



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
 P.O. Box B  
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 620-767-5144  
 www.flinthillsrec.com

**FLINT HILLS RURAL  
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**NEWS**

**Flint Hills RECA**

**Board of Trustees**

- Roger Zimmerman**  
President
- Shawn Potts**  
Vice President
- Duane Carlson**  
Secretary/Treasurer
- Dale Andres**  
Trustee
- Korby Effland**  
Trustee
- Tim Miser**  
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- Terry Olsen**  
Trustee
- James Witt**  
Trustee

**Staff**

**Charles Goeckel**  
General Manager

**Member Services**

- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer**

**Sign Up for Voluntary Peak Alert Program**

How would you like to see a credit on your October electric bill? Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in our “**voluntary**” summer Peak Alert Savings rebate program.

Last summer we had **369 members** participate in this Peak Alert Savings program and Flint Hills RECA returned more than **\$18,600** in rebates to qualifying members’ accounts. It is a **win-win** for everyone!

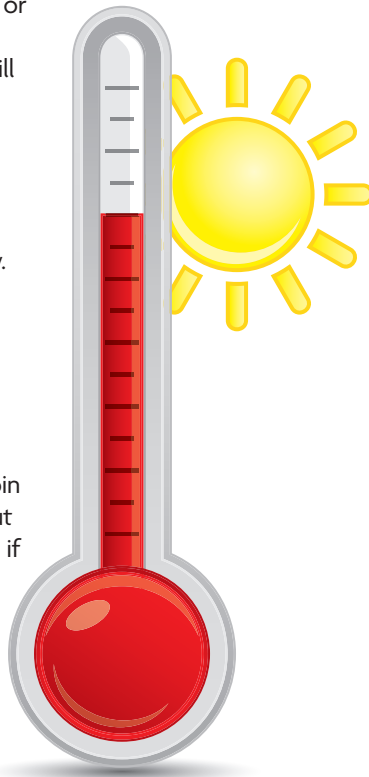
By signing up, you are eligible to receive an energy credit by making a qualifying reduction of energy usage during our summer peak alert hour. The summer peak hour will be the cooperative’s highest demand cost hour and will occur **between 3 and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, during July (excluding July 4) and August**. Your credit will be based on \$70 times the difference between your 12-month average kW usage per hour x 2.3, and your actual kW usage during the cooperative’s highest summer peak hour.

For example, if your last 12-month average usage of kW per hour is 1.66; 1.66 x 2.3 is 3.818, and your summer peak usage hour is 2.818 kW (shaving off 1 kW), you would receive a credit of \$70 on your Oct. 1 billing for that one kW reduction in usage. One of the most helpful ways to cut back on usage during peak hours is to refrain from or limit using any major appliances, e.g. dish-

washer, oven, washer, dryer, and A/C unit. The more you lower your electric usage during the peak usage hour, the bigger the credit you could earn.

Flint Hills RECA also offers a free notification service to let you know which days are considered peak alert days. The notification can assist you with when the peak may occur but the credit will be based on the actual peak hour regardless of whether a notification is sent. On these days, we will place a notice on our website and we will send an email or text message. To receive these notifications, you will need to select this option through SmartHub or the free SmartHub app. If you are not registered, you can access SmartHub through our website www.flinthillsrec.com.

To sign up for this voluntary Peak Alert Savings program, please call our office or sign up on our website. Remember, there will be no cost to join this voluntary program, but there could be big savings if you qualify. This program cannot be combined with any other load management offer. If you have questions, please call our office at 620-767-5144.



# Flint Hills RECA 80th Annual

The 80th Annual Meeting of the Flint Hills RECA was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at the Herington Community Building. There were more than 325 meals served to 157 registered members and their families. The meal was prepared

by Kathy's Herb and Spice, and once again was a wonderful meal. Operations Manager Damien Hebert presented a program on electrical safety with overhead power lines and many other safety tips using a safety demo trailer.

All registered members who attended the 80th Annual meeting received a \$10 energy credit on their April 2018 electric bill courtesy of Flint Hills RECA.

Board President Roger Zimmerman called the meeting to order and General Manager Chuck Goeckel reported on the 2017 financial status of the cooperative and that safety is a top priority within the cooperative. Goeckel also updated members on the plant improvements completed throughout 2017 and commented on the patronage capital payout to past and present member that was mailed out on Feb, 28, 2018.



