

# the Co-op Connection

November 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



# Few Hurricane Outages, Work On Fiber Network Begins

We have all seen the devastation Hurricane Ian wrought on the Southwest Florida coast. It would be reckless to speculate what damage could have been done to our area, and we can be thankful not to be in the position our fellow Floridians are in while having compassion on their situation.

For the two weeks leading up to Hurricane Ian, your cooperative was busy preparing for the storm based on the latest weather information. For much of the time, we were in the cone that represents the potential direction of the hurricane. However, we all know hurricanes can change direction, as this one did.

Once it was evident our area would not be the primary landfall point, crews ready to help us were restaged to help areas that would be hit.

Our area did receive high winds and rain. A total of 175 outages were attributed to Hurricane Ian, beginning from 6 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, and these were completely restored by 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29.

## Helping Our Fellow Floridians

After knowing the CFEC service area was secured and all outages had been restored, your cooperative was able to enter into the mutual aid queue. On Sept. 30, a crew of linemen left the CFEC warehouse for the Glades Electric Cooperative service area. Additionally, warehouse personnel were sent to Peace River Electric Cooperative to assist in their power restoration effort. Providing mutual aid is a founding principal for electric cooperatives, and people in the Moore Haven area were relieved to see the extra help in their neighborhoods.

In all, the rate at which power was restored to nearly everyone, except those areas where whole systems would need to be rebuilt such as Sanibel Island, is a true testament to leadership during this hurricane and to the hard work from first responders, disaster teams and emergency management.



**Denny George**  
General Manager

## Fiber-To-The-Home Phase 1 Announced

A starting point to the Fiber by Central Florida project has been determined and construction is underway. The Chiefland 1 location has to be completed first to provide the first “fiber head end” that will serve as a network access point. This provides access to the “backbone” of the internet through a connection with Uniti fiber. Once Chiefland 1 is completed, construction will move to the next substation in Trenton, followed by the Bell substation, then the Dempsey substation in North Dixie County. Remember, this is only Phase 1. Phases 2-4 are still in design and the total build is expected to take 3 to 4 years. Both CFEC Members and non-members will have an option to choose Fiber by Central Florida service.

Besides information on the website, Facebook and through this newsletter, you can also call one of our Member Service Representatives to ask any questions related to these projects or your bill. Call (352) 493-2511 to speak with a MSR today.

# Work Begins With Make-Ready Crews

Phase 1 of the Fiber by Central Florida network has been announced. Four areas, including the “fiber head end” located at the Chiefland 1 substation are mapped out with estimated dates of completion.

- Fiber will be built directly to the home/business for 100% of CFEC's Members, as well as those served by other utilities within Phase 1 wherever their facilities are in close proximity and make-ready condition to CFEC infrastructure. Fiber by Central Florida looks forward to eventually reaching everyone in the service area to provide the fastest, most reliable internet connection on the market today at a price that everyone can afford.
- Visit [www.fiberbycentralflorida.com](http://www.fiberbycentralflorida.com) to see if your address is included in the Phase 1 area if you live near one of these substations. When available, potential fiber customers will be able to pre-register for service online.
- Consumers will have multiple price points to choose from, ensuring that high-speed internet service will be accessible to all those living in CFEC service areas and in a range of affordable options. Exact pricing is still being finalized and will be shared with the public in the coming weeks.
- Construction at the Chiefland 1 location will be completed first in order to provide our first “fiber head end” which will serve as a network access point providing us with access to the backbone of the internet through a connection with Uniti fiber. Once Chiefland 1 is completed, construction will move to the Trenton substation, then Bell substation, and finally it will cross over the Suwannee River at Rock Bluff to reach the Dempsey substation.

# PHASE 1 FIBER NETWORK CONSTRUCTION

Nearly 11,000 in Tri-County area will soon have access to affordable, gigabit-speed internet and phone services!

Construction of CFEC's 100% fiber-optic network will begin with the following CFEC Substations :

**Chiefland 1**  
**Trenton**  
**Bell**  
**Dempsey**  
(North Dixie County)

Make-ready engineering crews began work in the Chiefland area on Monday, October 3rd, 2022. Fiber Construction is expected to begin March 1st, 2023.  
Look out for the opportunity to pre-register for service online in the coming weeks!

To find out if your home or business is in Phase 1:

CLICK HERE

**Legend**

<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Chiefland 1	(ETA June 2023)
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Trenton	(ETA September 2023)
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Bell	(ETA December 2023)
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Dempsey	(ETA March 2024)

**Other Utilities**  
(Those served by other utilities that are in reasonable proximity and make-ready condition to CFEC infrastructure will be served in Phase 1 wherever possible.)

