Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

JULY/AUGUST 2013 • VOLUME 36, NUMBER 4

EMC to Celebrate 75 Years of Service to Members

The 75th Annual Meeting of Members of Little Ocmulgee EMC will be held Nov. 13, 2013, at the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Doors will open promptly at noon for member registration. Prior to the 2 p.m. business session, there will be a health fair, vendor booths and gospel entertainment. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Pursuant to the Little Ocmulgee EMC Bylaws, a committee to nominate members for directorship has been appointed. The following members will serve:

- **Laurens County** (District 1): Larry Windham, Curtis Pauldo, Jimmy Butler
- **Telfair/Dodge counties** (District 2): Carey Knowles, John E. Seay, J.Q. Russ
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties** (District 3): Carey Clark, Tommy Clark, Jamie Nobles

Please contact these members if you have comments or suggestions.

The Nominating Committee will meet Aug. 27, 2013, to make director nominations. One director from each district is elected each year and serves a staggered three-year term.

Nominations for directors can also be made by petition, which must be signed by 15 or more Little Ocmulgee EMC members and submitted to the Co-op no later than Sept. 13, 2013, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

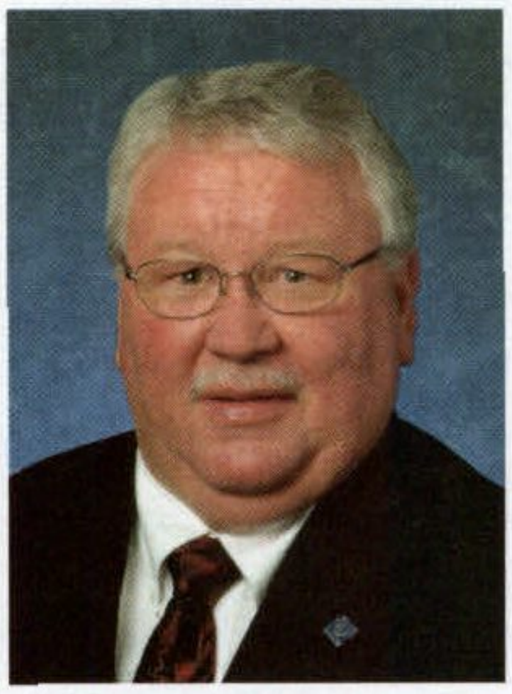
Independence Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2013, in observance of Independence Day. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia (800) 342-1290.

For your convenience, night deposit boxes are available at our main office in Alamo and the Dublin branch office, as well as a door drop-off slot at the branch office in McRae. You may also pay your bill online at *www.loemc.com*.

Former Director Named 2013 Georgia Distinguished Cooperator

To recognize his dedicated support and service to cooperatives and their unique business principles, long-time Jefferson Energy President/CEO Kenneth Cook—a former Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC) board member—has been named the 2013 Distinguished Cooperator. Georgia Cooperative Council member Gary Drake presented the award to Cook at the organization's annual meeting in Macon.



Kenneth Cook

Nominees for Distinguished Cooperator may be a director, agent, professional, public official or other individual who deserves recognition for his or her commitment to cooperatives and efforts on behalf of a cooperative.

"Jefferson Energy is a better organization today because of the leadership and vision that Kenneth brought to our co-op," says Jefferson Energy Board Chairman Martin Thompson. "The board and I relied on Kenneth and his numerous years of service in the electric utility industry to provide strategic direction and counsel to help us make sound choices for the benefit of our members and community."

Cook became President and CEO of Jefferson Energy in 1996, and recently retired from that post. However, his involvement in and contributions to the co-op movement began when he served from 1980 to 1986 as a board member of LOEMC.

During his tenure with Jefferson, Cook kept an eye toward the future. He developed a corporate strategic plan to guide the Co-op, reorganized the Co-op's corporate structure, implemented a number of service programs and oversaw the construction of a new headquarters, Thomson and Louisville offices and a remodeling of the Richmond County office.

