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April 2013

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep energy efficiency in mind as the ground thaws and you plan spring landscaping. Properly selected and planted trees, shrubs, and bushes can create a windbreak that lowers home cooling bills in the summer and insulates your home year-round. Before you start, check on the right plants and techniques for your climate at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S.
Department of
Energy

Congratulations

Gary Wilson
is our online survey
winner!



SmartHub Available Soon

Cell phones and mobile technology are becoming more integrated into our work and personal lives every day. You can read the news, check social media sites, send and receive e-mails, surf the Internet, and so much more. Technology is advancing every day, and Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is stepping up and providing different outlets to manage your energy consumption and pay your electric bill.

CHEC will launch an application called SmartHub this April. SmartHub will be available in both mobile apps and a web version to give members secure access to maintain their account information, view bills, see payment history, make payments on one or more accounts, set up recurring payments and report outages. They also allow you to monitor and manage your electricity usage by use of bar graphics and usage markers.

The web version allows you to register your accounts to receive notifications for account milestones, such as an approaching or a missed due date. It also allows you to set usage markers to monitor the changes in electricity usage based on events. The web has a profile page available for members to maintain their personal information, password, security pass phrase and stored payment methods.

Our mobile apps can be downloaded and installed on your compatible mobile phone or tablet device. The web version is internet accessible from any web-enabled device. To get the app for your phone or tablet, simply look for "SmartHub" in the Apple Store or in the Android Market. Search: SmartHub. If the duplicates appear, the correct app is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app will be free to download and install.



Check Usage



Pay Bill



Report Service Issues



Secure



Customer Service

Hot Watts

is published monthly by **Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.** *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing. Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

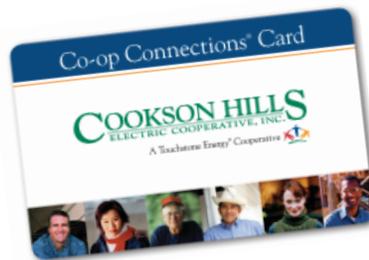
Scholarship Deadline is April 5th

April 5th is your last chance to turn in applications for the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship. The Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative scholarship committee will award four \$500 scholarships.

To be considered, you must have a GPA of 2.0 or better and an ambition to continue your education at a state accredited college or technical school that offers an associate's or bachelor's degree. Other criteria required are good citizenship, good character, and financial need. Applications may be obtained from your school counselor, online at www.cooksonhills.com, or by stopping by your local cooperative office.



Use your Co-op Connections Card for savings at local Restaurants



We are excited to announce that several restaurants in our area have recently joined the Co-op Connections program. These businesses are offering various discounts to Co-op Connections card holders. Be sure to thank these businesses for participating when you visit their restaurant.

If you own a restaurant or any other type of business and are interested in joining Co-op Connections, you may contact us at 800-328-2368 or 918-774-1516. To learn more about the program visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com.

Listed below are local restaurants:

- **18-Wheeler Diner**
1405 S. Kerr Blvd., Sallisaw
10% off purchases of \$25 or more
- **Alina's Thai and Chinese**
816 S. Roland Rd., Roland
10% off meal
- **Catfish Shack**
Hwy 2, Porum
Free drink with purchase of meal
- **Charlie's Chicken**
1501 E. Main, Stigler
10% off meal
- **Eaton Hole**
504 E. Main, Stigler
10% off meal
- **Emily's Tea Room**
103 Main St., Gore
10% on lunch at tea room
- **Miss M's Tea Room**
117 N. Broadway, Stigler
5% off purchase
- **Ruben's Mexican Restaurant**
807 East Main, Stigler
Buy 2 adult meals get a child's meal free
- **Shelly's Stigler Cafe**
113 W. Main, Stigler
10% discount off meal

CHEC Aids Fellow Oklahoma Cooperative

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. sent crews from both local offices to offer mutual aid to Cimarron Electric Cooperative, Inc. CHEC crews helped Cimarron restore electricity to hundreds of their members.

A massive winter storm swept through western and central Oklahoma on February 25th, and left miles of poles and power lines on the ground. The weather system began with periods of freezing rain and gusty winds up to 35-45 miles an hour before dumping 6-12 inches of snow. The rural roadways were blocked and inaccessible in some areas which complicated restoration work.

When CHEC crews arrived, Cimarron was reporting that more than 640 poles were destroyed or damaged. “We were working in a rural area between Okeene and Watonga. There was snow on the ground; we were in wheat fields that were wet and muddy. We took our track digger to move across those fields,” said Kevin Harvell, CHEC Foreman.

