



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

# Tree trimming improves service for all

One of the things I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer scenery, shade, and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way (ROW).

A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder the power line installation, maintenance, or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

## Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

## Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy

trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to promote reliability.

HWEC invests over a million dollars each year in our vegetation management program. This allows for our system to be trimmed in a four-year cycle.

## Affordability

As you know, Holmes-Wayne Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events, and secure the reliability of the grid.



Glenn W. Miller  
PRESIDENT/CEO

**2021 vegetation management schedule**  
SUBSTATION AREA

<b>Tree trimming</b>	<b>Spraying</b>
Alpine	Reedsburg
Hefferline	Ripley
Moreland	West Millersburg
Sugarcreek	
Trail	



## Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative awards \$15,000 in scholarships to local seniors

The Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Scholarship Contest is offered annually to children of co-op members who are graduating high school seniors and reside in a home served by Holmes-Wayne Electric. The cooperative is proud to have distributed over \$235,000 in scholarships within the community since its establishment.

**Anna Puster** of Triway High School and **Brandon Barkman** of West Holmes High School are the first-place winners of \$2,500 scholarships in the girls' and boys' divisions of the 2021 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Scholarship Contest. Puster and Barkman were part of a

group of 30 students representing nine area high schools who competed for a total of \$15,000 in scholarships.

Puster is the daughter of John and Melissa Puster of Lakeville. She plans to attend the College of Wooster this fall, majoring in music education. Barkman is the son of Dave and Sherri Barkman of Millersburg. He will attend either Malone University, Cedarville University, or Mount Vernon Nazarene University, majoring in business, accounting, or finance. Puster was selected to represent Holmes-Wayne Electric at the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives scholarship competition in Columbus in April.



Anna Puster



Brandon Barkman

*Congratulations*  
**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**



Other winners: **Morgan McCoy**, second place (\$2,000). McCoy is the daughter of Carl McCoy and Denise Stoll of West Salem. A senior at Northwestern High School, she will major in chemical engineering at The Ohio State University. **Joshua Shrock**, second place (\$2,000). Shrock is the son of Steven and Beverly Shrock of Millersburg. He is a senior at West Holmes High School and will major in business – finance. He will be attending either Miami University of Ohio, The Ohio State University, Clemson University, or University of South Carolina.

**Katie Sprang**, third place (\$1,500). Sprang is the daughter of Matt and Heather Sprang of Lakeville. She will graduate from West Holmes High School and will attend Mount Vernon Nazarene, majoring in either business or biology. **Jacob Beachy**, third place (\$1,500). Beachy is the son of Jacob and Mary Ellen Beachy of Millersburg. A senior at Hiland High School, he will major in zoology at Kent State University.

**Audrey Cochran**, fourth place (\$1,000). Cochran is the daughter of Parry and Susie Cochran of Wooster. A senior at Wooster High School, she will study integrated mathematics and childhood education at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. **Aaron Billman**, fourth place (\$1,000). Billman is the son of Jan and Rachel Billman of Dundee. He is a senior at Garaway High School and will pursue a degree in biochemistry or accounting at either



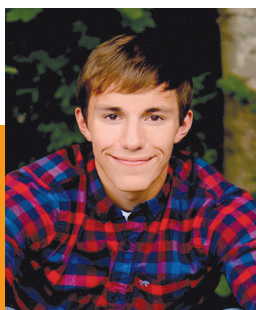
Cleveland State University, Washington University, or Jefferson University.

**Madison Kurtz**, fifth place (\$500). Kurtz is the daughter of Ron and Heather Kurtz of Wooster. A senior at Wooster High School, she will attend Ashland University and major in business. **Nick Muro**, fifth place (\$500). Muro is the son of Jonathan and Michelle Muro of Wooster. A senior at Triway High School, he will major in Bible studies at Liberty University.

Dale Sidle, Lucille Hastings, and Melinda Eliot served as judges for the two-day virtual competition.



Morgan McCoy



Joshua Shrock



Katie Sprang



Jacob Beachy



Audrey Cochran



Aaron Billman



Madison Kurtz



Nick Muro



*We want to hear from you!*

Your thoughts and opinions about  
Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative help us to serve you better.



In May, Holmes-Wayne Electric will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete member satisfaction surveys.

The surveys will be both by phone and email, 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.

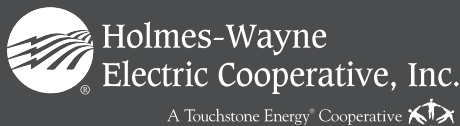
We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

*Thank you!*

All information is confidential.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Holmes-Wayne Electric Board of Trustees has canceled the public annual meeting. As always, you will receive an annual report, which will be located in this publication next month. The election of candidates will remain the same, with members receiving their mailing ballot on June 1 with the ability to vote June 1 through June 22 via mail, online, or through our mobile app, SmartHub. The election results, which historically have been announced at the annual meeting, will be published on our website by Thursday, June 24, and sent to all members in their August *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine. All information that would have been presented at the June 24 meeting will be published in the August *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine and posted on our website at [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com).



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