

Inside

- Operation Round-Up
Fills Backpacks.....2
- Window Treatments...3
- Youth Tour.....3
- Tackle Home
Projects Safely.....4

August 2012

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Look to your windows for energy savings. Use weather stripping on old windows, and, if you can, add storm windows. In hot climates, add solar film screening to west-facing windows to catch heat. For new units, consider double-glazed panes; in cold climates, “low-e” coatings on glass can help reduce heat loss.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations

Sandra McFarland is our online survey winner!



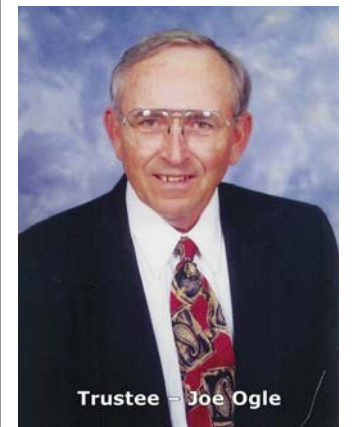
District Meetings Scheduled for August



Trustee - William R. Wilson



President - William T. Mills



Trustee - Joe Ogle

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will hold district meetings for the members of Districts 2, 4, and 6.

William R. Wilson currently serves as the trustee representing District 2, William T. Mills currently serves as the trustee representing District 4, and Joe Ogle serves as the trustee representing District 6.

Your cooperative holds district meetings in order for you to elect your representatives to the Cookson Hills Board of Trustees. These local meetings are essential to Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. Attending these meetings gives you, as a cooperative member, the opportunity to choose who will represent you on your cooperative Board of Trustees.

A seven member Board of Trustees governs Cookson Hills, which divides its service area into seven districts with one trustee representing each district for a three-year term. The board establishes policies and monitors cooperative

District 2 - Mr. Wilson - Cookson Hills Office in Sallisaw, Tuesday, August 7th at 5:00 p.m.

District 4 - Mr. Mills - Keota School Cafeteria, Wednesday, August 8th at 4:30 p.m.

District 6 - Mr. Ogle - Kinta School All Purpose Room, Wednesday, August 8th at 6:00 p.m.

finances and procedures. The board has set the following dates and times for the 2012 district meetings: District 2 meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Aug. 7, 2012 at the Cookson Hills office in Sallisaw; District 4 meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 8, 2012 at the Keota School Cafeteria; District 6 meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 8, 2012 at the Kinta School All Purpose Room.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will send notices to cooperative members in each of these districts. ***Please be sure to read your district meeting notification carefully.*** If you have questions about the district meetings, please feel free to call 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.

Hot Watts

is published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

Headquarters: P.O. Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462
Phone: 918-967-4614

Branch Office: P.O. Box 587
Sallisaw, OK 74955
Phone: 918-775-2211

Toll-Free: 1-800-328-2368

Home Page: www.cooksonhills.com
E-Mail: marketing@cooksonhills.com

Cookson Hills Staff

Kendall Beck
General Manager

Eric Johnson
Assistant General Manager

Dalen Garner
Director of Operations

Juli Orme
Manager of Finance and Administration

Teresa Shaw
Office Manager

Brett Orme
Director of Engineering

Cookson Hills Board of Trustees

William T. Mills President / District 4
Joe Falleur Vice President / District 3
Kenneth Kelley Sec.-Treas. / District 5
William R. Wilson Trustee / District 2
Rocky Woods, Sr. Trustee / District 1
Joe Ogle Trustee / District 6
Ronnie Pevehouse Trustee / District 7

Bill V. Wilkinson - Attorney

Larry Mattes - Editor

Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing.

Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

If you find your account number hidden in this issue of the *Hot Watts* you will receive a \$25 credit on your next electric bill.

Operation Round-Up Fills Backpacks With More Than Homework



Submitted photos



“This event is giving kids school supplies they need to succeed. I would like to thank all our local donors and the generosity of the members of CHEC and the Operation Round-Up program,” said Sand-

ie Rutherford, Haskell County Coalition Director.

CHEC members who participate in the Operation Round-Up program help make these grants possible. Members allow their monthly electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar and contribute the change to this charitable program. The Cookson Hills Foundation board oversees the donations and reviews the grants.

The Foundation board meets quarterly to award grants. Anyone living in the co-op's service territory is eligible to apply for an Operation Round-Up grant. Application forms are available at CHEC offices in Sallisaw and Stigler. If you would like more information, call Amy Smith at 918-967-4614.



The Haskell County Coalition (HCC) received a \$2,000 grant from Operation Round-Up to ease back to school financial hardship on families. Operation Round-Up donations from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) members, guaranteed a number of area children have an assortment of school supplies. This effort has been a project of (HCC) and the Haskell County Health Department (HCHD) for the past five years.

