



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Co-op Connections Card Program Business Spotlight on “A New Flavor”

Garland and Sandra Lee always had a knack for cooking up something good, and not just in the kitchen.

The couple, who always dreamed of extending their passion for serving beyond their home, has been successfully operating one of the best country restaurants in the area going on two years now.

The Lees’ restaurant, A New Flavor, is still smoking the competition. “Ain’t nobody in the area got the kind of country cookin’ we serve here,” said Lee with a playful smile. “I’d put our cookin’ up against anyone’s in the area. If you like good country cookin’ come

don’t take our word for it, come and see for yourself.”

And now is the perfect time to do just that. Since the Lees have signed up to participate in the Co-op Connections Card program, their delightful country cuisine will cost you 10 percent less.

A New Flavor, located at 2009 Connarista Road in Aulander, is open Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. They also provide catering for special events if desired.

As program participants, Garland and Sandra Lee and other participating businesses are able to offer special discounts to cooperative members. In exchange, they receive additional media exposure and increased visibility by being listed on the Roanoke Electric and national Co-op Connections Web sites and also in this cooperative newsletter, Roanoke Electric Flashes.

And the result? They reach an



audience of 14,000-plus local cooperative members, 159 participating cooperatives nationwide and 22 million Touchstone Energy members, at no extra charge.

Participating businesses indicate their involvement by displaying signs and stickers, which allow members, potential clients, and customers to easily identify the locations offering various incentives. For a list of participating businesses, visit: www.roanokeelectric.com and click on the Co-op Connections Program icon.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Co-op Connections Program, please contact Diana Mitchell at (252) 539-4601 or e-mail dmitchell@roanokeelectric.com.



check us out, you won’t be disappointed,” he said.

And the Lees aren’t just blowing smoke. Their claim has been validated by local food critics. “You ought to see the article we had written up on us,” stated Lee. “We were rated one of the best in the area for good country cookin’. But

Roanoke Electric loves teachers!

Educators can apply now for Bright Ideas Grants



North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Roanoke Electric Cooperative, allocated more than \$590,000 for classroom-based projects through the Bright Ideas education grant program for the 2010-2011 school year. Teachers can learn about the program and apply online now at www.ncbrightideas.com.

The electric cooperatives' Bright Ideas program is the only education grant program exclusively for North Carolina's K-12 teachers. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available through Roanoke Electric Cooperative. The deadline for teachers to submit an application is Friday, September 20. Teachers who submit their application by the early-bird deadline on August 16 will be entered in a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

"North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are in their 17th year of the Bright Ideas education grant program and are excited to award more than \$590,000 in grants

again this year," says Robin Phillips, Bright Ideas coordinator for Roanoke Electric Cooperative. Last year, Roanoke Electric Cooperative awarded \$8,000 in grants to area teachers as part of the annual Bright Ideas grant program. The state's electric cooperatives distributed more than \$596,000 in Bright Ideas grants, benefiting more than 116,000 students.

Bright Ideas grants help finance innovative classroom projects that would otherwise not receive funding. Over the years, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have sponsored a variety of hands-on projects, including activities in music, art, history, language, math, science, career-planning and information technology.

Since its inception in 1994, the Bright Ideas grant program has awarded more than \$7.1 million in grant money to North Carolina's teachers to sponsor more than 6,500

projects benefiting more than 1.2 million students. "We're eager to continue improving education in N.C. classrooms through the Bright Ideas education grant program," says Phillips.

The primary elements of the online application process include an explanation of the project and its potential benefits to students. A sample application and contact information for program coordinators are available on the Bright Ideas Web site.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities. North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties. For more information, contact Robin Phillips at (252) 209-2259 or visit the Web site at www.roanokeelectric.com.

Free Program Helps Homeowners Avoid Foreclosure

In 2009, there were more than 60,000 foreclosure filings in North Carolina. The N.C. Office of the Commissioner of Banks expects this number to increase at least 20 percent in 2010.

