

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**A NEW LEASH ON LIFE**  
AT SECOND CHANCE PET RESCUE

**OCTOBER 2025**



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

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**John L. Myers** - District 4, Vice-President  
**Jimmy Caudill** - District 9, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Brian Kelly** - District 3, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
**Charles A. Wyrick** - District 1  
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**Nancy Kimbrell** - District 8

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**Sean Friend** - Chief Financial Officer (CFO)  
**Ricky Hignite** - Chief Technology Officer (CTO)  
**Sami Jo Frisby** - Administrative Services  
**Kristen Sturgess** - Human Resources  
**Nick Sutton** - Operations

## VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

## GROVE OFFICE

600 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

**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)*

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## STAKE YOUR CLAIM

### **Leslie Taylor** **Director of Accounting**

What is a capital credit? And how does it go unclaimed?

Capital credits align with one of our seven cooperative principles:

#### *Principle #3 Members' Economic Participation.*

Through your economic participation, you are not just a customer but an owner or member. As a member, you contribute equitably to the cooperative's capital, which is money needed to run and maintain our business. Once operating expenses are covered, monies left over represent margins then allocated to you and paid over a period of time.

### **Earning Capital Credits**

When you buy electricity from a cooperative, any revenue beyond operating costs are allocated back to members as "capital credits," based on how much electricity you purchased.

### **Retirement (Refunds)**

Over time, the cooperative's board decides when to pay out (or "retire") those credits, returning them to members as cash.

### **Unclaimed Credits**

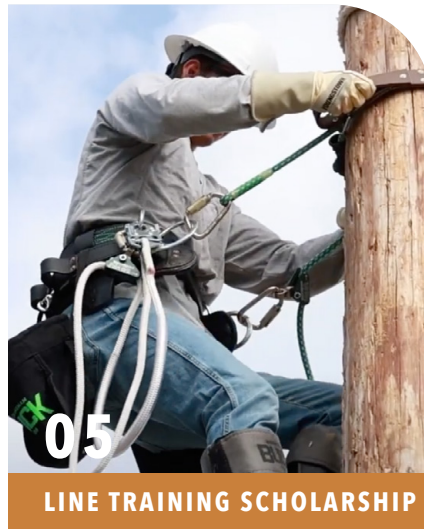
If the cooperative tries to send a refund check but the member has moved, passed away, or changed contact information, the check may go uncashed. When the co-op can't find the member or heirs, those funds are considered unclaimed capital credits.

NOEC wants to return this money to our members, present and past. In an effort to get this money returned to you, we need your help. Please contact our office at 918.256.6405 to update your address.

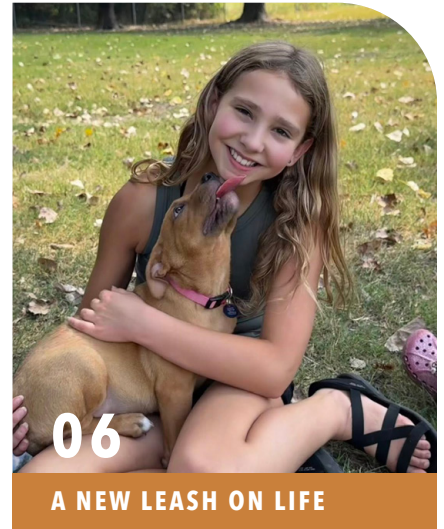
We will soon be adding a tool to our website, [www.noec.coop](http://www.noec.coop), that will allow you to search unclaimed capital credits. Stay tuned for updates.



**NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**



**LINE TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP**



**A NEW LEASH ON LIFE**



**RECIPES FROM MAYES CO.**

### **\$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 November 1, 2025, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

**\*992059\***

## OCTOBER EVENTS .....

### **Grove Firepit Night (Veteran Event)**

**Oct 2 | Grove**

Grove Community Center

### **42nd Annual Pelican Festival**

**Oct 2-5 | Grove**

Wolf Creek Park

### **Fall on the Farm**

**Oct 3-4 | Wyandotte**

15585 S 642 Rd

### **Flea/Vendor Event**

**Oct 4 | Bernice**

Main Street

### **Big Cabin Fall Festival**

**Oct 4 | Big Cabin**

Main Street

### **32nd Annual Mahogany & Chrome Classic Boat Show**

**Oct 4 | Afton**

Cherokee Yacht Club

### **Fall Craft Fair**

**Oct 11 | Bernice**

211 S Broadway

### **Oktoberfest**

**Oct 11 | Vinita**

Holy Ghost Catholic Church

### **Ultimate Chili Competition**

**Oct 17 | Vinita**

Craig Co. Fairgrounds

### **Halloween Costume Party**

**Oct 31 | Vinita**

The Hut Post 40

.....

