

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

THE FUNKY MONKEY INN BED & BREAKFAST



**NEW RATE SCHEDULES
ANNOUNCED**

JANUARY 2023



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.

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Sami Jo Frisby - Administrative Services
Shane Burgess - Engineering
Ricky Hignite - Information Technology
Darryll Lindsey - Member 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, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

DISPATCHING 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

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Daniel Webster General Manager/CEO

You see it in the news and feel it at the checkout aisle—rising prices are impacting us all.

The short definition of inflation is "a measure of purchasing power." Driven by a low supply of goods

due to the pandemic and world events, consumers are paying more as we continue to recover. Although your electric cooperative is a non-profit, it is not immune to the same increased costs.

The employees of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative work every day to provide reliable service as economically as possible, but the cost of vital goods forces us to seek a rate change. The last change to rates occurred in 2016, seven years ago. I thought it might help you understand the need for a change in rates by sharing just a few of the increases the cooperative has experienced.

Some of the most recognizable components of our electric system are wood poles, aerial conductor, and transformers. The cost of our most common pole increased by more than 101%. The aerial conductor used as the backbone of our system has gone up 131% while transformers increased between 28% and 36% depending on the size.

When building service, maintaining our system, or responding to an outage, our trucks are a visible reminder we are at work for you. The price of gasoline has increased by 76% and diesel by 111%. When the normal annual mileage driven by cooperative vehicles is close to two million, those fuel increases add up quickly. And, when those trucks need to be replaced, we are paying 20% to 30% more. While the percentage is lower than those previously mentioned, when applied to an item that costs over \$250,000 the financial hit is significant.

As we move into a new year, please know the trustees and employees are not resigned to accepting higher costs. We will continue to seek ways to keep your cost as low as possible without compromising on reliability.

As always, we thank you for your continued patronage and support. I have the pleasure of working every day with a group of highly talented and dedicated employees working to make your cooperative one of the best utilities in the state.



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FEATURED RECIPES



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YOUTH PROGRAM INFO



04

STAY WITH STYLE

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, OK 74301 or email to: publicrelations@noec.coop

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of *Northeast 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 918.256.6405, by February 1, 2023, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

JANUARY 2023

First Day Hike

Jan 1 | Afton

Bernice Area
at Grand Lake State Park

Grove On Ice, Ice Skating

Jan 1-8 | Grove

Downtown

FREE Tai Chi Classes

Jan 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20,
23, 26, and 27 | Miami

Miami Public Library

2023 Mid-South Sweetheart

Jan 7 | Miami

Coleman Theatre

Miami 4-H Club Meeting

Jan 9 | Miami

Courthouse Annex

FREE Suicide Prevention Training

Jan 12 | Miami

Hampton Inn

Monthly Meeting: Arts & Humanities Council

Jan 12 | Miami

Miami Public Library

Murder Mystery Dinner

Jan 23 | Pryor

Fat Toad Brewing Company

January events are subject to date change or cancellation. Please contact the host for current event information.

JANUARY 1, 2022

Dear Member:

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Board of Trustees and Staff are dedicated to supplying reliable electric service at the best possible rates. In order to ensure stability for your Cooperative's future and to continue providing high-quality service, the Board requested an independent study of the income and expenses of the Cooperative. The study resulted in a recommendation to increase rates and, based on a thorough review of all the information, income, and expenses, the Board formally approved rate changes in September 2022.

These changes will result in a 2.8% increase in the Cooperative's revenue. The proposed changes will go into effect on all bills produced on or after April 19, 2023. For the average residential member this means an increase from \$144.38 to \$147.31 (a difference of \$2.93) per month. A list of each new rate schedule resulting from the proposed changes is included in this Notice.

