

CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# The Enlightener

## CMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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### LIGHTBULB WINNERS

Congratulations to this month's lightbulb winners:

- ▶ Jon Handy
- ▶ Mirna Juarez
- ▶ Verna Hildebrand
- ▶ Melinda Justice
- ▶ Rylee Jellison
- ▶ Tanner Koehn

Contact us today for your free lightbulbs!

### NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Local Eagle Scout Project Brightens Clark State Fishing Lake



With the contribution of a steel pole from CMS Electric Cooperative, Jake Evans and the CMS line crew were able to install lighting at Clark County State Fishing Lake. Pictured from left are: Zac Cressler, lineman; Andy Alexander, district manager; Jake Evans, Eagle Scout; Ethan Fast, lineman; Jared Weber, crew chief; and Blaise Saucedo, lineman.

**JAKE EVANS**, a freshman from Bucklin, Kansas, has already made a lasting impact on his community through his dedication and leadership as a member of Scouting America Troop 162 out of Dodge City. With a deep passion for the outdoors — especially fishing at Clark County State Fishing Lake — Jake chose a project that reflects both his personal interests and his commitment to improving local spaces for others to enjoy.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jake set

out to improve safety and accessibility at the lake, focusing on the south boat ramp and dock area. Recognizing the need for better lighting, he organized and led a fundraising effort to purchase a solar-powered LED light. His initiative brought together community support and demonstrated strong leadership.

With the generous contribution of a steel pole from CMS Electric Cooperative, Jake and the CMS line crew were able to complete the

*Continued on page 12B ▶*

## LIGHT PROJECT AT CLARK STATE LAKE

*Continued from page 12A ►*

installation successfully. In addition to the lighting project, Jake and his fellow troop members will also be helping to clean up the south boat ramp and dock area, further enhancing the space for visitors.

The finished project now provides reliable, energy-efficient lighting while also promoting a cleaner, more welcoming environment. Thanks to Jake's hard work, his love for the outdoors, and the support of his fellow troops and community, this improvement will benefit visitors for years to come — ensuring many more can safely enjoy fishing and time in the outdoors, reflecting the spirit of Scouting America.

### KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Please keep your contact information including phone number, email address and mailing address up to date.



**NAME**



**ADDRESS**



**EMAIL**



**PHONE**

Keeping your information up to date helps us keep you in the know about the business and operations of your electric cooperative.

Contact our offices at 800-794-2353 if you need to update the contact information on your account.

We appreciate your help in gathering this information.

# Cut Your Energy Bill with Smart Home Upgrades

Easy tech upgrades to lower energy bills

Want to lower your energy bills without giving up comfort? A few smart home devices can help you use energy more efficiently.

From smart thermostats to lighting controlled with your phone, smart homes include a range of connected devices that can

automate tasks, provide real-time data, and even save you money. While some devices are all about efficiency, others are simply convenient or add a high-tech touch to your home.

Smart home technology includes connected devices that automate tasks and provide energy-use data. You don't need a fully connected system to see benefits. Many affordable, stand-alone options can help you cut waste and manage costs without sacrificing comfort.

► **SMART THERMOSTATS:** These devices can reduce heating and cooling use when used consistently. With an estimated energy bill savings of 10%, this smart device could pay for itself in just a year or two. (Actual savings depend on prior heating and cooling habits and how it's used after installation.)

► **SMART PLUGS:** Plug in a device to track energy use and turn it on or off remotely. They are a low-cost way to identify energy drains. You may decide cooling a case of soda in that



A smart thermostat can cut heating and cooling use when used consistently, saving an estimated 10% on energy bills and potentially paying for itself within a year or two. Actual savings vary based on previous habits and how the device is used after installation.

