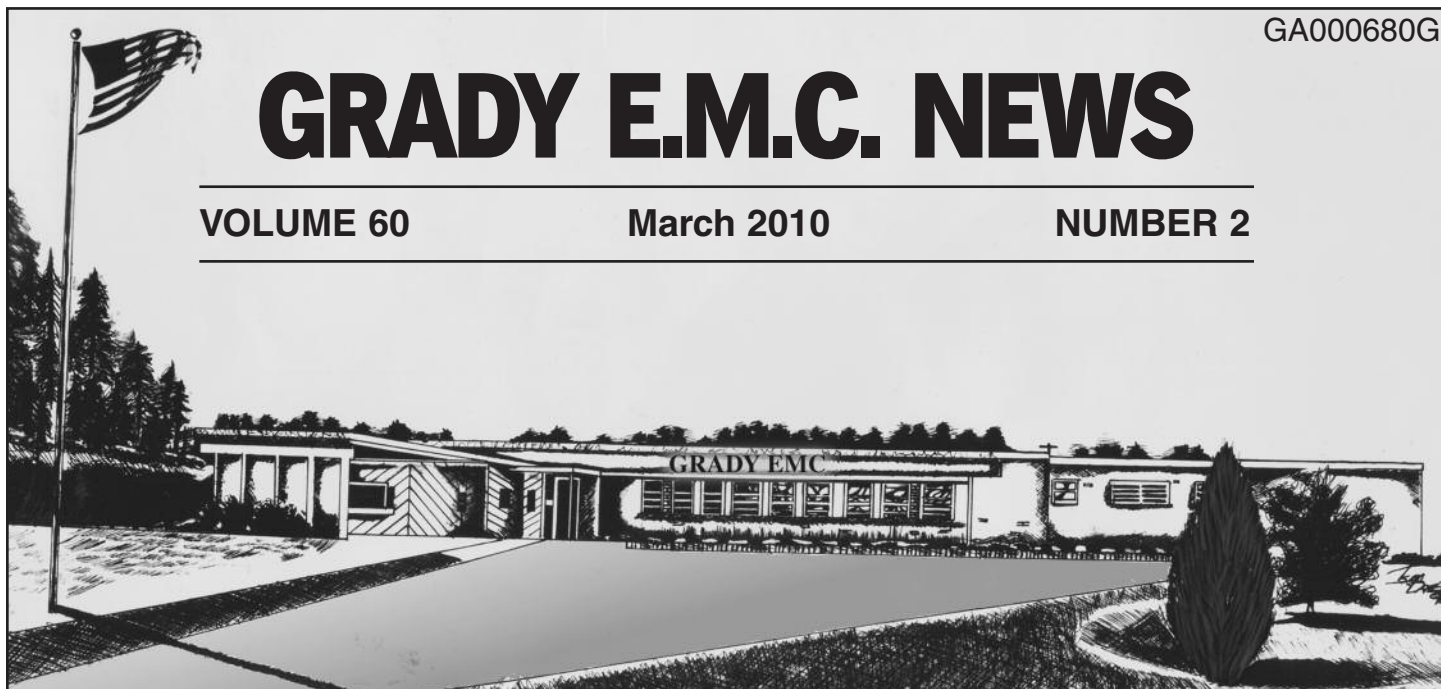


GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

VOLUME 60

March 2010

NUMBER 2



GRADY EMC EMPLOYEE TO CHAPERONE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

Travis Duren has been selected as one of a dozen chaperones from across Georgia to accompany teenage student-delegates on this summer's Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership program sponsored by Grady EMC.

Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs) in 2010 will celebrate their 45th consecutive year of sending high school students on the Washington Youth Tour, the oldest youth leadership program in the state, for the all-expense paid week of learning about U.S. history, government, careers in public service, and the cooperative movement.

This year's tour is set for June 10-17 with 100 youth delegates to be accompanied by 12 chaperones and two Youth Tour directors on the fast-paced trip that focuses on leadership training in the nation's capitol. Georgia's WYT delegates will join more than 1,500 students from 44 states for the event.

Jeff Cox, a teacher sponsored by Altamaha EMC as a chaperone on a past tour, says it was a privilege to accompany the students, and the experience will remain with him for a lifetime.

"The tour helps bolster one's hope for America's future," Cox notes. "The students are among the best and brightest in the state. They'll be our leaders in only a few years. It's rewarding to see the abiding love of this nation, its history, and its institutions unfold in these young men and women."

As an educator, Cox says the week-long tour goes beyond the textbook and provides students a rare glimpse into the machinations of U.S. government.

