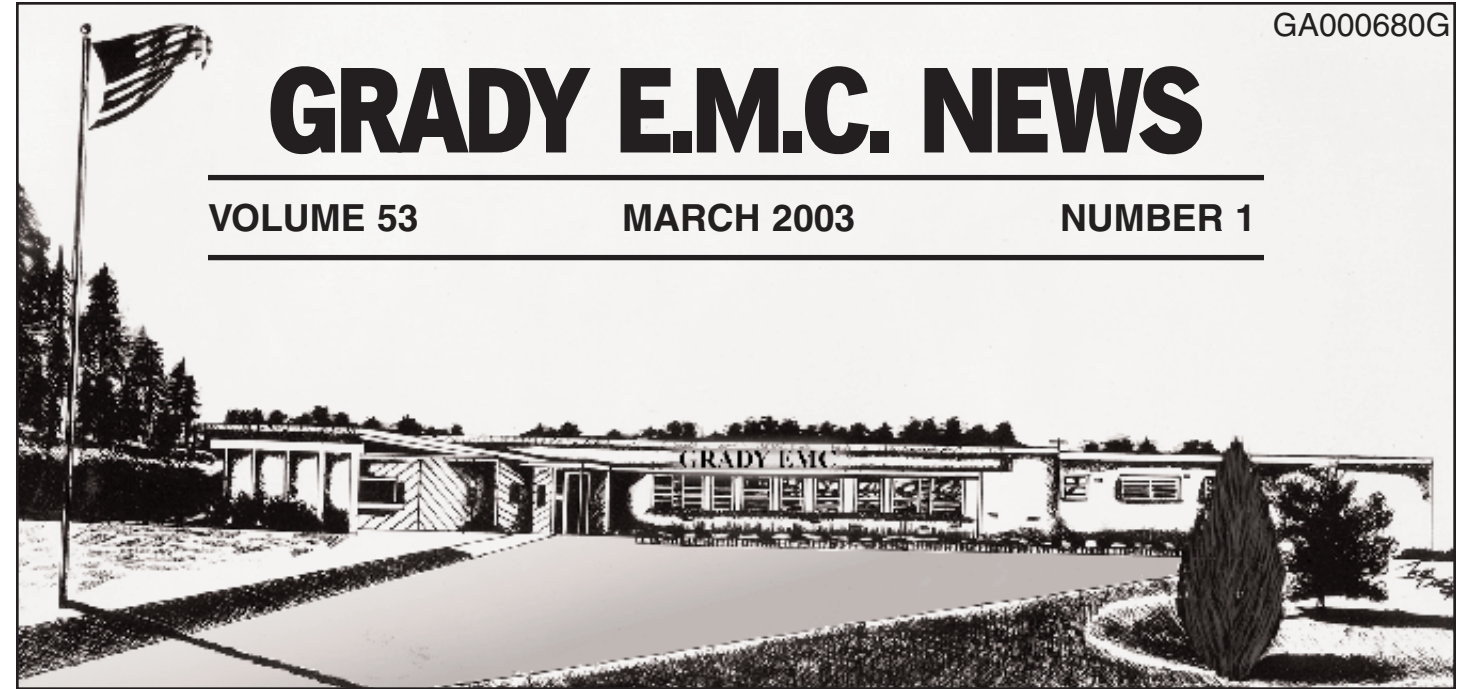


GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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MARCH 2003

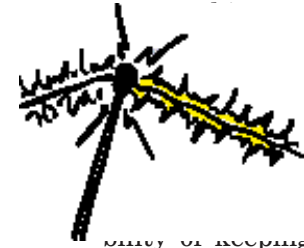
NUMBER 1



Right-of-Way Program - 2003

In an effort to keep our membership aware and informed of our right-of-way program, the Boydville and the Recovery substations involving the southern portions of Grady and Decatur counties will be maintained for the year 2003.