As a Cooperative member-consumer, you have the right to petition the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (Commission) to examine and determine the reasonableness of the proposed changes. Okla. Stat. tit. 17, § 158.27(C)(1) contains the substantial form requirements for any such petition and these requirements are also included in this Notice for your reference and use. In addition, a petition form is available, free of charge, at the Cooperative's headquarters in Vinita. The Cooperative will also mail you a petition form upon written request. If you opt to prepare, complete, and sign such a petition, it must be received by the Commission no later than April 19, 2023. The physical and mailing addresses for delivering and/or sending a petition to the Commission are as follows:

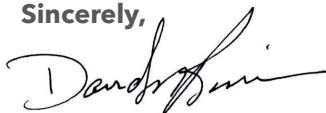
To:
Public Utility Division
Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Physical Address:
Jim Thorpe Office Building
2101 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 52000
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2000

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your Cooperative at (918) 256-6405 for more information or to receive a form petition.

Sincerely,



Dandy A. Risman, President



Daniel Webster, General Manager

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NEW RATE SCHEDULES

FORM OF PETITION 17 O.S. § 158.27

Standard Pricing Schedule: RS Residential Service

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge..... | \$ 30.00 |
| Rate per kWh..... | \$ 0.0925 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: SS Seasonal Service

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge..... | \$ 32.00 |
| Rate per kWh..... | \$ 0.0925 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: SC Small Commercial

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge Single-Phase..... | \$ 31.60 |
| Monthly Service Charge Three-Phase..... | \$ 52.55 |
| Rate per kWh..... | \$ 0.0970 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: LC Large Commercial

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge..... | \$ 64.50 |
| First 100 kWh per kW..... | \$ 0.1494 |
| Excess kWh..... | \$ 0.0735 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: LP-I Large Power I

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge..... | \$ 92.00 |
| Monthly Demand Charge per kW..... | \$9.00 |
| Rate per kWh..... | \$ 0.0603 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: LP-II Large Power II

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge..... | \$ 92.00 |
| Monthly Demand Charge per kW..... | \$ 10.10 |
| Rate per kWh..... | \$ 0.0504 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: TU Time of Use

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Monthly Service Charge..... | \$ 92.00 |
| Monthly Demand Charge per kW - On Peak..... | \$ 11.31 |
| Monthly Demand Charge per kW - Off Peak..... | \$4.93 |
| Rate per kWh..... | \$ 0.0617 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: SSL Security & Street Lights

| | |
|--|---------|
| Monthly Rate Unmetered Lights | |
| 175 Watt or Equivalent Area Light..... | \$8.15 |
| 400 Watt or Equivalent Flood Light..... | \$15.40 |
| Monthly Rate Metered Lights | |
| 175 Watt or Equivalent Area Light..... | \$1.14 |
| 400 Watt or Equivalent Flood Light..... | \$2.57 |
| 1500 Watt or Equivalent Flood Light..... | \$9.64 |

Standard Pricing Schedule: ML Municipal Lighting Rate

| | |
|---|---------|
| 175 Watt or Equivalent Area Light..... | \$4.20 |
| 400 Watt or Equivalent Flood Light..... | \$10.25 |

Power Cost Adjustment

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Base power cost..... | \$0.05900 |
|----------------------|-----------|

C. 1. A petition requesting the Commission to examine and determine the reasonableness of proposed increase in rates and charges shall be in substantially the following form:

a. Form: The petition shall be headed by a caption, which shall contain (1) the heading, "Before the Corporation Commission of the State of Oklahoma"; (2) the name of the association or cooperative corporation seeking an increase in rates and charges; (3) the relief sought.

b. Body: The body of the petition shall consist of four numbered paragraphs, if applicable, as follows:

(1) Allegations of Facts: The allegations of facts stated in the form of ultimate facts, without unnecessary detail, upon which the right to relief is based. The allegations will be stated in numbered subparagraphs as necessary for clarity,

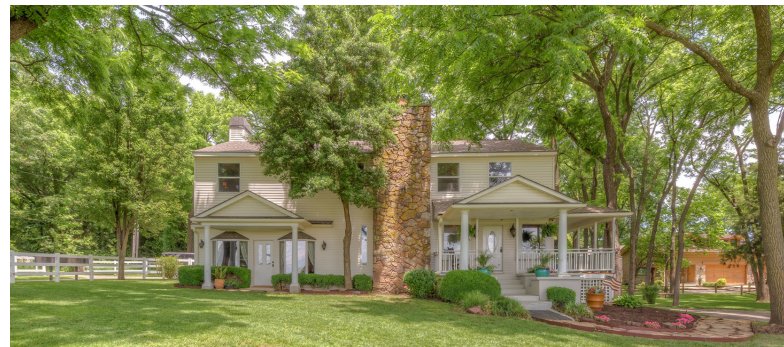
(2) Legal Authority: Retail Electric Supplier Certified Territory Act,

