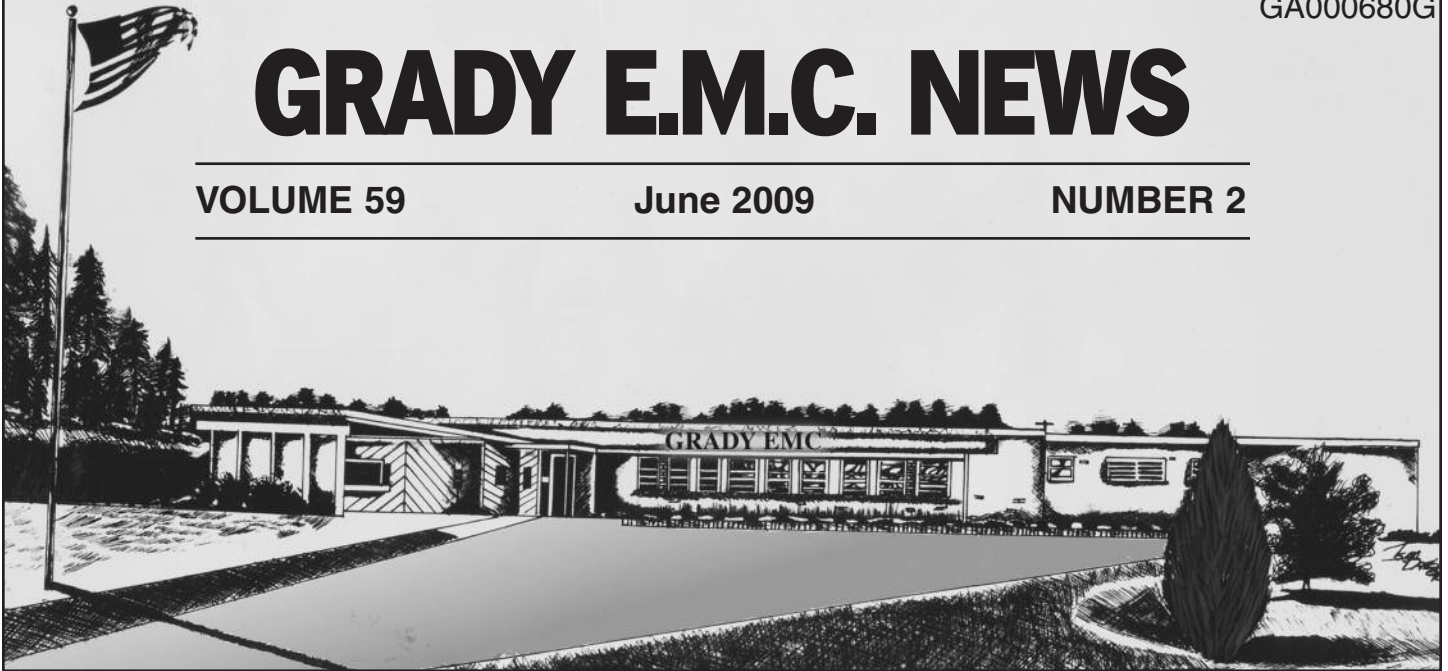


GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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Grady EMC Present *past* future

Over the last several years, your Board of Directors and management of Grady EMC have been positioning your cooperative for the betterment of all members in various ways. First of all, we are acutely aware of both the high level and high quality of service you as members of Grady EMC have come to expect over the years. In addition to this, you have tasked us with providing the most economical cost of power to all of us as members. These, to say the least, have been tremendous challenges to accomplish. However, these requests and tasks have been met head on and have been successful through the insight and action of your elected Board of Directors. Planning that was put in place several years ago has come to fruition in key areas of the cooperative's operation. Grady EMC was one of the first cooperatives in the nation and the first in this area to implement TWACS (Two Way Automated Communications System) meter reading system. TWACS is a totally electronic, computerized meter reading system that utilizes our own power lines and infrastructure.



One of the assets of this system is to allow re-distribution of personnel from the daily, costly tasks associated with this method of reading meters. The data from the TWACS system has proven invaluable in assisting members with where and when energy consumption takes place in their homes. TWACS has proven to be well worth the investment. Data derived from TWACS affords the engineering department with load requirements not only for the system as a whole but for individual feeders as well. The information technology group is able to amass all this information and to utilize that data to make the cooperative even more efficient. It is important to note that TWACS IS PAID FOR.

Grady EMC's automated power outage answering telephone system has come into its own. It has occurred directly as a result of your requests, over the years, to speed power restoration to our homes and services. You have continually increased the use of this system as knowledge, understanding, and patience have all come together. The automated outage

continued on page 4

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BUSINESS
WITH PEOPLE
WHOM YOU
KNOW
AND
TRUST



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Congratulations to the Class of 2009

We know this will be an exciting day, one that you have looked forward to for a long time. Finally, your hard work and efforts will be rewarded and recognized.