As a reminder, the right-of-way policy requires up to a 30 feet right-of-way. Tree removal, tree trimming, and spraying of vegetation are the methods that are used in



ram. This program has reduced unt and duration of outages ght on by trees. Grady EMC is sensitive and aware of the member's concerns when it comes to this program, but at ve are tasked with the responsi-

bility of keeping your lights on with the least amount of interruptions. It would be nice if every member could be notified when their property was going to be involved, and we try to do this, but with approximately 2,600 miles of distribution lines and 16,000 members with varying work schedules, weather conditions affecting work plans, etc., it is impossible to notify everyone. Hopefully, this allows our members who might have concerns to express them prior to work beginning on your property.

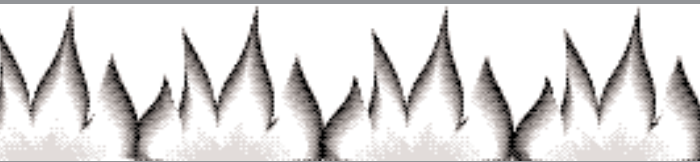
We would ask that as new trees, bushes, shrubs, etc. are planted, that consideration be given to this policy prior to planting so as to prevent a potential problem.

Again, Grady EMC would like to thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation. Information regarding the right-of-way areas involved for the year 2004, will be printed in the December, 2003 issue of the newsletter. ■

run times to get clothes dry. A condition called "waterlogged" in a domestic well can increase usage as well. This occurs when the air above the water in the pressure tank is lost causing the tank pressure to drop rapidly when the pump cycles off. When this happens, the pump continuously cycles on and off, causing much higher than normal electricity usage. Underground water leaks in lines can also create additional cycle time on pumps increasing the usage.

3. The energy efficiency of the home envelope (insulation R values, type windows and doors, air infiltration issues), the varying life styles in the home (number of adults, number of children, thermostat settings on heating/air conditioning systems, numbers of loads of clothes washed and dried weekly, swimming pools, saunas, hot tubs, computers, electronic games) are why we should not try to compare one homes utility bill with another home. Every home is unique and different.

4. The electric meter on your home is a finely calibrated device that is almost always within the plus or minus two (2) percent tolerance range allowed by the national industry standards. It is a highly accurate device, but after looking at the above areas and considering the weather changes that have occurred, if you believe the meter could be malfunctioning, please don't hesitate to call us.



In just a short time,

farmers, plantations, and individuals will begin to do some control burning. Whether in your yard, field or woods, Grady EMC would like to bring to your attention that we have had to replace several electric distribution poles as a result of permanent damage brought on by fire. We understand how this type of accident can happen and we are asking you to take EXTRA PRECAUTIONS this year in order to prevent this from happening. Not only does this create a potential safety problem by weakening the integrity of the pole and possibly causing it to break; but also, creates an unnecessary cost to you for having the pole replaced. Please do your part in helping hold down costs at your cooperative. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, help, and understanding.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. As a member, you have the following methods of paying your electric bill - Cash, Check, Money Order, Credit Card, Debit Card, and Bank Draft. Advance payments for an electric bill can be made if you are going on vacation or for any other reason that you know you will be gone when your electric bill comes due. This allows you not to worry about a bill becoming past due while you are gone. Bank drafts are an excellent way to prevent past due bills from occurring. If you would like to sign up for this convenient service, please contact the office.
2. Approximately 75% to 80% of your monthly electricity energy usage in the average home comes primarily from three sources. Heating/air conditioning systems with heating requiring the most energy of the two, water heaters, and clothes dryers. Our utility bills can change dramatically from one month to the next even though our lifestyles haven't changed. Why? Weather fluctuations from extreme, extended, abnormal cold weather recently has seen our energy kilowatt hour(kwh) usage increase drastically due to heating systems having additional demand and run time placed on them. Our rates have remained the same and we have not had a rate increase in over ten years. Making sure your heating/air conditioning system is working properly by having it checked on a regular basis, checking the thermostat to make sure it is working properly, checking the ductwork for air leaks which robs the home of valuable, conditioned air making the unit run longer is the number one area to consider. Next, check your water heater for possible defective heating elements or a defective thermostat not allowing the water heater to cycle off and run continuously. In two-element heaters, the failure of one element can cause the other to operate more. Thermostat settings are recommended at 120-130 degrees with the water heater having a quality insulation blanket around it and all exposed water lines insulated. Clothes dryers, whose heating element is not working properly, can create longer

