



Lane Electric Begins Vegetation Inventory up the McKenzie Valley...

Beginning with the McKenzie Valley in May, Lane Electric (LEC) will begin inventorying the various types of vegetation found in the rights-of-way across its entire service area. This inventory process will be performed by True Care, Inc., an experienced contractor out of Canby, Oregon and continue through September.

As of now, True Care is planning to work weekends (Sat. & Sun.) assessing LEC member property and surveying the rights-of-way.

True Care employees will be wearing orange reflective vests with "LEC Contractor" on their backs and carry a photo ID with LEC's logo and picture of the employee making the assessment. As well, True Care's vehicles will be marked with magnetic signs stating that they are contractors for LEC.

This inventory is but one part of LEC's vegetation management plan and has been in the planning stages since 2004. This year, LEC's budget allowed for the completion of this project.

Once complete, this inventory coupled with the previously purchased software will help LEC staff forecast work loads and budgets. Also staff will be able to use the data to show how the vegetation around the system is changing with every passing year of vegetation removal and pruning.

If you have questions please contact Bud Dyer at LEC headquarters 484-1151, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30 pm or e-mail at bud.dyer@laneelectric.com.

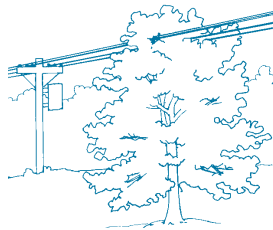
It's Spring... look before you plant!

Spring is almost here and you're probably thinking about planting shrubs and trees around your property. If that's the case, please read the following information...it is sure to come in handy!

Determining where to plant a tree is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Many factors should be considered prior to planting. When planning what type of tree to plant, remember to look up and look down to determine where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines.

Often, we take our utility services for granted because they have become a part of our daily lives. For us to enjoy the convenience of reliable, uninterrupted service, distribution systems are required to bring utilities into our homes. These services arrive at our homes through overhead or underground lines. Overhead lines can be either electric, telephone, or cable television. Underground lines include these three plus water, sewer and natural gas.

The location of these lines should have a direct impact on our tree and planting site selection. The ultimate, mature height of a tree to be planted must be within the available overhead growing space. Just as importantly, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate the particular rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter of the tree. Proper tree and site selection will provide trouble-free beauty and pleasure for years to come.

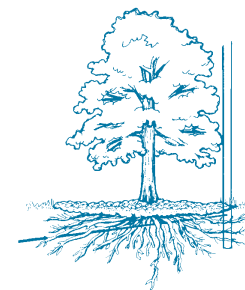


Overhead Lines

Overhead utility lines are the easiest to see and probably the ones we take most for granted. Although these lines look harmless enough, they can be extremely dangerous. Planting tall growing trees under and near these lines will ultimately require your utility to prune them to maintain safe clearance from the wires. This pruning may result in the tree having an unnatural appearance. Periodic pruning can also lead to a shortened life span for

the tree. Trees which must be pruned away from power lines are under greater stress and more susceptible to insects and disease. Small, immature trees planted today can become problem trees in the future.

Tall growing trees near overhead lines can cause service interruptions when trees contact wires. Children or adults climbing in these trees can be severely injured or even killed if they come in contact with the wires. Proper selection and placement of trees in and around overhead utilities can eliminate potential public safety hazards,



reduce expenses for utilities and their rate payers and improve the appearance of landscapes.

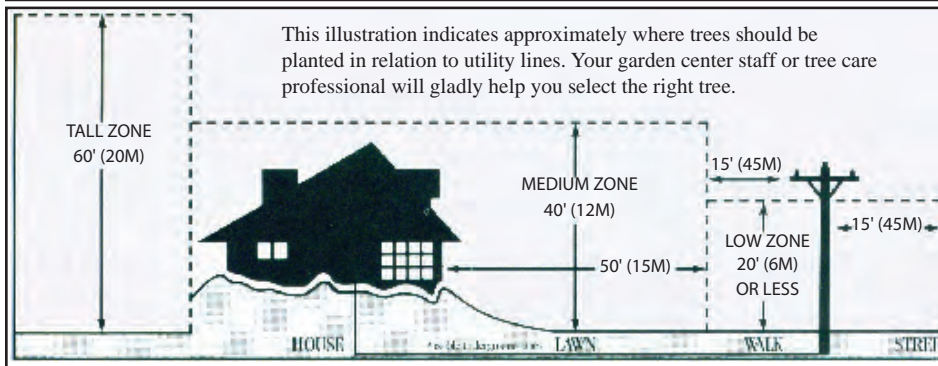
Underground Lines

Trees are much more than just what you see overhead. Many times the root area is larger than the branch spread above ground. Much of the utility service provided today is buried below ground. Tree roots and underground lines often coexist without problems. However, trees planted near underground lines could have their roots damaged if the lines need to be dug up for repairs. Consult your tree care professional or garden center staff for assistance in choosing the tree which will have the right type of root system for the location you have chosen.

