

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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America the Beautiful



Grady Electric Membership Corporation

will celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. In honor of the Fourth of July, Grady EMC's office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2012. As usual, in case of emergencies, you may contact the office at 229-377-4182 for assistance. We wish you all a happy and safe Fourth of July.



GRADY EMC



"Your local cooperative with access to the world's power"

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8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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SATURDAY & SUNDAY

BUSINESS and SERVICE CALLS

DURING and AFTER

OFFICE HOURS

377-4182

TOLL FREE

SERVICE NUMBER

1-800-942-4362

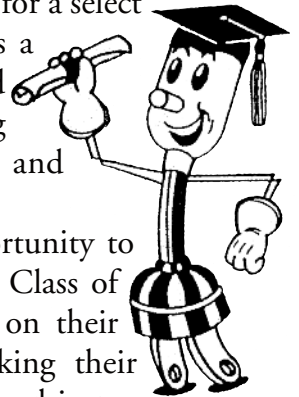
Published Quarterly,

Mailed to All Members of

Grady Electric Membership Corporation

GRADUATION 2012

A very special day is just around the corner for a select group of individuals. Needless to say, this is a day that has been long-awaited and worked hard for. The Seniors of 2012 will be taking their turn in the spotlight as diplomas and recognitions are handed out graduation day.



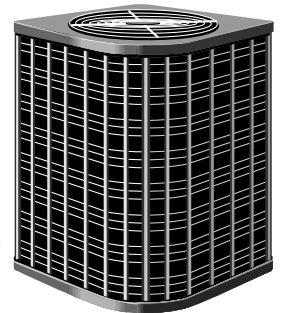
Grady EMC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every graduate of the Class of 2012. Prior graduates have left their mark on their school and their community. They are taking their responsible places in society just as you will and just as will future graduates. Just like high school has been a challenge and an accomplishment, so will the future. You have been equipped to tackle the challenges and to enjoy the accomplishments that come your way.

Whether you plan on furthering your education or entering the job market, your friends at Grady EMC wish you the very best in your endeavors. It has been a pleasure watching you arrive at this time in your life. Remember that your family, friends, relatives and educators wish you much happiness and success and so does Grady EMC.

Congratulations!

Help your Heat Pump Out

It seems as if we jumped directly from winter to summer this year. Spring is usually the time when we start having our heat pumps checked out for the upcoming summer and winter seasons. As we are already experiencing mid-80s temperatures in May, it is a good idea to have your system checked immediately to make sure it is operating at its maximum efficiency. Having your unit checked by a licensed heating/air conditioning contractor is recommended.



Make sure the unit is full of freon, and that there are no leaves, grass clippings, or objects that interfere with the proper air flow across the coils. Also, have your ductwork system checked to make sure there are no air leaks. Joints and seams in the ductwork are recommended to be sealed with mastic, as this is a better sealer than tape. Leaking ductwork can rob us of valuable energy. Don't forget to change the air filters on a monthly basis. Remember, recommended thermostat settings are 78 degrees in summer and 68 degrees in winter. Utilize ceiling fans to keep air moving in the home which helps us to feel more comfortable. ■

Extension Cords - Be Safe

As summer activities are upon us such as trimming hedges, shrubs, blowing off decks, driveways, etc., and listening to our radios around



the pool, if using extension cords, make sure the

cords are not frayed with wiring exposed as this can present a severe shock. Faulty extension cords, especially around a swimming pool, can be especially dangerous. Please check your extension cords and replace if necessary. The three-prong, grounded type should be used for safety's sake. ■

Conserving Energy Is Common Sense

Many factors contribute to the amount of energy you use in your home. Some of these are the size of your home, how many people are in the household, how you regulate heating and cooling system, and the current level of energy efficiency of the home. The rising cost of electric power has created the need for energy conservation. Energy conservation does not mean living uncomfortably or in the dark to lower your bill, it simply means determining which conservation methods are appropriate for your home. After determining conservation methods, you will probably find many of them can be implemented without any discomfort. Although some projects, such as installing a heat pump or fixing a major plumbing problem will usually require a professional, some projects such as insulating, caulking and installing storm windows are appropriate for many do-it-yourselfers.

Some conservation measures don't really take any work at all, like informing household members not knowledgeable about energy saving life style actions such as switching off a light, radio or television when not in use; and keeping your thermostat for your heating and cooling system on the recommended settings of 78 degrees or higher for summer and 68 degrees or lower for winter.

If you have an electric water heater, it is thermostatically controlled and heats water automatically.

