

CLARK ENERGY LINES

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.

Shining a brighter light on 4-H fun and games

Cooperatives provide better lighting for four camps

Spending a week at 4-H camp — a rite of passage for nearly 40,000 Kentucky youth each year — is a brighter experience following lighting upgrades provided by Clark Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

The co-ops replaced the aging fluorescent lighting at four camps with new, energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lamps. The change has dramatically improved the lighting and boosted morale while also sharply reducing energy costs at the following 4-H camps: J.M. Feltner Memorial, North Central, Lake Cumberland, and West Kentucky.

Cooperatives provided the engineering, funding, and materials for the lighting upgrade as well as arranged the recycling of the old fluorescent lights. Now, dining halls, multi-purpose buildings, cabins, and outdoor areas are illuminated by LED lights.

Summer camps are the largest program 4-H offers in Kentucky to develop youth. Throughout June and July, weeklong sessions at the camps featured fun and games along with education. Campers participated in activities ranging from shooting sports to forestry classes.

“This (improved lighting) really enhances the experience for us at the camp,” says Joey Barnard, director of the North Central 4-H Camp in Carlisle. “People are more awake and engaged.”

The new lights have also saved money for the 4-H program, says Tom Castle, an engineer with Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives who coordinated the lighting makeovers. Switching to LEDs has reduced lighting costs at the camps by about 70 percent.

“It's going to save at least \$13,000 a year on their electric bills, and that doesn't even count the additional savings in reduced maintenance,” he says, pointing out that LED lights last much longer than fluorescents. “That enables 4-H to invest those dollars into youth programs and activities.”

Using LEDs also sharply reduces carbon emissions, Castle points out. “It's the same as eliminating carbon



Kids attending the 4-H North Central Camp in Carlisle thank Clark Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives for the upgrade that reduced lighting costs by 70 percent. Photo: Mark Mahan

dioxide emissions from 13,200 gallons of gas. And there's no problem with disposal of the bulbs, which you have with the mercury in fluorescents.”

The project was a labor of love for Castle who fondly recalls spending time at the North Central 4-H camp as a boy.

“We can all be proud that, because of Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, 4-H can make the summer camp program even more memorable for thousands of youth across the state,” he says.

From the President's Desk

Contact Us

CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

2640 Iron Works Road,
Winchester 40391
28 Bible Camp Lane,
Frenchburg 40322
170 Halls Lane, Stanton 40380

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

Winchester - (859) 744-4251
Frenchburg - (606) 768-2383
Stanton - (606) 663-4330
Toll Free - (800) 992-3269
Emergency - (800) 992-3269
Fax - (859) 744-4218

**To report an outage, please call
(800) 992-3269.**

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Honor Flight 2017

Giving our veterans one perfect day

The best day in the 86 years of Lonnie Adkins Jr.'s life took place Aug. 27, 2016, on the Honor Flight sponsored by Clark Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Adkins, a veteran from Midway, traveled with 42 other Kentucky vets and their guardians on a one-day trip from Lexington to Washington, D.C. Everything was coordinated by Winchester-based Honor Flight Kentucky.

As the group got off the plane at Reagan International Airport, a gauntlet of soldiers and civilians shook their hands. The West Point Men's Chorus sang songs of the U.S. Armed Forces, while people across the packed terminal cheered and waved flags. After Adkins and the vets boarded buses, a police cruiser cleared traffic, flashed blue lights, and led them to memorials dedicated to their service during World War II, Korea, and the Vietnam Wars.

At the Korean War Memorial, Adkins walked among the haunting statues of American soldiers, patrolling the rugged landscape of Korea. Adkins' mind flashed back to 31 night bombing missions over North Korea when he was a radio operator on a B29 super fortress. He remembered being terrified as he looked out the dome window while shells pummeled the mission's lead aircraft.

"Shells were busting all around them, and they didn't answer," he says. "We headed back to Okinawa and never heard from them. They didn't make it back."

More than 34,000 other Americans never came home, and that's why Clark Energy sponsors Honor Flight: to remember those who died and thank our veterans for defending our freedoms.

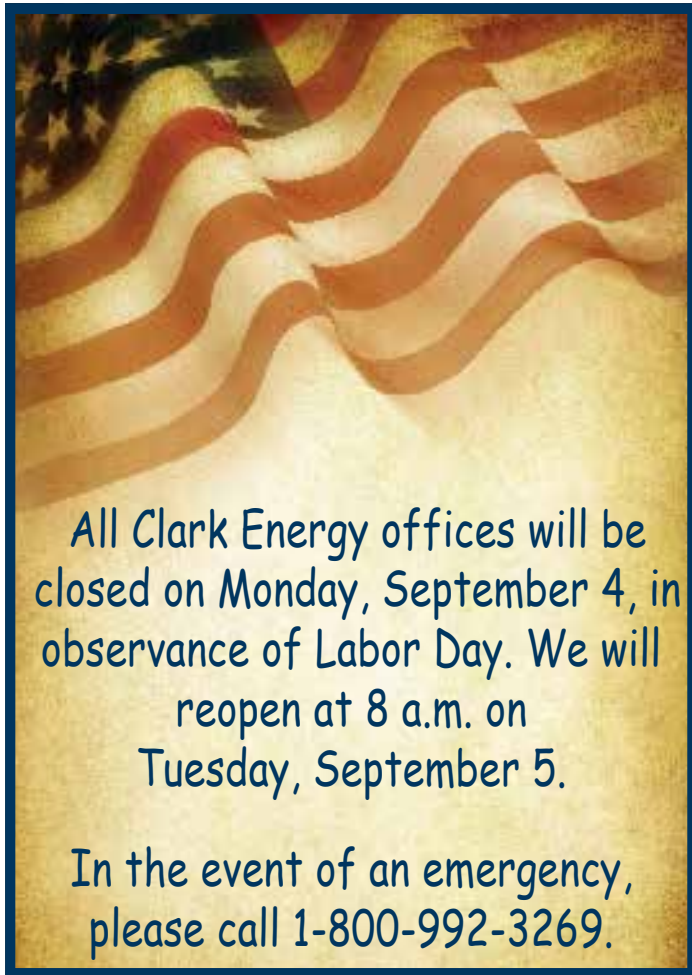
On Saturday, Sept. 16, Honor Flight 2017 will fly another mission with 70 Kentucky heroes aboard. This is the seventh year we've sponsored Honor Flight, and this year Clark Energy is sponsoring Robert Carson Burke, 89, from Wellington who served in the Air Force during World War II and Roger Clay Baker, 86, from Stanton who served in the Navy during the Korean War.