**FIBER BY CENTRAL FLORIDA**  
~YOUR BROADBAND PARTNER~



# NOTICE OF PURPA CONSIDERATION AND HEARING PROCESS TO ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the “Cooperative”) hereby gives its members notice regarding the process to be followed in implementing the statutory directives in the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021 Infrastructure Bill), which amended the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). The 2021 Infrastructure Bill established new Federal standards under Section 111(d) of PURPA, which each non-regulated electric utility (such as the Cooperative) is required to consider and to “make a determination whether or not it is appropriate to implement such standard[s]” within certain defined timelines based on evidence collected from interested persons after public notice and hearing. A complete public notice issued November 1, 2022, providing a description of the PURPA amendments and the procedures to be followed by the Cooperative in carrying out the mandate of the 2021 Infrastructure Bill is available on the Cooperative’s website at [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com) or can be obtained by calling the Cooperative at 352-493-6949. The schedule of key events is as follows:

- Official Notice of Public Hearing Process and Procedural Schedule – issued November 1, 2022
- Initial Comments – to be submitted on March 1, 2023
- Reply Comments – to be submitted on or before May 1, 2023
- Determination Announcement by the Cooperative’s Board of Trustees – to be rendered on or before November 15, 2023



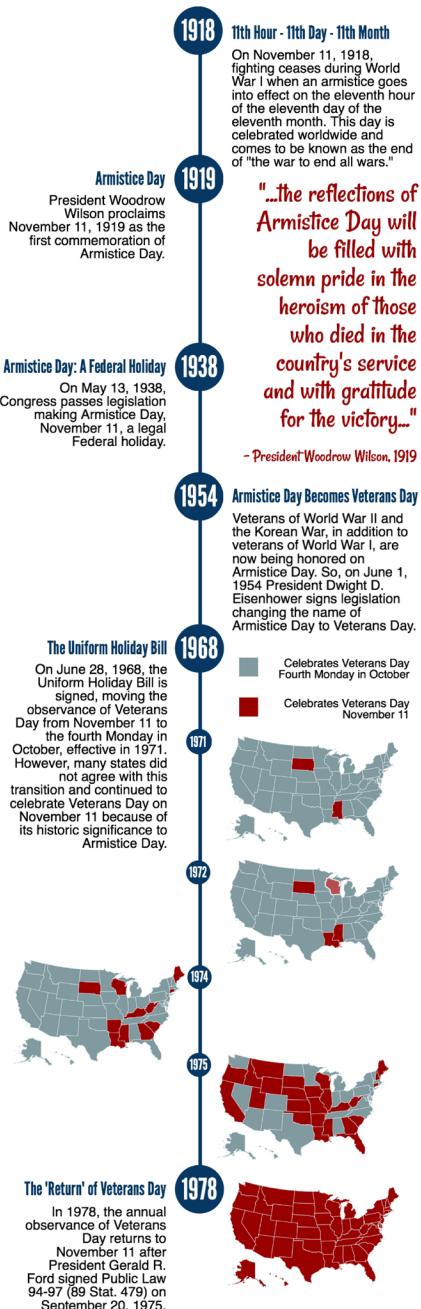
# THE HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

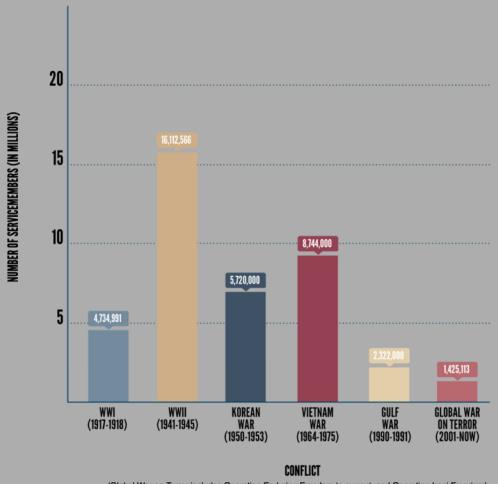


[www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

## ORIGINS



### TOTAL U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS BY WAR (WORLDWIDE)



RED POPPY

### THE FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE

The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance among the allied countries after Col. John McCrae, a surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery, wrote a poem expressing his grief over the rows and rows of poppies among the graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders' battlefields during World War I. Today, veterans organizations around the U.S. distribute poppies as a tribute to those who gave their lives in service of our country.

## VETERAN STATISTICS



**22 MILLION+**

Number of veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



**1,000+**

Number of hospitals and medical centers the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs operates worldwide.



**2.2 MILLION+**

Number of World War II veterans who went to college on the G.I. Bill.



**144**

Number of veterans and military service organizations in the U.S.

**1930**

Year the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was created.

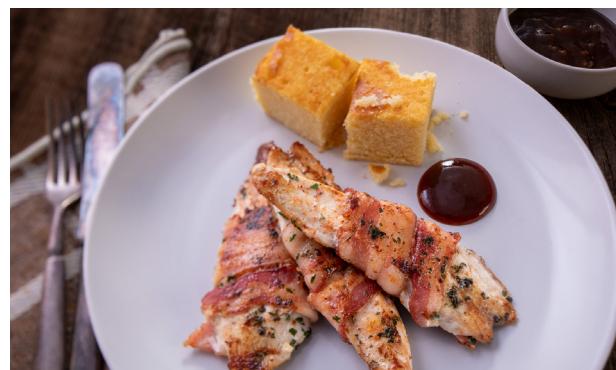
\* Total Service Members By War (Worldwide) graph figures as of May 2018. Sources: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, U.S. Army Center of Military History. Photo Source: Official U.S. Navy file photo, [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil). Infographic by Annabel Underwood, Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division.



