

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**FRUITION DESIGNS**  
COMES HOME TO GRAND LAKE

**USE SMARTHUB**  
& BETTER MANAGE YOUR ELECTRIC

**MARCH 2020**



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.**

## OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

**Dandy A. Risman** - District 5, President  
**John L. Myers** - District 4, Vice-President  
**Benny L. Seabourn** - District 2, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Jimmy Caudill** - District 9, Assis. Secretary-Treasurer  
**Charles A. Wyrick** - District 1  
**Brian Kelly** - District 3  
**Sharron Gay** - District 6  
**James A. Wade** - District 7  
**Bill R. Kimbrell** - District 8

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Daniel Webster** - General Manager/CEO  
**Shane Burgess** - Engineering Design & Special Projects  
**Larry Cisneros** - Engineering  
**David Cusick** - NRS-ROW  
**Ricky Hignite** - Information Technology  
**Lindley Leforce** - Member Services  
**Tim Mixson** - Safety & Loss Control  
**Connie Porter** - Financial Services  
**Nick Sutton** - Operations

## VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

## GROVE OFFICE

212 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

## BUSINESS HOURS

**Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm**

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

## AVAILABLE 24 HOURS AT

1.800.256.6405

### If you experience an outage:

1. Check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service.
2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

*Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email [publicrelations@noec.coop](mailto:publicrelations@noec.coop)*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found on-line at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 866.632.9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202.690.7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



**CONNIE PORTER**  
**Manager of Financial Services**

The holidays are but distant memories. Leftover candy and sweets are in the trash (hopefully). We are ready to face what is left of the new year.

For those of you who made a New Year's resolution—be it eating

better/losing weight or securing your financial freedom at long last—I certainly hope you are reaching your goal. While these common resolutions sound quite familiar, experience may be telling us that the success rate for keeping our resolutions is not so good. If you are not having success with your resolution-keeping, maybe we should consider a different approach. How about resolving to simply live longer?

In the past I never would have entertained the notion of living to be 90-100 years of age, but with the proper incentive anything is possible, right?

Now living longer may require a lifestyle change for many of us. Maybe we just start doing the things that we have been told since our early childhood? Growing up how many times were we told to brush our teeth before we went to bed; go outside and get more fresh air while playing with our friends; eat our fruits and vegetables ("an apple a day keeps the doctor away"); roll with the punches; stay away from cigarettes, drugs and alcohol; and, last but not least, get plenty of sleep.

We may have thought our parents just wanted a few minutes of peace and quiet by encouraging us to get out of the house, but maybe they knew something we didn't. Maybe by doing these things we could reduce gum-disease-causing bacteria in our mouth which they say leads to heart disease. Maybe soaking up Vitamin D from a primary source is good for building strong bones and teeth and maintaining overall health. Maybe listening to those voices of experience really could improve our moods, relieve our stress, and help us focus on the good things in life like spending quality time with friends and family. Maybe leading to a longer, happier life isn't as difficult as we make it out to be. Maybe the fountain of youth isn't found from repeating our mistakes and bad habits. Maybe listening to the sage advice of the people who loved us most could result in an increase lifespan.

Maybe, just maybe, our parents did know best.



04

OPERATION ROUND UP UPDATE



08

RECIPES: NOODLE MONTH



06

FRUITIION DESIGNS



03

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

### \$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of NE Connection for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: \*XXXXXX\*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.9332, by April 1, 2020, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information, including phone number for publication, to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita 74301 or to sarah.wilhelm@noec.coop.