When a foreclosure happens, it affects the whole community. Foreclosures bring down surrounding property values, and because so many homes are left vacant, there is potential for increased crime and loss of business revenue.

State Home Foreclosure Prevention Project (SHFPP) is a state-led program that offers free foreclosure assistance to any North Carolina homeowner who is struggling with his or her mortgage. The program encourages homeowners to reach out for help before they face foreclosure.

"We are thrilled our program has given so many homeowners the tools they need to avoid foreclosure," said Mark Pearce, Chief Deputy Commissioner of Banks. "At the same time, the current economy has led many homeowners to struggle for the first time to pay their mortgage and other bills. We urge these homeowners to call our State hotline to get help from experienced counselors."

For free foreclosure assistance, call toll free (866) 234-4857. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. You will be connected with a HUD-approved counseling agency that can help you over the phone or provide face-to-face counseling. A full list of these counselors and additional

information can be found at www.fightncforeclosure.org.

Beware of foreclosure rescue scams. It is illegal to charge upfront fees for foreclosure assistance in North Carolina. Foreclosure scams can be reported to the Attorney General's office by calling 1-877-5-NOSCAM (877) 566-7226 or by filing a complaint online at www.ncdoj.gov.

Fight N.C. Foreclosure involves a network of state agencies, HUD-approved counseling agencies, legal service providers and non-profit organizations working together to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Fight N.C. Foreclosure is a free service, provided by the State of North Carolina.



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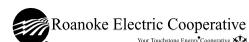
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Follow safety tips when working on lawn, garden

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission more than 145,000 people are treated in emergency rooms for injuries each year by garden tools, most of them electric.

Since May is electric safety month, what better time to arm ourselves with safety advice from the folks at Roanoke Electric Cooperative? Before you head out to the lawn and garden, take a few minutes to take heed of these practical safety tips.

❑ Electrocutation due to the inadvertent striking of an underground utility line is a major danger. Before you place the shovel in the ground, know where underground utility lines are buried on your property. Call the North Carolina One-Call Center at (800) 632-4949 or contact Roanoke Electric Cooperative at (252) 209-2236. The One-Call Center will locate your underground utility lines and mark them for you within 48 hours. This may be the most important call you may ever make because when struck, gas lines may explode, telephone service can be

disrupted, and severed electrical lines can electrocute. Call before you dig to prevent serious and possibly deadly accidents.

❑ Electrical outdoor tools should never be operated in the rain or in wet conditions. That may seem obvious, but unfortunately it's a tip that's often ignored.

❑ Clothing is a vital safety tool. Wear pants, long-sleeved shirts, eye protection and use heavy gloves. Don't wear baggy clothes, jewelry or anything that can possibly get tangled in a power tool.

❑ Never let a child ride or operate a garden tractor or a riding lawn mower. Keep children indoors and supervised when outdoor power equipment is being used.

❑ Unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before touching any moving parts on the machines.

❑ Handle gas carefully. Never fill a gasoline tank while the machine is on or when it is still hot.

❑ Store garden equipment where it will not injure anyone, especially

children. If a kid can reach it, they can also hurt themselves.

❑ Make sure extension cords are rated for outdoor use and are in good condition.

❑ Inspect power tools and your lawn mower and other lawn and garden equipment for frayed cords, broken plugs, etc.

❑ Before using any appliance or tool, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

❑ Check the switch on a power tool or garden appliance to make sure it's "OFF" before you plug it in.

❑ Never carry a power tool by the cord, and never yank it when unplugging it from a receptacle. When disconnecting the cord, always grasp the plug- not the wire. Keep the cord away from heat, oil and sharp edges.

For more everyday electric safety tips, contact Roanoke Electric Cooperative at (252) 209-2236 or visit the Web site at www.roanokeelectric.com.

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Co-op Office Holiday Closing

The cooperative's office will be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe holiday. For emergencies, call (800) 358-9437.

