

newsletter

Serving the members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation

A Thankful Season

November is the time of year when nature delivers the first signs of winter. Cold winds blow and rainy days prevail, providing a hint of what is to come in the months ahead.

Somehow the gray skies of November seem less menacing when we are busy making plans for the Thanksgiving holidays. The warmth of family and friends at this special time of year makes things seem much brighter than the weather outside.

Thanksgiving is also the time of year for reflection. In the very best of times, life is never easy. At other times, when we are faced with difficulties, life seems much more of

a challenge. Sometimes it's hard to remember that without the valleys in our lives, there would be no wonderful views from the mountaintops.

As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, the lessons of life that we experience teach us that there are times when difficult decisions and unsettling changes are necessary. During these times, it is important to keep one's faith, to continue doing your best, and to believe that when all is said and done, things will be better.

Each of us has been endowed with a great depth of strength to face life with all of its triumphs and tragedies. In order to experience life at its fullest measure, we should avoid trying to understand everything that happens in our lives. Instead we should learn how to enjoy and appreciate it daily. Savor each moment, for in the sands of time, our lives are but a single grain.

No matter what circumstances you may face during this Thanksgiving season, try to be positive and, above all, grateful for the things that you have been blessed with in your life. This is our wish to you, and may the spirit of this season be with you and those close to you—now and throughout the coming year.



Happy Thanksgiving

from Your Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Ocmulgee EMC. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve you!

Don't forget that Ocmulgee EMC will be closed for the Thanksgiving holidays, November 28-29, 2002. Our offices will reopen Monday, December 2, 2002, at 8:00 a.m.

We will have personnel on call to handle any power outages during this time. If you have a power-related emergency, call (478) 374-7001 or (800) 342-5509.



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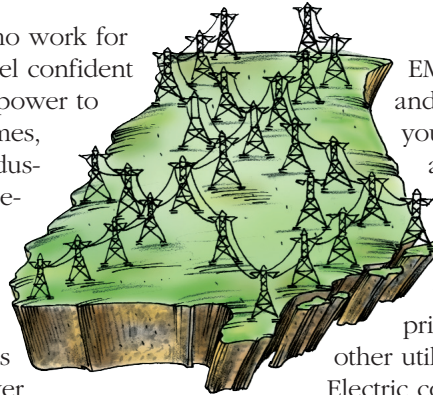
Ocmulgee EMC

Electric cooperatives deliver reliable electricity

The people who work for Ocmulgee EMC feel confident there is plenty of power to fuel the area's homes, businesses and industries for the foreseeable future.

Our confidence is grounded in the diverse mix of fuel sources that the city's power suppliers use to generate electricity. Rural electric cooperatives sell electricity made at plants fueled by coal, oil, natural gas, water and nuclear energy. A small amount of power comes from wind energy and other less-common alternatives.

Ocmulgee EMC constantly analyzes the needs of its customers.



Because Ocmulgee EMC is locally owned and controlled—by you, the consumer—and doesn't sell stock options, it is largely shielded from widely fluctuating electricity prices seen by other utilities.

Electric cooperatives are not driven to compromise adequate and reliable supplies of electricity in order to satisfy outside investors. They exist solely to meet the needs of their local consumers.

That not only means local consumers can count on the lights coming on whenever they're needed, but rates are kept stable.

Carbon monoxide detectors—for safety's sake

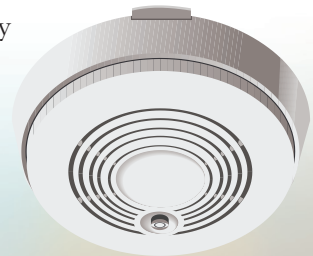
It's easier than ever to protect your family against deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. New carbon monoxide detectors plug into any electrical outlet, and many have battery backups in case of a power failure.

If you have a gas or oil heating system, you also need a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of the house, especially near bedrooms.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 200 Americans die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning because their homes don't properly vent out toxic gases produced by their heating systems. (Other estimates push the number closer to 1,600.)

Symptoms of exposure to the colorless, odorless gas mimic those of a persistent cold or flu: headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue and even depression. So many cases go undiagnosed until the victim suffers brain, heart or organ damage.

- If you suspect you have a carbon monoxide problem:
- Immediately open doors or windows to ventilate the house.
 - Get everyone out of the house, and don't go back in until your utility company gives you the go-ahead.
 - Call a professional to inspect your heating system.



Fuel Cells Could Substitute for Power Lines

Within the next five years or so, your house or barn could get its electricity from a fuel cell instead of a power line.

