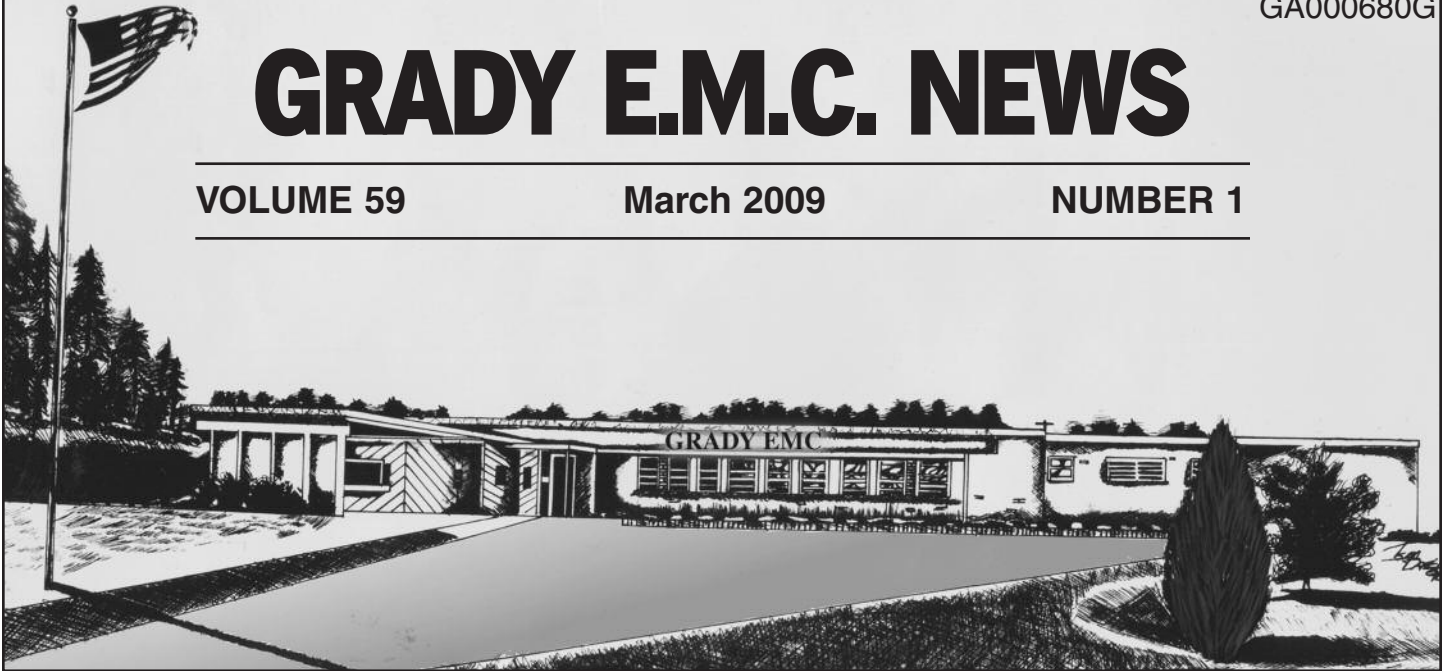


GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

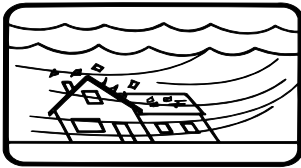
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Wind Does Affect Your Energy Costs



The problem of air infiltration in your home is most prevalent during March and April, two of the windiest months of the year. And wind induced infiltration of cold outside air can be a special problem.

Air flow over your house creates an intricate pattern of forces all around it. While these forces are invisible, you can see curtains move, feel drafts and hear wind noises around the house.

A certain amount of infiltration is needed. It replenishes oxygen in the house with at least one air exchange an hour under average wind conditions. A tightly built, well-insulated, weatherstripped home with electric heat and appliances should have a complete change of air every two hours.

Homes with fossil-fueled cookstoves, furnaces, water heaters or clothes dryers will need more air

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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. ■



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WITH PEOPLE
WHOM YOU
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AND
TRUST



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Corporation

Grady EMC welcomes attorney M. Claire Chason



Effective January 1, 2009, Grady EMC welcomed aboard its new corporate attorney, Ms. M. Claire Chason. Ms. Chason graduated from Brookwood School in Thomasville, Georgia in 1978. She received her B.B.A. degree from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia in 1982 and then went on to the University of Georgia's School of Law to receive her Juris Doctorate degree in June, 1985. She has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since 1985. She was admitted to practice in the Superior Courts of Georgia, Court of Appeals of Georgia, Supreme Court of Georgia, United States District Court for Middle District of Georgia, and United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Attorney Chason has served as the Solicitor General of State Court of Mitchell County since August of 1998.