## MARCH 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5 •	6 •	7 •
8 •	9	10	11 •	12 •	13 •	14 •
15	16	17	18	19	20 •	21 •
22 •	23	24	25	26	27	28 •
29 •	30	31				

- GRAND LAKE BOAT & SPORT SHOW**  
**Mar 5-8 | Grove**  
 Grove Civic Center  
 918.786.2289
- 2 HIP CHICKS ROADSHOW**  
**Mar 7 | Vinita**  
 Craig County Fairgrounds  
 612.888.3002
- BASS FEDERATION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**Mar 11-14 | Grove**  
 Wolf Creek Park  
 918.786.9079
- BIG MEAT 4-WHEEL DRIVE RUN**  
**Mar 20-22 | Disney**  
 322 W Main St  
 918.261.8886
- SUNNY SIDE UP FILM FESTIVAL**  
**Mar 20-22 | Miami**  
 Coleman Theatre  
 918.540.2425
- QUEENSFERRY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**  
**Mar 21-22 | Vinita**  
 Park Hills Motel & RV Park  
 918.639.3255
- NEO A&M CRAFT FAIR**  
**Mar 28 | Miami**  
 NEO Student Activity Center  
 918.540.6388
- GRAND LAKE RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**  
**Mar 28-29 | Vinita**  
 313720 S Hwy 82  
 918.244.1887