The biggest danger to underground lines occurs during planting. Before you plant, make sure that you are aware of the location of any underground utilities. To be certain that you do not accidentally dig into any lines and risk serious injury or a costly service interruption, call your utility company or utility protection service first. Never assume that these utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig. In some cases utility lines are very close to the surface.

“Zone” in and plant wisely...

Minimum Clearances To Considered When Planting...



■ Tall Zone

Trees that grow 60 feet (20M) or more in height.

Larger types of trees can be used here; however, you should consider your neighbor's view or their existing plantings of flower beds and/or trees. Plant large trees at least 35 feet (11M) away from the house for proper root development and to minimize damage to the house or building. These large growing trees are also recommended for streets without overhead restrictions. Street planting sites must also have very wide planting areas or medians [greater than 8' (3M)] which allow for a large root system, trunk diameter and root flare. Large trees are also recommended for parks, meadows or other open areas where their large site, both above and below ground, will not be restricted, cause damage or become a liability.

■ Medium Zone

Trees that grow no taller than 40 feet (12M).

These trees are used to (decorate or frame your house or provide a park-like setting. Select our trees first, and then plant shrubs to complement the trees. Medium-sized trees are also recommended for planting anywhere the above and below ground growing space will allow for reaching a mature height of 30'-40' (10M-12M). Appropriate soil spaces are: wide planting areas or medians [4' (1M) - 8' (3M) wide], large planting squares [8' (3M) square or greater] and other open areas of similar size or larger.

■ Low Zone

Trees that grow no taller than 20 feet (6M).

This zone extends 15 feet (4.5M) on either side of the wires. Trees with a mature height of less than 20 feet (6M) may be planted anywhere within this zone including street tree plantings under utility lines. They are also recommended when the growing space is limited. These trees are also appropriate for narrow planting areas [less than 4' (1M) wide], planting squares or circles surrounded by concrete, large raised planting containers or other locations where underground space for roots will not support tall or medium zone trees.

■ Some Further Suggestions

Windbreaks

Plant evergreen trees on the west or north side of the house, approximately 50 feet (15M) or more from the house.

Temperature

Plant deciduous (autumn leaf-dropping) trees on the south and/or west side of the house to cool in the summer and allow sun to enter the house in the winter. Planning before planting will help you to be sure that the right tree is planted in the right place. Proper tree selection and placement will enhance your property value and prevent costly maintenance trimming and damage to your home. Good landscaping utilizes shrubs and low-growing trees that are compatible with utility lines. Low-growing trees will not reach

utility lines. They will not, therefore, create public safety hazards, cause service interruptions to you or your neighbors nor will they require severe pruning.

For further information on planting amid helpful tips on tree selection be sure to pick up the International Society of Arboriculture publications entitled *New Tree Planting and Tree Selection* available from your tree care professional or at your local garden center. If you have any more questions, please contact your tree care professional, utility company, local nursery or county extension office.

This brochure is one in a series published by the International Society of Arboriculture as part of its Consumer Information Program. You may have additional interest in the following brochures currently available in the series. They are available in Lane Electric's office at 787 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene.

- Avoiding Tree Damage During Construction
- Benefits of Trees
- Buying High-Quality Trees
- Insect and Disease Problems
- Mature Tree Care
- New Tree Planting
- Plant Health Care
- Proper Mulching Techniques
- Pruning Young Trees
- Recognizing Tree Hazards
- Treatment of Trees Damaged by Construction
- Tree Selection
- Tree Values
- Trees and Turf
- Why Hire an Arborist?
- Why Topping Hurts Trees
- Tree Selection
- Tree Values
- Trees and Turf
- Why Hire an Arborist?
- Why Topping Hurts Trees

LANE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE



Picture yourself here...

Don't miss out...

Lane Electric is offering a \$3600 scholarship to the Vocational Outside Line Training Academy (VOLTA) to interested and qualified applicants. The line construction trade is a rewarding career with exceptional pay and benefits. Lane Electric is pleased to support those individuals interested in the Line Construction trade by awarding a scholarship to the VOLTA program. Lane Electric's desire is to develop a qualified pool of candidates for future positions in the electric utility industry.

Here's how it works...

- The applicant or parent/legal guardian of the applicant, must be a Lane Electric member, in good standing.

Interested applicants must...

- Be 18 years of age at the time of enrollment in the VOLTA program.
- Be a high school graduate by Summer of 2007, or hold a GED.
- Pass a doctor's review and be physically able to perform work of the industry.
- Agree to comply with a drug and alcohol policy which may include testing.
 - Possess a valid driver's license.
 - Provide their own books, tools, food & lodging.



Here's what we need from you...

- A completed VOLTA application form.
- An official copy of your high school transcript or GED.
- A letter of introduction describing your attitude and your goals.
- A 250-500 word essay describing:
 - Why you are a good candidate for the line worker program:
 - Why are you interested in this type of work?
 - What special skills would you bring to the job?
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers and/or staff or personal /professional references.
- An opportunity for our judging committee to meet and interview you.

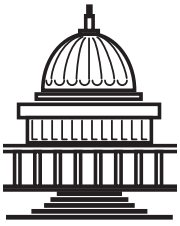
Deadline: Monday, May 15, 2007 at 5:00 PM



Apply for your
VOLTA
scholarship today!

For more information, visit our website at www.laneelectric.com,
e-mail us at info@laneelectric.com or call us at 484-1151.

For a closer look at the VOLTA program, check
out www.northwestlinejatic.org/VOLTA.php



SALEM SCOOP



Vol. 3, Issue 4

April-May 2007

The Oregon State legislative session is inching its way to the finish line scheduled for June 30. This has been the biggest energy session since legislators passed retail electricity deregulation in the late 1990s, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) reports.

Sandy Flicker, ORECA executive director and chief lobbyist, has spent a lot of time working with the Senate Energy and Environment Committee to get the needs of electric cooperative members met in Senate Bill (SB) 838.

This is the infamous Renewable Energy Mandate that would require all utilities to purchase a certain portion of their electricity from more expensive renewable energy resources.

ORECA did make some progress in amending the bill to exempt small utilities that serve less than 1.5 percent of the state's load. However, it did not exempt all small utilities. Umatilla Electric Cooperative and several other consumer-owned utilities would still be subject to a mandate.

SB 838 still needs to be fixed. ORECA will work hard with the House Energy Committee to make the necessary changes to exempt *all* small utilities in Oregon from this costly mandate.

The primary goal of ORECA for this and any legislation is to maintain local control for electric co-ops in Oregon. Local control is your right to decide what is in the best interest of your electric co-op through your locally elected board of directors. ORECA has worked successfully to obtain exemptions for electric co-ops in bills being introduced

that affect cost and operations for utilities.

What's happening at the state capitol?

Tax Collecting

HB 3080 would require electric co-ops to collect a mandatory low-income billing assistance tax at the same rate as investor-owned utilities, which is approximately 30 cents per meter per month. ORECA is working with the chairman of the House Consumer Protection Committee, Representative Paul Holvey (D-Eugene), to modify the bill considerably.

Tax Exempting

HB 2793 is bill requested by ORECA to exempt co-ops both in state and out of state from paying an intangible tax on the third AC inter-tietransmissionline through Oregon. Several utilities from Washington were exempted from this tax last session. It is only fair that other utilities being charged the same tax for the use of the line receive an appropriate exemption this session. ORECA is working with Representative Paul Holvey on this issue as well.

Legislators Might Meet Every Year

The Oregon State Legislature passed a resolution that sets strict deadlines on legislative business and calls for a special one-month legislative session to be held in February 2008. The resolution, SCR 1, passed the House with broad bipartisan support on a 46-11 vote.

The resolution expresses the Legislature's intent to call itself into a special session early in 2008. This temporary measure addresses the need for more frequent and predictable legislative sessions. It also allows the Legislature to run an experiment with annual sessions before asking the voters to write such a provision into the state constitution. A permanent move to annual sessions would require a constitutional change approved by Oregon voters.

Helmets and Cell Phones Update

HB 2062, which required helmet use for anyone operating a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle (ATV) does not appear to have support to pass this session.

Co-op employees already wear OSHA-approved hard hats.

In its original form, SB 293 would have outlawed cell phone and two-way radio use while driving. It has been modified to a new offense if someone is noticeably distracted by such use while operating a motor vehicle.

Metals Theft

A priority bill for ORECA is HB 3026, which intends to deter metals theft from utility distribution systems and work yards. The metal is sold to scrap dealers for drug money. A coalition organized for this effort, of which ORECA is a part, reports that the bill is expected to be referred to committee for a public hearing in the next week. There is no organized opposition to the bill thus far, which is a good sign. ■

Down The Line



Dear Member:

As a final reminder, this is the last opportunity to apply for our \$3600 scholarship to the *Vocational Outside Line Training Academy* (VOLTA). This scholarship is for individuals who are interested in a career in the line construction trade.

We have provided information on page 8 about the VOLTA scholarship. As well, there is still information about the scholarship posted on our website at www.laneelectric.com.

If you, or someone you know is interested in this opportunity, please be sure to let them know and have them contact us for more information. We plan on making our selection in mid-May and announcing the results at the appropriate high school graduation ceremony accordingly.

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A bit about Spring safety. All the projects we dreamed about during the winter are beginning to happen.

Its great to get an early start, but don't forget about common sense. Make safety a priority! Put enthusiasm, impatience and neglect aside and think about how you will complete your task safely.

If you are doing projects that include electrical wiring, make sure to turn off the power at the breaker panel first.

If you're digging or planting a new tree or shrub, think about possible underground wires that may exist. Do not nick or cut them with a shovel or pick.

If you are not sure about the location of underground wires, please call the **Oregon Underground Notification Center at 800-332-2344** and they will locate the power line for you, before you dig.

And as always, know where overhead power lines are. Look up. Take inventory before you move irrigation pipes, install a new antenna or move large equipment.

While it may sound elementary, remember this - "*an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*". It just might save your life.

Rick Crinklaw,
General Manager

LANE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

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4th Monday of each month
(Unless otherwise noted)
Lane Electric's Office at 11 a.m.

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