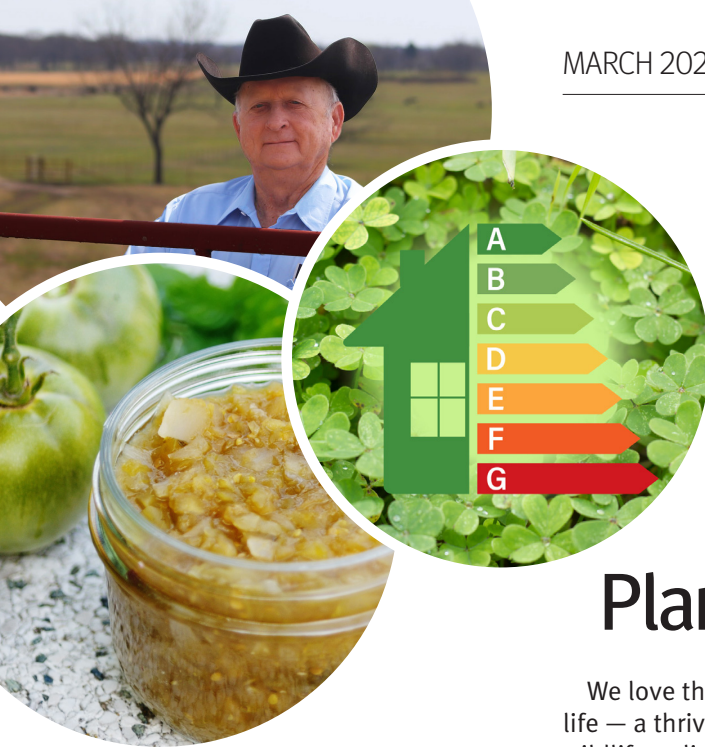


country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



2 Notes from the Chair

3 Energy Efficiency Tips

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We love the simple things in life — a thriving garden, abundant wildlife, reliable electric power. Unfortunately, sometimes those simple pleasures come into conflict.

Tree limbs or other vegetation that grow on utility poles and into power lines can cause fires, power outages, and damage your equipment or property.

As part of our co-op's commitment to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power, we make significant

investments each year in maintaining an unobstructed right-of-way.

In 2024, East Central Electric performed tree trimming and brush removal across 1,269 miles of electric line.

There are things individual co-op members can do to help ensure the safety and reliability of our electric infrastructure.

If you plan to plant trees this spring, take time to research the mature height of the tree and choose a location where your fully-grown tree won't interfere with your electric service. Always remember to call Okie 811 before you dig.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.