(3) Relief Sought: A brief statement of the amount of the increase in rates and charges that is objected to or other relief sought, and

(4) Petitioners: The name, address, telephone number and signature of each member-consumer.

STAY WITH STYLE

PREPARE TO BE 'INN-SPIRED' AT THE FUNKY MONKEY INN



We've all stayed at "cookie-cutter" hotels or motels where the only distinguishing characteristic of the rooms were the numbers on the doors.

It's like: *"Welcome to our run-of-the-mill establishment. Prepare to be underwhelmed. How will you be paying today?"*

Some of those uninspired accommodations may have been considered nice by most standards—nice enough, in fact, to be five-star rated. Others, perhaps, were not so nice. Looking back, that two-star rating may have been a bit generous.

"Well, hello there, mystery stain. Fancy meeting you again. I do believe you were here during my last visit."

Unless your fellow hotel guests were especially raucous (*"Thank you, paper-thin walls"*) or you found an unidentifiable arthropod scurrying about your room, there was nothing particularly memorable about your stay. The entire experience was forgotten the moment your wheels rolled out of the parking lot. Maybe even sooner.



Ordinary is a foreign concept for one Grand Lake establishment. With its vibrant décor and uniquely-themed rooms, you'll be making memories the moment you step foot in the door at **The Funky Monkey Inn**, Grand Lake's newest bed and breakfast.

"This home came on the market and we immediately thought it had the potential to become a bed and breakfast. The floor plan of the home was ideal," explained Shawn Peters, one of the business's owners. "There were no traditional B&Bs on the island. B&Bs are unique in that there is a full-time innkeeper who maintains the inn and provides breakfast to our guests. Unlike VRBO or Airbnb, there is personal attention and someone who can cater to your needs."

The Funky Monkey opened its doors in June 2021. The inn was ready for guests after several weeks of maintenance, cleaning, landscaping, and furnishing/decorating. It's a family business for the most part, owned by Peters, her brother Adam Hutchinson, and his wife Amy. Gary Goss and his wife Laura are also partners in investment. Peters has been in real estate for 20 years and is currently with Chinowth & Cohen.

Another close family member serves as innkeeper. That would be none other than Jana Barger, Shawn and Adam's mother. Filling that very important position didn't require lengthy deliberation by the family.

"We had the perfect person in mind," Peters smiled. "Mom has over thirty years of experience in the service industry. She is personable and enjoys meeting each of the guests. On many occasions, they become not only regular customers, but friends. She pays attention to all details, including the appearance of the inn, the cleanliness, and the maintenance as well."

Prepare to be "inn-spired" when you visit The Funky Monkey. The 6,500 square-foot structure itself is impressive.

An elegant porch encompasses the inn. Once inside, a living room beckons with a cozy fireplace and dining areas. Downstairs you'll find an oversized media room, poker room, and kitchenette. It's the perfect space for hosting football or poker parties.

Choose from one of six luxurious suites, each with private baths and each uniquely appointed and themed. Suite themes include: *Pretty Woman, Geisha, Easy Rider, Sex and the City, Out of Africa, and Law & Order.*

"Each of our suites has been thoughtfully designed," said Peters. "All have furnishings that are unique and exquisite. We stocked up on necessities such as pillow-top coverings and comfort pillows for the bedrooms as well as thick, luxurious towels for the bathrooms."

In addition to the guest suites, the inn features two upstairs landing areas complete with coffee bars and ample seating. These are popular areas for reading or doing puzzles. Daily breakfast is always complimentary, as are beverages and snacks.

