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GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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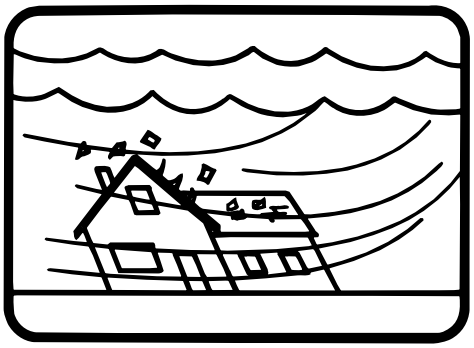
Wind Does Affect Your Energy Costs

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 heat 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 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 vulnerably 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. ■

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

You can avoid pain, scarring, and loss of life from electric shock by taking certain basic precautions:

Never touch any electrical item - washer, dryer, shaver, drill, whatever - while standing barefoot or in wet shoes or sandals on concrete, stone, terrazzo, tile, metal or dirt.

Remember that a turned-off device is connected to electricity until it is unplugged.

Don't be careless with any electrical device in the bathroom while you are wet, barefoot, or touching any part of the plumbing.

Use caution when operating such outside devices as drills or hedge trimmers. Read all safety instructions and don't remove the third prong.

It's hard to imagine how our ancestors got along without electricity. Yet the more we use it, especially with light-duty, personal, and household equipment, the more we risk exposure to its danger - and the more precautions we must take to avoid its inherent hazards. ■

IMPORTANT NOTICE: YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER IS CHANGING MARCH 3, 2012. USE THIS NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER WHEN REPORTING OUTAGES AND WHEN PAYING YOUR BILL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Planning a garage sale? Holding an Open House? Selling your car?

We wish you the best in advertising your event, but ask you not to post information on our power poles. Nails and staples used to attach posters can injure our lineworkers, who must climb the poles in all kinds of weather. The lineworkers might tear equipment that protects them from electric shock, or catch it on a nail or staple, causing them to fall. Please help us keep our lineworkers- and your friends and neighbors safe. ■

Grady EMC *Welcomes New Director*

With the recent death in November, 2011 of longtime and valued Director, Mr. Leon (Lee) O. Maxwell III, Grady EMC's Board of Directors were tasked with finding a qualified individual to fill the vacancy.

After reviewing several candidates for the District Number 5 directorship, the Board unanimously selected and appointed Mr. H. Lamar Strickland. Mr. Strickland attended his first meeting in February, 2012. He was welcomed by everyone and received thanks for accepting his role and responsibility as a new Director.

Mr. Strickland resides at 141 Beckbranch Road in Calvary, Ga. He grew up in the farming community of Calvary where his family was engaged in the business of shade tobacco and livestock production. He attended school in Grady County, and after high school graduation, went on to graduate from the University of Georgia with a Bachelors degree in Business. He returned to the farm where he became actively engaged in farming.

Mr. Strickland semi-retired from farming and worked for several years in the boll weevil eradication program. He is married to Mildred Maddox Strickland from Cairo, and together they manage their rental properties. They are members of the Calvary Baptist Church, and Mr. Strickland serves as chairman of the Piedmont Cemetery committee.

Mr. Strickland will be a valuable asset to all the members of Grady EMC and looks forward to his new role. ■

W. Holmes Maxwell Farm, Inc.

Still "scratchin' in the dirt after 100 years!

Longevity, whether in age or business, doesn't necessarily create success. However, Mr. W. Holmes Maxwell of Calvary, Ga., has been very successful in both endeavors. In 2011, Mr. Maxwell not only attained the age of 100, but also received the highly coveted "Centennial Family Farm" award recognized by the state of Georgia. This award recognizes farms owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more that are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Maxwell doesn't just sit on the front porch and rock. He is still actively involved in the day-to-day farming operations. The original 125 acres were purchased in 1900 by Miles G. Maxwell, the father of Holmes Maxwell. The Maxwells, father and son, grew corn, peanuts, tobacco, sugar cane, and vegetables. Today, Holmes Maxwell, who celebrated his 100th birthday in September of 2011, is actively engaged in raising cattle, and growing corn and cotton. His farm is one of a few farms to have operated for 100 years within only two generations.

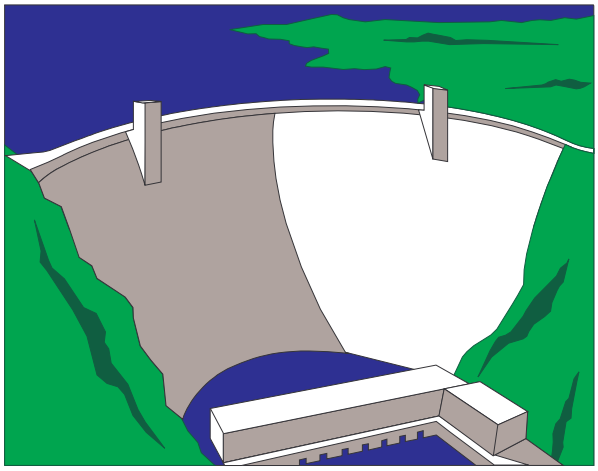
Grady EMC would like to congratulate Mr. Maxwell for this award and for his contributions to the agricultural community in which he lives, and to the state of Georgia. Mr. Maxwell has also been a valued member and friend to Grady EMC for over 65 years. "Keep on scratchin" Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Maxwell is pictured in front of his old home place and also with Mr. Gary Black, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture (on the left) and Mr. Mark Williams, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Black and Mr. Williams were on hand for the presentation at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Ga. ■

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 fore-fathers have given to us. Our fore-fathers, 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 fore-fathers 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, 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" gasses) 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 more 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 can not 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. America's need for electricity will grow more than 20 percent by the year 2000, and more than 50 percent by the year 2010 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.