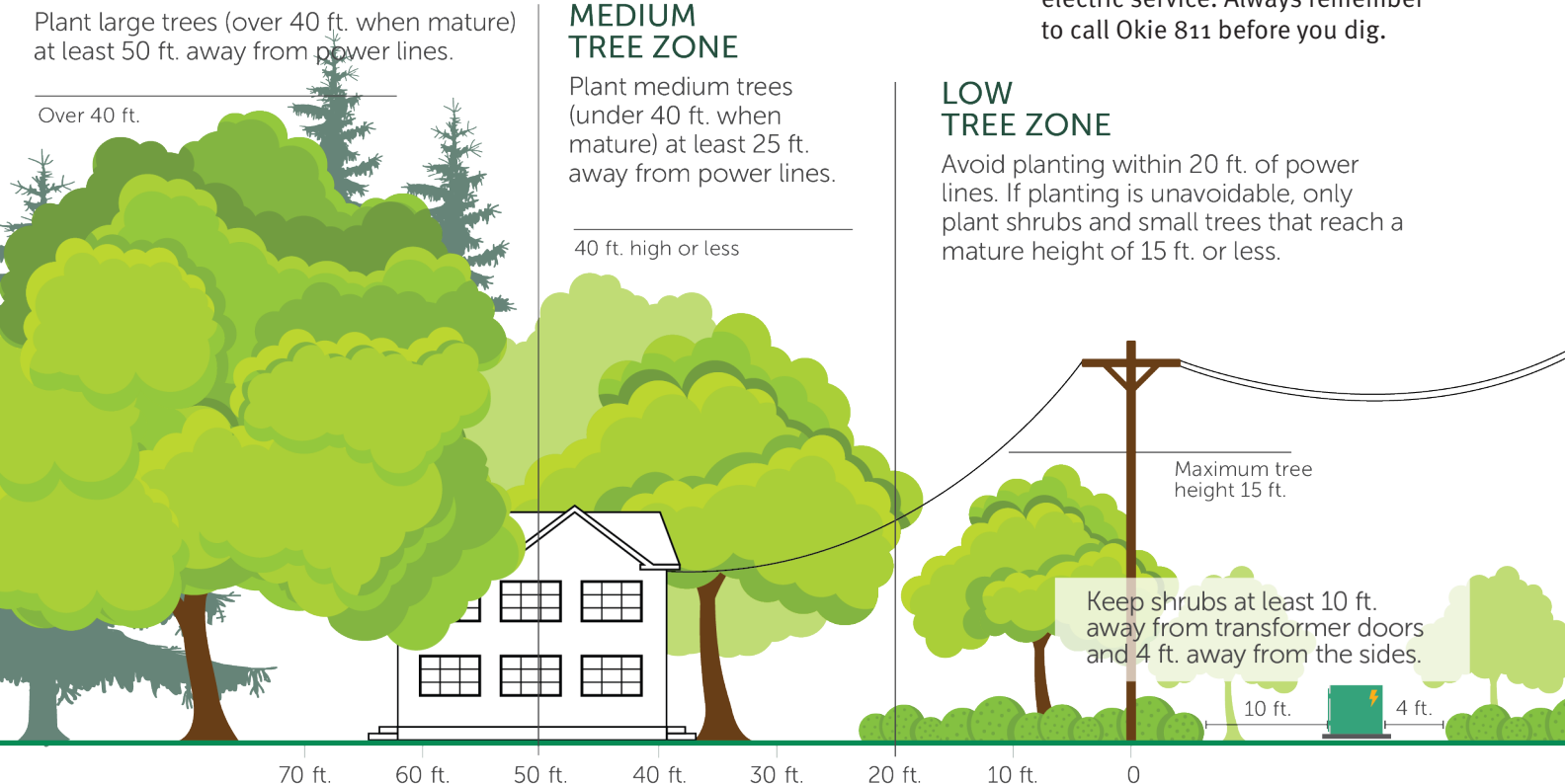
MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

40 ft. high or less

LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.





After we wrote the story about the things I remembered about Haskell from years past, Donna and I talked about the things that had changed during our lifetime. We marveled at the people that changed our world for the better. Rusty Ferguson, editor of the Cleveland American Newspaper, was pleased and agreed I could use his article.

“STANDING TALL -- Who are you thankful for today. You gotta be thankful for somebody! Consider all the somebodies in our community! We have somebody who dreamed, somebody who planned, somebody who worked, somebody who donated, somebody who organized, somebody who invested and somebody who encouraged. I’m thankful for somebody who found the time to work with our youth this year. Somebody coached the soccer teams, the basketball teams, the football teams, the softball and baseball teams. Somebody was the den leader and the Scoutmaster. Somebody was the after-school tutor. Somebody was the Sunday School teacher and choir director. I’m thankful for somebody who worked to improve our community this year. I’m thankful somebody was the council member, the board member, the planner and the organizer I’m thankful somebody attended public meetings out of interest and to ask questions. I’m thankful somebody caused a stir and kept boards on their toes. I’m thankful somebody joined together to make positive things happen. I’m thankful for somebody who kept worthwhile organizations afloat. Somebody taught

our children to swim. Somebody delivered a warm meal to shut-ins. Somebody offered medical care for the indigent. Somebody paid a utility bill for a family in need. Somebody raised money for a scholarship so an education could continue. Somebody was there with a box of food for the hungry. Somebody cleaned and ironed clothes and said ‘come take what you need.’ Somebody brought the community together with a day for fun and revelry...complete with a parade. Somebody sent a box of supplies to soldiers overseas. Somebody bought a new book for the library. Somebody pitched in to perk up a park. Somebody served pancakes, sold cookies, worked a booth and solicited ticket sales for no other reason than to benefit the lives of someone else. Yes, I’m thankful to live in a community where somebody is thriving! Look around... don’t you have a somebody or two in your life! Have you told them thanks? And, equally as important, have you somehow found the time to be a somebody for someone else! If not, somebody somewhere needs you!”