# SMARTHUB MAKES IT EASY TO BETTER MANAGE YOUR ELECTRIC

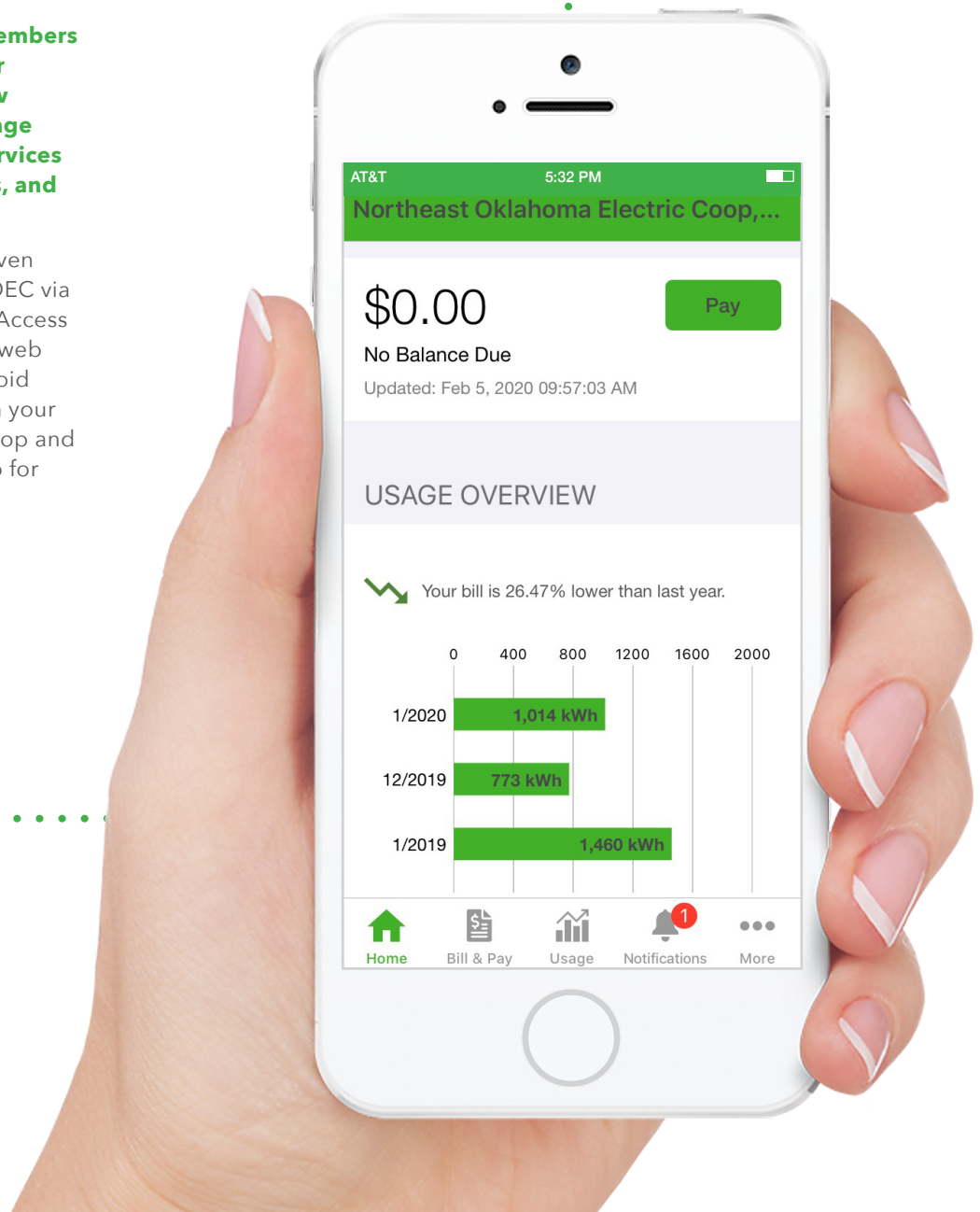
## GIVE IT A TRY

SmartHub provides NOEC members account management at their fingertips. Members can view their usage and billing, manage payments, notify member services of account and service issues, and receive special messaging.

This member portal makes it even easier to stay connected to NOEC via today's internet technologies. Access your information all from your web browser, iPhone, iPad, or Android device. Search for SmartHub in your app store or visit [www.noec.coop](http://www.noec.coop) and select "Pay Your Bill" to sign up for SmartHub or login.

### Feature Highlights Include:

- **Bill & Pay**
- **Usage**
- **Notifications**
- **Outage Map**



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

**Take a few minutes to identify and correct potential electrical hazards in your home. If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you have a potential hazard on your hands.**

### Switches & Outlets

Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch? *That could indicate an unsafe wiring condition.*  
Are any outlets or switches discolored? *A discoloration could indicate a dangerous heat build up at the connections.* Do plugs fit snugly into outlets? *Loose plugs can cause overheating and fires.*

### Cords

Are any cords cracked, frayed, or damaged? *Damaged cords can expose wires, resulting in shock or fire.* Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything using staples or nails? *Pinched or stapled cords could have damaged insulation, creating the potential for shock or fire.* Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis? *Extension cords should only be used temporarily.*

### Electric Panel

Do you have recurring tripped breakers or blown fuses? *This could mean you are exceeding a safe level of electric current.*



# TIPS & TRICKS

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### Checking for Air Infiltration In Your Home

On a windy day tape narrow strips of tissue paper where you suspect there may be air entering your home. The more the strip moves the more severe the infiltration. (please be aware that operating appliances and ceiling fans can make the strips move). Use appropriate material such as caulk, spray foam, or backer rod to fill in the gaps. You will probably be more comfortable and save some money too.

Some examples of places to tape tissue strips are: baseboards, around windows, threshold seals of doors, outlet and switch plates, attic entrances, window air conditioners and fireplaces/chimneys. Also, note: Air infiltration is a double-edged sword since conditioned air inside the home can escape through the same gaps as the outside air enters. Filling gaps stops both. See [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for even more information.



# OPERATION ROUND UP

## GIVES TO LOCAL CHRISTIAN H.E.L.P. CENTER



As the benevolent arm of the Grove Ministerial Alliance, the mission of the Christian H.E.L.P. Center is to provide food and emergency assistance to the needy. Our purpose is to show the love of Christ in tangible ways helping each person maintain dignity and self-respect. The H.E.L.P. in our name stands for hope, encouragement, love, and provision.

NOEC's Operation Round Up program was able to provide \$1,550 dollars in assistance to help the center purchase computers. These computers will allow the center to better serve those in our community struggling the most.

Food banks and food pantries like Christian H.E.L.P. Center organize the collection of food donations and distribution to those in need. Most non-profit hunger relief organizations like Christian H.E.L.P. Center rely on volunteers and donations from people with big hearts that don't want anyone in need to go hungry.

