



# the Co-op Connection

December 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR POWER PARTNER

## A Time To Focus On The Good Things



CFEC General Manager  
Denny George

**As I sit down to write this column, we are just past the most recent election cycle and Hurricane Nicole.** What lies ahead are the Holidays and a chance to focus on the good things with our families and friends. I am thankful for this time to focus on peace, joy and

community spirit, and I hope you are as well.

CFEC members experienced nearly 1,000 power outages from Hurricane Nicole, which were all restored within a day, most in hours. For your electric cooperative, while still working to restore power as needed, this time of year offers a chance to do additional activities that support the communities we live and work in.

Our linemen are dedicated to working safely. They train and practice, have safety meetings often, check and change out their equipment — all so they can restore your power and then return to their families. But you should see the excitement in these same linemen as they shop Walmart for gifts and toys for the Linemen Lighting Up Christmas program to give to kids in our communities.

These guys are the veritable “kids in the candy store” when shopping to give kids a Christmas to remember!

### If You See Us, Say ‘Hello’

You can see on the page opposite other events CFEC has participated in and other ways in which we have given back to our communities. On page 5 is a listing of Holiday events in our service area. Take the time this season to participate in something in your community. Let’s all work to restore the community spirit with our neighbors and friends. I’m sure you’ll see your power partner at some of these events as well.

The New Year will come soon enough and bring with it excitement, such as our first hook up to the Fiber by Central Florida fiber-to-the-home program, but also the unknown, such as an improved or worsening economy. For now, let’s not focus on those things to come, but instead on the small, simple joys of smelling a roasting turkey, seeing the twinkling of Christmas lights and children’s eyes as they look at presents under the tree and the heart-filled moments of reuniting with family and singing Christmas carols in church all December long.

From all of us at CFEC, we wish you a happy, safe and joyous Christmas season. God bless.



**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.

# CFEC In The Community

It was a busy fall for Central Florida Electric Cooperative. Besides restoring power from the storms and two Hurricanes, CFEC participated in the Cross City Veteran’s Day parade, helped the Chiefland Rotary stuff backpacks for their Food 4 Kids backpack program and visited Cedar Key Elementary School to conduct a safety presentation. See page 5 for a list of Holiday events, and be sure to look for CFEC, your power partner, out and about in the community!



# IN THE RIGHT *light*

## DECORATE YOUR HOME SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

According to the National Fire Protection Association, **860 home fires** caused by holiday decorations occur **each year**. An additional **210 home fires** are caused by Christmas trees per year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.



Make sure all **extension cords and electrical decorations** are marked for **proper use**



**Outdoor electric lights and decorations** should be plugged into circuits protected by **ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)**



**Inspect** all lights, decorations, and extension cords **for damage before using**



**Exercise caution** when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least **10 feet from power lines**



**Turn off** all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations **before leaving home or going to sleep**



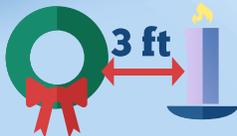
**Avoid overloading electrical outlets** with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can **overheat and cause a fire**



**Never** connect more than **three strings of incandescent lights** together



**Water** your Christmas tree **daily**



Keep all decorations at least **3 feet away from heating equipment or an open flame**



**Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers** and that are approved by a national recognized testing lab such as **UL** (Underwriters Laboratory), Intertek (**ETL**), or Canadian Standards Association (**CSA**)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION VISIT [WWW.ESFI.ORG](http://WWW.ESFI.ORG)

**PLEASE SHARE THIS FREE RESOURCE TO SAVE LIVES**



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[www.youtube.com/ESFI.org](http://www.youtube.com/ESFI.org)

## Area Holiday Events

### December 2

- Town of Bell Lighting, 6 to 8 pm

### December 3

- Town of Bell 42nd Annual Christmas Parade, presenting the Characters of Christmas,
- Williston Christmas Parade, 6 pm. West to east on Noble Avenue.
- Williston Wonderland, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Williston Heritage Park 100 Block N. Main Street, Williston, FL. The Williston Chamber of Commerce, with the support of its community partners, presents Williston Wonderland, immediately after the Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 3 in Heritage Park. The two-hour event, featuring Light Up Williston, will have games, animals, crafts, goodies, SNOW and Santa and Mrs. Claus.

### December 10

- Chiefland Rudolph 5K Fun Run/Walk, 9 am, Trailhead Park, 121 S Main Street, Across from the Train Depot, Chiefland, FL Registration: \$20 (children under 8 Free), \$25 day of the race



- Chiefland Christmas Parade & Festival, 10 am – 7 pm, Trailhead Park. Christmas Festival Booths operate 10 am - 6 pm. Christmas parade will begin at 6 p.m.
- Christmas Family Festival, 3 to 9 pm, Turkey Hollow Farm, 19890 SE 62nd PL, Morriston, FL. Sponsored by Dunnellon Community Church. Events include the walk of lights, live Nativity, Christmas caroling, vendors, games, smores making, Santa and more. Free parking and free entry.

### December 17

- A Community Christmas On Court Street. In front of Bronson First Baptist on Court Street from 5 to 7 pm, there will be a Christmas event to promote peace, love and unity in the community with snow, hot chocolate, a

carol sing-a-long, the Christmas story and a community candle lighting.