## Bacon Wrapped Mullet

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 (6 ounce) fresh Mullet fillets
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup bell pepper, diced small
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dry white wine
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped fine
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon fresh basil, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary, chopped fine
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, chopped fine
- $\frac{1}{2}$  onion, thinly sliced
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste



### PREPARATION

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Chop all of the fresh herbs and combine into a small bowl (reserve one tablespoon for garnish). Season both sides of the fillets with salt and pepper. Place the fillets in a single layer into a buttered or greased baking dish, and drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice. Add the fresh herbs, thinly sliced onion, diced red pepper, and lemon slices on top of each fillet. Drizzle with the white wine, and bake for 25-30 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork. Sprinkle with the reserved fresh herbs and serve warm.

## Smoked Mullet Spread



### INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups flaked smoked Florida mullet meat
- 2 (8-ounce) packages light cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons grated onion
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 3 tablespoons chopped parsley
- paprika crackers to serve with the spread
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

### PREPARATION

Combine the cream cheese, lemon juice, grated onion, milk and hot pepper sauce; whip until smooth and fluffy. Stir in fish and parsley. Form into a ball and sprinkle with paprika. Cover and chill for 1 hour. Serve with crackers.

## Lemon and Herb Baked Mullet



### INGREDIENTS

- 4 (4-6 ounce) fresh (your favorite) Mullet fillets
- 1 tablespoon oil, for cooking
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 4 strips bacon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup barbecue sauce
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

### PREPARATION

In a small bowl mix the barbecue sauce and honey together and set aside. Preheat a pan over medium-high heat. Season fillets with salt and pepper then wrap each with one strip of bacon. Add oil to pan and place the bacon-wrapped fillets into hot pan. Sear each side for 3 minutes or until the bacon is crispy and the fish is cooked thoroughly. Remove from pan and brush a thin layer of honey barbecue onto each fillet. Serve warm.

## Payment Options:

- In Office / Drive-Through** – Payments can be made at any CFEC location during working hours. Payments can also be placed in the drop-box at each location after hours.
- By Mail** – Mail payments to: Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Chiefland, FL 32644. Please allow sufficient time for delivery or payment may be received as late.
- Phone / Online** – Payments can be processed through our third party provider, SEDC. A \$2.50 service fee will be charged by SEDC per \$500 transaction and is NOT a CFEC charge. Payments made through SEDC are posted to the member's account at the time of payment. Pay By Phone at 352-493-2515 or toll free at 844-434-3962. Pay online at [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com). Pay online using e-check for free.
- Bank Draft** – Payments can be made automatically by bank draft by filling out a form and mailing or dropping it off at any CFEC office. The form can be found at [cfec.com](http://cfec.com) under the "Documents" tab. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.
- Bank Locations** – Payments can be made at any Drummond Community Bank location or at the Lafayette State Bank in Bell, Fla., during their normal working hours. Returned checks or payment arrangements cannot be processed by these banks.



**Central Florida Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER~

### MEETING NOTICE:

The Board of Trustees for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Cooperative's main office in Chiefland. Members are always welcome to attend.

## Office Closure Dates



Veterans Day  
November 11, 2022



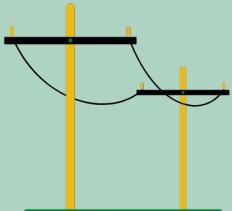
Thanksgiving  
November 24-25, 2022



Christmas  
December 23 & 26, 2022



New Years  
January 2, 2023



## To Report A Power Outage:

- Call: 1-800-227-1302 or 352-493-2511, follow the prompts of the Automated Outage Response system.
- Use the CFEC Connect App: On the Home page, click "Report An Outage," select the issue causing your outage and the information will be submitted.
- Online: Click on the "report outage" button located at the top of the website. Fill in the "Identify Outage Location," form and click "submit."





**MAIN OFFICE**

11491 NW 50th Ave.  
Chiefland, FL 32626-3247  
352-493-2511  
or 800-227-1302  
[www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com)

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORLANDO, FL  
PERMIT NO. 3937

**Physical Address/Payment Locations**

**MAIL ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 9  
Chiefland, FL 32644-0009

**CROSS CITY OFFICE**

207 NE 210 Ave.  
Cross City, FL 32628  
352-498-7322

**INGLIS OFFICE**

167 Highway 40 West  
Inglis, FL 34449  
352-447-3553

**ADDITIONAL PAYMENT LOCATIONS**

Drummond Community Bank  
Lafayette State Bank (Bell only)  
For a complete listing of payment locations,  
go to [www.cfec.com](http://www.cfec.com).  
This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.

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## CFEC Youth Tour

**Attention high school**

**juniors!** The 2023 Youth

Tour is around the corner

and applications are due by

**December 2, 2022.** The

application can be found on the

CFEC website on the Youth Tour

page. Applications will also be available through the guidance counselor at your high school. Youth Tour is a

great opportunity for students to learn more about their government, their electric cooperative and meet their elected officials. For more information on this program, visit [cfec.com](http://cfec.com) and follow the CFEC Facebook page.