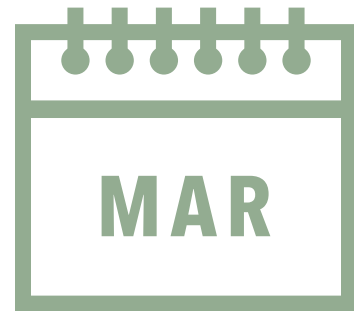
Want to volunteer for the Christian H.E.L.P. Center and make a difference in your community?

Give them a call at 918.786.6798 or visit 1703 S Highway 10, Grove, OK 74344.



# SPRING FORWARD

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS IS SUNDAY MARCH 8



## START PREPARING A FEW DAYS EARLY

Begin by going to bed 15 to 30 minutes earlier than normal.

## WAKE UP EARLY

Exposing yourself to the bright light in the morning will help you adjust.

## DON'T TAKE NAPS

If you have to take one, take it early.

## AVOID CAFFEINE AND ALCOHOL

Avoid caffeinated and alcoholic beverages 4-6 hours before bed.

# FRUITION DESIGNS COMES HOME

## TO GRAND LAKE

"...One day Jared said 'it's time to go home.' We have zero regrets about moving back home. There is no other place we would rather live."



**The newest addition to the Co-op Connections Card program is also one of Grand Lake's newest businesses. \*984318\***

Fruition Designs first opened its doors in Oklahoma City two and a half years ago. Owner Ellise Perryman was fresh out of college, having just graduated from The University of Oklahoma in Norman. She and husband Jared had a quaint little brick-and-mortar storefront in the heart of OKC. But the Perrymans always knew they wanted to come back home to Grove. They simply made the move sooner rather than later.

"We both grew up in Grove," Ellise said. "College took us to Norman, and then we settled in Oklahoma City for three years. That is where we opened our first shop. One day Jared said 'it's time to go home.' We have zero regrets about moving back home. There is no other place we would rather live."

Fruition Designs is located in the east portion of Jana Jae's Gallery Southwest at 920 South Main Street in Grove. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit soon and discover a unique variety of home furnishings, art, and gifts. Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members who present a Co-op Connections Card will receive 15% off their purchase.

**"We are very selective with products we carry," Ellise explained. "We only support vendors of handmade item. As far as art and design services, I think our style is very unique to this area."**

**15% Off Your Purchase  
Use Your Co-op Connections Card**



Ellise found inspiration for the business by drawing upon her many treasured shopping experiences as a youngster.

“As a child, I loved going to little shops with my mom in Grove much more than mall shopping,” she said. “Every visit was such an experience and a pleasure to get to know local shopkeepers. My favorite hobby is still going to local shops in new cities we visit. I wanted to recreate that experience of excitement and inspiration I always get when I walk into a new store with beautiful, well-curated items. I also wanted to bring original art to everyday life and make it more accessible to any budget.”

Growing up, Ellise always felt it would be reasonable to follow in her parents’ career footsteps. Both of her parents are dentists, and science and math came fairly easy to her in school. It was during a missions trip to Africa where she felt the pull to pursue another calling. This calling came after observing local children working at an art station. She knew in that moment she wanted to be in a creative field. When she returned home, she changed her major to match her lifelong passion.

All of the art at Fruition Designs is original, high-quality work that is priced to sell. They do custom art for clients, as well as framing, and installation.

“We also gather local art or work with our clients’ favorite artists,” Ellise said. “We are both designers, as well as artists, so we can go beyond just art. We can help with remodel design and decorating.”

Ellise studied studio art and Jared brings a hybrid degree of art and architecture. This interesting blend of education, training, and experience provides the impetus for creativity at Fruition Designs.



“We both loved our education as it sparked a love for design to which neither of us had been exposed,” Ellise explained.

Ellise personally creates a majority of the paintings sold at the shop, as well as custom pieces for clients. Jared handles all of the framing projects and installations.

In addition to the many items for sale, you’ll also see items from Ellise’s collection accenting the displays.

**“I have always loved collecting antiques, so there is always a variety from my personal collection in the shop.”**

The Perrymans vision is to someday be able to serve clients by offering entire building and home design, construction project management, interior design, and the art/interior decorating. To help them reach that goal, Ellise is working on a Master’s degree in architecture while Jared adds construction experience when he is not working at Fruition.