At the same time, he offered guidance and leadership to the state's generation Cooperative—Oglethorpe Power Corp., one of the nation's largest power supply cooperatives with about $8 billion in assets. He served on the Oglethorpe board for a number of years and was also named to the boards of Green Power EMC, Georgia Energy Cooperative and the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

Cook, a graduate of the University of Georgia, still has ties with Little Ocmulgee EMC; he maintains his family farm in Telfair County. He is the father of two children, Jennifer and Casey, and grandfather to four grandchildren.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation 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, sex, religion, 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(s) responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts are Lewis Sheffield, General Manager and Carey Locke, Board President of Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feels 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 Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

EMCs Recognized for 'Extreme Makeover' of Georgia FFA/FCCLA Building

Leaders from electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) across the state, including Little Ocmulgee EMC, were recently recognized during the dedication of the new EMC Cabin at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington, Ga.

The new structure represents a three-year undertaking to renovate the original cabin (formerly known as the REA Cabin), built in 1957 with funds donated by EMCs. Fast-forward nearly six decades, when it became necessary for significant restorations that included structural repairs, new doors, exterior and interior finishes, new bathrooms, plumbing, heating and air, electrical, carpet and tile, painting and new built-in furniture.

The EMC Cabin will be home to scores of FFA campers this summer.

"EMC involvement and support of the new cabin is a perfect example of a long-standing belief in the importance of the Georgia FFA/FCCLA program," says Georgia EMC President/CEO A. Paul Wood. "Nearly 60 years ago, the EMCs helped fund one of the first of many cabins built by the shores of Lake Jackson. The new cabin will continue to host generations of campers who are learning to better themselves and our communities through FFA for years to come."

State Camp Director Todd Teasley recently pointed to the new wheelchair-accessible entry and bathroom—one of the only cabins at the camp with these features—and says this project has been the impetus to plan on refitting many of the facility's cabins with similar features.

Attending the dedication for the new EMC Cabin are, from left, Bobby Ferris, of Southern Rivers Energy, a Georgia FFA Board member; A. Paul Wood, Georgia EMC President and CEO; Shivani Dhir, 2013 Georgia FCCLA State President; Nicole Holden, 2012-2013 Georgia FFA State Secretary; Sierra Milligan, 2012-2013 Georgia FFA State Vice President; and Brandon Poole, 2012-2013 Georgia FFA State Vice President.

The EMCs learned of the need to renovate the REA Cabin in 2011 and quickly stepped up to help. Georgia EMC announced that the 41 local EMCs throughout the state, along with sister organizations Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia Systems Operations Corp. would pledge more than $140,000 for the renovation.

Deadline Near to Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits

A current list of members with unclaimed capital credit checks issued in 2007, marked as "undeliverable" by the post office, is located for your review at our offices in Alamo, Dublin and McRae. This list can also be viewed online at *www.loemc.com*.

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2013. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Our corporate office in Alamo and the branch offices in Dublin and McRae are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Cook Food Thoroughly, Cool It Quickly

A fireworks display might be the highlight of your family's Fourth of July celebration, but your refrigerator can be its hero.

That's because burns, accidents and large crowds aren't the only holiday dangers you need to protect your loved ones from. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts, more than 128,000 people will wind up in the hospital this year because of food poisoning.

