



**Central Alabama
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Value on Demand

Recently I was in a conversation regarding the business practices here at CAEC and how they have changed over the past 75 years, noting in particular the transformation that has occurred with policies and procedures, technology, safety improvements, even how we communicate with you, the member. As typical, the discussion then moved to how costs have increased with so many products over this same period of time.

For example, a gallon of gasoline has increased by 12.66 percent on average each year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. And even a dozen eggs has jumped 7.39 percent per year. But there is at least one thing that has remained stable in price over the years, even while demand has nearly doubled—electricity. Nationally, electricity has increased just 3.7 percent a year for the past decade and for nearly the last 75 years the cost per kilowatt hour at Central Alabama Electric Cooperative has less than doubled whereas something as modest as toilet paper has increased 25 times what it cost in 1939.

It's an impressive statistic, especially when taking into consideration that electricity is also unique. Unlike gasoline and many household items, electricity cannot be stored and must be utilized as soon as it is produced. This complex process requires a seamless coordination of several critical steps by many people and organizations. It begins with the collection and transportation of fuel resources, such as coal and natural gas, to be used as fuel to turn turbines, creating electricity. This electricity then leaves the plant and must be transported over a vast system of equipment (including transformers, substations and wire) across hundreds of miles to our homes and businesses to be available at the exact moment it is needed.

As we go through our daily routines or reminisce about years past, it's good to know that even though many things may have changed over the years, electricity has been and remains an affordable and valuable part of our lives. ■



	1939	2012	Increase
CAEC kWh	7.8 ¢	12.8 ¢	< 2X
Gallon of Gas	10 ¢	\$3.38	33X
Average New Car	\$675	\$30,000	44X
Car Tire	\$3.69	\$75	20X
Bacon	38 ¢	\$4.63	12X
Toilet Tissue	9 ¢	\$2.25	25X
Washing Machine	\$54.95	\$800	15X
Dozen Eggs	18 ¢	\$2.07	11X

Comparison figures obtained from available sources with some figures averaged, when a cost range was presented, in order to represent the average cost for a particular item. CAEC kWh price is for December of both presented years.

Co-op Connections Card—a Unique Value of Cooperative Membership

Five years ago, CAEC began offering an exclusive benefit for electric cooperative members—the Co-op Connections Card. As a free service for our members, this card gives access to countless discounts with national and local retailers as well as savings on prescriptions.

Now, as a member of Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, you will receive a new, enhanced Co-op Connections Card, which offers more savings to you and your family. In addition to the highly valuable prescription drug discount, the new card has added benefits from Healthy Savings Discounts, which offers savings on dental, vision, chiropractic, hearing, lab work and imaging visits.

With the success of the prescription discount program alone (CAEC members have saved more than \$424,000 since 2008), members will now be able to save even more, up to 60 percent on most vision, dental, chiropractic, hearing and lab services. To find a provider near you who honors these discounts, visit www.connections.coop and click on the Healthy Savings tab.

Another new feature is Biz Connections. Through this program, members who are business owners and companies on our service can receive exclusive online national discounts to help lower operating costs and increase efficiencies for their companies—something very important in today's tough economic climate. Biz Connections also allows business owners to offer the prescription discount portion of the Co-op Connections Card to their employees. Discounts can be found on <http://biz.connections.coop>.

Many local businesses also offer valuable discounts to CAEC members. The card can be used with businesses throughout the country, with discounts on everything from lodging and rental cars to amusement parks and

flowers. A listing of local and national participating businesses is located in the center of this magazine. For the most up-to-date local discounts, visit our web site www.caec.coop and for national discounts and special seasonal offers, visit www.connections.coop. Discounts can also be located no matter where you are with the Co-op Connections Card app for your smartphone or tablet.

