

# Oakdale Electric Cooperative



**Saturday, April 28**

**Tomah Senior High School**

**Registration: 9:30 a.m.**

**Business Meeting: 10 a.m.**

Director elections • Annual reports

Prizes • Lunch following meeting



# Longtime Oakdale Electric Employees Retire

## Marcella Clements

After 49 years of service to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, Marcella Clements says goodbye. Marcella grew up in Clifton, and she currently resides in Tomah. She started working for Oakdale Electric in 1961.

“Oakdale Electric Cooperative has been a great place to work,” Marcella said. “I am really going to miss everything and everyone I worked with.”

Marcella started out working in the cooperative’s inventory department for appliances, parts, and line materials. Later she handled the electric billing for the City of Elroy for a few years. Then she was transferred to the front desk, where she continued to work until she retired.

“I did not turn on my first computer until I started at the front desk in 1990,” she said. “I was, however, familiar with working on a bookkeeping machine.”

Marcella has seen many changes throughout her 49 years of service. She said, “A lot more people would bring their payments into the office. Now with the technology of online bill-paying methods, the number of walk-ins has decreased significantly.”



*Marcella Clements at the front desk, where she’s worked these past 20-plus years, and in earlier days (inset, left).*



Retirement plans for Marcella consist of “traveling and volunteering,” she said with a smile.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative extends its best wishes to Marcella Clements for a long and healthy retirement. We thank her for her strong expertise and her many years of dedicated service. ■

## Nancy Bushing

After 50 years of service, longtime employee Nancy Bushing also says goodbye. Nancy grew up in Wyeville and currently resides in Oakdale. Nancy retired just five short months after celebrating her golden anniversary of service to the co-op.

Nancy joined the staff as a receptionist and later worked her way into the line department. Nancy, along with Marcella, has seen many technology advancements during her 50 years of service.

General Manager Bruce Ardel said, “You just don’t see this in the workforce anymore — one person staying at the same place for 50 years. It is quite an accomplishment.”

Oakdale Electric salutes Nancy for her many years of dedicated service and many contributions to the co-op. We wish her a long and healthy retirement. ■



*Nancy Bushing at her 50-year celebration with General Manager Bruce Ardel, and at work in the line department earlier in her career (inset).*

## Electricity: What's it Worth to You?

From powering our homes and businesses to energizing entire communities, electricity is crucial to our modern lives. In fact, electricity is one of the most valuable and reliable products we use.

Take a look around. Everything is either powered by electricity or produced with the help of electric power. This includes your kitchen appliances, power tools, and electronic gadgets, including cell phones and gaming devices. Electricity is there when you need it and it's a good value. As consumers, we directly or indirectly use electricity almost all the time.

For more than 30 years, the price of the basic unit of electricity has stayed relatively low, while we are using much more electricity to

power more items each year.

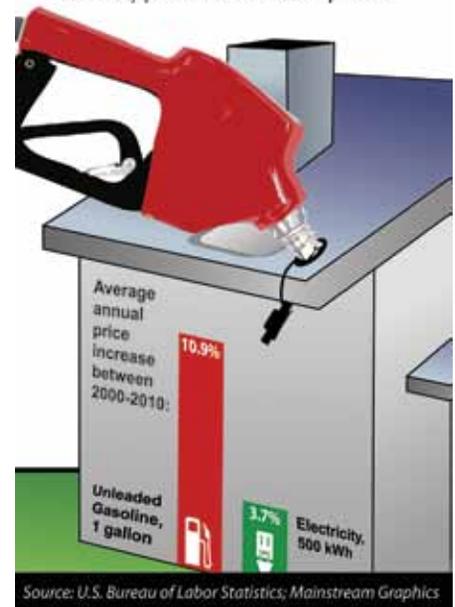
We are using electricity in new ways every year, from computers and cell phones to big-screen televisions; from electronic picture frames and DVD consoles to gaming consoles for our entertainment.

Our homes are also larger today. In the 1970s, American homes were around 1,500 square feet. Now they are more than 2,200 square feet, so we are cooling and heating much more space every day.

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Imagine if your electric bill fluctuated as much as prices at the gas pump.—Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics ■

### Filling Up on VALUE

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. Imagine if your electric bill fluctuated as much as prices at the pump. On average, over the past decade gas prices have risen almost 11 percent annually, while electricity prices rose less than 4 percent.



## Oakdale Electric Cooperative Youth Updates

### Scholarship Program

If you're planning to continue your education at a college or university next fall, we may be able to help you! Check our website, [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com), for updated information about our scholarship program.

### Youth Leadership Congress

Also, if you're a junior, check with your high school guidance counselors for information about this summer's Youth Leadership Congress on the campus of UW-River Falls July 11-13. You won't want to miss this opportunity!



## Out With the Old, In With the New... and Old, Too?

When most of us shop for new clothes, we rarely replace our existing wardrobe; more likely, we'll simply add new garments to the closet. Sometimes it just takes a while to get around to recycling the old clothes we don't wear anymore.

The same situation often applies with refrigerators. In the case of refrigerators, however, the old units that aren't recycled promptly are doing a little more damage than just taking up space.

In 2010 and 2011 for most consumers, a lot of folks got federal rebates for a new fridge, water heater, or other household appliance. About 1.7 million rebates were redeemed, and the U.S. Department of Energy estimates these appliances will cut \$65 million from electric bills every year. Around \$48 million of that chunk will be saved mainly by consumers who bought energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, and dishwashers.

Great news, right? Sure, if folks really follow the adage, "Out with the old, in with the new." But for one in five households, that's not the case. A national survey by the Cooperative Research Network, an arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, found 19 percent of homes have two refrigerators; 2 percent own three or more.



*Do you have one of these in your basement or garage? You could save yourself a lot of money by taking it out.*

The problem with keeping an old refrigerator is simple: You're not saving money. By sending these "energy hogs" to the basement or garage to keep sodas and popsicles cold for the kids, you jack up electric bills even more.

Appliances already use 13 percent of your home's electricity, and older appliances drain even more. A refrigerator from the 1970s costs \$200 more to operate every year than a current model; a 1980s fridge isn't much better, wasting \$100 in energy dollars annually.

Are you in the market for a new fridge or another energy-efficient appliance? Although most of the federal rebates are gone, there are still a few ways to save. At Oakdale Electric Cooperative, we offer rebates for the purchase of new, energy-efficient appliances. To find out more information, visit our website at [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com) and click on Energy Savings under the Programs & Services tab. There you'll find not just a link to our rebate form, but links to other energy-saving sources, including Focus on Energy and Questline.

Save your money—we all know every dollar counts. If you buy a refrigerator, trade in the old one and save your electric bill. Want to save even more? Find out how little changes add up to big savings at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com). ■

*Oakdale Electric Cooperative's  
office will be closed Friday,*

*April 6,  
for Good  
Friday.*



**Oakdale Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Bruce Ardelt, General Manager

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24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: (800) 927-6151

Toll-free online bill payment: 866-392-4307

FAX Number: (608) 372-5173

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call (800) 242-8511.