More than 325 members and family attended the 2018 80th Annual Meeting of Flint Hills RECA.

Randy Heilman, attorney for Flint Hills RECA, announced the trustees who were elected by mail-in ballot, to serve for three years on the Board: District 1—**DALE ANDRES**, Alta Vista; District 2—**KORBY EFFLAND**, White City; District 3—**JAMES WITT, CANTON**; and District 4—**TERRY OLSEN**, Marion.

Guests at the meeting were Bruce Graham, CEO of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Phil Wages, Director - Member Services, Government Affairs, and Business Development at Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, and Kristen Conley, a representative from Jerry Moran's office.

The 2017 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp attendees were introduced by Bill Wessel, Flint Hills RECA IT manager, and presented a certificate for their participation. They were **MAYA EIDMAN**,



General Manager Charles Goeckel reported on the 2017 co-op business during the 2018 annual meeting.



Left: IT Manager Bill Wessel introduced the 2017 and 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp winners. Raelyn Scott (2017 attendee, center) and Morgan Spinden (2018 winner) thanked the membership and board for the opportunity. Right: Scott displays her camp certificate.



# Meeting Highlights

Strong City, and **RAE LYN SCOTT**, Council Grove. RaeLyn gave a short review of her experiences at last year's camp in Steamboat Springs and also expressed her appreciation for the opportunity afforded by the cooperative to attend this camp.

The winners for the 2018 camp were also announced. They are Brandon Nguyen, Marion High School, and Morgan Spinden, Chase County High School. Morgan is the daughter of Mike and Bernice Spinden, Cottonwood Falls, and Brandon is the son of Shawn and



Operations Manager Damien Hebert gave a presentation on farm equipment safety around power lines.

Tiodora Nguyen, Marion High School. Prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.

## Annual Meeting Door Prize Winners

- ▶ **40" Vizio Smart LED TV**  
**RONALD KRAMER**
- ▶ **Ninja Kitchen System, donated by Kriz Davis**  
**LOYD SKLENDAR**
- ▶ **100-foot extension cord**  
**DIANA FLOYD**
- ▶ **Mr. Coffee-12 Cup Maker**  
**MELVIN ROSFELD**
- ▶ **Garmin GPS**  
**ALONA HEDSTROM**
- ▶ **4 QT slow cooker**  
**DWAYNE STRODA**
- ▶ **SKIL electric drill**  
**RANDY PREHEIM**
- ▶ **Wet/dry shop vacuum**  
**ROBERT NEUWIRTH**
- ▶ **Super Ninja Kitchen System, donated by Altec**  
**JAMES FELLS**
- ▶ **Weather radio**  
**MARVIN DUERKSEN**
- ▶ **Garmin GPS, donated by Electra Com**  
**MIKE HINKSON**
- ▶ **12-by-12 inch electric skillet**  
**DENNIS FRIESEN**
- ▶ **\$50 Amazon gift card, donated by ETI**  
**R W COOK and GENE PARRISH**



Ronald Kramer was the winner of the big screen HD Smart TV.

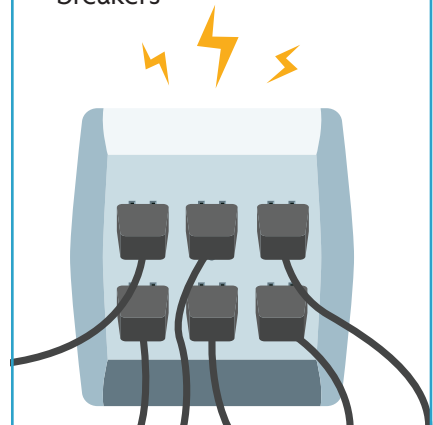
- ▶ **Bose bluetooth speaker, donated by Kriz Davis**  
**GENE JUST**
- ▶ **Lenovo tablet 2, donated by KEPCo**  
**SHELLY DUNHAM**
- ▶ **\$25 energy credit**  
**RAY MUELLER and GEORGE SOMMERS**
- ▶ **\$50 energy credit, donated by KSI**  
**IRVIN LECLEAR**
- ▶ **\$50 energy credit, donated by KEPCo**  
**JOHN SPINDEN**
- ▶ **Dirt Devil car vacuum**  
**ROBERT EHRLICH**

