

Sent to you by Gibson EMC – your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

The Tennessee Magazine

March 2010

Gardening Guide:
GET READY TO GROW

Energy Star Rebates

History for Kids:
Dr. May Wharton

Send Us Your Best Shots

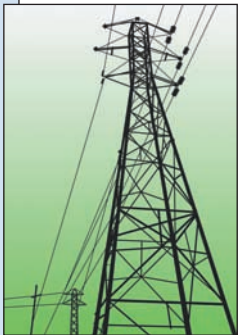
All-in-One Meals



Volunteers needed in trial program to lower energy demand

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation is looking for some West Tennessee volunteers to participate in our new Demand Response Pilot Program. Gibson EMC has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to reduce energy demand during peak periods, when wholesale prices are at their highest.

Demand response is a strategy designed to save energy during times of heavy demand on the electric grid. During the “peak demand” hours, the system will reduce the amount of energy used at the participating home. We will accomplish this



by installing a switch in the home. The switch will allow us to send a signal through the power lines to briefly cycle off certain appliances such as a water heater, heat pump or pool pump. Of course, this will result in some energy savings to the participant, but it also will reduce the load on the power grid and benefit everyone.

We also are hoping that this trial will lessen the risk of electrical emergencies such as blackouts by keeping the electricity demand from reaching the maximum load of the power grid. Periods of peak demand generally occur Monday through Friday on extremely hot summer days (June – September) between noon and 8 p.m.

There is no cost to participate in this 18-month trial program. This is an opportunity to do something good for your community, your electric cooperative, the environment and yourself.

If you are interested in participating in the Demand Response Pilot Program, contact us at 731-855-4740, ext. 1611.

Program evaluates home energy use,

Wondering if your home leaks energy or if you can really save on your energy bills?

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation and the Tennessee Valley Authority have partnered to offer you an opportunity you won't want to pass up!

Through the In-Home Evaluation Pilot Program, Gibson EMC will send a TVA-certified evaluator to your home. The evaluator will assess your home's energy efficiency and make recommendations for energy-related home improvements. The true cost of the evaluation is \$150, but we'll charge you just \$75.

And, if you make recommended improvements using one of our certified Weatherization Quality Contractors (listed below), your \$75 fee will be waived. Additionally, you will be eligible for reimbursement of 50 percent of your energy improvement costs up to a maximum reimbursement of \$500.

Some customer-owners, like Dr. David Mercker, have already taken advantage of the program. “Every so

often something good comes along ... something that proves beneficial for the consumer, the supplier and even the environment,” Mercker says. “The In-Home Energy Evaluation Pilot Program is that ‘something’ that has proven valuable for our household.”

After debating for three years on whether to add insulation to his attic, Mercker became aware of the incentive program and decided to participate.

“With the assistance of Gibson EMC's Energy Specialist, I was able to have the work completed, with 50 percent cost-share, and all in a timely manner,” he said.

Here's how you can get a FREE evaluation, save future energy dollars, improve the value of your home and receive cash incentives of up to \$500:

- If you are a Gibson EMC member, own a single-family residence and/or multi-family dwelling and wish to participate in the In-Home Energy Evaluation Program pilot, contact your local Gibson EMC customer service center.

Use a Weatherization Quality Contractor to

31 W Insulation, Milan, 686-0426; Mason, 901-867-8858: Air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation

All Seasons Refrigeration, Jackson, 664-3989: Duct sealing, HVAC, insulation

American Dream Window & Door, Sevierville, 865-850-4361: Insulation, primary windows

Bartholomew Comfort Service, Milan, 686-2278: Duct sealing, HVAC

Cobb Construction of TN, Bells, 663-3339: Duct sealing, primary and storm windows, air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation

Coldbusters Insulation & Gutter, Martin, 587-1988: Insulation

Complete Residential, Newbern, 445-7591: Duct and air sealing, HVAC, primary and storm windows, caulk/weather strip, insulation

Cunningham Home Improvement, Trenton, 855-9814: Rehab work, primary windows, storm windows, air sealing

Danny Larcom Heating & Air (formerly Johnson & Larcom Heating & Air), Union City, 885-1021: Duct sealing, HVAC

Dyersburg Insulation, 286-0332: Duct sealing, primary and storm windows, air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation

Economy Siding & Gutter, Jackson, 424-0778: primary windows

Emert Services, Milan, 742-3021: Duct sealing, HVAC, primary and storm windows, air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation

Fiberfoil Insulation, Jackson, 423-1993: Insulation

Flatt Heating & Air Conditioning, Newbern, 627-2581: Duct sealing, HVAC

Gill Insulation, Union City, 885-4788: Caulk/weather strip, insulation

Greenway Insulation Solutions, Brownsville, 609-0575: Insulation

Heglar Plumbing & Electric Co., Humboldt, 784-3642: Duct sealing, HVAC, insulation

then provides cash incentives to make improvements

- We will call you back to schedule a time for your In-Home Evaluation.
- An evaluator will inspect your home and create a report outlining potential energy-efficiency modifications.
- To be eligible for qualified cash incentives and a waiver of the \$75 evaluation fee, you must spend at least \$150 on the recommended energy-related improvements, and the work must be done by a certified Weatherization Quality Contractor (except for self-installed insulation and pre-approved items). The evaluator will provide you with a list of qualified contractors.
- All home improvements must be completed within 90 days of the In-Home Evaluation. Once the work is finished, the evaluator will make a follow-up, in-home visit to inspect the work. This is to ensure that everything is installed properly for maximum savings.
- After the inspection, you must submit receipts for the completed work to receive the cash incentives and waiver of the \$75 evaluation fee. No matter how many modifications are made, \$500 is the maximum reimbursable amount per dwelling.



Energy Services Specialist Bud Cole, left, performs an In-Home Evaluation at the home of Dr. David Mercker.

- If you make no improvements within 90 days of the In-Home Evaluation, the \$75 evaluation fee will be added to your electric bill.
- For more information, call your local Gibson EMC customer service center or 731-855-4740, ext. 1611.

waive evaluation fee, obtain reimbursement

- Jackson Storm Window & Door**, Jackson, 424-9114: Primary and storm windows, air sealing
- JCI Company**, Trenton, 693-9375: Duct sealing, air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation
- John H. Allen Construction Co.**, Jackson, 427-1120: Duct sealing, HVAC, primary and storm windows, air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation
- Johnson Heating & Air**, Union City, 885-8325: Rehab work, HVAC replacement, duct sealing, insulation
- Kyle's Refrigeration**, Kenton, 749-0365: Duct sealing, HVAC, insulation
- McCoy Heating & Air**, Jackson, 668-7492: Duct sealing, HVAC, rehab work
- Milan Insulation**, Milan, 686-2278: Rehab work, insulation, primary and storm windows, air sealing
- Parham Refrigeration**, Dyer, 692-3636: Duct sealing, HVAC
- Pella TN**, Collierville, 901-316-0166: Storm windows
- Premier Services**, Newbern, 627-9945: Rehab work, HVAC replacement, duct sealing, insulation, primary and storm windows, air sealing

- Quality Service**, Ripley, 635-3452: HVAC, duct sealing
 - Quality Sheet Metal**, Lexington, 968-8383: Duct sealing, HVAC, insulation
 - Smallman Heating & Air**, Fulton, 270-472-1912: HVAC replacement, duct sealing, insulation
 - Williams Heating & Cooling**, Friendship, 656-2231: Duct sealing, HVAC
 - Windle HVAC Services**, Dyersburg, 285-7970: Duct sealing, HVAC, primary and storm windows, air sealing, caulk/weather strip, insulation
 - Windows America**, Lavinia, 987-9050: primary windows
 - Window World of Jackson**, 664-9090: primary windows
- (All area codes are 731 unless noted.)





Three Way, a small city with a BIG future

In some ways, the city of Three Way is quaint: Quiet streets, community dinners, friendly residents and small-town amenities.

In many other ways, though, this city is on the move. Located in north Madison County where U.S. 45 splits into 45E and 45W, Three Way has seen its population double from 900 to nearly 2,000 in the last 10 years. That's not all ...

- A healthy industrial component employs 1,000 people.
- New retail businesses are opening up.

Cajun Cookers, for example, moved from Jackson to Three Way in 2009. FunZone Amusement offers a play area for children.

- At least seven residential developments are complete or still filling up with new homes.

- Three Way is in the middle of building a municipal complex that includes a city park with walking trail, ball fields and pavilion, a City Hall and a maintenance/equipment building.

- Home of three churches, Three Way has another planning to build there.

- The town is poised to develop a strip shopping center with restaurant and retail if it finds an interest from businesses.

"People are moving to Three Way to enjoy the small-town atmosphere while they are only a few miles from their jobs in Jackson and Humboldt," said Mayor Jimmy Hill. "Businesses thrive in our business-friendly atmosphere."

Hill moved in 1952 to Three Way where his future wife, the late Nell Turner, had family. They bought her grandfather's farm and began their life there. Chairman of the community's former Committee to

Incorporate, Hill was drafted to be the first mayor when the community did incorporate on Dec. 28, 1998.