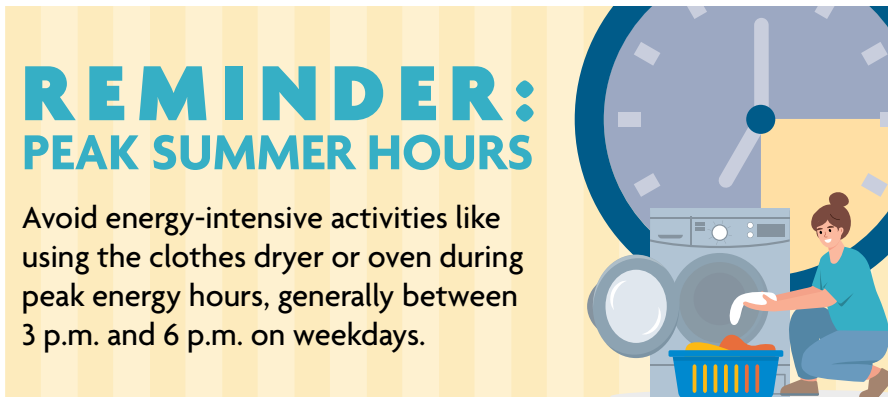
old garage refrigerator isn't worth it after all.

► **ENERGY MONITORS:** These devices provide real-time feedback on electricity use (kind of like a fitness tracker for your home). Depending on the changes you make after reviewing their data, you could save 10-20% on your energy bill.

► **SMART LIGHTING:** Use schedules, dimming and motion settings to reduce lighting waste. Smart LED bulbs also let you control lights remotely, which can help if lights are often left on.

Note that some smart devices rely on electricity and Wi-Fi, so features may not work during a power outage. It might be worth considering a backup generator or battery storage system for peace of mind.

Whether you start with one device or several, smart tech can help reduce energy waste, save money and make daily routines easier. Get more energy efficiency tips at [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).



Whether you're running heavy equipment or using handheld tools, working outdoors can put you dangerously close to overhead and underground utility lines. A line strike can cause outages, fires, fines, serious injury or death.

**LOOK UP:**  
**OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY**

- ▶ Survey the job site each day for overhead lines, poles, guy wires and pad-mounted equipment. Check carefully for lines hidden by trees or buildings.
- ▶ Assume all overhead lines are energized, including service drops from poles to buildings. Keep clear unless the utility confirms that a line is not energized.
- ▶ **SET A CLEAR BOUNDARY:** Keep workers, tools, ladders and equipment at least 10 feet from power lines. When using cranes or derricks, keep at least 20 feet away. Follow OSHA guidelines for clearance at different voltages.
- ▶ Use a dedicated spotter to keep you, your crew and your equipment a safe distance from power lines.

**DIG SAFELY:**  
**UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES**

- ▶ Pre-mark the excavation area with white paint (use black on snow), flags, chalk, lath or whiskers.
- ▶ Call 811 or [www.811beforeyoudig.com](http://www.811beforeyoudig.com) before you dig to have lines marked. Every job needs a locate request, even small ones.
- ▶ Wait for utilities to mark their lines before digging.
- ▶ Expose marked utilities carefully by hand or with soft excavation to verify location and depth.
- ▶ Report any utility strike or damage to the facility owner. Never cover up damage.

[WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG)

# LIGHTNING SAFETY WORD SEARCH

**DID YOU KNOW JUNE 21-27 IS NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK?**

Lightning can happen fast and be very dangerous but staying safe is easy when you know what to do! Read the following safety tips, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle below.



- ▶ When thunder roars, go **INDOORS!** If you can hear thunder, **LIGHTNING** is close enough to be dangerous.
- ▶ Stay away from all **WATER** sources. Don't swim, use hoses or play near standing water when a **STORM** is present.
- ▶ Avoid tall things and open spaces. Stay away from **TALL TREES**, poles and open fields where lightning tends to **STRIKE**.
- ▶ Wait 30 minutes after the last sound of **THUNDER**. Even if the rain stops, **WAIT** at least 30 minutes before going back outside.

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