Your friends and classmates that have preceded you in graduation are now moving on with their lives, whether furthering their education, or entering the workplace. You, the "Seniors of '09", will now start doing the same and contributing to your communities and society.

You have been equipped to handle the challenges, overcome the objectives, and become productive individuals in today's world. Your families, friends, relatives, and educators have watched you grow, learn, and mature, and are extremely happy for you and for your accomplishments. Grady EMC also takes pleasure in wishing you much happiness and success in whatever your undertaking might be.

Grady EMC employees have the following children graduating: Courtney Benton and Kristen Benton from Thomas County Central High School, Trey Ferrell from Cairo High School, Stephen Harper from Thomas County Central High School, and Jennifer Mobley from Cairo High School. CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Prepare Your Central Air Conditioner for Summer

Spring is a good time for maintaining your air conditioner. If you keep the coils of your air conditioner clean, it will improve your comfort and reduce your electricity costs this summer.

Start by inspecting the outdoor condensing unit. The large outdoor coil - it looks like a car radiator - is where heat is dissipated from your home. The fan in the condensing unit has to move a whole lot of air through the coil, so make sure that there are no airflow restrictions around the condensing unit. Cut nearby grass, shrubs, and tree branches so they are at least 3 feet away at the sides and 5 feet away overhead.

Most condenser coils are loaded with pollen and dust, even when you can't see it. The longest a condenser should go without cleaning is 2 or 3 years, depending on how much it operates during the summer. If your cooling season is 4 months or more, annual cleaning is an excellent idea. Turn off the power to the

unit, and remove any visible grass and lint from the fins and/or louvers with an old hairbrush or whisk broom.



Then put on a pair of rubber gloves and spray biodegradable outdoor coil cleaner into the coil. Wait five or ten minutes and flush the coil with a gentle water spray.

Your indoor coil might also need cleaning, even though you can't easily see it. If your air conditioner's filter or blower is dirty, then your indoor coil is probably dirty, too. Cleaning the indoor coil is usually a job for professionals, unless you have easy access, as with a central heat pump. To help keep your indoor coil clean, make sure your filter fits well, is easy to change, and that you change it regularly. Have your air conditioning contractor make improvements to the filter, if needed, so it is easy to get to. Change the filter often to help keep your indoor air conditioner coil clean and reduce energy consumption. ■

LOCAL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

Three outstanding high school juniors will begin their summer attending the 44th annual Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense paid leadership experience sponsored by the electric membership corporations (EMC's) in Georgia.

Selected by their local coop, Grady EMC, Sunnie Chason, Lizzie Kornegay, and Courtney Suber will be among 103 high school delegates at the weeklong leadership event set for June 11-18 with stops in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. As Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the Washington Youth Tour is designed to teach high school students about U.S. history, government and careers in public service. The Youth Tour is an opportunity for remarkable students to personally meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation and visit historical points of interest in the nation's Capitol. This is the kind of experience and personal access that most adults haven't had, the opportunity to meet face-to-face with their elected officials and witness the lessons offered by making the journey.

Sunnie Ann Chason is a junior at Bainbridge High School and is the daughter of Harvey and Carolyn Chason of Bainbridge. Sunnie is active in several school and civic organizations. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as vice-president of the Community Service Club as well as competing in the FFA creed speaking competitions. She is a member of the high school swim and golf team. Her future goal is to attend Georgia Tech and become an electrical engineer.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lee Kornegay is a junior at Thomasville High School's Scholars Academy. Her parents are George and Laura Kornegay of Thomasville. Lizzie's goal after high school is to attend a major university and receive a degree allowing her to obtain a career in environmental research and to teach at the university. She has won specific awards in Science Olympiads, science fairs, and was selected as a sophomore to attend the Georgia Governor's Honors Chemistry science fair. Her science project "Thomas County's Footprint on the Ochlocknee River" garnered first place on the local, regional, and state levels. Lizzie is active in drama, dance, plays the piano, and is a member of Thomasville's "Leadership for the Millennium" program where she has been selected to serve as a student advisor.

Courtney Suber is a junior at Cairo High School whose parents are Clay and Brenda Suber. Courtney is gifted academically as well and has consistently won academic awards through her high school years. She was recently recognized and awarded the Outstanding Academic Excellence award. Courtney likes being involved in her community through her church and is involved with the Advanced Womens' Choir. Her future plans are to attend Valdosta State University where she is planning on receiving a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Sunnie, Lizzie, and Courtney will join more than 1,500 delegates from 44 states for the fast-paced trip that focuses on leadership training in the nation's Capitol. Before flying to Washington, D.C., they will spend a day in Georgia where they visit Atlanta sites and tour the Little White House in Warm Springs. In D.C., tour stops include Ford's Theater and Peterson House, the Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Union Station, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Capitol, National Archives, Washington Monument and FDR, Jefferson, World War II, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans monuments and memorials. They will also participate in a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, view the United States Marine Corps Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial, attend a Congressional meeting with U.S. Representatives, meet both U.S. senators from Georgia, and enjoy a riverboat cruise on the Potomac.



