

[Employee of the Year Revealed and Years of Service Recognized p. 3](#)

## It's Time for February's Free Fluorescent Fridays

It is once again time for our Free Fluorescent Fridays in February promotion!

Each of the four Fridays in February we are giving away free packages of CFL light bulbs at the light booth in the lobby of our Collinsville headquarters. All you need to do is come in and pick up your light bulbs during our business hours which are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Every member is eligible for one package of four bulbs during this promotion. You can only pick-up bulbs for yourself; not for family, friends or neighbors.

The bulbs are equivalent to 75-Watt bulbs, and each package is valued at over \$7.

A CFL bulb can save you more than \$100 on your electric bill before it burns out because it is so energy efficient – four times more than an incandescent bulb. In fact, incandescent bulbs produce more heat than light, so they use tons of energy and burn out quickly. CFL bulbs last up to 10 times longer and use 80 percent less energy.

There are several different bulb

designs, but these are spiral bulbs which do an excellent job providing even light distribution and are ideal

for lamps and light fixtures that hide the bulb behind a shade or covering.

*VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer (right) hands a member her package of free fluorescent light bulbs during the 2012 event.*



**VVEC Board of Trustees**

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 District 8 - **Ken Howard, 371-4833**  
 District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134**  
 or 272-5364

**General Manager** - Alice Houston

**VVEC Headquarters**

8901 E. 146th Street N., Collinsville

**Mailing address**

P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021

**Phone number**

(918) 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

**Office hours**

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
 Monday through Friday

**Editor** - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

## Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,  
 November through April billing

Customer Charge                      \$20.20

**Energy Charge**

1st 1,000 kWh                      \$0.0738/kWh  
 Over 1,000 kWh                      \$0.0678/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

# Don't let Your Valentine's Day Gift Shock the Neighborhood



Want to show your Valentine how much you care by delivering a heart-shaped "I Love You" balloon to his or her office or home? Hang on tight.

Mylar balloons, constructed of metalized nylon so they're extra-shiny and easy to mold into fun shapes for parties and special occasions, are powerful conductors of electricity. So if you let one slip from your grip while you're outside, you'll not only lose your balloon, you could cause a power outage or even an injury.

If one of these festive party decorations floats into power lines or lands on an electrical substation, its metal coating could short out a circuit and leave your neighborhood in the dark, or it could cause an electrical fire that damages the equipment.

And if the balloon you're carrying is attached to a metallic ribbon and happens to brush an overhead line or another charged piece of equipment, it could shock or even electrocute you.

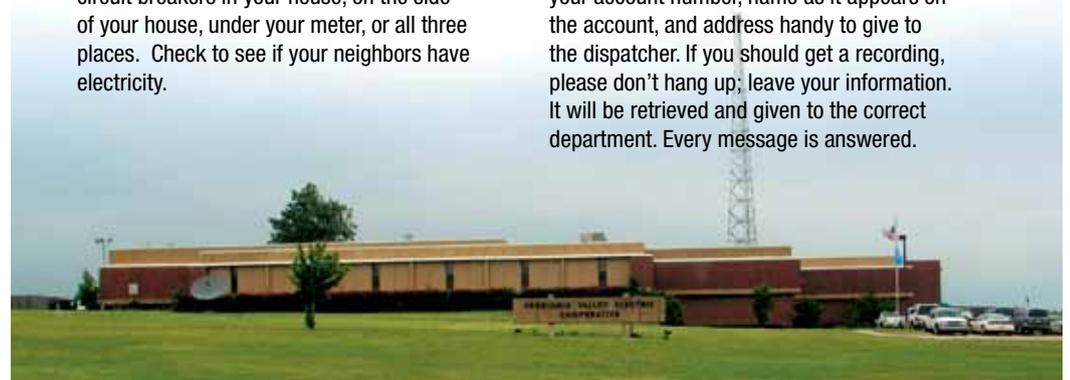
The Energy Education Council says the balloons are even dangerous indoors if they come into contact with an exposed wire.

So even though Mylar balloons are popular because they hold their helium for so long, the council advises parents to puncture, deflate and dispose of the balloons after the party's over instead of letting them float around the house or yard until they lose their shape.

And, of course, if your balloon gets tangled in a power line, call your VVEC to report it. Never get close enough to a live wire to try to dislodge the item yourself.

## What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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# Co-Workers Select Sharon Mendell as Employee of the Year



**Sharon Mendell**  
*2012 Employee of the Year*

During the annual Christmas party it was announced employees had selected Sharon Mendell to be the 2012 Employee of the Year.

A life-long resident of Talala, Sharon began her career at VVEC in 1994 in data processing. She has served as dispatcher, and is currently an Engineering clerk, where she works with members wanting new services and requiring changes in their service. She is also a back up dispatcher, and works with the employee credit union committee.

“It’s humbling to know your

fellow employees think enough of you to vote you Employee of the Year,” she says. “I LOVE my job and I work with some super people. I have been blessed. I believe you could ask any of my fellow employees for help and they would help you. They are the greatest.”

Each year employees are asked to cast ballots for the person they feel is most deserving of Employee of the Year recognition. The identity of the honoree is kept secret until it is revealed at the Christmas party.

## Employees, Trustees Recognized for Years of Service

The following employees and trustees were recognized at the Christmas party for their years of dedication and service to the Cooperative.

**30 Years --**  
Terry Ishmael  
Larry Sylvester

**25 Years --**  
Ray Williams  
Jay Crutchfield

**20 Years --**  
Ken Howard

**15 Years --**  
John Hibdon  
Jack Bogart  
Boyd Schultheiss  
Inez Wright  
Troy Lamb  
Keven Perrier  
Marlin Barnhart

**10 Years --**  
Regina Curtis

**5 Years --**  
Mary Edgecombe

# Oklahoma Living to Produce Anniversary Cookbook

Oklahoma Living, the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), is celebrating its 65th year in 2013. To celebrate, the staff is compiling a cookbook, which will include reader-submitted recipes as well as historic *Oklahoma Living* recipes. The cookbook will be approximately 160 pages, full color and hardbound, and will be available for purchase in Fall 2013, just in time for Christmas gift giving.

If you would like to submit a recipe, E-mail it to [www.ok-living.coop/contests](http://www.ok-living.coop/contests) by Feb. 15. If you have questions, call OAEC at (405) 478-1455.

*Oklahoma*  
**LIVING**  
65th Anniversary  
**Celebratory  
Cookbook**

Coming Fall 2013!

Submit your best recipes at [www.ok-living.coop/contests](http://www.ok-living.coop/contests) by Feb. 15, 2013

Submission does not guarantee inclusion in the cookbook.



## RECIPE

### Quick Chicken and Dumplings

- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 cup chopped roasted skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 1 10-oz. box frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- 1 & 1/2 cup water
- 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 14-oz. can fat-free, less sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 6-inch flour tortillas, cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion; saute 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in chicken and vegetables; cook 3 minutes or until thoroughly heated, stirring constantly. While chicken mixture cooks, combine water, flour, and broth. Gradually stir broth mixture into chicken mixture. Stir in salt, pepper, and bay leaf, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer 3 minutes. Stir in tortilla strips, and cook 2 minutes or until tortilla strips soften. Remove from heat; stir in parsley. Discard bay leaf. Serve immediately.