HAPPY  
*Halloween*



# CELEBRATING NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

**Co-op Month** is celebrated by cooperatives nationwide during the month of **October**, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, inclusive communities. **NOEC has operated under the following seven principles since our founding in 1938:**

1

## OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is **open** to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

2

## DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are **democratic** organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are **elected** among the membership and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3

## MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the **capital** of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4

## AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are **autonomous**, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5

## EDUCATION, TRAINING, & INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively **contribute** to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.

6

## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working **together** through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7

## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable **development** of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

Learn more at [www.noec.coop](http://www.noec.coop)

# LOLLAR

## LINE TRAINING SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Congratulations to Fairland resident Samuel Lollar on being selected as the recipient of the **2025 NOEC Lineman Training Program Scholarship** at Northeast Tech.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative offers a full scholarship for one student each school year to the lineman training program at Northeast Tech. Each student accepted into the program is given the opportunity to apply. Lollar took the time to apply and was selected as this year's recipient.

Several graduates of the Northeast Tech lineman training program have worked at NOEC as interns in recent years. Two of those interns were hired by the cooperative as full-time employees.

"NOEC is proud to encourage and inspire the next generation of Oklahoma line workers," said NOEC Manager of Operations Nick Sutton. "Being able to watch homegrown kids learn and succeed in a tradition-rich trade such as utility line work is also a source of satisfaction for our entire organization."

### CONGRATULATIONS! SAMUEL LOLLAR

*Learn more about this opportunity at [www.noec.coop](http://www.noec.coop).*



*Pictured (from left) Northeast Tech Lineman Program Coordinator/Trainer Jeff Floyd, NOEC Manager of Human Resources Kristen Sturgess, scholarship recipient Samuel Lollar, and NOEC Manager of Operations Nick Sutton*



# A NEW LEASH ON LIFE

## Delaware County Animal Shelter Goes Above & Beyond

Since 1985, **Second Chance Pet Rescue of Grove & Grand Lake** has been a champion of advocacy for the oft-overlooked members of our community. The USDA-licensed and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization prides itself on an unwavering commitment to caring for our furry, four-legged friends here in northeast Oklahoma.

Shelter director Cassie Owens says the work at **Second Chance Pet Rescue** goes far beyond simply sheltering animals.

**"We're constantly enhancing our facilities and expanding our programs to better serve the animals in our care," she explained.**

From energy-efficient upgrades to innovative community outreach, the facility proves that a little hard work goes a long way.

## A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Caring for stray animals requires a lot of work behind-the-scenes, and **Second Chance Pet Rescue** is making a significant investment in its physical space to create a more comfortable and sustainable environment.

"We've replaced 25 old fluorescent light fixtures with new, Cooper Electric vapor-proof LED lights," she explained. "This not only improves visibility but also ensures the lights will withstand the moisture in the building, providing a long-lasting and efficient solution."

In addition to the lighting, Owens said the facility is installing a state-of-the-art makeup air unit.

"This new system will provide air conditioning using outside air when atmospheric conditions are favorable, reducing our energy consumption and creating a healthier environment for the animals."

Owens added that the facility is also installing variable frequency drives (VFDs) that will automatically operate an exhaust from 100% outside air to maintain pressure differentials. This will help create optimal ventilation throughout the building.

Looking ahead, **Second Chance Pet Rescue** is excited to announce significant upgrade to its kennels, with work scheduled to begin this fall.

"The new kennels will provide a safer and more hygienic area for the animals, reducing stress and the risk of illness," Owens explained. "The upgrades will also create a healthier and more efficient workspace for our dedicated employees and volunteers, allowing them to focus even more on providing the best possible care."

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

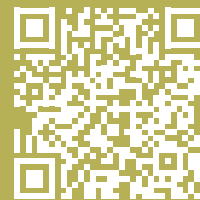
The hard work at **Second Chance Pet Rescue** extends beyond upgrades to the facility itself.

"We believe in strengthening the human-animal bond and helping our community through a variety of programs," said Owens.

### **A no-kill promise**

"Our commitment to saving lives is paramount," Owens said. "As a no-kill shelter, we maintain a 95% no-kill rate or higher, which means we do not euthanize animals to create space for more animals. This dedication means that every animal in our care is given the time, training, and attention they need to find its forever home."

## INTERESTED IN ADOPTING?



**Scan the code above or visit:**  
[secondchancepetsponsors.org](https://secondchancepetsponsors.org)  
to view available animals





## **Claire's Reading Program**

This unique program was inspired when shelter board member Louise Templin received a picture of her seven-year-old granddaughter Claire reading to some shelter dogs in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska. *Claire's Reading Program* has since been featured on a Tulsa television newscast and is also now itself a non-profit entity.

