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February 2011

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Ninety percent of the energy it takes to wash clothes is used to heat water. If you wash in cold water, you could save \$40 per year if you have an electric water heater and \$30 annually if you have one powered by natural gas.

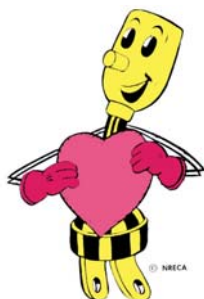
Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations

Kathleen Borchers is our online survey winner!

Scholarship

Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship Application on back page.



College Bound?

Apply for a scholarship today!

Area high school seniors, whose parent or guardian is a member of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC), have an opportunity to apply for a \$500 scholarship. In 1997, the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship committee was formed in memory of long time employee and General Manager, Herman Driscoll. He believed that education is essential for success. Each year the scholarship committee awards four scholarships to help deserving seniors pay for college or technical school.

To be eligible for consideration, students must have a GPA of 2.0 or better, good character, good citizenship, financial need and a desire to further their education.

Additionally, seniors must enroll as a full-time student at a college or technical school. The school of choice must be a state accredited school offering associate or bachelor degrees.

High school seniors may complete the application on page four of this Hot Watts issue or obtain an application from the CHEC website (www.cooksonhills.com).

Please return your application, along with two letters of recommendation, by **April 8, 2011** to the following address:



Courtesy photo

*Scholarship Committee
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative
Attn: Teresa Shaw
P.O. Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462*

Give your Valentine the gift of energy efficiency



If you want to give your Valentine a useful and unusual gift, offer to make their home more energy-efficient.

A few ideas:

- Buy a box of compact fluorescent light bulbs and use them to

replace the standard incandescent bulbs. CFLs use 75 percent less energy than the old bulbs and last up to five years.

- Change the heating and air conditioning filters, which could require climbing a ladder or removing a grate. A dirty filter can be clogged with dust, pet hair and other debris that prevents air from passing through it, and that will force your loved one's furnace or a/c to work extra hard, and waste energy.

Continued on page 2: Valentine Gift Ideas

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.

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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'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill.

Cookson Correction

The following headline was printed in the January *Hot Watts*, (Interested in Replacing your Clunky Old Washer or Refrigerator). We regret to inform you of this misprint. **Cookson Hills Electric does not offer rebates on refrigerators.**

Energy Efficiency Valentine Gift Ideas Continued from page 1

- Switch the rotating direction of all ceiling fan blades. This makes the blades gently push warm air, which rises, back into the room so your Valentine will feel more comfortable without turning up the heat.
- Replace your Valentine's old thermostat with a programmable model that will automatically lower the heat as soon as everyone leaves the house for the day and turn it back up a little just before the family returns home.
- Buy your Valentine a casual, washable sweater or a flannel quilt to curl up in while reading or watching TV. Your gift will keep them warm and make it unnecessary to turn up the thermostat.

Residential members can choose billing cycle that fits their pay schedule

In order to better serve our members, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) collects and processes residential metering data in two billing cycles. The billing cycle assigned to your account is located directly to the right of your account number on your statement. If you are a member who is on CHEC's residential rate and your electric bill is due before you get paid, CHEC will offer to switch your billing cycle dates to one of the two billing cycles below. If you are interested in switching 2232900 your residential billing cycle, please contact CHEC at 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368. Members must complete an application to switch billing cycles. Applications are available online at www.cooksonhills.com and at our office locations in Stigler and Sallisaw.

Residential Billing Cycle 3: Members will receive their bill on or around the end of each month. Bill will be past due after the 15th of the month.

Residential Billing Cycle 4: Members will receive bill on or around the 15th of each month. Bill will be past due after the 1st of the month.

Electrical around Power

When thinking about your home, are you do not picture power lines stringing high above your roadways, or near trees. But the "out of sight, out of mind," may be dangerous; power lines are hazards if forgotten.

Trees and ice can be a power hazard. Winds, storms, and heavy ice can pull down power lines and cause them to become heavily damaged, lines remain energized and electrify trees and nearby objects.