"It's the perfect place to live," says Alderman Danny Wade. Originally from Humboldt, Wade moved to Three Way in 1994. "We have friendly, safe neighborhoods," he adds. "We have country living with conveniences just 10 minutes away."

Three Way's other alderman, Mary Ann Tremblay, built her home in Three Way in 2001. "It is peaceful, quiet and beautiful," she says. "I love the quality of life."



Three Way's government: From left, City Recorder Terresa Vanover reads an order of business to Alderman Danny Wade, Mayor Jimmy Hill and Alderman Mary Ann Tremblay during a City Board meeting. The City Board meets in the back of a Madison County Volunteer Fire Department building. The town draws revenue from its relatively low 63-cent property tax, its share of the state sales tax and a beer tax. Children go to Madison County schools, and the Madison County Sheriff's Department provides safety.

Roots in a farming community

Three Way has its roots in the farming community of Fairview that surrounded the highway's three-way split. According to the city's Web site, by the 1930s, Fairview had grown into "a bustling stop on the highway with four stores, a garage, a service station, café, barber shop, church and school."

Though the name Fairview was on the map, people referred to the community's location as Three Way because of the highway split. A popular restaurant, the 3-Way Pig



Shed, helped promote the name.

When the Fairview community incorporated in

1998, it had to choose another name because Middle Tennessee already had a town called "Fairview." Citizens voted on the name "Three Way."

Investing in the community

A new municipal complex off U.S. 45 West, which includes a city park, is on the drawing board. Work is being done as

Three Way has money to pay for it, Tremblay says. "By good municipal management and low expenses, we were able to save money for the first eight years. We wanted to invest this money in the community."

Already completed are a city maintenance and equipment building and part of the park, which includes a walking trail, decorative lighting and park pavilion. As soon as money is available, work will start on a City Hall and ball fields for the park.

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation has been ready to help Three Way whenever it had a need, Hill says. "Gibson Electric installed street lights, walking trail lights and decorative lighting by park benches and already has run service lines to the new City Hall location," he says.



U.S. 45 divides to the west and east in this vintage photograph of the Fairview community.



Three Way's master plan calls for a municipal complex that includes a park and a new City Hall. A park pavilion and walking trail with lighting, at left, are already being used.

Tremblay added that Gibson Electric also has helped with information on getting grants and economic development.

The annual Three Way Festival, complete with family activities and plenty of good food, will be held in the park on the first or second Saturday this September. The free festival is a cooperative effort among the city's businesses, Wade says.

Another important part of the community is the Three Way Community Club, a former hunting and sportsman's club that is open to all city residents. The club meets monthly for community dinners and sponsors the Annual Labor Day Stew Sale, a fund-raiser to maintain the club building.

Location promotes growth

Development in Three Way started as the main roads into town became four-lane highways. The four lanes of U.S. 45 from Jackson arrived in the early 1980s. The four lanes to Medina on 45 East and four lanes to Humboldt on 45 West were finished in the early 1990s. "Residential neighborhoods were developed, and more people started moving in," Hill says.

On the west side of U.S. 45, an

industrial area includes a Sav-A-Lot distribution warehouse, Pierce Packaging Co. and Pratt Industries.

The biggest business is Dutch Gardens. Other businesses include two financial institutions, photography studio, chiropractor, service stations and a state licensing station for commercial drivers and truckers.

Three Way's growth plan includes an area that goes north to the Madison County line, south to the Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River and east to Old Medina Road.

Recently, Three Way has been promoting the development of a new retail and restaurant center on 147 acres on the east side of U.S.

45. Tremblay and Hill attended a retail conference last July and are excited

about the town's potential. "We are trying to bring in an anchor grocery store," Tremblay says.

One of the proudest residents of the city is Mayor Hill. He has seen it grow from a few businesses where a highway divided to what Three Way is now. "I am glad to see it come to this point," Hill says. "Things are here now that we've never had."

For more about Three Way, visit its new Web site: www.cityofthreeway.org.



Gracie Terry enjoys the petting zoo at the Three Way Festival.

Gibson EMC hires Ferrell

Josh Ferrell joined Gibson Electric Membership Corporation in January as a Lineworker.

"I feel privileged to have the opportunity to join the Gibson EMC team," he said. "I look forward to providing our customer-owners with the best service possible."

Ferrell graduated from Milan High School in 2000.

He was previously employed by Milan Public Utilities.

"Josh comes to us as a last period apprentice who has completed most of the apprentice training," said Vice President of Operations Barry Smith. "We know he's a great addition and welcome him to our co-op family."

Ferrell and his wife, Janna, are expecting a daughter in May.