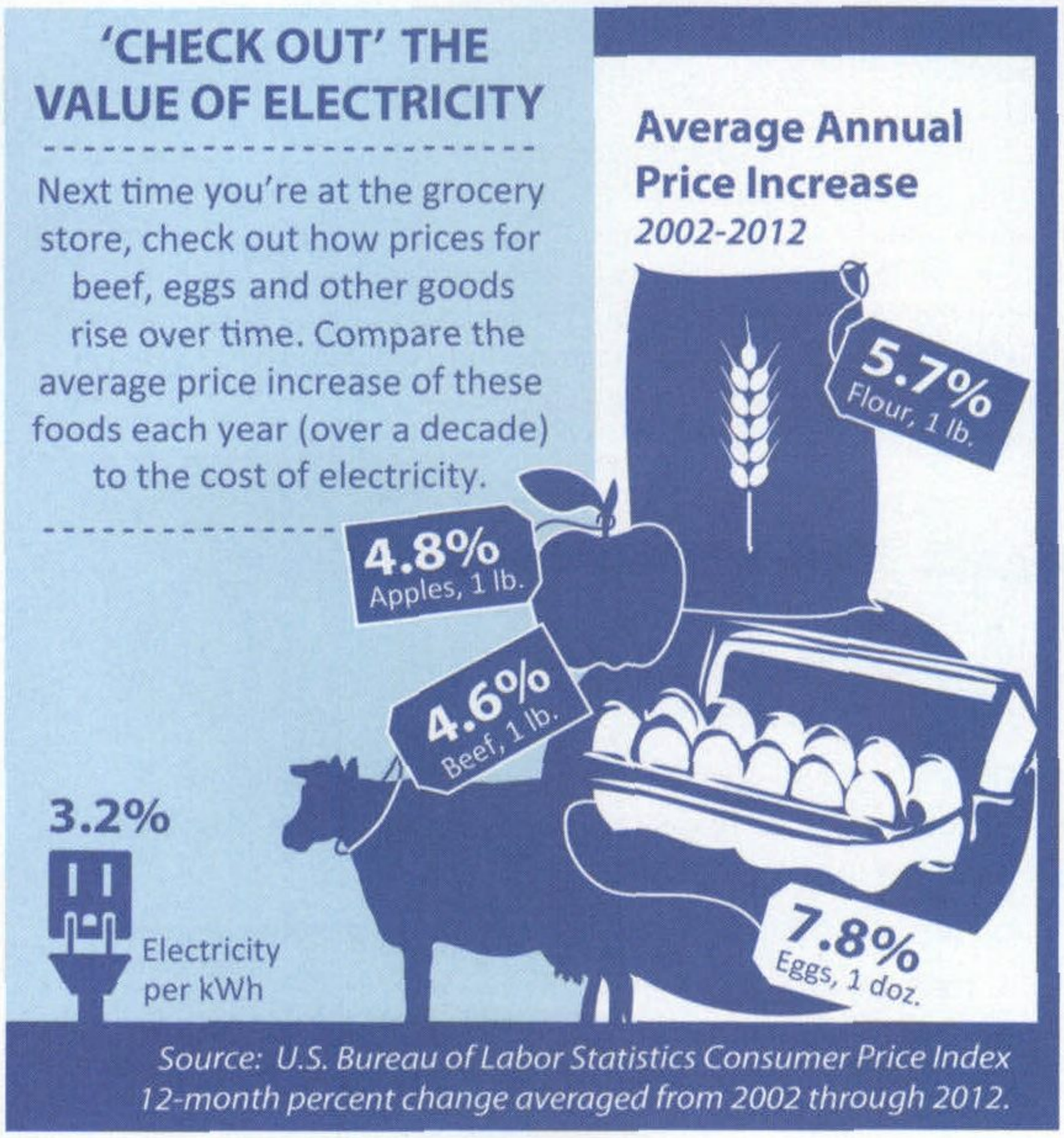
Be aware and take care. Here are some tips for keeping your delicious picnic dinner safe:

- **Use a food thermometer.** One in four burgers isn't cooked long enough to be safe to eat, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Instead of relying on how pink or brown your meat looks to determine if it's safe to eat, use a food thermometer. Don't have one? Neither do 67 percent of American families. Tip: Burgers are safe to eat when their internal temperature reaches 160 degrees.
- **Clean before, during and after food prep.** Use soap and water to frequently wipe surfaces, utensils and even your hands when you're handling raw meat.
- **Triple up on dishes.** Use three separate sets of plates and utensils during a cookout: one for raw meat, another for cooked meat and a third for ready-to-eat food like raw vegetables. This will prevent cross-contamination.

- **Refrigerate.** If you're cooking food before the party, stick the cooked food in the fridge until you're ready to serve it. Reheating takes for less time than waiting in the emergency room to see a doctor.
- **Buy a big cooler.** If you're toting cooked food to a picnic away from home, bring a cooler that's big enough for lots of ice and lots of food. Place leftovers in the cooler within an hour after serving if the outdoor temperature is hotter than 90 degrees, or within two hours at room temperature.

'CHECK OUT' THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

Next time you're at the grocery store, check out how prices for beef, eggs and other goods rise over time. Compare the average price increase of these foods each year (over a decade) to the cost of electricity.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index 12-month percent change averaged from 2002 through 2012.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Lighting accounts for about 13 percent of the average household's electric bill—cut costs by choosing new lightbulbs that have increased output and longevity. Some cost more upfront, but prices are dropping as technology advances. Options include color, brightness and even dimming and multiway functions. Combining lights with automatic sensors can cut costs further.

—Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network