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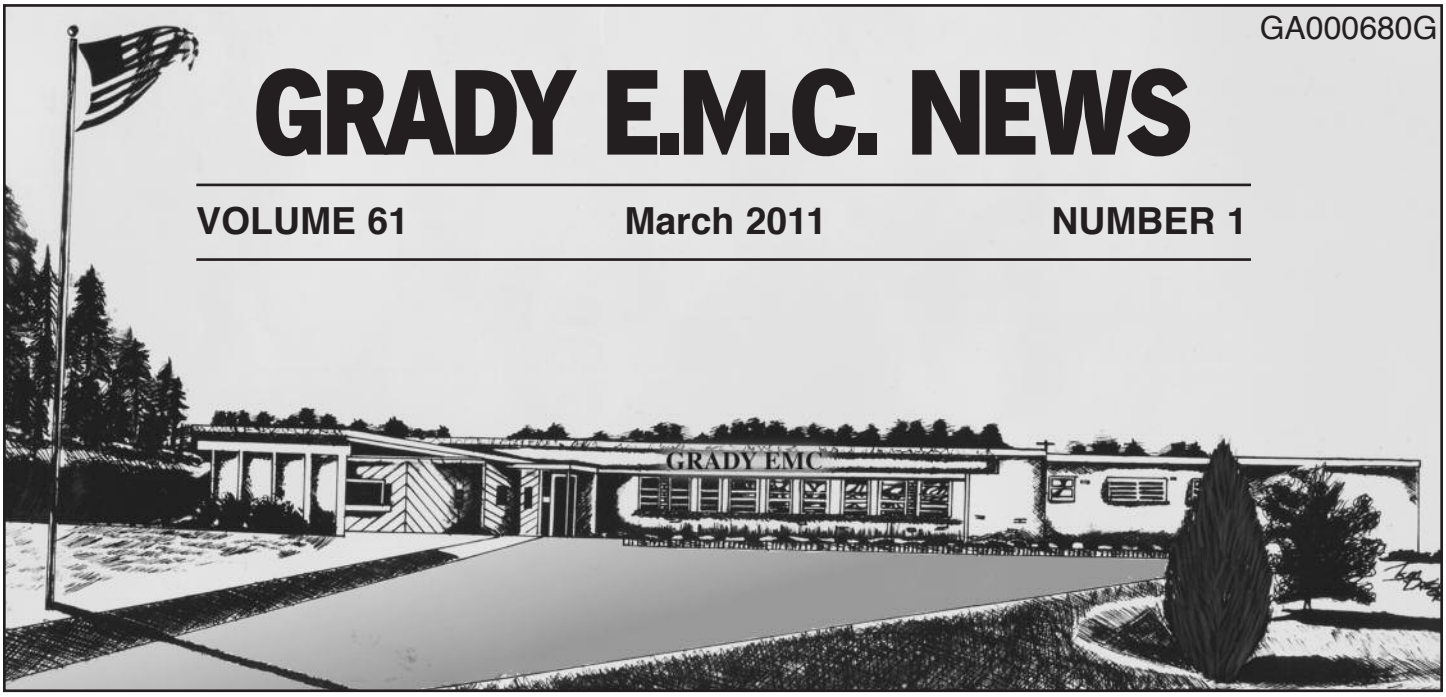

Stay Safe and Sound When Spring Comes Round!

Launch the spring season safely as you begin to spend more time outdoors for work and play.

- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are grounded and have weatherproof covers.
- Neyer fly kites or model planes near power lines. Use only dry string on kites.
- Never place a ladder where it can fall into a power line.
- Instruct the kids to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.

And, there are more helpful tips to keep in mind when you're working and playing outdoors. Just contact us, and we'll be delighted to help you play it safe for all your outdoor activities.

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"Something must be wrong with my meter!"

Have you ever received an electric bill that was higher than you thought it should be? Or, have you ever compared your electric bill to that of your neighbor's and found yours to be higher. When we find ourselves in this situation we usually jump to the conclusion that something must be wrong with the meter. It must be running too fast. Right? Wrong!

The electric kilowatt hour meters of today are very accurate end precise measuring devices. They are precision-made to work day and night, recording the amount of power used at. a certain location. However, people are always blaming the meter for everything in the book, .such as turning when nothing is on, running too fast and even outright lying!

We don't ever seem to blame the gasoline pump meter for our automobiles poor mileage or the speedometer on our car when a law enforcement official says we are going too fast. But maybe it's because we can see the gasoline or see how fast we are going; we can't see electricity, only the work it does.

Approximately 99% of the time an electric bill is high (or higher than normal) it is not an indication that the meter is faulty. Most of the time the higher usage on the meter is an indication of another occurrence. A heating and cooling system can develop numerous problems and should be inspected by a licensed heating/ventilation & air conditioning dealer about every 6 months. The weather conditions can have an enormous effect on your heating and cooling system as well as your other refrigeration appliances and cause you to use more or less kilowatt hours (KWH). An electric water heater can also develop problems and should be considered if a significant change is noted in the KWH usage. Defective wiring can also cause problems.