"Research indicates that reading to shelter animals can reduce their stress levels," said Owens. "This interaction has a calming effect that makes animals feel more comfortable and less anxious. Ultimately, it can greatly improve chances of adoption."

Students also learn about body language and how to approach the kennels in a non-threatening manner. Of course, new readers gain confidence while improving reading skills.

"We are a proud partner of *Claire's Reading Foundation*, a program that brings over 500 first, second, and third graders to our shelter each year. These students practice their reading skills by reading aloud to our dogs and cats," Owens said. "This mutually beneficial program not only helps the children improve their literacy and confidence, it also provides a calming and enriching experience for the animals."

Pictured (below) Second Chance Pet Rescue's Cassie Owens



## A NEW VISION

**Cassie Owens** volunteered at **Second Chance Pet Rescue of Grove & Grand Lake** for 20-plus years—starting at age 13—before being selected to manage the facility in July 2023. Those many years of dedication to the shelter helped Owens define a resolute vision for the facility and made her the perfect individual to manage its daily operations.

The shelter was on the verge of closure before Owens and a forward-thinking board of directors reversed its trajectory. Two years later, it is a beacon of hope for animals in its care.

"For me, the shelter is a place of profound transformation," Owens explained. "It takes a vibrant community of hope—one where every donor, volunteer, staff member, board member, foster parent, and adopting family work together to help rewrite the stories of countless animals. It's where I've learned that true change is a collective effort built on small acts of kindness."

## **Public animal food bank**

To help keep pets with the families who love them, **Second Chance Pet Rescue** operates a public animal food bank.

"We believe that a temporary financial hardship shouldn't lead to a heartbreaking surrender," Owens said. "During our regular business hours, community members can come get dog and cat food to ensure their beloved companions have a full belly."

## **Rent-a-dog or cat program**

Don't have a pet but want to spend some quality time with a furry friend? **Second Chance Pet Rescue's** unique rent-a-dog or cat program may be the perfect solution. For just \$10 a day, you can come and take a dog or cat out for a few hours. This program is available Wednesday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the animals to get some much-needed exercise and socialization, and it's a great way for people to experience the joy of pet companionship without a long-term commitment," Owens said.

## **Volunteer program**

The volunteer program at **Second Chance Pet Rescue** welcomes individuals seeking a rewarding experience, as well as students who need to fulfill requirements for community service as well as students in National Honor Society and other organizations who need to fulfill requirements for community service.

"We would not be able to do what we do without our amazing volunteers," Owens said. "From helping with daily care and cleaning to assisting at adoption events, volunteers are an essential part of our team."

## **Foster program**

Foster homes are crucial for animals who are recovering from medical procedures, are too young to be adopted, or simply need a break from the shelter environment.

"Our dedicated foster families provide safe, loving, temporary homes for animals in need," said Owens. "Fostering not only saves lives but also helps us get to know each animal's personality, ensuring a better match with their forever family."

## **Low-cost spay/neuter clinic**

**Second Chance Pet Rescue** offers affordable spay and neuter clinics to the public, preventing unwanted litters and improving the overall health of the community's pets.

"We are committed to ending pet overpopulation," Owens said. "We are always looking to partner with local veterinarians who share our vision of a community with fewer homeless and suffering animals. By working together, we can provide more resources and collectively reduce the number of unaltered cats and dogs."

## **Humane education**

Regular visits at local schools and community groups help Second Chance Pet Rescue of Grove & Grand Lake teach responsible pet ownership and the importance of animal welfare.

"By educating the next generation, we hope to create a more compassionate and informed community," Owens said.

She added: "Every dollar, every hour, and every upgrade is a step toward a better life for an animal in need. It's a testament to the dedication of our staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to give every pet a second chance at a forever home."

**Second Chance Pet Rescue of Grove & Grand Lake is located at 64301 E 290 Rd in Grove. You can follow on Facebook, visit online at [secondchancepetsponsors.org](http://secondchancepetsponsors.org) to see available pets, or call 918.786.7630 for more information.**

# DECORATE SAFELY

DON'T LET AN ELECTRICAL MISHAP BE YOUR HALLOWEEN TRICK

As you ready your yard and porch for Halloween, make sure the decorations you plug in do not become hazardous. To avoid a Halloween scare, take these safety precautions:

- **Discard** any decorations that have cracked or frayed cords
- **Do not** put any decorations on power poles, padmount transformers or any other electrical equipment.
- Use decorations that are endorsed by a **reputable testing laboratory** such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- **Secure** all cords so they do not become tripping hazards.



