

Northfork Sparks & Flashes

Supplement to Oklahoma Living

December

14

NFEC Continues to Grow to Meet Members' Needs

CONTENTS

PAGE 3

Festive Christmas
Cookie Recipes

PAGE 4

Co-op Family
Christmas Helps
Friends, Neighbors

NFEC 2013 Annual
Report is a Winner!

12 Days
of Holiday Safety

NFEC offices will close at noon on Dec. 24 and be closed on Dec. 25 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Please call 1-800-668-6587 to report an outage or a safety hazard.



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NFEC Board of Directors break ground for the new headquarters facility in Sayre. Pictured are, (l-r) Danny Davis, Larry Smith, Secretary-

wTreasurer Ransom Snowden, Vice President Charles Hickey, President Jimmy Taylor, Lloyd Joe Patton, Chris Mackey.

Northfork Electric Cooperative's board of directors, management, and staff gathered October 28 to mark a special occasion. The organization held a ceremonial ground-breaking for its new headquarters facility. The project is taking place just off exit 25 on the east side of I-40 in Sayre. Oklahoma City-based Wynn Construction Company has been selected as general contractor.

At the event, NFEC General Manager Scott Copeland spoke about the new building project. "The current location has served us well for more than 75 years, but it can no longer effectively meet the needs of the cooperative. After many years of examination, we believe now is the best time to undergo this much needed project," Copeland said.

Growth has driven the need for an improved, larger facility.

When the current office building was added to the headquarter facilities in 1977, the cooperative served approximately 4,500 meters and had 25 employees. Today NFEC serves over 6,900 meters and has 40 employees. In that same period, system demand has risen by 400% and kiloWatt hours sold has increased by 359%. Even more compelling is the cooperative's total utility plant value has

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Northfork Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating in
Beckham, Roger Mills, Washita,
Greer, Custer, Harmon, and Dewey

SCOTT COPELAND
GENERAL MANAGER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jimmy Taylor-Pres Elk City
Charles Hickey-V. Pres..... Reydon
Ransom Snowden-Sec-Treas Erick
Chris Mackey Sayre
Larry Smith.....Cheyenne
Lloyd Joe Patton Sayre
Danny Davis..... Elk City
Jack IvesterAttorney

SAYRE OFFICE

Kenny Waugh..... Mgr. of Marketing
Lisa Dailey.....Mgr. of Office Services
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Kay Brown Adm. Assistant
Richard Bowdre Operations Mgr.

REYDON OFFICE

Barbara Swope655-4557

FOR OUTAGES
AFTER 5 P.M. CALL
1-800-NO-VOLTS
(1-800-668-6587)
or
(580) 928-3366

OFFICE HOURS
8 AM TO 5 PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY

DATES TO REMEMBER
READINGS MUST BE IN
NORTHFORK OFFICE BY THE
10th OF EACH MONTH
TO BE USED FOR
BILLING

ADDRESS
P.O. Box 400
SAYRE, OK 73662
301 E. MAIN



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NFEC Continues to Grow

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grown by more than \$40,000,000.

That same steady growth has contributed to multiple issues that have compromised efficiencies, and safety, and made current office spaces inadequate. "Members who pay their bills at our current office have seen we are running out of space. We no longer have a lobby because we had to convert it into two more offices," Copeland said.

Even more critically, inadequate warehouse and equipment storage, maintenance shops, and fleet parking have caused significant problems. Today's line maintenance and construction equipment is far more sizable than when the original facility was designed and constructed. The pole digger and bucket trucks can no longer fit through the shop door for routine maintenance.

Limited available space, high remodeling costs, site issues and accessibility rule out expanding at the current headquarters. The cooperative spent a large amount of time analyzing the possibility of a remodel and expansion, but that option proved to be limited. "The result would have been extremely expensive with critical space issues remaining," Copeland explains.

Another dilemma with staying at the current location is the cooperative's pole and material yards are located offsite. This has resulted in costly thefts due to lack of security. The design of the new facility addresses that problem. The warehouse, truck storage area, materials yard, and fleet parking will now be combined in one location. "This will improve efficiency and greatly increase security which will save our members money," Copeland says.

Sustainability with minimal environmental impact is also been a key consideration in the design of the new facility. The new building will use geothermal heating

and cooling, LED lighting, and many other energy efficient features that will be more cost-effective to operate and maintain.

Other new design elements allow NFEC to offer enhanced services and conveniences to members. "The new facility will have a drive-thru payment window and be fully ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] compliant; both of which are lacking features at our current office," Copeland says.

The effect on retail rates was foremost on the minds of the board of trustees and

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-- Scott Copeland
NFEC General Manager

management during the planning process. "While outside influences, such as proposed federal regulations on emissions, will undoubtedly drive up the wholesale cost of electricity nationwide, Northfork's most recent 10-year

financial forecast indicates this building project will not be a factor in increasing costs to our members. We have worked hard to manage our controllable costs and maintain financial stability 8967-003 during our growth period. We are convinced that no long-term financing will be required to complete the project," Copeland says.