Your Benefit as a Cooperative Member

Present this card at participating businesses to receive discounts.
www.caec.coop



Humana Dental
ACCESS
COAST TO COAST
VISION
800-800-EYES
ubs Chiropractic

For providers or questions call 800-800-7616 or visit HealthySavings.coop. Group# 2203AL02 Member# 142407524
 HealthPartners Bid# 011677 PCN# HT
Pharmacist Help Desk: 877-448-8182
This is NOT insurance

Members must use the new card with the logos circled in red above to receive the new program benefits. New cards will be mailed throughout the upcoming months.

To ensure everyone has access to the variety of additional savings, the new Co-op Connections Card will be reissued to all members in the upcoming bills and e-bill customers will receive theirs in a separate mailing. The new logos on the card must be used for the added Healthy Savings and Biz Connections programs. Members should dispose of their old Co-op Connections card and key fobs, and replace them with the new cards and fobs, identified by new logos on the back of the card, as pictured above.

Whether you've been using your card for the last five years or just for five days, we'd love to hear how it's helped save you and your family money by contacting us at coopcard@coop.caec.com. If you're a business interested in participating in this free program, contact us at (800) 545-5735, ext. 2180. The Co-op Connections Card, just one of the many benefits of being a cooperative member! ■

New Benefits For:
Vision
Dental
Hearing Services
Lab/Imaging Work
Chiropractic



Community Feature

Autauga County

A History of Industry and Preservation

Hearing the phrase “birthplace of industry in Alabama,” more than likely conjures up images of the steel mills in Birmingham, but you might be surprised to know that a city in central Alabama holds that title and the county in which it resides is older than the state itself.

Autauga County was settled after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1817 as part of the Mississippi Territory. In 1818, a full year before Alabama was admitted to the Union, the territorial legislature created Autauga County. The county was vast, and included what is now Elmore



This rare photo shows the original dam that supplied power for the Pratt Gin Factory on the Autauga Creek. The dam washed away in the flood of 1919.

and Chilton counties which were formed in 1866 and 1868 respectively. One of its cities, Statesville, was even one of seven communities that received votes to serve as our state's capital in 1846.

The county's industrial roots began in 1833 when Daniel Pratt arrived and changed the future of the county. Acquiring 2,063 acres for \$21,000 at the fall line of Autauga Creek, he changed the marshy, swamp land surrounding it into Prattville and began manufacturing cotton gins in the first factory buildings of the South with the earliest building being completed in 1848. The dam he built on Autauga Creek to power his gin mill with

a 60-horsepower water wheel, which originally drove the machinery and later a turbine, was the first use of hydropower in the state.

With the factory's success, the residents of the county benefitted. Autaugaville, which was born from the mill industry through a large corn mill that had been built on Swift Creek in 1820, became home to the Autauga Manufacturing Company in 1849. The 800-acre cotton mill produced sheeting and shirts that were sold throughout the state until the Civil War.

The lumber industry also took off. The town of Marbury housed one of the most complete lumber plants in the south, with 35,000 acres of woodland and a sawmill that could produce 80,000 feet of lumber a day. With such an abundance of timber and close proximity to the Alabama River, similar mills were located in Billingsley and White City and throughout the county where they became vital in supplying wood to serve as fuel for steamboats in the region.

Many other communities and towns such as Wood's Landing, Dutch Bend, Graves' Landing and Reese's Ferry sprung up along the Alabama River and served as landings and ferry points for agricultural deliveries. When cotton became king in Alabama, towns such as Statesville used their landings and ferries to send cotton to Mobile, where it was shipped to England.

As time moved on, the Prattville mill evolved and during World War II, it was used by an all-female work force that produced bombs for the war effort. In more



Photo: Jerry Jackson

Autauga County is home to one of the largest populations of the Alabama canebrake pitcher plant and is only one of two locations in the central part of the state where it is located.

recent years, most production had been outsourced, but saws for cotton gins were still being manufactured there until production ended in January 2012 and the ring and hum of the gin industry was replaced with an outlook toward preservation. The Autauga County Heritage Association along with the City of Prattville has been working to save the gin buildings which are in the process of being sold to developers who have possible interest to turn the buildings into loft apartments. Autauga Creek itself has been revitalized by the Autauga Creek Improvement Committee. The creek is a tributary to the Alabama River, and now serves as a canoe trail and is part of the Alabama Scenic River Trail system.