Attorney Chason and her family live in Cairo where she is a member of the First United Methodist Church and is active in the Cairo Kiwanis Club, Grady County Historical Society, and the WIN Investment Club. It is indeed an honor to have someone with Ms. Chason's background and reputation in conducting the legal matters of the cooperative. ■

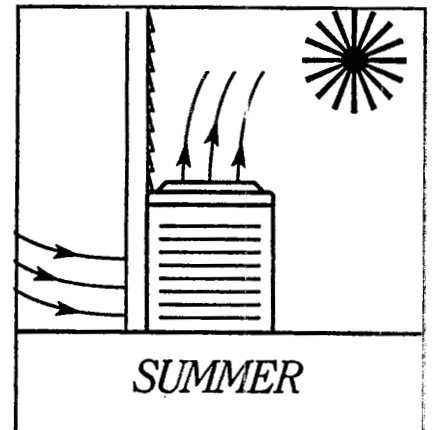
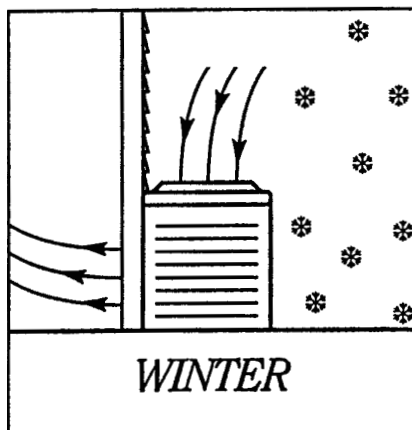
Buy a Heat Pump For Year-Round Comfort and Savings

Keep your cool in the summer and stay warm in the winter with an economical, dependable heat pump. It's a one-appliance system that does two jobs while saving you money.

The efficient heat pump captures warm air from the outdoors and pumps it inside during the winter. In the summer, it pumps warm inside air outdoors.

Compare the cost of a heat pump and the smaller amount of energy it will use with the cost of buying and operating other kinds of heating and cooling systems. You'll find that a heat pump is a smart buy.

Check with a heating and cooling contractor about the right system for you.



Commitment to Grady EMC Members

Many years ago, a crisis started developing over balancing the federal budget forcing thousands of federal employees out of work. Now the economy is in a much worse position and millions of Americans have lost jobs complicating their lives even further.

Back in 1994, Grady EMC, along with the nearly 1,000 other locally owned cooperatives in the nation adopted reforms that cut the taxpayer cost of the financing program by nearly fifty percent. These reforms were very important in the way cooperatives financed certain improvements to consumer service. Even the Congressional Budget Office stated that, "The RUS has experienced the most precipitous decline among credit programs." By any standard, working for that change at a time when all others were fighting to keep their subsidies, was a bold and decisive move. It demonstrates our resolve to be responsible citizens.

Grady EMC, as noted earlier, is a locally owned and controlled private, not-for-profit utility company. We exist to provide critical services to our members. We do not answer to a group of out-of-town stockholders or a bunch of government bureaucrats. That freedom lets us focus all our efforts on improving the quality of life in the communities we serve while doing everything we can to hold electric rates down for our members. This is evident in that Grady EMC has not had a base rate increase since 1992. Yes, we have had power cost adjustments (PCA) added to our bills that have fluctuated up and down. However, these charges were not under Grady EMC's control but we all had to absorb them. The days of negative power cost adjustments (for those that can remember them) that actually reduced our bills apparently have gone by the wayside.

Regardless of what the electric utility industry looks like in years ahead, Grady EMC is committed to serving our local communities for the long haul and not just for some short-term gain. Holding electric rates down is our big concern.

So while the politicians in Washington continue to bicker about how to throw away our money, while big corporate utilities are closing customer service offices to increase profits, remember that your local member-owned and controlled electric cooperatives stepped up to the plate early. We cut the co-op loans by fifty percent while maintaining our commitment to you, our members.