Northfork Electric is excited and confident in its decision to grow with its membership. "This new headquarters facility positions us for opportunities and future growth, but more importantly, it serves as a solid service base for our membership for many years to come," Copeland says.

The new facility is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Northfork Electric will keep members and the public informed on the progress of the building project through the cooperative's monthly newsletter, *Sparks & Flashes*, and its Facebook page. You can find direct links to both resources on the co-op Web site at www.nfecoop.com.

Perfect Sugar Cookie Cut-Outs

1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
1¼ cup sugar
1 egg
1½ tsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. almond extract
3 cups of flour
1½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
Colored sugars for decorating

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add in egg, vanilla extract, and almond extract and

mix until combined.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Make sure to spoon the flour into your measuring cup and level it off with a knife to ensure accurate measurements. Slowly add flour mixture to the butter mixture and mix until completely combined.

Roll the dough between 2 sheets of parchment or wax paper and place on a baking sheet in the refrigerator. Chill for about 20-30 minutes.

Cut dough into shapes with cookie cutters and transfer to a baking sheet. Sprinkle with colored sugars and bake at 350 degrees for 8-12 minutes. Cool on baking sheet 5 minutes, then transfer to a baking rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

YIELD: About 40-50 cookies.

Peppermint Meltaways

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
½ cup powdered sugar
1 tsp. peppermint extract
1¼ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup cornstarch
Crushed candy canes for garnish

Peppermint Cream Cheese Frosting:

1 (8 oz) package cream cheese
½ cup salted butter, softened
1 cup sifted powdered sugar
1 tsp. peppermint extract

In a small mixing bowl combine flour and cornstarch. Set aside.

In another small mixing bowl cream together the butter and powdered sugar. Add peppermint extract. Slowly add the flour and cornstarch mixture to the butter and powdered sugar mixture. Combine well and refrigerate for an hour.

After the dough has chilled preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll the dough into 1 to 1½ inch sized balls and place them 2 inches apart on a parchment lined baking sheet.

Bake for 10-12 minutes in the oven until the edges start to lightly turn brown. Remove from the oven and let cool completely.

To make the peppermint cream cheese frosting, cream together cream cheese and butter. Add peppermint extract and slowly add the sifted powdered sugar. Frost the cookies with the frosting and garnish with crushed peppermint candy canes.

Pineapple Coconut Snowballs

1 pkg. (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple, well drained
2-1/2 cups flaked coconut

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and pineapple until combined. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Roll into 1-in. balls; roll in coconut. Refrigerate for 6 hours or overnight.

YIELD: About 2 dozen.

Festive Christmas Cookies



Co-op Family Christmas Helps Neighbors during the Holidays

For more than 10 years, NFEC employees have been bringing the Christmas Spirit to members who need the helping hand of a friend.

“The Co-op Family Christmas was born when a group of employees saw a need within our membership and wanted to help,” explains NFEC General Manager Scott Copeland. “Our board of trustees enthusiastically joined in, and were followed by some of the vendors and contractors who serve the cooperative, along with several individual cooperative members and local businesses.”

Copeland goes on to explain that each year the recipients are selected by a committee of employees who are personally familiar with the circumstances faced by each family. Those selected have been identified as facing more than their share of challenges in the past year related to health, loss of family members, or loss/damage of personal property. They are selected because they have continued to work hard to meet their responsibilities themselves; not asking for or expecting assistance from anyone.

The program has helped families through financial assistance and gift baskets, in addition to providing specific help such as annual Life Alert service plans, or lending assistance after a family suffered a catastrophic event such as the loss of a home due to fire.

“This is truly an employee-motivated program,” explains Copeland. “They are sincere in their desire and

commitment to help where they know help is needed. I am proud of them for caring so deeply about their neighbors, and I am humbled to work with such a selfless group,” he says.

If you would like to nominate a cooperative member family who could use a helping hand, please call or drop us a note at: P.O. Box 400, Sayre, OK 73662. (Donations are not tax deductible.)



A Winner!

Members of NFEC’s communications team, Kay Rabbitt-Brower and Matthew Swint, accept an Award of Merit for NFEC’s 2013 annual report.

The award was presented at a banquet held during the annual Oklahoma Living University workshop for co-op communicators and sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Hidden Account Number

If you see your account number in this newsletter, call our office, identify yourself and the number. We will credit your electric bill \$25. The number may be located anywhere in the newsletter and is chosen at random.

If you don’t know your account number, call our office or look on your bill. To get the credit, you must call before the next month’s newsletter is mailed.

12 Days of Holiday Safety

It’s easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you’re well on your way to a safe New Year!



Day 1 What’s that noise? Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 5 Ouch! Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 9 Nice and warm. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 2 What a shocker! Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 6 Kids eat the darndest things! Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 10 Can’t touch this! Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 3 Two’s company, three’s a crowd. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 7 Thirsty? Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 11 Escape Route: Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 4 Is it working? Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they’re protecting you.

Day 8 Make a wish! Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 12 Hot stuff! Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There’s no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at holidaysafety.org.