

Watts Inside

- ≠ Triennial Survey, Page 2
- ≠ Watt's Cooking, Page 2
- ≠ Holiday Safety Tips, Page 3
- ≠ Scholarship Application, Page 4



Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney.

Source: energy.gov

Congratulations!

KATHY BELANGER
is our online survey winner.



Offices Closed

CHEC offices will be closed December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas.

Capital Credit Checks in the Mail



As December approaches each year, Cookson Hills Electric (CHEC) members anticipate the arrival of their capital credit checks. This month, members – past and present – who received CHEC electric service in 1996 will be receiving a capital credit check.

The CHEC Board of Trustees has authorized the retirement and distribution of \$786,255.76 in capital credits for the year 1996. Checks will be mailed in early December.

Those that have signed a membership agreement for electric service from CHEC are members. Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in and contribution of capital to the cooperative. Investor-owned utilities pay a portion of their profits to shareholders – people who may or may not be customers. Electric

cooperatives return the margins or profits to the members – the people who actually use and support cooperative services.

Member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperatives set rates to generate enough money to pay all operating expenses. At the end of each year, the cooperative subtracts operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating margin. Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during a particular year.

If you were a member in 1996 and you do not receive a capital credit check this month, please contact our office at 800-328-2368.



Scholarships Available to Area Students

Area high school seniors whose parent or guardian is a member of CHEC have an opportunity to apply for a \$500 scholarship. Each year the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship committee awards four scholarships to help deserving seniors pay for college or technical school.

To be eligible for consideration, students must have a GPA of 2.0 or better, good character, good citizenship, financial need, and a desire to further their education. Additionally, seniors must enroll as a full-time student at a college or technical school.

High school seniors may complete the application on page four of this Hot Watts issue or obtain an application from the CHEC website www.cooksonhills.com.

Please return your application, along with two letters of recommendation by March 18, 2016, to the following address:

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Scholarship Committee
Attention: Felicia Williams
PO Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters Office
PO Box 539 • 1002 E. Main
Stigler, OK 74462
800-328-2368

Branch Office
PO Box 587 • 1800 KOA/Power Drive
Sallisaw, OK 74955
918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone: 1-888-678-1937
www.cooksonhills.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William T. Mills, <i>President</i>	District 4
Joe Falleur, <i>Vice President</i>	District 3
Kenneth Kelley, <i>Sec.-Treas.</i>	District 5
Rocky Woods, Sr., <i>Trustee</i>	District 1
Joe Ogle, <i>Trustee</i>	District 6
Ronnie Pevehouse, <i>Trustee</i>	District 7
Theron Croisant, <i>Trustee</i>	District 2

STAFF

Kendall Beck, *General Manager*
Eric Johnson, *Assistant General Manager*
Dalen Garner, *Director of Operations*
Brett Orme, *Director of Engineering*
Juli Orme, *Chief Financial Officer*
Amy Smith, *Manager of Accounting Services*
Kristie Cash, *Manager of Office Services*

Bill V. Wilkinson - *Attorney*

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

Felicia Williams, *Editor*
E-Mail: fwilliams@cooksonhills.com



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

Member Satisfaction Triennial Survey

□ *Members' Opinions Help Better Cooperative*

Beginning in December and running through January, CHEC will be participating in a telephone survey that is conducted every three years to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member. This survey will ask several questions about your energy usage and your satisfaction with the cooperative. It should take approximately 15 minutes to answer all questions.

TSE Services, a professional call center conducting the survey, will identify themselves as calling on behalf of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. They will be conducting 250 telephone calls Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the survey is to receive input from members to guide the board and management in their decision-making. Members will be asked questions on a wide variety of topics. The survey results will be presented to the board in the spring.

CHEC extends a big **THANK YOU** to all of our members who will take the time to participate in the telephone survey. We truly appreciate your interest in helping us meet your service needs.