The Funky Monkey may also be ideal for your next group event. Peters said the inn has "evolved into an ideal place to host retreats, wedding and bridal showers, family reunions, and golfing groups."

She added: "We are grateful that the community has been so supportive of our inn. It is perfect for any overflow guests they might have. Our business has grown over forty percent from last year. We are conveniently located less than a mile from Shangri-La and the many activities it offers and we are also looking forward to the resort's new par-three golf course opening."

As with many businesses in the Grand Lake area, The Funky Monkey is impacted by the seasonal shift. Peters said that the inn did, however, book New Year's Eve and Halloween parties.

"So we hope to expand by gaining more reservations during the winter months," she said. "It's still a beautiful time to get away and visit the lake."

INN-AMENITIES

- Private baths
- Pillow-top beds
- Luxurious towels
- Movie room
- Coffee bars
- Ample guest seating
- Complimentary daily breakfast
- Complimentary beverages & snacks
- Tornado shelter

If you need a change of scenery or perhaps you're tired of hearing things like *"Mom, why is the doorknob sticky?"* or *"Do you think it's still alive?"* consider celebrating that next special occasion at **The Funky Monkey Inn.**

For reservations, contact Jana Barger at **405.845.4630** or visit online at **funkymonkeyinn.com**. Discounts are available for multiple room rentals.



Sex and the City Suite



Easy Rider Suite

TIPS & TRICKS

WINTER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

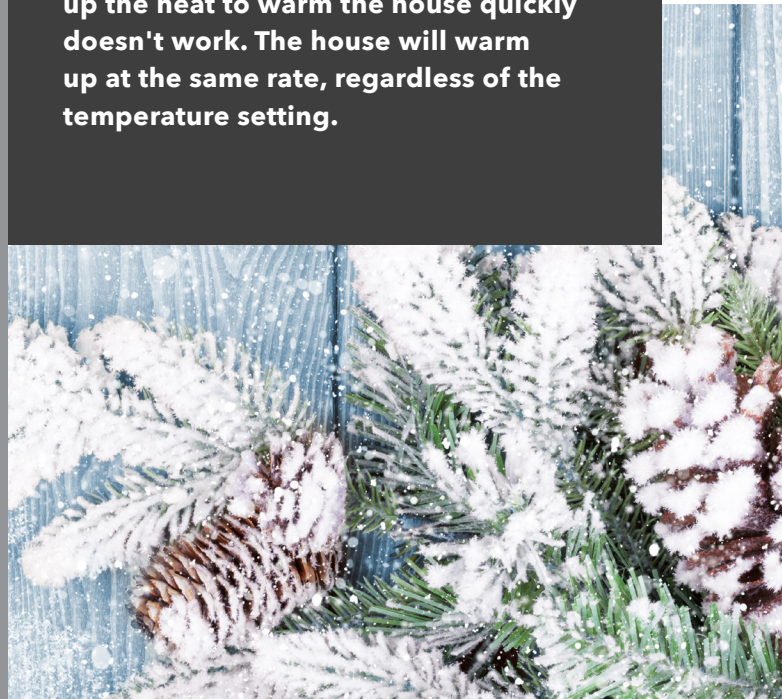
- **Make sure your home is equipped with functioning carbon monoxide detectors.**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless gas that kills at high concentrations and causes serious and irreversible injuries at lower levels. Deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning increase during the winter months due to the use of common fuels like natural gas, wood and coal. Installing an inexpensive carbon monoxide detector can save your family's life.

- **Keep outdoor outlets closed.** Check your outdoor outlets regularly to ensure that they don't have an accumulation of ice and snow on them. Keep them cleared off and closed to avoid moisture from invading the receptacle box and causing an outage.
- **Practice outdoor extension cord safety.** Extension cords are often used during the winter months to power snow blowers and other equipment. If you use an extension cord, ensure that its wattage and voltage are compatible with your power equipment. Your extension cord should also be equipped with a ground fault interruption device to avoid electrical shock.
- **Use caution with electric blankets.** Never use an electric blanket while you're sleeping. Make sure the plug and cord are in good shape; otherwise it can pose a fire hazard. Be sure to dispose of electric blankets that have worn or damaged areas.
- **Be careful with your kitchen appliances.** While crockpots and other slow-cooking devices get a lot of use in the winter, you should never leave them turned on when no one is home. Leaving them unattended is a major fire risk. And be sure to check electrical kitchen appliances for frayed or damaged cords and plugs before use.

WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Lay down a rug.** You'll not only help insulate your floors, but you'll cut down on the noise too.
- **Don't heat unnecessary space.** Avoid heating areas of your home that are not insulated such as a garage, crawlspaces, attic, or storage sheds.
- **Protect your windows—clear plastic sheeting on your windows can add more insulation and reduce icy drafts with minimal effort and cost.**
- **Heat your home responsibly.** Cranking up the heat to warm the house quickly doesn't work. The house will warm up at the same rate, regardless of the temperature setting.





Youth Tour Community Service Project or Essay | High School Juniors

Area high school juniors can complete a 6-8 hour community service project for a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 17-22, as part of the 2023 Youth Tour contest. Winning students will also receive \$500 in spending cash. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 300-500 word essay on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."* Students who are in the eleventh grade and attend school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a contest requirement. Entry deadline: March 27, 2023.

College/Trade School Scholarship | High School Seniors

High school seniors whose parents or guardians are NOEC members and who live in a household served by NOEC electric are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to a college, university, or trade school of their choice. Four winners will be selected. Entry deadline: May 1, 2023.

Community Service Award | FFA, FCCLA, 4-H

Local FFA, FCCLA, and 4-H organizations can apply for \$200 to assist with program expenses.

Energy Camp Community Service Project or Essay | Eighth Graders

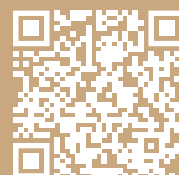
Eighth graders can complete a 3-4 hour community service project for a chance to win a trip to Energy Camp May 30-June 2, 2023. Each of the four contest winners will also receive \$150 in spending cash. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 200-300 word essay on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."* Students who are in the eighth grade and attend school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a contest requirement. Entry deadline: April 24, 2023.

Visit www.noec.coop and click on the *Community Services* tab for youth programs entry forms and additional information.

Community Service Project Ideas

Pick up trash around your school campus and/or athletic field(s), your church, a park, or your town sports complex. Volunteer time at a local animal shelter, food pantry, or thrift store. Offer to mow, pull weeds, or rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Collect non-perishable items to donate to a local food bank. Assemble goodie bags and deliver them to a local day center or assisted living facility.

Need more help? Contact the NOEC Public Relations department at publicrelations@noec.coop for a project idea in your area.



SCAN ME



FEATURED RECIPES

DELAWARE COUNTY | HEARTY FAVORITES



Bake time: 30 minutes

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

CARRIE PALMER | AFTON

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box mixed long-grain and wild rice
- 4 chicken breasts, cubed
- 1/2 lb hot pork sausage
- 1 3 oz can mushrooms, drained
- 2 cups celery soup, undiluted
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 melted butter

Step 1: Cook rice according to directions on box. Then brown the sausage in a skillet and drain the fat.

Step 2: In a large bowl combine soup, Worcestershire sauce, and mushrooms. Add cooked sausage to mixture.

Step 3: Lightly spoon mixture into rice and combine. Spoon half the rice mixture into a casserole dish. Top with cubed chicken and add remaining rice mixture over chicken.

Step 4: Top with buttered bread crumbs and bake at 375°F for 30 minutes.

MUSHROOM GRAVY PATTIES

REBECCA TURNER | GROVE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 1 pk mushroom gravy
- 1/2 medium onion, diced
- 1 cup instant rice (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Step 1: Mix beef, onion, rice, and salt and pepper to form patties. Place in an 8x8 baking dish.

Step 2: Mix 1 pack of gravy according to directions and pour over patties. Bake at 375°F for 35 minutes.

No oven? No problem. Use a cast iron skillet and simmer patties in gravy for 40 minutes. Turn one time halfway through.



Bake time: 35 minutes