To say the future is bright for this creative young couple would be an understatement.

“We know 2020 will be a big year for us,” Ellise said. “We will be acquiring more design projects and we are really excited about that.”



**Jared is currently working on some furniture pieces for the shop. He is also working on a leather accessory line for both men and women that is going to be amazing. We are also going to add more books and children’s items to our inventory.”**

Fruition Designs has evolved to include corporate photography. They began offering this service to clients in 2019.

“We do product photography and interior photos for real estate or design portfolios,” said Ellise. “We also began offering monthly creative workshops. This is something we always wanted to do in Oklahoma City but never did. So far, they have been so fun. Every month will be something a little different. We are so thankful to get to create and help people acquire unique things and spaces.”



## MARCH IS NATIONAL NOODLE MONTH



**SUBMITTED BY: BETTY TOLBERT, WELCH**

### GENUINE IMITATION HOMEMADE NOODLES

- **Bone-In Chicken**
- **Reames Frozen Noodles**
- **Cream of Chicken Soup**
- **Butter**
- **Better than Bouillon Chicken Flavor**
- **Chicken Stock**
- **Onions or Onion Powder**
- **Ground Sage**
- **Salt and Pepper to Taste**

This is a to taste recipe, so there are no strict measurements. Boil chicken, butter, and onion in a large pot with lid until chicken is cooked through. Remove chicken, debone, and set meat aside. Add remaining ingredients to pot with broth, except noodles and cream of chicken soup, and cook until onions are soft or until ingredients are well combined. Make sure you have a lot of broth! Now add noodles and bring to a boil. Once boiling add cream of chicken soup and chicken. Return lid to pot and simmer for 1 hour, no peaking! This will give the noodles time to absorb the broth.



**SUBMITTED BY: TAMMY FREEMAN, GROVE**

### LASAGNA

- **Ground Beef**
- **Noodles or Pasta of Your Choice**
- **Shredded Cheese**
- **Marinara Sauce**

Boil pasta in a pot of salted water until cooked to taste, then drain and set aside. In a skillet, brown ground beef until fully cooked. Layer noodles, beef, cheese, and sauce in a 9x13 pan and bake at 350° for 40 minutes.

## SUBMITTED BY: LUCILLE GREGORY, AFTON

### ORIENTAL SALAD WITH BOK CHOY

- 1 Medium Bok Choy
- 5 Scallions (Green Onions)
- 2 Packages Ramen Noodles
- 2 TBS Sesame Seeds
- 1 Stick Margarine
- 4 oz Slivered Almonds

#### Dressing

- 3/4 Cup Salad Oil
- 2 TBS Soy Sauce
- 1 Cup Sugar (or substitute with Equal)
- 1/2 Cup Vinegar

Lightly brown almonds, seeds, and crushed ramen noodles in margarine. Set aside and cool. Chop up Bok Choy (leaves and all) and scallions and combine with almonds, seeds, and ramen. Add dressing 30 minutes before serving.

*Note: This recipe given to me by Becky Read of La Porte, Indiana.*



## SUBMITTED BY: TAMMY MOSS, WYANDOTTE

### PASTA SALAD WITH A KICK

- 2 Cups Pasta Noodles of Your Choice
- Tomato, Diced
- Cucumber, Diced
- 1/2 Onion, Diced (Optional)
- Jalapeño, Diced
- 1 TBS Vinegar
- 1 TBS Oil of Your Choice
- Salt to Taste

Cook pasta to desired doneness, then rinse with cool water and drain. Pour pasta into large bowl and add diced tomato, cucumber, onion, jalapeño, vinegar, oil, and salt. Toss to combine.



**APRIL IS NATIONAL GARLIC MONTH!  
KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THE NEXT NE CONNECTION.**

**THANK YOU**  
FOR BEING OUR LOYAL READERS

**NE CONNECTION**  
A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE