

Double Winners from Platte-Geddes

Sophomore & junior win trips to Washington, DC

As in years past, Charles Mix Electric is sending two students to Washington, DC on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. An unusual twist this year—both winners are from Platte-Geddes Community School. The two lucky girls are Rebecca Naasz and Torey Alberda. In one of the closest contests ever, Rebecca and Torey out-scored 18 other students in an extremely difficult test over rural electric cooperatives to earn the trip.

Torey was the overall high scorer, and will represent CME as the “at-large” winner. She is the daughter of Jay and Jane Alberda of Platte. Torey is a sophomore at Platte-Geddes Community School, where she participates in track, cheerleading, band, and chorus. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and enjoys photography, reading and watching classic movies. June will be a busy month for Torey, as she will be traveling to Chicago just before she embarks upon the Youth Tour. Torey says



Classmates Torey Alberda (left) and Rebecca Naasz will tour Washington, DC on the 2008 National Rural Electric Youth Tour this June.



she’s looking forward to the Youth Tour, and is very thankful for the opportunity to visit our nation’s capital.

Rebecca was the top scorer in the “members-only” category of the contest. She is a junior at Platte-Geddes, and keeps busy with track and cross-country, and participating in school plays. She

is active in 4-H during the summer months. Her parents are Tim and Sandy Naasz of rural Platte.

This year’s tour will take place June 13-19, and will include hundreds of other high school students from across the nation. We’ll share some of Torey and Rebecca’s impressions in a future issue.

Murphy



Before Planting Trees, Consider This

With this past winter being exceptionally long due to extreme cold and early spring snow, many people are anxious to begin shaping up their yards. Often, this includes planting or transplanting trees; however, precautions need to be made to ensure you and your family remain safe around electricity.

Trees conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if limbs grow too close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when trees and branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can cause fires. But a greater concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or person playing or trimming around the tree could be fatal.

Trees growing near power lines must be pruned regularly to safely coexist with aerial power lines. If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact Charles Mix Electric. Never try to prune them yourself. Utilities have or can recommend skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearances.

To avoid future electrical hazards, safe planting tips to remember include:

- Consider mature height of trees. Never plant a tree that could grow to 25 feet or more near a power line. Tall growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A

mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.

- Do not plant near underground utility services.

Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.

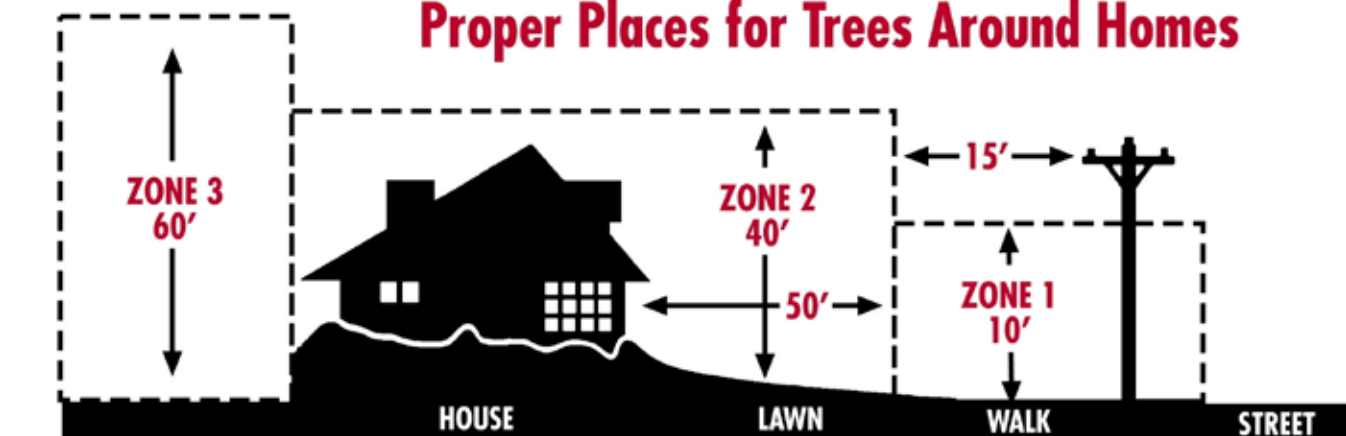
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

- Before digging, call 811. This is a free, universal service that will lead to marking the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. Every minute, one utility line is unintentionally hit in the United States.

Take the time to research tree selections by consulting a nursery. They have experts who can provide assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate to plant near power lines.



Proper Places for Trees Around Homes



ZONE 3 TREES THAT GROW 60 FEET IN HEIGHT
Larger types of trees can be used here; however, they should be planted at least 35 feet away from the house for proper root development and to minimize tree damage to the house.

ZONE 2 TREES THAT GROW NO TALLER THAN 40 FEET
This zone, which takes in mostly lawn area, is used to decorate or frame your house. Trees should be selected first, then shrubs can be planted to compliment the trees.

ZONE 1 TREES THAT GROW NO TALLER THAN 10 FEET
This zone ends 15 feet away from electric utility lines. If you see a tree that is growing too near one of our lines, please contact us right away so we can either trim or replace the tree.