"I've taught U.S. history for years and have been to Washington on other occasions," Cox says. "U.S. history and the mechanisms of government have been my life's passion, but walking the halls of Congress and expe-

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RURAL
ELECTRIC
YOUTH
TOUR



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Published Quarterly,
Mailed to All Members of
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Congratulations to the Class of 2010

Grady EMC would like to recognize the following young adults as they prepare to graduate. These students are children of employees of Grady EMC: Kaleb Mobley from Cairo High School, Jordan Gibbs from Cairo High School, and Brittany Duren from Thomas County Central High School.

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 '10", will now start doing the same and contributing to your communities and society.

You have been equipped to handle the challenges, achieve 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.

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG



Call 811 Before You Dig – It's the Law!

Spring has sprung. Even though you have the urge to get outside and work in the yard, we want to be sure that spring is the only thing that has sprung. If you spring a leak in a gas line, it means bad news for you and others. Before you begin digging or excavating, it is important that you dial 811 to get underground lines marked. Not only is it important, it's the law! The law requires that you notify utilities at least 48 hours prior to digging (excluding weekends, holidays and the day you call). To make notifying utilities easier, all calls can be made to a central agency, the Utilities Protection Center (UPC) of Georgia. The UPC can be reached at: Call 811 or 1-800-282-7411.

Don't Get Hung Out To Dry:

Efficient operation of clothes dryers can save consumers on their energy cost

Unlike most other types of appliances, clothes dryers don't vary much in the amount of energy used from model to model. Right now, all dryers on the market work the same - they tumble clothes through heated air to remove moisture. Therefore, as consumers we can only affect efficiency through our practices. Here are a few methods to improve dryer efficiency from consumerenergycenter.org:

- Locate your dryer in a heated space. Putting it in an unheated area will make the dryer work harder and less efficiently.
- Make sure your dryer is vented properly. If you vent the exhaust outside, use the straightest and shortest metal duct available.
- Check the outside dryer exhaust vent periodically. If it doesn't close tightly, replace it with one that does to keep the outside air from leaking in.
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation. Regularly clean the lint from vent hoods.
- Dry only full loads, as small loads are less economical; but do not overload the dryer.
- When drying, separate your clothes and dry similar types of clothes together. Lightweight synthetics, for example, dry much more quickly than bath towels and natural fiber clothes.
- Dry two or more loads in a row, taking advantage of the dryer's retained heat.
- Use the cool-down cycle (perma-press cycle) to allow the clothes to finish drying with the residual heat in the dryer.

Keep electricity from Going down the Drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures-faucets and showerheads-or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostats setting on your water heater. For each 10° F reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140° F, most households usually only require them set at 120° F. However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperature within a range of 130° F to 140° F for optimum cleaning.

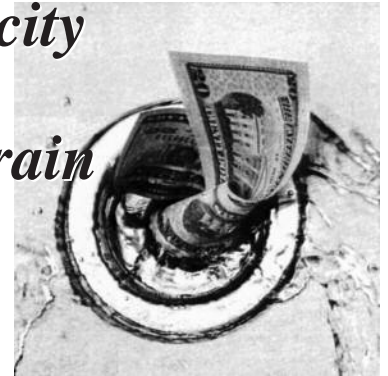
Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130° F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, H2O Conserve.org



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A significant amount of the average home energy bill pays for heating water. Take five-minute showers instead of baths and make sure your water heater is set no higher than 120° F.

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. ■

continued from page 1

riencing the many federal institutions in Washington make our history real, both to students and to the chaperones. These institutions help to define us as a people, as a nation. It's impossible to come away from an experience like that unchanged."

Before flying to Washington, D.C., students and chaperones 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 the Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Union Station, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, National Archives, Washington Monument and FDR, Jefferson, World War II, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans monuments and memorials. The youth 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. Other stops include visits to the National Cathedral, the Newseum and Toby's Dinner Theater in Baltimore, Md., where the group will attend the play, "Hairspray."

According to Cox, serving as chaperone did require the investment of a week's time away from home and work but quickly adds that making the commitment paid big dividends.

"It's a week of great fun and profound inspiration," he notes. "I'm grateful to the EMCs for the opportunity to have chaperoned and strongly recommend that others apply to do the same."

The Washington Youth Tour was inspired by former president Lyndon Johnson who, in 1965, encouraged electric cooperatives "to send youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." More than 40,000 students nationwide have participated in this unique program since its inception.

The Grady EMC delegates for the 2010 WYT are Bonnie Gaupp from Thomasville High School's Scholars Academy and Lucie Reynolds from Bainbridge High School. These two ladies are exceptional in their academics, involved in civic functions in their communities, and are highly self-motivated young ladies. They will serve as excellent delegates to represent themselves, their families, their schools and communities. ■