People, unlike meters, have different habits. Some families cook more than others. Some use more hot water than others. There's probably no two families alike when it comes to habits dealing with electricity. Some people take baths, some take showers. Some people stay up late watching TV, some go to bed early. Some people sleep on a mattress and others sleep on waterbeds heated by electricity. No matter what your habits are, they are a contributing factor when you consider your daily, monthly or even yearly electrical usage. In addition, there are some appliances that are more energy efficient than others. You should always shop for the most energy efficient appliance on the market. If the sales person is not well informed in this area, you can always seek assistance from Grady EMC's member services deparment. Also, some homes are constructed more energy efficient than others. Your member services department can also help you in this area by determining if you need more insulation, ventilation or sealing in areas that can allow infiltration of unconditioned air. In fact, Grady EMC has always encouraged the construction of energy efficient homes and the improving of existing homes.

Differences in living habits, efficiency of appliances and of the homes themselves, is why it is not very feasible to compare your electric bill to your neighbor's and expect it to be close to the same. Even if all the appliances were identical, people's living habits would make a big difference.

When you really think about it you realize that for lots of tasks, electricity is the cheapest servant to be found. So you see, the meter is not a crook at all, it's just recording the amount of work your electric servants do for you. ■

Don't Get a *Bath* from Swimming Pools

by Greg Brooks
(Walton EMC)

Swimming pools, besides providing many hours of fun and enjoyment, are a great place to cool off during hot summer days. If you are thinking about installing a pool, be sure that you know all of the costs of pool ownership. Pool buyers are aware of the cost of chemicals and routine maintenance. The item that slips most people's minds is the energy costs that are part of having a pool.

Pool pumps provide a way to properly filter pool water. This, along with the right chemicals, makes pool water sparkling clean. The pump has a hand in cleaning the water, *and* helping the chemicals themselves work properly. Check and test pool water often to keep chemicals at their ideal levels. This will result in having to run the pool's pump less.

How long should you run a pool pump each day?

The answer lies with the amount of use the pool gets. If the grandchildren come over once a weekend to swim and the pool is vacant the rest of the week, four to six hours a day may be enough. If the pool is used three or four days a week, the run time may need to be about 8 hours a day. If a continuous "pool party" goes on with many people using the pool, the pump may need to run 24 hours a day. For most home pools, runningthe pump 24 hours a day is the exception rather than the rule.

Even those in the pool business do not agree on the answer to the run-time question. Most experts do agree that the pump should be sized to completely change the water twice in a 24 hour period. A good rule is to run the pump the shortest time required to get the desired results.

Unfortunately, many pool buyers are given the impression that pool pumps are small motors that will make little difference in power bills. If a one horsepower pool pump motor runs non-stop for one month at eight cents per kilowatt-hour, the cost will be around $58.

Pool pumps are a major expense of pool. ownership. If you plan to heat the pool in the winter, be sure to find out about that cost, too. Your EMC Member Services Representative can help in getting a handle on understanding pool operating costs if you already have a pool or are considering the purchase of one. ■

Figuring Pool Pump Operating Costs

It is not hard to determine how much a pool pump will cost to operate. This worksheet will help.

Step 1

First, you need to know if the motor operates on **120** or **240** volt. If you don't know, look at the circuit breaker that turns off the pump motor. If it is a single breaker, chances are that the voltage is **120**. If it looks as if two single breakers with their handles tied together controls the pump, the motor is probably wired for **240** volts.

Enter voltage here (A) _____

Step 2

Now, look at the motor's name plate, Record the number shown at the blank that lists **amperage**. If two numbers are listed, the larger is used for 120 volt systems and the smaller is used for 240 volt systems.

Enter amperage here (B) _____

Step 3

Multiply **voltage (A)** by **amperage (B)** to get watts (C).

Voltage (A) _____X

Amperage (B) = Watts (C) _____

Step 4

Estimate the **number of hours** you expect the pool pump to operate per day (D)

Enter hours per day here (D) _____

Step 5

Next, multiply watt (C) by the **number of hours per day (D)** you expect the pump to run. This gives **watt-hours per day (E)**.

Watts (C) _____ X Hours/day (D) _____ =

Watt-hours (E) _____

Step 6

Don't give up! We're getting there! Divide **watt-hours per day (E)** by **1000** to come up with **kilowatt-hours per day (F)** and multiply by 30 to arrive at **kilowatt-hours per month (G)**.

Watt-hours/ day (E) _____/1000 =

Kilowatt-hours/ day (F) _____ X 30 =

Kilowatt-hours/month (G) _____

Step 7

Finally, multiply **kilowatt-hours per month (G)** by the average summer electricity cost of **8.5¢** per kilowatt-hour. This will yield the cost to operate the pool pump for one month (H).

Kilowatt-hours/month (G) _____ X

$.085 = Cost/month (H) $ _____

This procedure can also be used to figure the cost of using other electrical devices. If the nameplate lists watts, go directly to step 3 and enter watts at (C) .

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. ■