Oklahoma electric cooperatives are part of a mutual aid program across the state. When another cooperative has a large amount of power outages, cooperatives in other parts of state rush to help each other. Rural electric cooperatives are founded on seven cooperative principles, and the seventh cooperative principle is “Cooperation Among Cooperatives.”

A special thank you to these men who left their homes and families to assist Cimarron in their restoration effort. Thanks for carrying on the cooperative spirit.



Pictured left to right (top row): Scotty Holcomb, Kevin Harvell, Matt Davis, Blu Cloud, Jason Blalock, Atlee Stewart, (bottom row) Marty Huff and Jeremy Baker.



Pictured left to right: David Bumpers, Allen Hare, Mark Blaylock, and Nick Worsham.

Safety

Leave Electrical Work To The Professionals

Even the handiest do-it-yourselfers know it is not safe to repair their own electrical equipment. Your best bet: Spring for a licensed, qualified electrician when your home’s electrical equipment or electric appliances are not working properly.

Even if you turn your electricity off at the circuit breaker box, it is not necessarily safe to work on your home’s electrical outlets and wiring. The Electrical Safety Foundation International also recommends:

- Study your panel’s circuit breakers or fuses so you will know which one controls each switch, light, and outlet.
- Triple-check that you have turned off the right circuits 2269000 before you start any work. It is easy to flip the wrong switch by accident.
- Make 100 percent sure that the circuit cannot be accidentally turned back on while you are working. Let everyone in the house know the breaker box is off limits until you say otherwise.
- Use a circuit tester to verify that the switch you are working on is operating properly before you turn everything back on.
- Even then, consider leaving dangerous electrical work—even small jobs—to a pro who knows the ins and outs of how to stay safe—and keep your home safe—when electrical work is needed.

Source: The Electrical Safety Foundation International

\$1,000 Reward Available For Information

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is offering a \$1,000 reward. The reward is to anyone that provides

information leading to the arrest and conviction of the responsible parties who are committing thefts and vandalism of utility property in CHEC’s service territory. Please report any information or suspicious activity directly to the sheriff’s office.

Sue's Recycling and Sanitation

When driving down Highway 100 in Sequoyah County and you come upon a pink sign with a blue recycling logo, you are at South 4510 Road leading to Sue's Recycling and Sanitation's home office and transfer station. The "Sue" in Sue's Recycling is Sue Smith. Sue and her husband Jim Smith started their waste disposal services in 1984 by picking up the trash at Tenkiller State Park.

Jim purchased a used trash truck to remove the garbage collected from the parks. This allowed them to expand their coverage area and provide more reliable trash services. In late 1993 Sue decided to start the first residential route. The driver would pick up the garbage from the customer's home and bring it back to be sorted. The recyclable materials were removed before the garbage was taken to the landfill. It quickly became clear that this method would greatly reduce the amount of waste taken to local landfills. Customers were glad to have a convenient way to recycle, and the word spread quickly that curbside collection service was available. Soon, people began calling to ask about 'Sue's recycling' program.



Photo by: Donna Rhodes



"I had a mentor when I first started recycling. His name was Dave Waller, and he is now deceased. I wish he was still here to see what I have grown to. I first met with him when he brought a machine out to my house that would smash cans and blow them into a trailer. He let me use his equipment for free, and then he bought the cans from me. Dave suggested I call my business Sue's Recycling. That is how I got the name. He was such a great man!

I learned a lot from him. He educated me on a lot of things about the recycling business," said Sue.

The next several years brought a lot of progress. Jim and Sue continued to acquire new equipment and personnel to expand their service area. Soon the company began to offer commercial service to local businesses, roll-off containers for construction and demolition sites, and industrial service for factories and warehouses. "If someone calls requesting curbside collection and we do not service that area, I inform them we will pick up their trash if they get ten customers in their area," Sue added.

Sue's Recycling now employs 26-28 full-time employees. They have a fleet of seven rear loader trash trucks, six roll-off dumpster trucks, and two delivery trucks. Today, the company has grown to serve customers in 16 counties across eastern Oklahoma, as well as having contracts for several local municipalities. Sue's Recycling operates two transfer station locations - one at Vian, and one at Checotah. Customers can drop off recyclables and trash at either location. Sue's Recycling does pay for aluminum.

When questioned what Sue enjoys most about her work, she said, "I enjoy the people." If you have a question about Sue's Recycling and Sanitation services, contact them at 918-773-4007. You may also visit their website at www.suesrecycling.com.

