

the Co-op Connection

December 2020

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER



Being Thankful In Challenging Times



*CFEC General Manager
Denny George*

As we close this very unusual year, we have much to be thankful about and excited for.

At Central Florida Electric Cooperative, we will end this year with a good margin, solidifying that our rates – based on our current growth – are set so that we ought to be able to hold rates stable in the near future.

Additionally, with current fuel rates now and forecasted into 2021, we may possibly be able to increase the credit on the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) rate which would reduce the standard 1,000 kilowatt hour (kwh) bill from \$121 to \$119, excluding taxes. Our hope is that it could be held at this level all through 2021. The decision to increase the WPCA rate, and therefore, your savings, will be made at the next board meeting on Dec. 28, 2020.

Reasons To Be Thankful

Another reason to be thankful is that CFEC employees have been doing a great job at safety. We have dramatically reduced light-duty days, numbers of lost-time injuries and vehicle incidents. At the time of this writing, we are now just shy of 700 days without a lost-time injury and over a year without any light-duty days resulting from injuries in the workplace. We plan on continuing this track record and improving the

safety record further into 2021 and beyond.

We are proud of line-side operations that have kept productivity high while meeting these safety challenges. Keeping the power going to our members is always the goal. After storms or other events, their ability to restore power safely and quickly and then keeping it on is something we can all be proud of.

As well, CFEC was able to send two teams to the panhandle or into Alabama and Louisiana to help other cooperatives. We all, and especially the linemen and their families, appreciate the well wishes and prayers for safety when these crews leave their families to go help other cooperative members in need.

Looking Forward

While we have dealt with all the unique challenges of 2020 due to COVID-19, we have continued to stay engaged with community organizations and charities that serve and minister to those in our service territory as we all work to improve lives of those around us. We look forward to 2021 and more of a return to normal in these regards.

I leave you with wishes that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. And as it says in, 1 Thessalonians 5:18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Blessings.

Denny George



**Central Florida Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER~

Our mission is to be the finest example of an electric cooperative where excellent service, competitive rates and concern for the consumer, community and environment guide our every action.

Members: We Appreciate You!

I would like to thank every member that is so appreciative for all of the hard work and long hours our line crews put in.

I am a "Line Wife" and it's not easy. You're always worried because it's a very dangerous job from the minute they step into the truck to the second they step out.

I would also like to thank all those who acknowledge our Dispatchers, Member Service Representatives and all other departments within the Co-op. It truly takes a village, and I believe we do a great job and always strive to do our best as your power provider.

-Kayla Cooper

Thank you to our Members for their support on our Facebook page! Whether it be a post about storm clean-up, scholarship opportunities or any other CFEC activity, we appreciate the encouraging words and likes from the membership.

Most importantly, we love to see Members sharing our posts with their friends and family to get the word out about important events and opportunities at the Co-op.

Make sure to give the CFEC Facebook page a "like" and share with your friends to stay up to date on everything happening at the Co-op.

-Madison Redd

I am thankful for all our member's because if it were not for them, we would not be a Cooperative. I hope everyone has a joyful Holiday season.

-Connie Ward

Thank You, CFEC!

Central Florida Electric Cooperative sent linemen to help restore power to Members of the Baldwin EMC in the southeast corner of Alabama in the aftermath of Hurricane Delta. These young cooperative Members showed their appreciation with these awesome letters!

Oct/8/2020

Dear line men from Central Florida Electric Company

Thank you for coming all the way from Florida to my town. I know it must have took you hours to get here. Thank you for fixing my nanny's power so she could take hot showers and not be hot. Also thank you for doing your job that is hard and leaving your families to fix my power and the towns so thank you.

Sincerely
Keaton

10-8-20

Dear Linemen From Central Florida Electric,

Thank you for spending days and weeks to get all of Baldwin County back on power. You all came out of your state to come help us out. We all appreciate what you've done for us. Now almost all of Baldwin County has power back. You are truly amazing people, and I thank you for that.

Sincerely
Gavin

Thank You For Your Service

Two long-time employees of Central Florida Electric Cooperative retired in October. Tim Summers and Wilkerson “Bea” Mathis both began at CFEC in the mid-80s and both as meter readers. They both decided it was time to retire while they still had their health and could enjoy their time away from work.



Tim Summers

Tim Summers started with CFEC in 1985 as a meter reader. After a couple of years, he moved to the right of way department, then to construction and to dispatch and control.

His final job was in purchasing. After 35 years, his last day at CFEC was Oct. 16. Tim says he will spend the time hunting, traveling, and basically doing what he and his wife have always wanted to do.

Of CFEC, Tim says, “It’s been a great place to work, but now it’s time to do the things we want to do while we still can.”