**Make sure your holiday lights and extension cords are rated for outdoor use.**



# ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

## 2025 RESOURCE LIST

### Craig County

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Department of Human Services (DHS)..... | 918.713.5000 |
| Grand Gateway.....                      | 918.783.5793 |
| Grand Nation/Salvation Army.....        | 918.276.2192 |
| Grand Lake Community Ministries.....    | 918.782.2861 |
| Neighbors Helping Neighbors.....        | 918.713.8088 |
| Salvation Army.....                     | 918.256.2037 |

### Delaware County

|                                          |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Community Action.....                    | 918.253.4683 |
| Cherokee Nation Human Services, Jay..... | 918.253.4219 |
| Department of Human Services (DHS).....  | 918.435.3001 |
| Grand Gateway.....                       | 918.783.5793 |

### Ottawa County

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Department of Human Services (DHS)..... | 918.541.2400 |
| Salvation Army.....                     | 918.542.3467 |
| Grand Gateway.....                      | 918.783.5793 |

### Mayes County

|                                            |              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cherokee Housing Authority.....            | 918.825.4811 |
| Department of Human Services (DHS).....    | 918.824.4900 |
| Grand Gateway.....                         | 918.783.5793 |
| Salvation Army/Community Action Pryor..... | 918.825.3423 |

### Rogers County

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Community Action.....                   | 918.341.5000 |
| Department of Human Services (DHS)..... | 918.283.8300 |
| Grand Gateway.....                      | 918.783.5793 |

### Northwest Arkansas

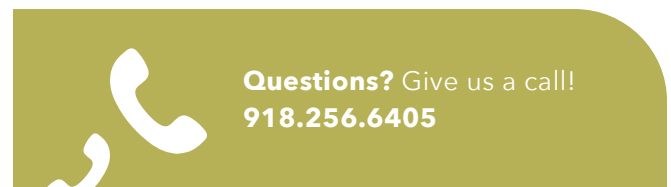
|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Salvation Army..... | 479.521.2151 |
|---------------------|--------------|

### Contact

### Tribes

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cherokee Nation Tribe.....                | 800.256.0671       |
| Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe.....               | 405.422.7476       |
| Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.....         | 580.436.7256       |
| Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.....           | 580.924.8280       |
| Commanche Nation.....                     | 580.492.3360       |
| Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma.....           | 918.337.6590       |
| Eastern Shawnee Tribe.....                | 918.666.7710       |
| Kaw Nation.....                           | 580.269.2552 x 231 |
| Kiowa Tribe.....                          | 580.654.2300       |
| Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.....              | 918.541.1389       |
| Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma.....              | 918.542.1190       |
| Muscogee/Creek Nation.....                | 918.549.2880       |
| Peoria Tribe.....                         | 918.542.1873       |
| Osage Tribe.....                          | 918.287.5555       |
| Ottawa Indian Tribe.....                  | 918.540.1536       |
| Quapaw Tribe.....                         | 918.542.1853 x 222 |
| Sac and Fox Nation.....                   | 918.968.3526       |
| Seminole Nation.....                      | 405.786.5025       |
| Seneca-Cayuga Tribe.....                  | 918.787.5452       |
| Shawnee Tribe.....                        | 918.542.2441       |
| United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians | 918.871.2800       |
| Wyandotte Nation.....                     | 918.678.2297       |

### Contact



# RECIPES

## FROM MAYES CO.



### CAMPFIRE POTATOES | GAYLA ANDERSON

#### INGREDIENTS

- 5-6 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 6 Tbsp butter
- 1/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 Tbsp parsley
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1/3 cup chicken broth

**Step 1:** Place potatoes and onions on a large piece of heavy duty foil and dot with butter.

**Step 2:** Combine cheese, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper and sprinkle over potatoes.

**Step 3:** Fold up foil and add broth. Seal well and then cover with another piece foil.

**Step 4:** Grill over medium heat for 40 minutes, turning every 10 minutes.

### ZUCCHINI PUMPKIN MUFFINS | ROBERT & MALYNDA WILLIS

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3/4 cup pumpkin
- 1/2 cup shredded zucchini
- Pecans (if desired)

**Step 1:** Mix flour, sugar, and spices in a large bowl. Then mix oil, eggs, and vanilla in a separate bowl and add to flour mixture. Stir in pumpkin, zucchini, and nuts to combine.

**Step 2:** Spoon in greased muffin pan and bake at 350°F for 18-20 minutes.

**Tip:** Sprinkle brown sugar on top before baking for a sweeter flavor.



Have a recipe to share?

Email it to: [publicrelations@noec.coop](mailto:publicrelations@noec.coop)

