

# Fairfax Recognized as Oklahoma Century Community

One of Indian Electric Cooperative's members communities was recently recognized as a Century Community by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin joined community members in Fairfax to celebrate their completion of the first phase of the Oklahoma Century Communities Program.

The program was designed to help Oklahoma communities evaluate themselves in the areas of human resources, economic development, local governmental structure, community services, and community infrastructure. A team of Fairfax community leaders and volunteers has met regularly over the past year to assess their community's strengths and weaknesses and to educate the community on the Century Communities Program.

Through a guided self-evaluation, the

program allows communities to focus on building strengths and developing local pride, while at the same time identifying weaknesses and encouraging the community to set goals to overcome those problems. It helps communities maximize their own best assets, set goals, organize, and make improvements based on their own evaluation.

**“WE HAVE A WELL-ROUNDED GROUP OF PEOPLE...WHO HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ...WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING OUR TOWN”**

Bob Stephens, Committee Chair

Committee Chairman Bob Stephens is quick to point out that the process is a group effort and that many community volunteers have worked to accomplish the requirements of the first phase of the program.

“We have a well-rounded group of people from city council members, chamber members, church leaders, business owners, and other community volunteers who have worked together on this project with the goal of improving our town,” Stephens, IEC Fairfax district manager, said. “We’re working hard to make this the whole city’s

program, it belongs to the community.”

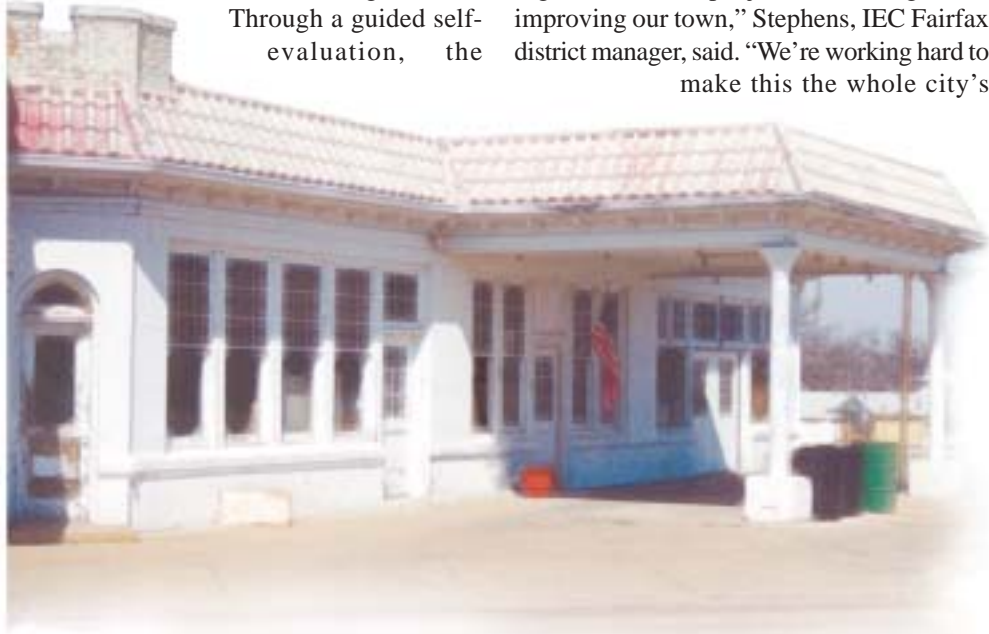
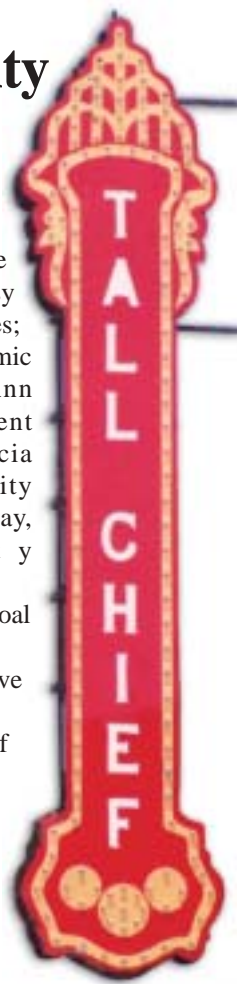
Committee chairs helping guide the program include Patsy Bray, human resources; Glen Hadlock, economic development; Ann Martin, government organization; Patricia Daley, community services; and Bill Bray, community infrastructure.

The committee's goal is to strengthen their community and improve the economic development efforts of Fairfax. They believe they have to help themselves improve their town and that this is a wonderful process to accomplish that goal.

Judges from around the state evaluated the city's community assessment and approved Fairfax as an Oklahoma Century Community qualifying Fairfax to move forward with the next phases of the program – Strategic Planning and Plan Implementation.

As part of the next phase, the Fairfax Century Community Committee will begin to identify goals and strategies, which will be submitted to the city council for approval.