The HCC provided students who met the requirements with free school supplies, new haircuts, and various back to school services and resources. Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) in conjunction with Haskell And Latimer Tobacco (HALT) Project (member of HCC) donated the draw string bags for the school supplies.



Upgrade window treatments to keep sun out



If the sun loves to beat on your house all summer, show it who is boss by updating your window treatments.

Do not stop with new drapes or indoor blinds. The sun will fade and ruin them unless you also add sunscreens, especially on the west and south sides of the house. You can mount sunscreens on the inside of the windows under your drapes.

Invest in honeycomb shades with double cells, which are easy to install, reasonably priced, and come in a variety of colors. A tip: Choose a style that allows you to lower the window cover from the top down instead of having to raise it from the bottom up. That way, you will still get a lot of light and have a nice view of the sky without letting direct sunlight into the room or sacrificing your privacy.

Tomorrow's Leaders Tour Washington

Four local students were among more than 1,500 high school students visiting Washington, D.C. in June for the 2012 Washington Youth Tour. This trip was sponsored by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) along with hundreds of other electric cooperatives across Oklahoma and the country. Hannah Franklin from Stigler High School, daughter of Rhonda and David Franklin; Elizabeth Mouser from Stigler High School, daughter of Lisa and Randy Mouser; Heather Deere from Muldrow High School, daughter of Mary and David Carr; and Katlyn Leach from Sallisaw High School, daughter of Lisa and David Leach, joined 70 other Oklahoma students for this great educational event.

“CHEC is proud to offer these extraordinary students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C.,” said Kristie Cash, CHEC Youth Tour Coordinator. “The Youth Tour provides a great way for our future leaders to learn about government and electric cooperatives. By investing in these students, we believe we are investing in the future of our communities.”

CHEC has sponsored the Washington Youth Tour for more than 40 years. The trip is designed to educate students about our nation’s Capitol, the sacrifices made for our freedom and the value of the cooperative way of business. The students return home with a greater appreciation of our nation’s leaders, a respect for the beauty of Washington, D.C., and friendships that will last a lifetime.



Elizabeth Mouser and Hannah Franklin



Left to right: Hannah Franklin, Elizabeth Mouser, Heather Deere, and Katlyn Leach in front of the Capitol.



Heather Deere

Photos by: OMEC

“In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was touring the Smithsonian Museum and making great friends,” said Heather Deere.

Applications for the 2013 Youth Tour will be available in January 2013 on CHEC’s website at www.cooksonhills.com, at the CHEC office, or by calling (918) 967-4614.

Tackle Home Projects Safely

Courtesy Photo



Read power tool instructions and adopt safety measures like using equipment guards, wearing eye and ear protection, and securing long hair and loose-fitting clothing.

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) offers a great way to save money and learn new skills. But before you tackle that home improvement project, practice these safety measures to avoid injury while getting game-winning results.

Score points with safety equipment

Just like a helmet and pads are required on a football field, safety items are essential for DIY tasks. Read and

follow directions on every power tool you use. Wearing eye and ear protection and gloves, as well as tying back loose hair and securing loose clothing, are all important to keeping you safe. If renting a tool, ask the store for safety tips.

Look up, down, and all around

For outside projects, first check the area where you will be working. Identify potential hazards and take time to avoid or correct any problems. Do not forget to look up for power lines, and avoid using long poles or ladders within 10 ft. of overhead wires.

Will your project involve any digging? Call 811 before you dig even if you think you know where underground lines may be. The 811 service will mark all underground lines in your area for free before you start work.

Avoid the blitz

Water and electricity do not mix, so avoid running cords through wet areas. Inspect cords for fraying or damage before use, and be sure outlets can handle any extra load from power tools. Overloading outlets can lead to more than a shock: Fire hazards may result from demanding too much from an electrical system.

Be honest with yourself

If a job seems like it might be too much to handle, leave it to a professional. Take into consideration heavy lifting, expensive tools that will only be used once, and whether you really have the time. That way, you will not be tempted to skip safety measures. For more safety advice around the home, visit www.safetyathome.com.

Sources: *Safe Electricity, Underwriters Laboratory*

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Kendall Beck, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from, and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Get a \$50 rebate

on your purchase of an eligible ENERGY STAR qualified window unit air conditioner

Helping you use less energy and save money is important to Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. That is why we have our energy efficiency rebate program specifically for you, the members. We understand that by spending less on your energy costs you can save money for the important things in life.

Members can receive a \$50 rebate on the purchase of a high-efficiency ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioner.

Contact our office or visit our website for rebate applications. If you have

any questions, please contact Donna Rhodes at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.