Watt's Cooking



No Bake Chocolate Lasagna

- 36 regular OREO'S
- 6 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 (8 oz) package of cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 Tablespoons cold milk
- 1 (12 oz) container Cool Whip, divided
- 2 (3.9 oz) pkg's chocolate instant pudding
- 3 ¼ cups cold milk
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips



Butter a 9x13 dish and set aside.

Crush OREO's in a zip top bag with a rolling pin. Add melted butter into the bag and mix until combined. Press OREO mixture into the bottom of the dish and place in the refrigerator for 5 minutes.

In a medium sized bowl whip the cream cheese until fluffy. Add in 2 Tablespoons of milk and sugar. Mix until combined. Stir in 1 cup Cool Whip, then spread the mixture lightly over the crust. Place in the fridge for another 5 minutes.

In a separate bowl combine the chocolate pudding and cold milk. Whisk together until thick. Then spread over the top of the cream cheese layer. Place back in the fridge for another 5-10 minutes to allow pudding to set.

Once pudding has set spread remaining Cool Whip on the chocolate layer and then top with chocolate chips. Place in the fridge for 3-4 hours before serving.

Tips For A Safe and Happy Holiday Season

By Justin LaBerge

The holidays are upon us. For many, that means more celebrations with friends and family, travel, decorations, cooking and shopping. CHEC wants you to stay safe during the holidays, so here are a few tips to consider as you gear up for the season.

We can't guarantee that the hustle and bustle of the season won't leave you with a few frayed nerves, but we can certainly help you avoid frayed wires.

Inspect your seasonal items

Many of us have treasured holiday mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year. The holidays are also a time when we dust off specialized cooking gadgets that allow us to prepare our favorite seasonal treats. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features.

Take a few moments to carefully inspect all your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases and other tip-over hazards

Extension cords are temporary

When you asked your teacher for an extension on your term paper, it was a one-time thing, right? The same holds true for extension cords. They are designed for temporary use and should never be used as a permanent or long-term solution.

Never defeat safety devices

There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. Don't do it! If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together. Rather than tampering with a safety feature, find a safe solution.

Look up and live

When working outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder

so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines.

Beware of power lines through trees

Over time, tree branches can grow around power lines running along the street and to your home. If those branches come in contact with power lines, they can become energized, too. If your holiday plans call for stringing lights through trees, this can create a safety hazard. If you notice tree limbs that are too close to electric lines, contact CHEC.

Stay away from your service connection

The overhead wire bringing power from the utility pole to your house is dangerous. You should treat this line the same way you'd treat any other power line on our system. Maintain a safe distance – even if that means a small gap in the perfect gingerbread house outline of lights.

Read the fine print

If you take a few minutes to read and understand the specifications and limitations of your lights and other electrified holiday decorations, you can save yourself a great deal of work and frustration in the long run. For example, the tag at the end of an extension cord will tell you if it's rated for outdoor use, whether it will remain 3048000 flexible in cold temperatures and how much energy it can safely handle. Similarly, holiday lights will tell you how many strings can be safely linked together.

Don't forget about the kids...and pets

If you have small children, you've probably spent a great deal of time making sure every square inch of your home is childproof. Every cabinet is locked and every outlet is covered. But sometimes the joy of celebrating the holidays with our little ones makes us a little less vigilant about electrical safety. Make sure your holiday décor receives the same level of safety scrutiny you apply to all of the permanent items in your home. Curious and mischievous pets can present similar challenges. Make sure Fluffy isn't nibbling on all those extra wires or using your tree as her personal back scratcher or jungle gym.

Justin LaBerge writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees and Employees wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!





Application for the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship

Name _____

Social Security # _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parents' (guardians') name(s) _____

Number of children at home or in college _____

Family income last year (check one): Below \$35,000

Above \$35,000

GPA Score _____ ACT Score _____

Currently attending school at _____

List your involvement in school, community, and vocational groups. Also include any work experience:

In 75-100 words tell why you are applying for the scholarship and share your goals and ambitions:

List scholarships you have earned and their value: _____

Choice of Schools: _____

Note: Please attach two letters of recommendation.