Josh Ferrell

Change your clocks, change your batteries

As you spring your clocks ahead one hour for daylight-saving time on Sunday, March 14, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reminds you to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are hard-wired, this is also a good time to test them to make sure they work. While about 90 percent of U.S. households have smoke alarms installed, a CPSC survey estimated millions of those households do not have alarms that work.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

The state of Tennessee's energy office is offering consumers rebates when they replace old appliances with Energy Star-qualified ones. Find out what's available in Tennessee at www.energysavers.gov/financial/70020.html.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Scheduling your electric service:

Help us be ready when you are

If you are building a new home, include Gibson Electric Membership Corporation in your planning process so that we can provide you with electric service when you need it.

Gibson EMC requirements

- Notify Gibson EMC 30 days before you need electricity so we can obtain underground utility clearance and complete engineering and construction work.

- We will need your billing information: Name, Social Security number, phone number, mailing address and credit information.

- We will need location information: the 911 address and site directions.

- The site must be marked to show where the new construction will stand.

Once Gibson EMC has this information, our field engineer will visit the job site within five working days. Once engineering is complete, we will send a letter advising you of any construction charges and your available methods of payment.

You must supply and install conduit for the underground service wires. (Contact your local Gibson EMC customer

service center for underground conduit installation guidelines.)

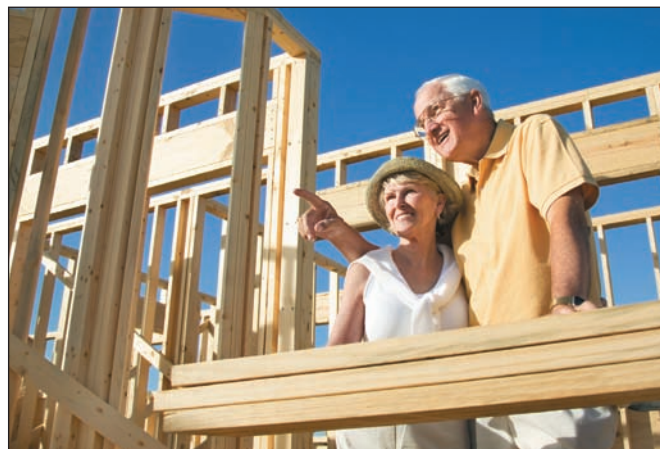
State requirements

State law requires that a sewer permit be obtained from either the health department or local city hall. You must present this sewer permit at Gibson EMC when purchasing your electrical permit.

Electrical permits may be purchased at any Gibson EMC customer service center and may be paid for with cash, check or money order. A copy of the electrical permit should be placed in the meter base for the state deputy electrical inspector.

You must call Tennessee One-Call (dial 811) no later than 72 hours before the planned excavation so that all underground utilities can be located and marked. Gibson EMC will handle Tennessee One-Call notifications for excavation performed by our employees.

A state deputy electrical inspector will conduct an electrical inspection after



the wiring is roughed in (before insulation and wall covering) and when the wiring is complete and all panel covers and face covers are installed.

When your wiring is completed

- Call Gibson EMC to schedule an inspection by a state deputy electrical inspector.

- Gibson EMC will schedule your meter to be set after the final electrical inspection is passed and arrangements are made for payment of charges.

- If your inspection does not pass, you are required by law to purchase another permit for reinspection.

Please contact any Gibson EMC customer service center if you have questions or need more information.

U.S. Census: Give it 10 minutes in 2010; it's our responsibility

The first Census of the 21st century brings with it many changes. Perhaps the most noticeable change is that it is the shortest census questionnaire in U.S. history. The 10 questions can be completed in about 10 minutes.

Completing the Census is beneficial to everyone, especially citizens in rural areas, because it can generate jobs and impact your voice in Congress. All responses are confidential and protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Under this law, no individual or agency can have access to any information that will tie the respondent to his or her responses.

Areas with a significant population boom within the past 10 years are strongly

urged to participate. Medina's population, for example, has grown from about 1,000 people to more than 3,000. Heavy census participation from Medina should provide the data needed to justify allocations of more funds for the city.

Every year, more than \$400 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. The Census also guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, schools, etc., and it determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Would life in your community be better if:

- You had access to new hospitals, senior centers or enhanced health care services for ill or aging family members?
- Your children could learn in new or improved schools or child-care centers?
- Your drive to work was safer and less congested thanks to better roads?
- Emergency providers had up-to-date maps to ensure faster response?

These are ways in which your community could improve with a high level of Census participation.

It only takes 10 minutes to make sure that rural West Tennessee is properly represented in the 2010 Census. Achieving a complete and accurate Census is our responsibility.