Giving

The true meaning of Christmas



Pictured left to right is Willie Lurry, Jeremiah Brinson, Neal Hester, Mike Smith, Hubert Sellers, and Scott Taliaferro. Not pictured is John Hudson who was not available when this picture was made.

Even though Christmas, 2002 has come and gone, the unselfish actions of those people that are pictured with this article still lives on. If you will recall, Christmas Eve brought with it some extremely bad weather for our service area in Decatur, Grady, and Thomas Counties causing scattered outages primarily due to some high winds. However, at our sister co-op. Three Notch EMC in Donalsonville. a tornado ripped through part of their system tearing down power lines and throwing power poles into the air that have not been seen since. After our personnel had worked long hours and restored power to our members, instead of heading home to warm up and spend time with their families on Christmas Eve, they offered to go and assist Three Notch EMC's members in their dilemma. As they were leaving around 6:00 p.m. to go to Donalsonville, they had no idea as to when they would be returning to their families and if they would be back in time to spend Christmas morning with their children. As it worked out, they got back to their homes just in time for Santa Claus early Christmas morning. A special thank you is due Willie Lurry, Jeremiah Brinson, Neal Hester, Mike Smith, Hubert Sellers. Scott

Taliaferro and John Hudson for the true spirit of Christmas in giving of themselves for the benefit of others with no expectations of anything in return. Wouldn't it be a better world if we all had this attitude 365 days a year? ■

MEDICAL ALERT -- LIFE SUPPORT -- MEDICAL ALERT -- LIFE SUPPORT

For those members of Grady EMC who have a family member that is dependent on life support equipment that is electrically powered such as oxygen machines, apnea monitors, etc., please have your physician to notify us in writing of the specific need you have. Please mail this to Grady EMC, Attn: Customer Services Director, P.O. Box 270, Cairo, Georgia 39828. This information is noted on your account which allows your cooperative to place a priority restoration of power to your service in the event of a disruption of power. This will assist us to help you make alternative arrangements if the need arises in case of power outages brought on by storms or by planned power outages in order to upgrade equipment.

MEDICAL ALERT -- LIFE SUPPORT -- MEDICAL ALERT -- LIFE SUPPORT

DOING BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE WHOM YOU KNOW AND TRUST!




GRADY EMC




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Grady Electric Membership
Corporation

It won't be long before the week of 12th -19th arrives when three dynamic delegates will be embarking on what could be a life-changing experience for them. The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a leadership event comprised of approximately 1,000 students from across our nation that converge on Washington, D.C. for a very long, all-expenses paid trip of a lifetime.

Grady EMC considers it an honor and privilege to sponsor a total of three delegates, one each from our prime service areas of Grady, and Thomas counties. Past delegates returned with a better understanding and appreciation of our nation's history and a desire to become a more involved citizen in their communities. Students that are selected as delegates will be rising seniors and do not have to be members of Grady EMC.

This tremendous opportunity is fast-paced, packing in historical sites that only Washington, D.C. can provide. Getting up-close with the opportunity to see with your own eyes the people that are at the center of our government, and the sights and sounds where our nation's history is rooted should be exciting and allow you to reach out and touch what you have studied for years.

Some of the highlights include touring the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, National Cathedral, Ford's Theater, the Smithsonian Museums, and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and so much more. There is even time for a dinner/dance cruise down the historic Potomac River, and eating at places such as Planet Hollywood, etc. All of this is interspersed with meetings where you will get to meet your state and national leaders and discuss important issues with them.