The area has also served as a place of residence for notable public figures. Former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson (whose parents were native Alabamians) would come to Billingsley and spend her summers with her

mother's sister, Aunt Effie, until she was 20-years-old. Poet Sidney Lanier also stayed in Prattville for a year and worked at the Prattville Male and Female Academy where he served as Head Master from 1867 to 1868.

Historical markers throughout the county also denote areas of interest such as America's First Crossroads in Autaugaville located at the intersection of Autauga and Academy streets. The intersection was designated by

Ripley's Believe It or Not! column in 1935 as the first crossroads where it proclaimed the first citizen of the United States (C.D. Abbott) lived in the first alphabetical state (Alabama) in the first alphabetical county (Autauga), in the first alphabetical city (Autaugaville), on the first alphabetical street (Autauga Street). Academy Street was added later to cross Autauga Street.



Autaugaville's Historical Marker designates it as America's First Crossroads.



With a rich agricultural background, Farm City Week celebrates the Autauga County farmer each November.

In addition to preserving historical buildings and locations, the county is also home to a rare species of vegetation, the Alabama canebrake pitcher plant. This plant is only found in two counties of central Alabama and is known to fewer than a dozen sites. Additionally, Harper's ginger, is only found in Alabama as well. Both plant species are protected within 400 acres of the Roberta Case Pine Hills Preserve in northwest Autauga County. Established in 1999 by the Nature Conservancy, the pitcher plants at this location are part of the largest populations in the state.

Agriculture remains a large part of the county's identity and is highlighted during events such as Farm City Week which will be held November 18-22 this year. Begun in 1982, the event serves as a venue for residents to come together and recognize the contributions farming makes. One of the highlights of the week-long celebration is Farm City Week Kid's Tour, where elementary school students travel to the R.H. Kirkpatrick Agricultural Arena in Autaugaville. Here, they learn about farm life with various farm animals, see many demonstrations of farm equipment and learn about the role crops play in our everyday activities. The week culminates with an awards night at the arena, in which area farmers and local businesses are honored. The R.H. Kirkpatrick Arena (or Ag Arena as it's often called) itself was erected in 1993 and hosts a variety of events including rodeos, calf roping, dog agility trials and motocross racing.

Begun by industry, Autauga County continues to be among the fastest-growing counties in the state each year and looks forward to a future that continues to embrace the past. ■



Applications for the 2013 Couples Conference in Orange Beach

There are many benefits of being a CAEC member, and one of them involves the cooperative principle regarding education, training and information for members. One way we help accomplish this goal is by sponsoring two member-couples to attend the annual Alabama Cooperative Council's Cooperative Couples Conference held in Orange Beach during July 22-24.

The Couples Conference serves as a forum for members to network with others from across the state and gain a unique perspective on how cooperatives affect their everyday lives.

To be eligible, you must be a member of CAEC (past attendees are not eligible). For more information about the Alabama Cooperative Couples Conference, or to apply, call 1-800-545-5735, ext. 2213 or visit www.caec.coop. Applications are due by June 21. ▀



**Application Deadline
is June 21**

CAEC Taxes Provide for the Areas We Serve

April is the month associated with filing taxes, and even though your co-op is a not-for-profit organization, we pay taxes each year as well--taxes that help the communities we serve.



In 2012, CAEC contributed to regional, state and federal governments by paying more than \$9 million in taxes.

Of the \$9 million, approximately \$959,000 was paid in ad valorem taxes. The revenue from ad valorem taxes goes to school districts, volunteer fire

departments and other vital services for our communities. In addition, CAEC paid \$587,000 in city business licenses and another \$36,000 in state and county sales tax for the year. The sales tax is paid when CAEC buys goods and equipment.