## National Electrical Safety Month

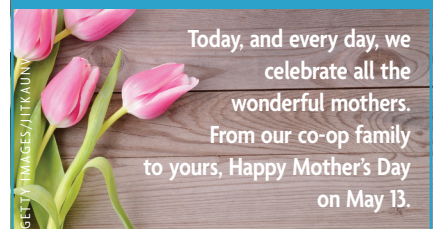
Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

### Know the warning signs of overloaded outlets:

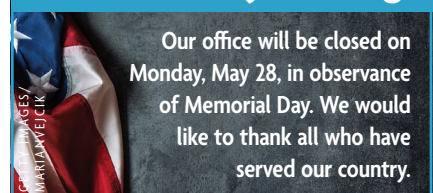
- ▶ Flickering/blinking lights
- ▶ Warm or discolored wall plates
- ▶ Burning odor from receptacles
- ▶ Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches
- ▶ Frequently tripped circuit breakers



## Happy Mother's Day



## Memorial Day Closing



# Lightning & Surge Protection Spring Special

## Sign up by May 31 for Free Installation

Electric appliances are a very important part of our day-to-day life, yet we hardly think about them—until there's trouble. The most common cause of trouble is lightning strikes. When lightning strikes a power line, a lot of equipment throughout the home may get damaged. Lightning and power surges can strike at any moment and can destroy or cause expensive damage to your sensitive electronics and appliances.

There are also many other causes of power surges such as birds, squirrels, or trees interfering with power lines which can cause a power surge that can lead to appliance damage.

Being prepared for these unexpected surges and spikes can make a big difference in protecting your appliances and equipment.

Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative wants to help protect your electronics and appliances with our affordable surge protection program. You can start protecting your electrical devices and appliances by signing up today.



Flint Hills is running a Spring Special on the installation and lease of the meter based lightning and surge protection ring. The Tesco device would be installed at your electric meter and will help protect your home's indoor major electrical appliances and equipment from lightning and or power surges that might come through your power lines. The monthly lease fee will be \$6.95 and will be added to your electric bill. Take advantage of our **FREE INSTALLATION** Spring Special that runs until May 31.

The surge protection device comes with a warranty through Tesco that has a coverage of up to \$50,000 for listed electronics and appliances. Go to our website at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com) and click on the

Member Services tab for more information on list of appliances that are covered under the warranty program.

Call today to sign up to have your lightning and surge suppression device installed before May 31, 2018, and get the **FREE INSTALLATION** Spring Special at 620-767-5144.

## Proper Tree Pruning Around Power Lines

Trees provide curb appeal, shade and a space for kids to play in the yard. However, when trees grow and interfere with power lines, they become safety hazards and are among the most common causes for utility outages.

With millions of miles of electric lines that give power to homes and businesses throughout the U.S., there are numerous trees growing near or into lines that require trimming and management. Usually, it's because a tall-growing tree was planted directly under or too close to the line. It might have grown taller than the person who planted it expected. Whatever the reason, it is crucial trees stay a safe distance from the lines and are properly pruned to preserve tree health.

First and foremost, remember that only trained professionals should trim trees near power lines. Trees growing in utility right of ways are maintained by the electric utility, while trees growing into power lines on private property are usually

the responsibility of the owner. If you need to hire someone to prune trees on your property, be aware that most tree care workers are not qualified to work around energized power lines. According to the Utility Arborist Association (UAA), utility line clearance professionals that meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) qualifications are the only ones legally permitted to work within 10 feet of lines or work on a tree that has branches that are within 10 feet of a power line.

Trees are cut at the growth points for tree health, and in many cases, it's impossible to maintain the tree's original shape. Some trees require directional pruning to keep them from growing back into lines. Trees directly underneath power lines may be pruned in a "V" or "U" shape with lines passing through the opening in the middle, or trees growing alongside a power line may be pruned in an "L" shape or one side may need to be completely removed. While the shape

of a tree may change, trees can be pruned to maintain the health and safety of the tree while also increasing the safety and reliability related to the power lines.

Often pruning a tree solves the safety and reliability concern, but in some cases the tree must be removed. Those include tall or fast growing species that are directly under power lines, large previously topped trees under the power lines, saplings with potential to grow in or around the lines, and hazardous trees that may be leaning, in decline, cracked or split.

Property owners may choose to replace a problem tree with a new one. There are many varieties of shorter-growing trees that provide beauty, shade and screening, and will never grow to interfere with power lines. Your local tree nursery can help with selection of trees and shrubs appropriate for landscaping around power lines and electrical equipment.