Georgia's first residential fuel cell was installed in June 2002 at the Flint Energies Service Center in Warner Robins. The unit was installed to provide heat and electricity to its building. The 5-kilowatt fuel cell was installed and commissioned in less than four days. The unit was manufactured by Plug Power Inc. and purchased from GE Fuel Cell Systems LLC. GE Fuel Cell Systems is a limited-liability company formed

between GE Power Systems and Plug Power Inc., and is responsible for the marketing and sales of Plug Power fuel-cell products worldwide with the exception of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

Flint Energies is currently the only GE Fuel Cell Systems distributor in Georgia. Ocmulgee EMC is cooperating with Flint Energies to market and distribute them in our service territory.

Plug Power's fuel cell is a natural gas-fueled unit that is capable of generating both electricity and heat. The heat can be utilized in a home water heater.



Fuel cell located at Flint Energies in Warner Robins.

What is a Fuel Cell?

A fuel cell consumes hydrogen to create electric energy and heat. The Plug Power fuel cell is a power-generation product that breaks apart natural gas without combustion to create hydrogen for the energy-generation process. The byproducts of the process are carbon dioxide and water in an extremely clean exhaust cycle. As compared to a home generator run by an engine, there is no noise or combustion because the fuel is consumed by the fuel cell, instead of burning it.

Fuel-cell technology was discovered in 1837—long before central station electric service over wires to individual homes became cost effective. The fuel-cell process has long been stymied by the need for an expensive catalyst to cause the hydrogen reaction. Today's fuel cell uses platinum in very small quantities to accomplish the energy-generation. The military, the space program and some hospitals use fuel cells today. Several car manufacturers have introduced prototypes of fuel cell-powered cars. And some companies predict they will sell tiny fuel cells for use in laptop computers, cordless tools and small appliances within 10 years.

We will continue to update you whenever further advancements are made in the fuel-cell area.

**These statements are speculative based on current information and subject to change. They do not represent a promise of accuracy either written or implied.*

Employee Recognition

Jenny Martin

Consumer Services - 2 Years

*Thanks for your hard work
and continued dedication!*



Recipe of the Month

Submitted by:
Irene Smith,
Cochran, Ga.

"Quickie Cake Mix" Dessert

- 1 box Duncan Hines butter cake mix**
 - 1 can apple pie filling**
 - 1 can crushed pineapple**
 - 1 stick real butter**
- (Nuts if desired)**

Empty apple pie filling in an oblong dish. Spread evenly over dish.

Empty pineapple on top of apple filling. Empty dry cake mix on top of pineapple (breaking up lumps in cake mix) and level off. Cut up butter in slices and place on top of dry cake mix. Bake at 350 to 400 degrees until brown.

(If you desire nuts you can place them on top of the pineapple. Do not drain any of the fruit.)

We're Sorry

In the September issue, an ingredient was left out of Ms. Marcie Brockman's Tea Cake recipe. The ingredient that was left out should be 2 cups of sugar.

In the October issue Ms. Marcie Brockman was listed as the person who submitted the Angel Cornsticks recipe. The correct person is Ms. Margaret Butts of Cochran.

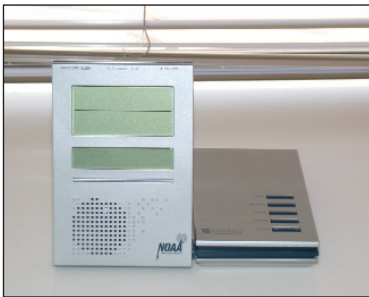
We apologize for any inconvenience the omissions may have caused.



Want a new place to do some early Christmas shopping? Stop by Ocmulgee EMC and check out the gifts we have to offer!

Home computers?

Imagine that! Ocmulgee EMC can and will gladly sell you a home computer at a very competitive price. For as little as \$55.00 per month, which is added to your electric bills, you can have a new computer. Some restrictions apply, so call us to see if you qualify. Got a small business and a few computers that need networking, upgrading or repairing? Just call our Computer Services Group today.



Looking for a gift that might just save the life of a family member or friend?

Ocmulgee EMC carries state-of-the-art weather radios by Midland and Oregon Scientific. All of our top-of-the-line units feature *SAME* programming technology. You won't be bothered by weather alerts from all over the state with a programmable *SAME* weather radio. These weather radios give continuous weather forecasts and alerts 24 hours a day to any serious weather conditions in your area.

Flameless, juicy cooking from a gas grill?

That's right! With the Holland Grill you can cook healthy without the worry of those awful flare-ups. The Holland Grill is the only grill with the Triple Guarantee! No-flare-up warranty, long-term limited warranty on all materials and workmanship, and 100 percent refund of suggested retail price during the first 30 days if the Holland Grill does not perform as advertised. Come by today, and check out our selection of grills.