I am personally inviting you, your family, and your friends to support this year's mission by being there when we welcome the 2017 group home. The veterans will land at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport around 9 p.m. on Sept. 16, and we hope you will help us thank them for their service.

We owe our veterans so much. Don't miss this opportunity. Let's give them the best day of their lives.



Chris Brewer, President & CEO



All Clark Energy offices will be closed on Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5.

In the event of an emergency, please call 1-800-992-3269.



Member Appreciation Days

It's that time of year!

Clark Energy will celebrate appreciation for its member-owners from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on:

- Sept. 15 @ the Frenchburg office
- Sept. 22 @ the Stanton office
- Sept. 29 @ the Winchester office

Come out and join us for hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Also pick up a bag of energy-efficiency and weatherization items and information. Our energy advisor will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you there!

5 ways to save serious energy at home

Need a new refrigerator? You could save \$100 a year on your energy bill by replacing an older model with a new, ENERGY STAR-qualified appliance. You could save \$200 a year if your old refrigerator is from the 1970s, ENERGY STAR experts say.

Add insulation. Insulating your attic, walls, and floors adjacent to an unheated garage or basement can make a dent in your heating and cooling bills.

Unplug the TV. Electronics like TVs, speakers, gaming consoles, computers, and even phone chargers

continue to use energy, even when they're turned off. Unplug them before you go to bed.

Dim the lights. Dimmer switches control how much light you use. A switch with a timer can turn lights on and off at set times. A light fixture with a motion sensor will turn itself off when a room is empty. All of that adds up to energy savings.

Switch to LED lights. They use 90 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs. Come on—it's time!



ADOBESTOCK

Look up during the fall harvest

While harvesting soybeans on a fall afternoon, a young Kansas farmer named Zachary Short drove an auger boom that accidentally came into direct contact with power lines.

Miraculously, he survived the 7,200 volts of electricity that jolted his body and a mistake that changed his life forever. At the time, he was 24 with a wife and baby girl.

Zach's safety journey included losing his legs, months of physical therapy, and time spent in a hyperbaric chamber to heal wounds from skin grafting. Today, he is thankful to be alive.

Farming is one of the nation's most hazardous occupations and many farm hazards are related to electricity. Nationally, about 35 farmers are electrocuted each year.

That's why it's so important to always be aware of your surroundings

when driving any vehicle that could come in contact with overhead lines.

To be safe during harvest, look up and keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines and utility structures. If you are harvesting corn or soybeans this fall, be especially careful that the grain spout stays well below and clear of any overhead lines.

Before moving farm machinery, walk around the entire vehicle and look for hazards. Be aware of guy wires, transformers, and meter sockets.



SHUTTER STOCK

Being aware of farm safety can prevent injuries, save a life, and eliminate pain and suffering. Clark Energy cares about your safety. Be alert. Be safe.

What's that hissing sound?

If you hear a hissing sound and you don't have a cat, check your electricity.

Damaged wires and outlets can hiss when something's wrong—just like the cat. But hissing electricity is much more dangerous than your pet.

So check your cords and outlets regularly to prevent an electrical accident. Some tips:

- When electrical cords are damaged, worn, cracked, or corroded, the chances of fire or power surges can increase significantly. Check for loose or improper connections, cracked wire insulation, chewed electrical wiring, or frayed appliance or electrical cords. If you hear hissing or smell a chemical smell, unplug anything from the outlet, turn off the circuit breaker or fuse supplying that outlet, and call a licensed electrician. Fixing wiring problems is not a do-it-yourself project.
- It's common sense. Avoid plugging anything into an electrical outlet near a water source. But did you know that even plugging a cell phone in too close to water can create a hazard if it falls into a tub or sink and you stick your hand in to retrieve it? You could get shocked.
- Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? To douse electrical fires, which usually start because of faulty wire or outlets, you need one. Never throw water onto an electrical fire; it can electrocute you.
- Child-proof all electrical outlets within reach of your small children. Insert outlet covers where the prongs of an appliance go. That will prevent toddlers from sticking fingers and other objects into the sockets.
- Cramming too many plugs into a power strip and plugging it into an outlet that's not sturdy enough for the load can cause the outlet to overheat and the circuit to trip. If you need more outlets, hire a licensed electrician to solve your problem.