This is a small reminder that the pleasures we enjoy today came to us by someone else’s efforts. That is what ECE is trying to do everyday—add comfort and security to each of our member’s lives. Your Board of Directors, the staff and entire employee group are dedicated in their efforts for you. Don’t overlook an opportunity to thank your family and friends for what they mean to your life. Make your impact on the lives of others beneficial.

Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President

Larry Harvey, District 1
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary / Treasurer

Jim Hall, District 6
Assistant Sec. / Treasurer

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

.....

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit ecoec.com.

To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

My friend Brett graduated college the same time I did. I returned home to the ranch. He was immediately hired as the Assistant Farm Director for WKY Radio in Oklahoma City. His job was to prepare the farm market reports, the upcoming events and meetings important to the farmers, and all things in between for the Farm News Director to report on. Several months passed before the Director advised Brett he would do tomorrow’s news report. He was ready and when the sound manager signaled the time to start, Brett gave a precise and clear report. When he reached the end of his prepared report, the sound manager signaled to him he had 3 minutes left. Undaunted Brett grabbed his study on “Raising Poultry on the Farm” and delivered a remarkable presentation to his listeners. As he got to the end he looked up and the Sound Manager gave him the cutoff signal just as he finished. Basking in his success he leaned back in his chair and relaxed. The phone rang. A lady on the line said “Thank you so much for your poultry report. We don’t hear much about poultry here in Western Oklahoma, but I have a question for you. How long do you have to leave the roosters with the hens before the eggs are fertile?” Just a second, he said as he reached for his book on poultry knowledge. He heard her say “thank you” as she hung up.

Lowell Hobbs represents ECE District 2. To reach him, please call his cellphone at 918-695-5289.

5 Tips To GO GREEN for St. Patrick's Day



1. Replace your HVAC filter.

These typically need replacing every three months, though factors like pets, climate and system age can affect the timing.

2. Install a smart thermostat.

A smart thermostat offers convenience, savings and efficiency by adjusting the temperature based on your schedule — reducing usage when no one is home.

3. Cut energy use during peak hours.

In spring, peak electricity hours are usually in the evening. Reduce usage by visiting a park, a theater or dining out.

4. Upgrade to energy-efficient appliances.

Look for appliances that are ENERGY STAR-certified, using 10 to 15% less energy and water than standard models, according to Energy.gov.

5. Save energy through rebate programs for solar, battery storage or electric vehicles.

Check with utilities and government programs for rebates and incentives to help make these technologies more accessible.

Learn more at:



ECE Mourns Great Loss

East Central Electric Cooperative lost a beloved friend and leader. Special Projects Coordinator Karen Ann Starr, age 69, passed away January 16, 2025.

Karen is remembered by coworkers for her Christ-like love of others, and her dedication to serving co-op members.

Karen was born April 19, 1955 to Henry and Orlene Stone in Tulsa, OK. She married her soulmate, Emmitt

Starr, on July 2, 1995. Her children Jerry and Jennifer McCroskey, Farrah and Matthew Seay, Desiree and PK Keomany, her nine grandchildren, and her fur baby Ziva on earth will deeply miss her. Karen is without a doubt rejoicing in heaven with her husband, her parents, and her grandchildren Destinee and Braston Starr.

Karen graduated from Okmulgee High School in 1973.

Karen was an active member of The Church at Battle Creek in Broken Arrow for decades. She made many cherished connections through bible studies, women's groups, community groups and service teams. Karen lived her life in a way that everyone knew where she stood.

