

## A feast of community

*What we're grateful for*



JOSHUA RESNICK/ADOBE STOCK

Of all the dates on the calendar, Thanksgiving Day is a favorite for many—and it's a holiday that truly captures what Fleming-Mason Energy hopes to be for you and your family. At the heart of our operation is our commitment to community. Fleming-Mason Energy is more than a power provider; we are your neighbors, gathering our families around our holiday tables just like you.

Each year, families share what they are thankful for around the Thanksgiving table. All of us at Fleming-Mason Energy are thankful for you. Like the members of a family, it's you, our members, who define and motivate us. We find our purpose in serving you. While providing safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our

mission, improving the quality of life for our members and our communities is at the core of what we do.

I am thankful that Fleming-Mason Energy members are engaged with us. I'm grateful for the board members who represent you as we work together to further and protect your interests. I am also thankful for our dedicated and professional staff, whose care for the co-op is rooted in the fact that they are your neighbors.

Finally, my job is to ensure that we pay attention to every aspect of our cooperative. Some important areas can easily be overlooked. On this Thanksgiving,

I encourage you to take care of those in our community and family who might otherwise be neglected amid the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Whether it's a phone call to a far-away relative or a dinner plate for the elderly neighbor next door, the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference.

I hope you and your loved ones enjoy this holiday. From all of us here at Fleming-Mason Energy, happy Thanksgiving!

### At your service, 24/7

**Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.**

**Brandon Hunt**  
PRESIDENT & CEO



## Contact us:

In Fleming County:  
(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:  
(800) 464-3144

Hours:  
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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## Safety Matters

# Don't forget the fire extinguisher

We'll “fall back” to Eastern Standard Time on Nov. 3, which signals the end of daylight saving time in most of the United States. It's a good reminder and opportunity to catch up on safety maintenance around your home. Along with changing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, it's also a time to check your fire extinguishers.

“Too often our fire extinguishers sit forgotten in a cabinet or a closet, but they need regular inspection to make sure they're ready to extinguish or contain a minor fire,” says Dustin Skaggs, Fleming-Mason Energy's safety coordinator.

Check these things when inspecting a home fire extinguisher:

1. **Charge.** Ensure the pressure gauge's needle is in the green zone. Some non-rechargeable extinguishers also have push-to-test pressure indicators.
2. **Components.** The safety pin should be secure in the handle and unpulled. The hose should be free of cracks and bend easily. The canister should be free of dents or rust.
3. **Expiration date.** Most home fire extinguishers have a useful life of 10 to 12 years. Look for a date stamp on the tag, on the cylinder body, or the



J.J. GOUNISHUTTER/STOCK

manufacturer's website. If the extinguisher is expired, replace it. Seals and internal hardware can degrade over time, jeopardizing its function.

4. **Location.** Extinguishers should be visible, accessible and no more than 40 feet away from any location in your home. Keep one rated for grease in the kitchen and away from potential fire sources. Store extinguishers near fireplaces and outside by the grill or outdoor kitchen.
5. **Inspection log.** Update the log with the date and notes. Keep the log on a tag around the neck of the extinguisher or posted nearby.

Finally, if it's been a while since you've used an extinguisher, take a moment to review the user guide. “Become familiar with its parts and operation because you won't have time to do that if a fire breaks out in your home,” says Skaggs.

# Portable GFCI

## *A bright idea for holiday lighting*

At least one of your neighbors and maybe more will decorate for Christmas before Thanksgiving, and many will decorate their homes shortly after. 'Tis the season, as the saying goes. That means for many of us plenty of twinkling lights, yard inflatables, mechanized Santas, brightly lit Nativity scenes and a host of other electric-powered decorations to celebrate Christmas. If you're among them, remember to make safety a priority before flipping the power switch.

"Outdoor electric lights and decorations should always be plugged into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs," says Brandon Hunt, Fleming-Mason Energy's CEO.

GFCIs turn off the power when a current overload is detected, helping protect users from electrical burns, shock or electrocution. GFCIs are commonly used to power outdoor items that aren't in use year-round like holiday yard decorations, to provide protection where electrical circuits may be used in damp conditions. However, sometimes a home or property doesn't have GFCIs, or not enough of them for serious decorators. A solution that can keep your home and family safe is a temporary GFCI that plugs into a regular outlet.

Though standard in newer homes, older houses typically aren't equipped with GFCI-protected

outdoor outlets. You'll recognize these outlets easily because they have test and reset buttons.

Portable GFCI devices, available at home improvement stores, are a solution for homes lacking GFCI-protected outdoor outlets. Plug-in GFCIs connect directly into a wall outlet and have one or more receptacles. Inline GFCIs are lengths of cord with an outlet plug at one end and one or more receptacles at the other end. Cord sets are available in multiple cord lengths ranging from 2 feet to 25 feet to accommodate even the most elaborate holiday lighting displays.

Expect to pay about \$20 for a single outlet adapter up to \$50 for one featuring a heavy-duty, 25-foot cord with three outlets.

Add one or more GFCI devices to your outdoor decor supplies to enjoy a festive and secure holiday season.



## WINTERIZE

### YOUR HOME BEFORE THE BITTER CHILL

**Start preparing your home for winter now and enjoy the comforts of knowing you and your family will be safe from unexpected dangers in and around your home.**

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**Winterize electrical outlets on outside walls** with insulating covers by carefully selecting outlet kits made to fit.

**Check space heater cords for signs of wear or overheating.** Make sure the plug fits securely in the outlet.

**Never run cords under carpeting or rugs.** Cords can be damaged when people step on them, and they are a trip hazard. They can also overheat and lead to a fire.





# Caulking: a simple solution to winter drafts

It's easy to keep drafts out of the house on cold and windy days: Simply insulate your windows by caulking around them.

All you need is caulk and a caulk gun, which you can find at any home or hardware store.

You can even show your children how to do it.

- To get started, clean the windows, windowsill, trim and frames with a damp cloth. Allow everything to dry.
- Scrape old caulk and any peeling paint off the windows and the area surrounding them.
- Using the caulk gun, apply the caulk between the window frame and siding on the outdoors. Indoors, fill in the gap between the windows and the trim.
- Don't over-apply or the caulk can look messy.

Repeat the routine every few years as the caulk starts to crack and peel.



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to fall back on **November 3!**  
Set your clocks back by one hour.