Arcing and flashovers between power lines are also dangerous. In the winter, ice can bend or break tree branches and power lines. During warm weather or heavy electrical loads, they can sag 15 feet or 20 feet, dropping the power lines. Electric current caused by arcing between power lines and trees in either situation can be an individual nearby.

Follow these safety tips around power lines:

- ◆ Make sure to always look for power lines when you cut down any tree or trim a tree. If you see a power line, contact your local utility company.
- ◆ Treat all power lines as if they are live. Do not attempt to handle a tree that has

Apprentice Linemen Climbing S

Apprentice Linemen M
Elijah "Blu" Cloud we
on their pole climbing sk
electrical lineman climbing
November 15-19, 2010
City. The climbing school
by the Oklahoma Associati
Cooperatives (OAEC).
school provided hands on t
climbing, hurt man rescu
building, equipment install
replacement.

Safety Lines

...ome or neighborhood, chances
...es. They are easy to overlook,
...of, along property lines and
...old adage, "Out of sight, out of
...er lines pose serious electrical

...er line's worst enemy. Strong
...topple trees or shatter branches
...ause outages. Sometimes, even
...energized with the potential to
...s.

...een power lines and trees are
...extra weight from snow and ice
..., bringing them close to power
...when power lines are carrying
...n heat up and sag as much as
...em toward nearby vegetation.
...g or flashovers between power
...n can easily injure or even kill

and be sure to pay attention

...k for nearby power lines before
...branches. If a tree falls into a
...ookson Hills Office.
...as energized. Never climb or
...a limb caught in a power line.



Courtesy Photo

You may not see any visible evidence that the tree is "electrified" or dangerous.

- ◆ Make sure to maintain required clearances between equipment and power lines.

- ◆ If a fire starts from a fallen power line, notify the fire department and Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC). Stay away from the site of the electrical hazard. Make sure others stay clear of the line and treat it as energized.

- ◆ Do not use water on or near a fallen power line. Along with taking necessary steps to respond to an electrical emergency, you can help stop potential power line problems before they start by practicing these safety measures.

- ◆ If you notice anything such as trees or branches that might interfere with power lines or pose a serious threat, notify CHEC. If you are planning to plant trees on your property, make sure not to plant them directly under or within at least 25 feet of power lines for short trees, and at least 40 feet away for medium-sized trees.

- ◆ Shrubs, hedges, and other plants should be kept clear of electric lines and poles.

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Marty Huff and
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...g school, held
...in Oklahoma
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...ion of Electric
...The climbing
...raining in pole
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Marty Huff



Blu Cloud

OAECE submitted photos

LEGISLATIVE LOOK



Clean Air Act

- PASSED 1970
- AMMENDED 1977, 1990

The federal law (passed in its modern form in 1970) that serves as the backbone of efforts to control air pollution in the United States. It requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and enforce regulations that protect the general public from exposure to airborne contaminants hazardous to human health.

The statute was reauthorized and significantly amended in 1977 and again in 1990 (creating a cap-and-trade program to cut emissions of acid rain-causing sulfur dioxide from power plants and other large stationary sources, like factories and refineries, and requiring those same sources to install and operate reasonably available control technology to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, a chief contributor to smog).

In April 2009, EPA announced it was ready to use the Clean Air Act to curtail the release of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases—methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride—for their role in causing climate change.

EPA regulations to slash greenhouse gas emissions began January 2, 2011.

Source: NRECA

Application for the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship

Name _____

Social Security # _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parents' (guardians') name(s) _____

Number of children at home or in college _____

Family income last year (check one): Below \$35,000

Above \$35,000

GPA Score _____ ACT Score _____

Currently attending school at _____

List your involvement in school, community and vocational groups. Also include any work experience:

In 75-100 words tell why you are applying for the scholarship and share your goals and ambitions:

List scholarships you have earned and their value: _____

Choice of Schools: _____

Note: Please attach two letters of recommendation.