But before flying to Washington, D.C., a dinner banquet will be held in your honor on the first night in Atlanta. You will then spend a day in Atlanta touring the Capitol, participating in CNN's

continued next page

RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Electrification Administration Statement of Nondiscrimination

Grady Electric Membership Corporation has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, all requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, all requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, or solely by reason of such person's disabilities or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's disabilities, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates, conditions and extensions of service, admissions or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Vickie L. Peak.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feel subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act, by the Americans with Disabilities Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the office of the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250; The Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture of the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Youth Tour continued...

Talk Back Live show, and learning more about electric cooperatives and their role in society.

In order to apply for this event, information packets were submitted to your high school in January regarding this contest. Don't delay, start the process now. Delegates selected will be enrolled in the Junior class and be at least sixteen years of age at the time of the tour. Each school has a designated Washington Youth Tour (WYT) coordinator to work with the students. The completed contest essays must be received at Grady EMC's office no later than March 31, 2003.

Students of Grady FMC employees are ineligible to enter the Grady EMC contest; however, these students are eligible to enter the WYT contest sponsored by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, the statewide organization.

The purpose of this tour is to promote and enhance leadership skills and to educate these delegates on all aspects of rural electrification in order to promote a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives. GOOD LUCK to all participants. ■

Changing or Cleaning Furnace Filters

The filter in your furnace or heat pump protects the blower, heating coils, and cooling coils from dirt, lint or animal hair. If these heating/cooling components get dirty, they are difficult and expensive to clean. Changing or cleaning your filters helps protect this critical equipment.

Your system's filter is located in either a return air grill in the living space, a main return grill near the furnace, or inside the furnace itself. It should slide out easily. If you can't find your filter, contact your heating or air-conditioning contractor.

Some inexpensive filters are made of fiberglass that is mounted in a cardboard frame. These are disposable, and you can buy them from home improvement stores. Other filters are washable, and are made of plastic fibers that are often blue in color. You can wash these with soap and warm water either in the bathtub or outdoors.

Many homes have electronic air cleaners or other high-efficiency filters that are designed to provide a higher level of indoor air cleaning. These filters need more attention than the standard filters because they get dirty quicker. Electronic air cleaners are usually cleaned by removing their core and washing them in an automatic dishwasher or with soap and water outdoors. Clean or replace these specialty filters according to the manufacturer's instructions packaged with the filter.

Your heating system will operate at peak efficiency if the filters are kept clean. Most filters should be changed or cleaned frequently, at least every few months, but more often if you have animals in the house. Check yours periodically to see how quickly they get dirty. ■

Source: Saturn Resource Management (www.residential-energy.com)

Local FFA student competes in statewide EMC/FFA Electrification Career Development Event



Pictured on the left is Alan Hurst, a Thomas County Central High School FFA student who recently competed in the statewide Electrification Career Development Event (CDE) held at the State FFA/FHA Camp near Covington, Georgia. Pictured with Alan is his Ag/Ed instructor and FFA advisor, Mr. Jerry Stone, who attended the event with Alan.

Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a national organization of over 449,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education program in public schools. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

By placing second in the Southern Region contest, held at ABAC in Tifton, Alan was able to advance to the state finals. The wiring CDE is a cooperative educational effort between the Electric Membership Corporations of Georgia and the Agricultural Education program of the Georgia Department of Education. It is designed to reinforce the electrical wiring being taught in the agricultural education program and to provide high school students the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about electrical energy. Students also learn more about the EMC's expanding role in meeting Georgia's electrical needs.

The Electrification Career Development Event consists of three parts: a practical wiring exercise, a problem-solving exercise requiring the student to interpret and apply National Electric Code information and EMC information, and a speech/demonstration activity.

Grady EMC would like to congratulate Alan on his accomplishments and to thank Jerry for his support and dedication to the program in enriching the lives of his students. Alan's parents are Vance and Joy Hurst of Thomasville. ■