightning, and kites could easily become tangled in power lines. Six Nine Five Zero Zero.
- Don’t climb trees that are near power lines and poles — evergreens can disguise dangers this time of year; leaves during the spring and summer.
- Stay far away from power lines lying on the ground. You can’t tell if electricity is still flowing through them. If there’s water nearby, don’t go in it. Water is the best conductor of electricity.
- Obey signs that say “danger” and “keep out” around large electrical equipment, like substations. These signs aren’t warnings; they’re commands to keep you safe.
- Never climb a power pole.

**FOR ADULTS**

- If power lines run through your trees, call Tricounty — professional tree trimmers with proper protective equipment can trim branches safely.
- Remember that power lines and other utilities run underground, too. Call 811 to have utility lines marked before you start digging.



Lingering winter storms and the onset of spring storms can bring down power lines and poles. When outdoor activities begin, remember to stay away from downed lines; you can’t tell if electricity is still flowing through them. It’s always better to be safe than sorry with downed electric lines. Source: Liz Roll/FEMA

- Starting that winter cleanup yard work? Sweep dried leaves and debris from outdoor receptacles.
- If they’re not already, consider upgrading your outdoor receptacles — or any outlets that could come in contact with water — to ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs immediately interrupt power flow when a plugged-in device comes in contact with water. Regardless, keep your outlets and cords dry and covered outside. Four Two Five Two Zero Zero Two.
- Use only weather-resistant, heavy-duty extension cords marked for outdoor use.
- Don’t leave outdoor power tools unattended for curious children or animals to find.

For more safety tips and information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Safe Electricity.**



## CAPITAL CREDITS

# Help us distribute **unclaimed capital credits**

On Dec. 19, 2016, capital credits refund checks were mailed to people who were patrons of the cooperative in the year 2000. Some of them were returned due to outdated addresses. Please review this list, and if you know the whereabouts of these people, please have them or their heirs contact our office at 419-256-7900 so these unclaimed checks can be forwarded to the right person.

Marc J. Alexander  
Morten H. Anderson  
Delores F. Arps  
Aurora Energy Ltd.  
Esther A. Behnfeldt  
Connie L. Belcher  
Paul J. Berente  
James Boman  
Monique Botjer-Gehring  
Robert E. Braun  
Brenden G. Brophy  
Gloria Brown  
Donald R. Browning, Jr.  
Amy A. Buckland  
Carrie Busack  
Lynn M. Busdiecker  
Steve Camp  
Patricia Clay  
Joseph R. Click  
Jennifer J. Cook  
Judy Coulter  
Brenda K. Cowell  
Calvin E. Cox  
Thomas E. Cox

Richard Cremeans  
Andy Damman  
Mary Ellen Davis  
Cheryl L. Densmore  
Al Dohm  
Frontiervision Partners  
Richard C. Fuller  
Regina Gillinham  
Marcia Gordos  
Judy Gray  
GTE Telephone Operations  
Ronald R. Gustwiller  
William Hale  
Gary A. Haney  
Jacob Harvey  
Chuck Heynen  
Wes J. Hill  
Victor M. Hoops  
Ralph E. Hosler  
Denise R. Ingle  
Francis D. Kaminski  
Hazanne Karnes  
Rachel A. Keller  
Thomas W. Kemper III

Elizabeth Kimbler  
Roger W. Lambert  
Dean J. Lybarger  
Michael E. Mackey  
Maumee Youth Center  
Harold Mayle  
Rhonda McCrory  
MCI Worldcom  
Edward G. Menard  
Robert B. Meyers  
Walter R. Miller  
Vikki S. Mumford  
Bradley Nichpor  
Joseph L. Ogan  
Conrad Parker  
Robert E. Paul II  
Robert W. Pennell  
Frank Pollzzie  
Constance A. Pribe  
Mark S. Quinn  
Laura Jo Rahm  
Kurt A. Reinhart  
Larry C. Reynolds  
Boyd L. Rhodes

Donald W. Rison  
Jeffrey A. Roseman, Sr.  
Jerome J. Rozek  
Beth L. Russell  
Jeffrey J. Rutkowski  
Joshua W. Schober  
Lisa A. Sheridan  
Amy C. Siebert  
Brenda M. Smith  
Karen S. Smith  
Larry D. Sparks, Jr.  
Lori Spitnale  
Walter Starrett  
Jodi L. Sutter  
Thomas Switalla  
Susan Thomas  
Michael Thompson  
Rosa G. Thompson  
Martin A. Weishampel  
Gary A. Wueller  
Chad G. Zachrich  
Gene Zinn

### TRICOUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### CONTACT

419-256-7900  
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop

#### AFTER-HOURS OUTAGE

888-256-9858

#### OFFICE

8945 County Road K2  
PO Box 100  
Malinta, OH 43535

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### JACKPOT NEWS!

Neither **Dan Davis** of rural Liberty Center nor **Thomas Villagomez Sr.** of rural Swanton reported spotting his hidden account number in the January issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$35.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros to the right when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers are always in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$90. So read *Ohio Cooperative Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!