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March 2016

Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Easter Sunday
March 27th



Congratulations!

Roger Fleetwood
is our online
survey winner.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov

Co-op Connections



Did you know that being a member of CHEC has another perk? As a member, you have access to the Co-op Connections Program that provides discounts on many products and services.

CHEC, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, joined the Co-op Connections Program in 2012. Since that time members have received benefits on dental and vision services, hearing aids, and chiropractic care. Please note not all dentists, chiropractors, or hearing and vision providers participate in the program.

The most beneficial use of the card is the pharmacy discount. Present your Co-op Connections Card to your local pharmacy to see if you can save on your next prescription.

Additionally, local businesses offer discounts on goods and services when you show them your Co-op Connections Card. For a participating business directory and for information on how your business can join the program, please visit our website

www.cooksonhills.com and click on the "Co-op Connections Card."

Each member was mailed a Co-op Connection Card when we initiated the program. All new members are issued a card when applying for electric services. You may visit the Co-op Connections website, www.connections.coop, and print a card if you have misplaced or lost your card. Also, you can carry the card electronically by downloading the Co-op Connections Card app to your smart device. Go to the Apple Store or in the Android Market and search for "Co-op Connections Card."

You may also obtain additional information by visiting www.connections.coop. Use the search engine to find discounts right here at home or anywhere you travel. If you have any questions concerning the Co-op Connections Card or its services, please contact Donna Rhodes at 918-775-2211.

See page 2 for local discounts.



Reminder:

Beginning with March billing, residential accounts switch from winter rates to summer rates. Summer rates will remain in effect through November. During this time all energy usage is billed at the same rate. Winter rates, which include December through February, are billable on a declining block rate. If you have any question about rates, please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.

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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.

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

Co-op Connections Local Discounts

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anne-Paige Gift Boutique – Gore | Miss M’s Tea Room – Stigler |
| Alina’s Thai & Chinese Food – Roland | Ramm’s Law Office – Sallisaw |
| American Beauty Salon – Gore | RMR Pest Services - Stigler |
| Betty’s Alterations - Roland | Ruben’s – Stigler |
| Catfish Shack – Porum | Sallisaw Family Fitness - Sallisaw |
| Classy Cleaners – Stigler | Sando’s Flowers & Gifts – Roland |
| Custom Designs – Muldrow | Shelly’s Café – Stigler |
| Eaton Hole – Stigler | Stigler Printing – Stigler |
| Eclectic Imports – Roland | Stigler Flower Box – Stigler |
| Emily’s Tea Room – Gore | Tenkiller Trading Co. – Gore |
| Gibbs Lakeside RV – Sallisaw | The Green House - Sallisaw |
| Kevin’s Wood Fire Grill - Stigler | Thrift World – Roland |
| Mini’s Flowers & Gifts – Stigler | Violet’s Flowers & Gifts – Sallisaw |
| Miss Behavin Boutique – Stigler | |

Co-op Connections® Card



Rebates Available in 2016

Once again CHEC and Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) are partnering together to provide our members the “Take Control and Save” program for 2016. The program was designed to promote efficient use of electricity in an effort to reduce consumer energy costs. We understand that by spending less on your energy costs, you can save money for other important things in life.



CHEC has rebates available on room air conditioners, electric water heaters, ground source heat pumps, and dual fuel & mini-split heat pumps.

To qualify for these rebates, you must be a member of CHEC. A complete list of the eligibility criteria and rebate requirements are available on our website at www.cooksonhills.com and at your local office. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Rhodes at 918-775-2211.

