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# NEWS

## FLINT HILLS REC

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- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
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For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at [www.flinthillsrec.com](http://www.flinthillsrec.com).

**THIS INSTITUTION IS AN  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER  
AND EMPLOYER.**

## FROM THE MANAGER

# The Season of Giving



**Chuck Goeckel**

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and

looking out for one another — and at Flint Hills REC, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase — it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that).

We're here to make life better for the people we serve — our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take the Sharing Success program, for example. Flint Hills REC teams up with CoBank to give to local charitable organizations, such as local CORE Communities, and local food banks to just name a few.

We're also proud to support local students through our youth programs. This is where we send some of our

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## STAY TOASTY AND WARM WHILE TURNING DOWN THE THERMOSTAT



When the winter winds blow, it is tempting to adjust the thermostat up a few degrees. However turning to other ways to help keep you warm could help reduce your energy bills. Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill.

No one home during the day? Lower your thermostat 7-10 degrees to save!



### Ways to stay warm when it's cold outside:



**BUNDLE** up by wearing layers and heavy socks.

**GET** your body moving and stay active.

**CAULK** windows and doorframes that leak air.



**REPLACE OR UPDATE** old or ineffective door seals.



**REDUCE** how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside.)

**KEEP** your furnace clean and change your filter monthly.

**MAKE SURE** your home's heating system is working properly.



**HUMIDIFY** your home to make air feel warmer.

**LET THE SUN SHINE IN** during the day and close window coverings at nights.

**KEEP** the fireplace damper closed when not in use.



Use portable space heaters safely and for short amounts of time — extended use can cause your energy bill to spike!

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

## The Season of Giving

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community's brightest young people to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, where they will build on their leadership skills and learn about how cooperatives work. That's giving in the most meaningful way — by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too — and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work — coaching youth sports, volunteering at local

events, serving on non-profit boards, and partnering with our chamber of commerce to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement — it's just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions — please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Flint Hills REC, we believe concern for community is more than a value — it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

## TURKEY FRYER *Safety Tips*

Keep holiday meals joyful — don't let a fire ruin the feast.

Deep-frying a turkey can be delicious, but it's also one of the riskiest ways to cook.

Before you plug in or fire up a fryer, follow these safety tips:

Use outdoor fryers at **LEAST 10 FEET AWAY** from buildings, garages and overhangs.



Use a **fully thawed and dry turkey** — never fry a frozen one.



Place the fryer on a flat, sturdy surface and don't move it once it's heating.



Use a **thermometer** to make sure oil is at the recommended temperature.



Never leave a fryer unattended. Keep children and pets at **LEAST 3 FEET AWAY.**



Avoid overloading outlets if using an electric fryer; unplug other appliances before use.



Test oil level by filling fryer with water and lowering the turkey to see how much oil is needed. Dry completely before adding oil.



Wear oven mitts and use long utensils to avoid contact with hot surfaces and oil.



Consider using an electric fryer or going oil-free with an air fryer for safer indoor cooking options.