To reduce losses and increase the efficiency of your water heater, the thermostat should be lowered to a setting adequate for your household's daily needs. A thermostat setting of 120 degrees is sufficient for most homes without a dishwasher. The water heater should be checked by a qualified person and set accordingly. Another option is controlling operation of the water heater with an automatic timer.

Wrapping the pipes and tank with approved insulation will help reduce heat loss of the system and could be accomplished by a do-it-yourselfer. Your electric water heater is one of the highest energy users you have besides your heating and cooling system. Remember that the hot water should be used wisely. You should also repair a leaking faucet, especially hot water, as soon as possible. Don't fill the bath tub more than needed and when possible, take showers to use less hot water. Shower heads can be replaced with restricted-flow shower heads that reduce flow of water while maintaining an adequate flow for showering. Do as much household cleaning as possible with cold water and use the lowest temperatures possible when washing clothes.

During the summer months, your windows are a large contributing factor to heat gain in the home.

Heat gain through windows will not only cause the air conditioner to run more, it will also cause refrigerators and freezers to run more frequently. Awnings could be installed to keep sun off windows. There is a shade screen or solar screen that is on the market you can use in your screen frame to reduce the sun rays. Draperies and shades inside the house will help but are less effective since they don't stop the sun's rays until they are inside the glass.

Your cooling and heating system should be checked or serviced periodically. Filters should be kept changed and clean. A leak in the duct work in the attic or under the house may go unnoticed and cause your unit to run more, thus using more power. Any air leakage possibilities should be fixed such as broken windows, leakage around the frames, doors or windows, cracks in the exterior walls, and leakage through the fireplace.

The attic should be insulated with a minimum of R-38 insulation. This helps prevent heat radiation in the summer and heat loss in the winter. The attic should also be adequately ventilated.

When purchasing a new major appliance, always look for the one with the highest energy efficient rating. There are many other methods of energy conservation that could be mentioned, but these are some of the most important. We can live comfortably and maintain a reasonably priced utility bill if we will educate ourselves about energy conservation and use this knowledge to plan our energy conservation strategy.

Grady Electric Membership Corporation is always ready to help our members with any questions they might have on energy conservation. Energy audits are available and information on energy efficient new homes is accessible through your Member Service Department. Feel free to call or write, and a member services representative will be glad to assist you. ■

Help Us Help You!

Preventing outages and supplying quality, reliable and safe services is the number one preeminence of the Grady Electric Membership Corporation. Your cooperation is valuable in our effort to meet this goal. Your Co-op has approximately 3000 miles of line and it all must be maintained on a regular basis. This maintenance is necessary for several very significant reasons. One of the most important reasons



is safety. The wires used for overhead electrical distribution are not insulated and carry a very high voltage. Coming in contact with a distribution line could cause a fatality through electrocution. When trees grow or fall in lines, there is always a potential for a dangerous situation to exist. Even a child flying a kite in the vicinity of a distribution line could be a dangerous situation. It is very important that you be informed of these facts and share them with your neighbors that may not be aware of the danger, so that an accident might be prevented. Grady EMC continually provides safety messages in the newsletters, pamphlets, and educational information throughout the media and the schools. However, each year in the United States adults and children get electrocuted by coming in contact with electrical distribution lines.

One way Grady EMC improves the safety and reliability of our system is through extensive Right-of-Way maintenance. Right-of-way maintenance is necessary in order to provide all members with the least amount of interruptible power, and the highest level of quality power to our homes and businesses. Your cooperation and understanding is extremely important when right-of-way crews are working in your area.

When power lines are built the cooperative procures a right-of-way easement. These right-of-way easements are strips of land designated for power lines. Once the lines are installed on these easements the right-of-way must be maintained so that the power line is accessible to our crews for service, repairs, and rebuilding work. Obstructions such as trees must be removed or cut back.

When planting trees, it should be advised to plan the location of the tree so that it is not on the right-of-way easement. Newly planted trees are often planted directly under our power lines. These trees will have to be cut when our crew comes through the area. The expense of these lost trees can be avoided by not planting under power lines. We try to maintain a 15 foot clearance on each side of the distribution line but sometimes the 15 foot boundary is not enough if the tree has died, is diseased, leaning, or endangering the power line. Trees that grow into un-insulated power lines can often be very easy for a person, such as a child, to climb causing contact with the power line and possibly causing a fatality.



We must all do everything we can to ensure that our electrical distribution system is as safe and reliable as possible. Please advise us if you are aware of trees that could be a safety hazard for our children, or come in contact with the line and cause an unwanted power outage. It is a never ending job trying to maintain our system and we appreciate the many times members call and notify us of hazards they have observed. Please help us spread the word concerning safety and continue to call us if you see any type of dangerous situation concerning our electrical distribution lines. ■