10 Tips for Avoiding Common Mistakes Made with Electricity

Electricity is an integral, yet easily overlooked, part of our everyday lives. The Safe Electricity program encourages everyone to brush up on guidelines for using electricity safely and offers these 10 tips on how to safely avoid common mistakes made with electricity:

1. Just because a power line is down does not mean it is dead. Whether caused by a storm or a car accident, a fallen power line is very dangerous. Stay far away, instruct others to stay away, and call your electric utility immediately.
2. Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. After a power outage, many use generators as a quick solution to get the lights back on, but plugging a generator into an outlet creates dangerous backfeed. Backfeed sends electricity back through the power lines and can injure or kill the lineman trying to turn the power back on.
3. Don't step into a flooded basement if there is a chance that flood waters may be in contact with outlets or electrical cords. The waters of a flooded basement may be energized with electricity.
4. Water and electrical equipment don't mix. Replace any appliance damaged by water because it is unsafe to use, and never use electrical equipment in wet conditions – if it is raining or the ground is wet.
5. All outlets near areas with water should have GFCI protection. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) monitor the flow of electricity in a circuit. If there is an irregularity of electrical flow, the power is cut off, preventing an electric shock.
6. Extension cords should never be used permanently. Extension cords are created for temporary use only. When using them for a permanent solution, they can overheat and cause fires.
7. Never remove a plug's grounding pin. The third prong on a plug is a safety feature. If the plug doesn't fit, the outlet needs replaced.
8. Take care of electrical cords. Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled, and check cords occasionally for damage. Replace when necessary.
9. Avoid overloading outlets. Plugging in too many appliances to an outlet can strain your electrical system.
10. Always call 811 before any digging project. You don't know the precise location of utilities that are buried beneath the ground, so always 3086302 have your utilities marked so you know where it is safe to dig.

Be a part of a safer, smarter world. Get more electrical safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.



Watt's Cooking?

Puppy Chow

- 1 (12.8 oz) box Rice Chex
- 1 ½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chip
- ¾ cup peanut butter
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- 1 ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 ½ - 5 cups powdered sugar



- Start by taking the whole box of Chex cereal and place it into a very large bowl. Set this aside.
- Place chocolate chips, peanut butter, and butter in a large microwave safe bowl. Microwave for 60 seconds and then stir until smooth. If the chocolate chips haven't melted enough, microwave at 30 second intervals, stirring in between, until the mixture is completely melted. Then stir in vanilla extract.
- Pour the chocolate mixture over the Chex cereal and stir together gently with a spatula.
- Do not overmix. The cereal pieces should be completely coated in chocolate, but it's ok for a few to clump together.
- Next, pour in the powdered sugar. Mix and pour more powdered sugar in if needed. The Chex should be completely white.
- Store in an airtight container.

www.showmethetheyummy.com

Like Us on Facebook!

Did you know that CHEC is on Facebook? By joining Facebook, CHEC hopes to interact with and share important information with you, our member.

By simply clicking on the “like” icon on our Facebook page you will receive:

- Notice of large power outages
- Notice of important CHEC member events like annual meetings and district meetings
- Announcements of youth-related programs and scholarships
- Current and important information

Periodically on our Facebook page, CHEC will have a drawing for a \$10.00 bill credit. Like our Facebook page and watch for a post with instructions on how to win. You must be a member of CHEC to win.

As always, our goal at CHEC is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electric service to our members. But we also want to stay connected with our members. So “like” us on Facebook through our website at www.cooksonhills.com or by searching for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Facebook, and stay “plugged in” to CHEC!

Did You Change Phones?

Has your phone number changed?
Did you disconnect your home phone?
Do you have a cell phone?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is likely that you need to update your account information here at CHEC.

CHEC periodically calls members to notify you of a controlled outage, billing information, and other important information from time to time.

Please take a moment to update your account information by any of the following methods:

- Visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com
- Contact your local office at 800-328-2368 (Stigler), or at 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw).
- Inform us when you come into one of our CHEC offices.
- By logging on to SmartHub.

Thank you for your assistance!

HOW TO CLEAN REFRIGERATOR COILS

... AND WHY IT MATTERS!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance - just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.



MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Vacuum cleaner with hose
- Damp cloth

- 1.** Locate the refrigerator’s coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don’t find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
- 2.** If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
- 3.** Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
- 4.** Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don’t get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