- Down Home Christmas, from 10 am to 7 pm, the Trenton Depot, sponsored by the Gilchrist County Chamber of Commerce.
- Christmas On The Farm. Join us on the farm from 10 am – 2 pm, 2660 NE 140th Avenue, Williston, FL. Live music, local vendors and more!
- Yankeetown-Inglis Christmas Parade, 5 pm. The 2022 Christmas Reverse Parade will start in Yankeetown and end at the Inglis Community Center!

### Extended Events-

- Mayhem Ranch 17830 SE 40th Street, Morriston, FL, Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 16-18, 21-23; 6 pm to 10 pm. Tickets are limited for this event & should be purchased online. Pre-sale: \$15 per person, 2 years and under Free! \$20 at the gate, if available. Visit with Santa and his reindeer, enjoy a hayride, roast marshmallows on the campfire and more. Make sure to visit the only farm in Florida with live reindeer.



### Christmas in the Quarry

- Celebrate the holiday season at Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens. December 10, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23; 5:30 pm to 8 pm; admission: adults: \$10.00, children (6-13): \$5.00, children 5 and under: Free! Service animals only. Explore the 20-acre botanical garden filled with twinkling lit pathways, a cookie and cocoa station, a kid's craft station and Santa!



## Blackened Grouper Sandwiches

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 (6-ounce) grouper fillets
- 2 tablespoons blackened seasoning (your favorite)
- 4 bread rolls, toasted
- 1 cup romaine, shredded
- 1 large tomato, sliced
- 1 lemon, juiced
- Oil for cooking
- ¼ cup Avocado Remoulade Sauce

### Avocado Remoulade Sauce

- ½ avocado
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons spicy mustard
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce (your favorite)
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)



### PREPARATION

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Store in refrigerator until ready to use.

**Sandwich Preparation** Preheat a large sauté pan or cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Generously season fish with blackened seasoning on both sides. Add oil to pan and sauté fillets for 2-3 minutes per side or until cooked through. Squeeze lemon juice over the cooked grouper fillets and remove them from the heat. To assemble the sandwiches, spread an even amount of the remoulade on the inside of each bun. Add an even amount of lettuce and tomato to the bottom of each bun. Add a blackened grouper fillet to each of the dressed buns. Add another dollop of remoulade sauce if desired and top with the top of the bun. Serve sandwich warm with extra remoulade on the side.

## Shrimp Citrus Sauté



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound shrimp (peeled or unpeeled)
- ¼ cup white wine (optional)
- 1 cup seafood, chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon coriander
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

### PREPARATION

Preheat a large skillet over low heat. Do not add any butter. Add spices to dry pan and toast for 2-3 minutes or until you begin to smell the spices. Do not leave pan unattended if you opt to perform this step, certain spices are prone to burn quicker than others. Remove spice mixture from pan and set aside.

Preheat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add butter and oil and allow to melt. Now add shrimp, garlic, and toasted spices; stir to coat shrimp. Season with salt and pepper. Carefully add white wine and stock. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to low and simmer for 1-2 minutes. Finish with lemon slices and fresh parsley, serve with crusty bread for dipping.

## Sweet Pepper, Shrimp and Corn Bisque



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound medium or small shrimp, peeled, deveined, and chopped into bite-sized chunks
- 2 cups fresh sweet corn, cut kernels from the cob
- 1 cup sweet peppers, diced small
- 1 cup celery, diced small
- 1 cup onion, diced small
- 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning (your favorite)
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon Cajun or blackening seasoning
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon fresh garlic, minced
- 4 cups half and half
- 4 cups shrimp or seafood broth
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste
- Chives or fresh herbs for garnish

### PREPARATION

Preheat a large soup pot over medium-high heat. Add butter to the pot. Carefully add onion, peppers, celery, and corn. Cook the vegetables for 4 minutes until some color and caramelization begin. Add fresh garlic and stir. Slowly add flour and whisk until incorporated. Add seafood broth and half and half. Turn heat down to medium and continue to stir. Add tomato paste and seasoning blends mix well. Bring to a gentle simmer to continue to thicken. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Add the shrimp and continue to simmer for about four more minutes. Serve hot with a garnish of chopped chives or fresh herbs.

## 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).
- **Bank Draft** – Payments can be made automatically by recurring bank draft. Enroll online under the Member Portal, select Billing and Payments, followed by Set New Draft. Using your banking and routing information, enroll in the draft payment program to ensure payment each month with no service fee. Members can also enroll in bank draft through the CFEC app, Power Partner. 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  
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~ 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.

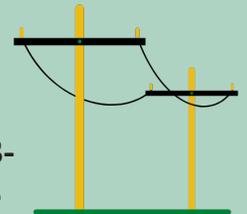
## Do we have your current phone number and address?



CFEC's Automated Outage Response System uses customer telephone numbers to locate accounts and corresponding locations. Additionally, a new Automated Delinquency Call will provide an additional notice as a courtesy for accounts that are delinquent one day before your disconnect date. These services will not be possible if CFEC does not have your current phone number on file.

It is important to update phone numbers and mailing address associated with your service location. Inaccurate phone number/service location combinations may result in delayed handling of the outage or a missed opportunity to avoid a power disconnection. If you have questions or need to update your contact information and phone number, call 800-227-1302.

## 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."



**CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC**



**Central Florida Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

~YOUR POWER PARTNER ~

**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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**Hope you have a safe and joyful  
Christmas and New Year's!**

**As a reminder, CFEC offices will be closed for Christmas on  
Dec. 23 & 26, 2022, and on New Year's on Jan. 2, 2023.**



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