Bea Mathis

Wilkerson Mathis, whom everyone knows as “Bea,” started with CFEC in 1986.

“I started as a meter reader back when everything was still written down by hand on paper,” he says.

Mathis stayed in that position for 15 years until he became an equipment operator, a position in which he stayed for another 15 years until retirement.

“I’ve enjoyed the last 34 years,” Mathis says. “But I decided it was time to go while I was still healthy enough to enjoy my retirement.”

Mathis says he will stay busy on his farm where he raises sheep.



On behalf of the Members, Board of Trustees, Management and Employees of CFEC, we appreciate the commitment and diligence of these two retirees and wish them well in the future!

Keeping Warm And Safe This Winter *using electric blankets & space heaters*

Electric space heaters and blankets can be a great way to stay warm as the temperature drops during the winter months. But it's important to use these heating mechanisms safely. Heating equipment like these cause thousands of home fires each year!

Electric Space Heater And Blanket Safety:

- Always unplug your electric space heater before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Never fold your electric blankets and avoid using them while sleeping.
- Always keep smoke alarms on each floor of your home in accordance with fire safety standards and test them at least once a month.
- Always read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully before using any space heater or electric blanket.

See the infographic for additional safety tips!

Make Sure to Follow These Important Tips Before You Plug In

PLACE space heaters on a flat, level surface, away from high-traffic areas.

PLUG a space heater directly into an outlet and avoid using an extension cord.

NEVER LEAVE space heaters unattended.

ONLY USE space heaters with the certification label of a nationally recognized testing lab.

DON'T USE a space heater if the plug is broken or the cord is frayed, worn or damaged.

Four Home Heating Tips to Live By

- 1 KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN** at least three feet away from a heating source. **3ft**
- 2 HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM** inspected annually.
- 3 KEEP VENTS CLEAR** of dust and debris.
- 4 INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)** alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.

Dressing Or Stuffing? You Decide...

Sweet Corn and Sausage Dressing

INGREDIENTS

- 10 c. Country-style bread, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 3 T. unsalted butter
- 2 medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 c. low sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 c. sage leaves, chopped
- 1 c. flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 3/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

PREPARATION

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 3-quart casserole dish. Place bread on rimmed baking sheet and toast until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes; transfer to large bowl. Meanwhile, heat butter in 12-inch skillet on medium. Add onions, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until very tender and beginning to turn golden, 6 to 8 minutes. Add celery and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 6 to 7 minutes. Add broth and bring to a boil. Stir in sage and cook 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in parsley. Transfer vegetable mixture to bowl with bread; toss to combine. Fold in beaten eggs. Transfer to prepared baking dish, cover with foil and bake 10 minutes. Remove foil and bake until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes.



Traditional Bread Stuffing Ingredients

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ear sweet corn, kernels removed
- 3 cups cornbread, crumbled
- 1 pound ground sausage
- 3/4 cup carrots, chopped fine
- 3/4 cup celery, chopped fine
- 1 medium onion, chopped fine
- 2 tablespoons fresh herbs (such as parsley, thyme, sage)
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Preheat a large cast iron skillet (or other oven-safe pan) over medium-high heat. Brown sausage then add in corn, carrots, celery, onion, all-purpose seasoning, fresh herbs and sauté for 5 minutes or until vegetables begin to soften. Remove from heat and pour mixture into large bowl. Add crumbled cornbread and toss to combine. Add vegetable broth until mixture is moistened. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper if needed before adding the beaten egg. Pour back into cast iron skillet and bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown. 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 (per \$500) service fee will be charged by SEDC 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.
- **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 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.

Lights Out? *We Need To Know.*

Outdoor lighting fixtures help light up dark areas near your home or business. Outdoor lights operate automatically by coming on at dusk and going out at daylight.



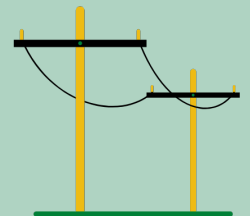
At times, the outdoor light can malfunction or become inoperative. If this happens, please contact the cooperative so that we can repair the light in a timely manner.

WHEN REPORTING THE PROBLEM, CFEC NEEDS TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

1. A specific street address of where the outdoor light is located.
2. A description of where on the property the outdoor light is located
3. A description of the type problem with the outdoor light.
4. Information, including your name, address, telephone number and account number.

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:** Click on "Report outage." Fill in the form and click "submit." If you are already logged in to the app, simply click the "report outage" triangle, and "yes" to report the outage.
- **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

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

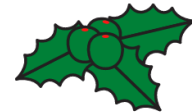
167 Highway 40 West
Inglis, FL 34449
352-447-3553

ADDITIONAL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

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

Have a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year's!

**As a reminder, CFEC offices will be
closed on Dec. 24-25, and Jan. 1.**



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