"Karen was my boss when I walked in the door in 1994. She became my friend, my confidant, my 'work mom,' my right hand! She had a beautiful soul, always made time for you, kept your confidences, and told you the truth, even when you didn't want to hear it. She genuinely cared about people and for the cooperative. I will miss her beyond words!"

-Tamara Hawkins,
Vice President of Office Services

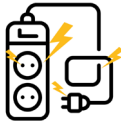


Karen Starr
April 19, 1955 - January 16, 2025
ECE Employee since January 1986

Dogs Can't Use Phones.

But You Can. Call 811 Before You Dig.





ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Never attempt to trim trees near high-voltage power lines. The voltage on the lines is 120 times greater than the power in your home. A tree touching a power line can become energized and result in serious injury or death. ECE operates on a 5-year schedule for herbicide application and tree-trimming to ensure the 6,000+ miles we serve are maintained. If you experience service problems as a result of vegetation, please give us a call at 918-756-0833.



Linda's Green Tomato Relish

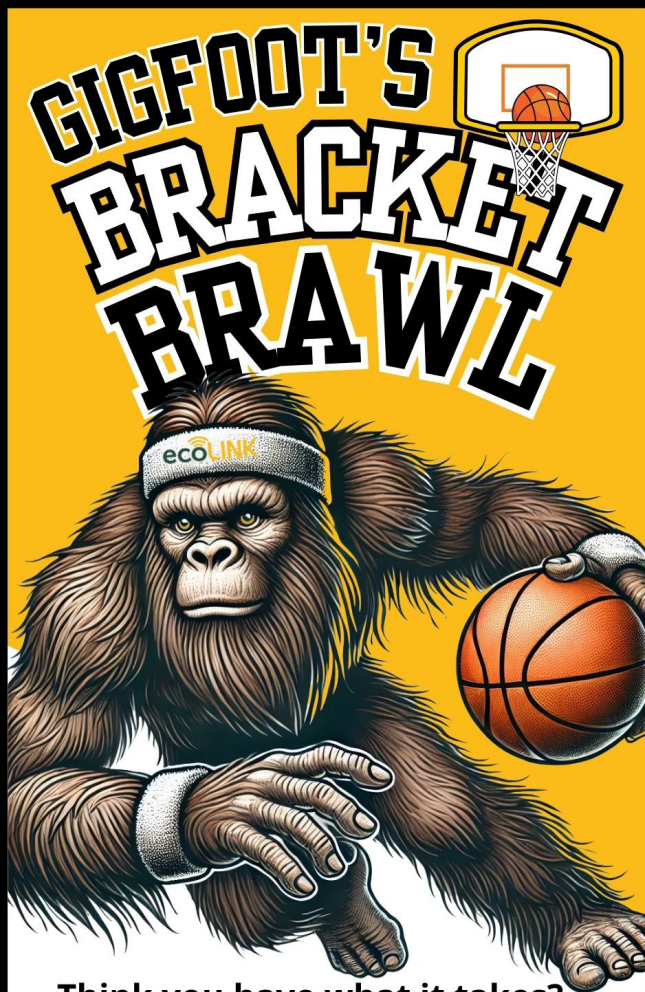
INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 35 chopped, peeled, cored green tomatos | 1/2 C. sea salt |
| 1 head of chopped cabbage | 1 1/2 C. Splenda brown sugar |
| 4 small chopped sweet green peppers | 2 T. mustard seed |
| 1 medium chopped onion | 1 T. celery seed |
| | 4 1/2 C. vinegar |

DIRECTIONS

Sprinkle salt over vegetables and mix thoroughly. Let stand 3 to 4 hours. Drain, rinse and drain thoroughly. Combine sugar, spices and vinegar; simmer 15 minutes. Add vegetables and bring to a boil. If canning; process 10 minutes in a boiling water canner. Makes approximately 7 pints.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



Think you have what it takes?

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- 1st Place: 3 Months FREE Internet**
- 2nd Place: 2 Months FREE Internet**
- 3rd Place: 1 Month FREE Internet**

Visit ecolink.coop to fill out your bracket
AFTER Selection Sunday, March 16th!



East Central
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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