Tommie Howell, Sunnie Chason, Donnie Prince.



Karen Bryan, Lizzie Kornegay, Donnie Prince, Dr. Dale Graham.



David McCurry, Courtney Suber, Donnie Prince.

continued on page 4

continued from page 1

reporting system, used in conjunction with the TWACS system has provided the membership with the easiest, quickest way to report outages and to have power restored in the safest, fastest way possible. Our twenty four hour, seven days per week (24/7) local (yes, we still have live, local human beings that can be talked to) dispatch center has crews rolling to power outages more quickly with precise outage specifics. Personnel in the field, through the use of technology, have the same capabilities and “set of eyes” to see what is happening to the system, just as the dispatch center does. This simply benefits us as members to have power restored the safest, quickest, and most economical way to our services. It is important to note the AUTOMATED POWER OUTAGE ANSWERING TELEPHONE SYSTEM IS PAID FOR.

The reliability and quality of power that we receive in our homes comes from many factors. In your cooperative, Grady EMC is approaching the completion of a multi-year project in updating the infrastructure distribution delivery system. This project is involving the change-out, replacement of defective poles and associated hardware with new poles where needed, and new wiring converting the system from 7,200 volts to 14,400 volts throughout Decatur, Grady, and Thomas Counties. This is a tremendous asset to us as Grady EMC is now positioned, not only, for future growth, but also, should provide us with an immediate level of security that we have a totally solid, secure system. We can depend on the safe, reliable distribution of electricity for many years to come with our existing as well as future members. It is also important to note that INFRASTRUCTURE CONVERSION WILL BE PAID FOR UPON COMPLETION.

The most integral part of maintaining the reliability in an electrical distribution system is how well the rights-of-way are maintained. Over the years, as a result of your cooperative’s right-of-way program, the number of power outages, as well as the duration of those outages have decreased, excluding extended outages as a result of storms, catastrophic events, etc. We acknowledge the frustration to some members that has been created by the right-of-way program, but we trust they will understand the reasoning for it.

Through sound business practices and planning, your elected Board of Directors and management have placed Grady



EMC, your cooperative, in a highly enviable position within its industry. These accomplishments have not been inexpensive, but through their foresight and the diligence of your employees, Grady EMC has still not had a basic residential rate increase since 1992. Yes, there have been the power cost adjustments placed on all of us due to the volatility of the oil industry, but your cooperative has stayed true to this mission of providing us with the lowest cost electricity available. How many other businesses can we name that can truly say that in today’s global economy?

As Grady EMC looks toward the future, we are now focusing on some much needed and neglected repairs on the physical plant itself. With the aforementioned projects that have been implemented over the years with the costs involved, Grady EMC has foregone some basic problems with our office complex. We have already repaired (patched) the flat roof several times due to severe water leaks into the administrative offices. We literally placed buckets around to catch the water and covered computers, electronic equipment, furniture, etc. with plastic to keep them from being damaged. If you have been to the office in recent weeks, you probably noticed a lot of digging going on around the complex. This has been a result of water drainage pipes simply collapsing due to age and to the amount of drainage water placed on the system. Drainage issues on the back of the main office building has just been completed, and for the first time, water has not come on the floor as a result of rain.

This cooperative’s headquarters building was built and started operations in 1952. Fifty-seven (57) years has taken a toll on the building, and it is now our intention to bring your offices of Grady EMC up to the standards which you deserve and one which you can be proud of. In order to keep our members abreast of operations at your cooperative, we wanted to inform you of where Grady EMC stands at this point in time and where we are headed. With whatever changes are made at Grady EMC, it will be dealt with as in the past, using sound business practices and financial judgment, for the betterment of all of us as members of Grady EMC. ■

continued from page 3

**RURAL
ELECTRIC
YOUTH
TOUR**

This year, for the first time, delegates will visit the Pentagon Memorial dedicated to the memory of the 184 lives lost when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. This facility will be home to 184 individual memorial benches, each dedicated to a victim and inscribed with his or her name. The benches will be organized by the victims’ ages, and oriented according to whether they were among the 59 who died aboard Flight 77 or the 125 who lost their lives in the Pentagon.

Other stops will include visits to the Hard Rock Café and Toby’s Dinner Theater in Baltimore, Md., where the group will attend the play, “Beauty and the Beast.”

Grady EMC considers it an honor and pleasure to reward these high achievers with this leadership event. ■