The committee's vision is that the process will lead to increased community awareness, an effective community plan, the generation of community pride, increased volunteerism, and overall community readiness for improved economic development.



## Employee Spotlight - Bob Stephens

Bob Stephens began his career at Indian Electric Cooperative in 1979 working in the engineering department, eventually moving up to manager of engineering. Now Bob heads up the IEC office in Fairfax as district manager.

The Fairfax office is staffed by four journeyman lineman, three apprentice linemen, a two man brush crew, and two office staff members.

“Because we have a small staff, each person, has a broad range of job assignments and has to understand and be able to function in several positions. Part of what we do is service and support the members that reside in this portion of the IEC territory,” Stephens said. “I also work in conjunction with the Cleveland office to ensure we work together as a team in serving our members.”

Stephens began his job in Fairfax six years ago. He decided to move to the city and has since become an integral part of the community participating in the city’s Chamber of Commerce and the Century Community Committee.

“I thoroughly enjoy living in Fairfax. I grew up in rural Kansas and have found Fairfax to be very similar in its rural setting and very friendly people,” Stephens said.

He enjoys the people of Indian Electric and says it is the best place he’s ever worked with absolutely the best people he’s ever worked with.

“My very best friends are here,” he said. “I can’t imagine working anywhere else.”

# The Cooperative Advantage

*Taxes Paid by IEC to Area Schools in 2001 illustrates one of the many advantages of your member-owned, locally controlled cooperative.*

Cleveland	\$67,616.02	Cushing	\$7,171.91
Pawnee	\$56,714.79	Jennings	\$7,095.41
Woodland	\$45,451.03	Drumright	\$6,980.31
Mannford	\$32,171.89	Oilton	\$6,804.53
Olive	\$23,521.73	Morrison	\$6,422.55
Hominy	\$21,666.22	Prue	\$5,616.34
Yale	\$20,087.17	Pretty Water	\$5,221.31
Keystone	\$20,044.51	Ponca City	\$4,851.90
Frontier	\$19,283.55	Bristow	\$3,471.49
Wynona	\$13,029.35	Bowring	\$1,828.50
Pawhuska	\$11,251.38	Glencoe	\$494.78
Sand Springs	\$10,536.19	Kellyville	\$394.23
Burbank	\$9,721.84	Billings	\$10.54
Shidler	\$7,981.07	Allen Bowden	\$78.76

### Local Schools Receive Nearly Half a Million Dollars from IEC Gross Receipts Tax

“Many people think that because Indian Electric Cooperative is a non-profit organization we’re not required to pay taxes. While it is true that cooperatives don’t pay income taxes, rural electric cooperatives in Oklahoma do pay what is called gross receipts tax.

95% of the gross receipts tax dollars paid by IEC go directly to our local school districts. The miles of line and the percentage of IEC’s total system within each school district determines the amount each school district receives. In 2001, IEC paid, more than \$415,000 in gross receipts taxes to 30 schools in its seven-county area.”

## THE LAMP

### Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc.

#### Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
918-358-2514

To report an outage call  
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# IEC Schools Qualify for Rural Education Grants

Indian Electric Cooperative is teaming up with electric cooperatives across the nation to make keep classroom energy at an all-time high! As the energy industry around the globe changes and new technologies open the door to opportunities never seen, we at IEC are determined to help prepare the students in our communities for success. That's why we have joined with cooperatively-owned electric utilities from around the country to encourage our teachers to explore energy with their students. Take a minute to visit our web site at [www.iecok.com/grants](http://www.iecok.com/grants) or give us a call at 918-358-2518 to see how you can help your school get involved.

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR THESE GRANTS?

Any rural K-12 classroom teacher whose school is within a community served by a Rural Electric Cooperative (Indian Electric Cooperative or whose students' homes are served by a rural electric cooperative (Indian Electric Cooperative).

## HOW MUCH ARE THE GRANTS, AND WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

There will be ten mini-grants of \$500 each to be expended during 2002-2003 school year for classroom-based projects.

## WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THE PROJECTS?

Projects are to feature student investigation of some aspect of the science of energy or electricity; and should meet the needs (and curiosity) of your students. You may want to study the local geology (as it relates to energy...petroleum products, coal, natural gas, etc.), or the history of hydroelectric generation in your community, or alternative sources of energy for the next generation. The project should be limited only by the imagination of your students and the resources you have available.

## HOW WILL THE APPLICATIONS BE JUDGED?

Criteria will include the following:

1. A project design that demonstrates cooperation between the students/teacher and community;
2. Appropriateness for age and grade levels;
3. A project design that encourages a high level of student involvement;
4. A project design that indicates coordination with the local electrical cooperative (Indian Electric Cooperative);
5. A project design that focuses on student learning;
6. Overall quality of the grant application and adherence to grant guidelines.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

After finding out if you qualify, submit a 1-2 page proposal describing what you and your students will investigate. **All entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2002.** Mail your entry to:

**Rural Teacher Mini-Grants**  
**Dr. Patricia Cruzeiro, Chair**

NREA Teacher Activities Committee  
Chadron State College, Dept. of Education  
Chadron, NE 69337

## WHAT CAN I USE THE MONEY FOR?

Anything that will enable you and your student to complete the project. Because the amount of money is small, you may choose to buy some time (hire some help) or pay for field trips or buy some books or software or a piece of equipment. You and your students know best what you need. A brief estimate of expenditures totaling \$500 should be included with the proposal.