Grady EMC is continuing to do our part. We are actively engaged in looking out for the betterment of our members and communities we serve. ■

Continued from Page 1

exchanges because they need more air. Every cubic foot of gas burned uses ten cubic feet of air to support combustion.

While air exchange is necessary, most houses lose far too much heat during the windy season. As the wind speed increases, air changes take place more often. You may notice that on a windy day you need to raise the setting on your thermostat a little higher and, even then, you may feel somewhat chilly. This is because the wind is pushing the cold air in and pulling warm air out at a faster rate than normal.

Cold air is pushed through the cracks around doors and windows, through floors and walls, through ducts and other openings, and into chimneys and exhaust fans.

What can you do to correct this problem? You can

caulk window and door frames, install storm windows and doors and add weatherstripping to reduce air infiltration that usually comes through doors and windows. Keep windows locked and make sure storm sashes are in the proper tracks. Adequate insulation in the ceiling, under floors and in outside walls will fill the spaces that are normally vulnerable to air infiltration. Underpinning of crawl spaces - with the windward vents closed - helps with infiltration through floors.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs in the windward side yard to form an eventual windbreak.

The problems of infiltration can be minimized. Doing so, you will use less energy, lower your costs, and be more comfortable in your home. ■

Energy Awareness

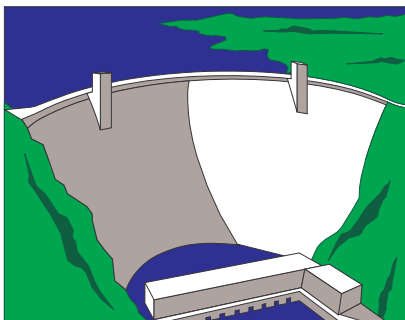
Electricity is such a common entity to our lives that many times we probably take it for granted. However, the use of electricity is essentially our way of life, our industrial strength, our international competitiveness and our nation's energy independence!

Such a fine gift it is, this electricity, a gift from the past that our forefathers have given to us. Our forefathers, by means of trying to find a better way through darkness and despair, brought us light. Yes, our fathers, and fathers' fathers wanted a better way of life for their generation and generations to come. They had dreams, the ambitions to set goals and the persistence to see them through. Finally, their dream became reality! However, most of the electricity we enjoy today is provided from power plants built in our forefathers' day. Many of these were built as many as 65 years ago. Now we must continue to provide for our future and our children's future. As our nation's demand for electricity increases, many decisions will need to be made that will effect this country for decades to come.



It takes electricity to run the lights, air conditioners, TV sets, stereos, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, personal computers, toasters, tools and telephones that we take for granted. It also takes electricity to power steel furnaces, drill presses, to automate factories, to run computers, photocopiers and facsimile machines needed for business and industry. Electricity use grows in direct proportion to our population and our economy. As our population increases, and as business and industry rely more heavily on electric technologies and equipment, electricity use will continue to grow. Therefore, we are going to need more electricity to meet the needs of our growing population and to sustain economic growth.

The common trend today is to keep America beautiful by keeping a clean environment. This becomes an important issue when considering construction of new power plants. Nuclear power plants produce energy by the fissioning of uranium, not by the burning of fuels. U.S. nuclear power plants have helped create a cleaner environment as has nuclear energy throughout the world. In 1991, America's 111 nuclear power plants produced almost 22 percent of our electricity, enough to meet the needs of 65 million homes. Without them, electric utility emissions of carbon dioxide (one of the "greenhouse" gases) would have been 20 percent higher. As our nation's need for electricity grows, nuclear energy can help meet that demand without polluting the air.



Hydropower produces 10 percent of the total electricity, but America has already used up most of its large-scale hydroelectric potential. There are simply not enough new dam sites that can be used for major electrical generation.

Other sources, such as geothermal, solar, wind and biomass show great promise. But they now provide less than one half of one percent of our electricity. Additional technological development is needed before some of these sources can compete with the more traditional sources of electricity.

Nuclear energy cannot solve all of America's energy problems. We should encourage all possible alternatives. Efficiency should be top priority, but efficiency will not eliminate the need for new power plants. By 2000 America's need for electricity had grown to more than 20 percent and by the year 2010 will have grown by more than 50 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Planning now, for the design of new nuclear power plants, will ensure adequate supplies of electricity, along with increasing our energy independence in America's 21st century. ■

*Information from: U.S. Council for Energy Awareness 1776 I Street, N.W. Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20006-3708.