Payroll taxes, totaling nearly \$2.6 million, were paid in 2012. These taxes include employer-funded state unemployment compensation as well as the social security and Medicare taxes funded by both the employee and CAEC. The co-op also paid approximately \$1.8 million in gross receipt taxes and approximately \$2.9 million in utility taxes. ▀



Look Up, Look Down, Look All Around

When thinking about your home or neighborhood, chances are you don't picture power lines. They're easy to overlook, stringing high along property lines and roadways, near trees or even underground. But the old adage, "Out of sight, out of mind," can be dangerous—power lines can pose serious electrical hazards if forgotten.

Trees can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds and storms can topple trees or shatter branches that pull down power lines and cause outages. In the event of low-hanging or downed power lines, you should always treat them as if they are energized and never go near them.

That's why it's very important to take the location of power lines into account if you're planting any form of vegetation—especially trees. Make sure not to plant them directly under or within at least 25 feet of power lines for short trees, and at least 40 feet away for medium-sized trees.

And if power lines are currently touching or are very close to limbs and trees on your property, call us to trim the trees safely.

If you are doing any landscaping work, always look for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact CAEC immediately. Also, if you're doing any work that requires the use of a ladder outside your home, always look up and around to make sure you're not near any power lines. If you find yourself having to do work on your home near the service line (service drop) or meter, call us first to de-energize the line so you can work safely.

Also, if you're doing projects that involve digging, such as planting a new tree, install-

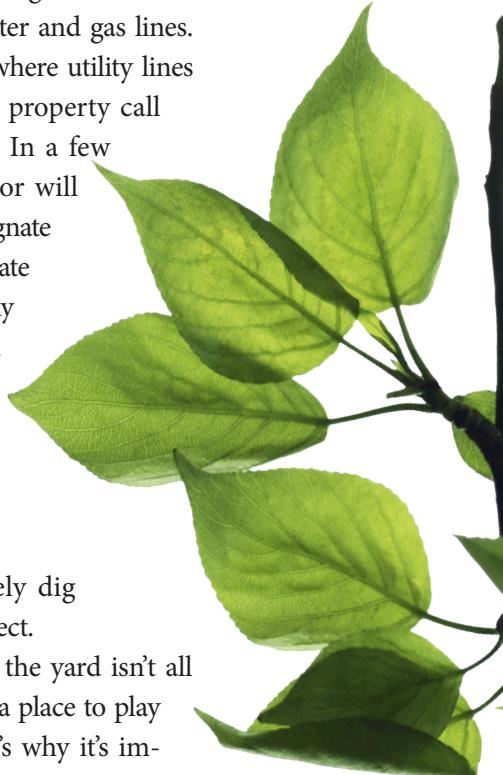
ing a new mailbox or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you need to be aware of dangers below ground—such as power, water and gas lines. To find out where utility lines run on your property call 811 for free. In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables with flags or paint markings so you can safely dig for your project.

Of course, the yard isn't all for work, it's a place to play as well. That's why it's important to remind children to be aware of power lines. Flying kites or remote-controlled air devices such as planes and helicopters near lines could result in them becoming tangled. And climbing a tree could be a dangerous activity if that tree is near a power line—and children should never climb power poles or play with or near electrical equipment. When installing an above or in-ground pool, never place the pool directly under power lines.

So when you think about your neighborhood, also think about looking up, down and all around to ensure that you and your family will be safe when it comes to the electrical equipment surrounding your home. ■



Darren Maddox,
CAEC Training and
Safety Coordinator



Sheesh, Kabobs Are Easier Than Ever!



When you buy an electric grill or smoker from CAEC, there's no telling what you can cook up! Get the delicious taste of grilled food without any of the hassle or harm of singed eyebrows. CAEC's quality electric grills and smokers can make your summer cooking easier than ever before!

Call 1-800-545-5735 for more information, or visit www.caec.coop