## MAY THE GRANT BE USED TO EXTEND/EXPAND AN EXISTING PROJECT?

Yes, but in that case, clearly indicate the scope of the project and for what part of the project you plan to use this grant.

## WHAT KIND OF DOCUMENTATION OR "FINAL REPORT" IS REQUIRED?

Mini-grant winners must submit a written narrative account of their project. These reports should be mailed to the NREA (see address listed above).

This is a joint program sponsored by NREA and NRECA

For more information about NREA – see their Web Site at [www.NREA.colostate.edu](http://www.NREA.colostate.edu)  
For more information about NRECA – see their Web Site at [www.NRECA.org](http://www.NRECA.org).

**For detailed information and to download application materials, visit the IEC website at [www.iecok.com/grants](http://www.iecok.com/grants).**



Youth Power  
Energy Camp!

**E**ighth grade students are invited to participate in Indian Electric Cooperative's annual Energy Camp essay contest. Two winners will be chosen to represent IEC at the Youth Power Energy Camp with students from across the state.


The camp will be held at Canyon Camp, near Red Rock Canyon at Hinton, from May 28 through May 31.

Students will spend four days learning about leadership, community development, and safety demonstrations and have the opportunity to set up and run their own cooperative business. Students will also enjoy volleyball, hiking, swimming, campfires and newfound friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Energy Camp contest is open to eighth grade students who are children of Indian Electric Cooperative members. To enter, students are required to write a 125-word essay on: "How My Cooperative responded to September 11th."

Independent judges will select two winners based on content, style and accuracy.

For more information on Energy Camp, stop by our web site at [www.iecok.com](http://www.iecok.com) or give us a call at 918-295-9564.



**Contact Cyndie Wood at IEC at 918-358-2514 for an official Energy Camp entry form. Essays and entry forms must be postmarked by April 10, 2002.**

# Slow-Cooker Jumbalaya

**Serves 4**

- 1 can (28 ounces) whole tomatoes
- 2 cups diced boiled ham
- 2 medium onions, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup uncooked long-grain converted rice
- 2 stalks celery, sliced
- ½ green bell pepper, seeded and diced
- ¼ cup tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon minced parsley
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 2 whole cloves
- 1 pound fresh or frozen shrimp, peeled and de-veined

Thoroughly mix all ingredients except shrimp in slow cooker. Cover and cook on Low 8 to 10 hours. One hour before serving, turn slow cooker to High. Stir in uncooked shrimp. Cover and cook until shrimp are pink and tender.

## Your Virtual Accountant

It's April and that means it's tax time. For those of you still working on your taxes, here are some helpful tax web sites that can answer some questions for you.



For information on current tax news, tax scams and tax alerts visit the official web site of the IRS at

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). They also have a section for frequently asked questions.

For tax news, laws, forms, IRS publications, and legislation information visit [www.taxplanet.com](http://www.taxplanet.com). This site also features a year-round tax guide.

To file on-line, estimate your taxes, check tax news and learn about tax tips go to [www.moneycentral.msn.com/tax/home.asp](http://www.moneycentral.msn.com/tax/home.asp). This site also has a handy tax and inflation calculator.

For information on these and other web sites, visit us online at [www.iecok.com](http://www.iecok.com).

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

## Mission Statement

Indian Electric Cooperative is a member-owned organization dedicated to the delivery of quality electric power, related value-added services and the investment in our communities that contribute to the quality of life for the membership.



### *Calendar*

#### **April 6**

**Susie McEntire-Luchsinger,  
Bill Brown's Oklahoma Jubilee –  
Live Country Music Shows  
Shidler, OK**

For more information or to order tickets, call 918-793-2771

#### **April 9**

**Annual IEC Youth Tour Banquet  
Freddie's Steakhouse  
Mannford, OK**

For more information, contact Jonathan Smith at 918-358-9583

#### **April 20**

**Pawnee Folk Fest  
Pawnee, OK**

For more information, contact the Pawnee Community Chamber of Commerce at 918-762-2108

#### **May 3 – 5**

**OSTA Steam and Gas Engine Show  
Pawnee, OK**

For more information, contact the Pawnee Community Chamber of Commerce at 918-762-2108

#### **May 16**

**Creek County Farm Tour**

For more information, contact Tony Wright at 918-367-2113, ext. 104.

#### **To Submit Calendar Events:**

**The Lamp Editor - IEC**  
P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020  
or email to [jonathans@iecok.com](mailto:jonathans@iecok.com)