

Proud to be an American

Celebrating true greatness

It's almost Independence Day, and across the state, folks are planning cookouts, fireworks and family get-togethers. Behind the scenes, there's even more planning than usual—because the countdown has begun for July 4, 2026. Next year will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The next 12 months are full of opportunities to explore and celebrate American history, our founding ideals and the sacrifices that have made our nation great.

That's why, in this issue of *Kentucky Living*, I want to invite you to share on a very special topic: what makes you proud to be an American? It might be a story, a memory or a photo: but whatever it is, we want to hear from you. *Kentucky Living* will collect and review your responses, and next July, many of them will be shared online at KentuckyLiving.com, and some will be printed in the magazine. Learn more about this special opportunity at KentuckyLiving.com/250.

In a nation of 340 million people—and a state of 4.5 million—each of us will answer that question

a little differently. But it's no coincidence that many of the same things that make me proud to be an American are also things I love about our co-op family. Here at Fleming-Mason Energy, every voice matters. In the communities we call home, we look out for our neighbors. When tragedy or disaster strike, we learn once again just how much we rely on each other—and we celebrate sacrifices for the common good.

It's not hard to find examples of service and self-sacrifice in our communities. We see it in our first responders, who put themselves in harm's way, and in our teachers, who invest so much in the next generation. We see it in our lineworkers, who brave challenging conditions to maintain and restore power. And we see it daily in you, our consumer-members, through



TIM WEBB

countless acts of kindness and generosity. The examples could go on and on.

What is greatness, after all? It's not prestige, wealth or power. True greatness is found in serving others.

Our co-op community makes me proud to be an American. How about you?

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:

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(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:
(800) 464-3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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Here's the scoop on ice cream makers

Whether it's an Independence Day party for a crowd or intimate family cook-out, homemade ice cream is the ideal frozen finale to a summertime meal. Today's electric ice cream makers are highly automated machines that simplify the churning process and allow for customizing a wide variety of frozen treats. Here's the scoop on these sweet treat-making appliances.



VOFFKAZ2/SHUTTERSTOCK

Freezer bowl vs. compressor

The primary distinction between electric ice cream maker models is the freezing method. There are two choices.

Freezer bowl machines are the popular option for occasional ice cream makers. They require you to freeze a bowl for at least 24 hours before use.

- Pros: Lower cost, light and compact.
- Cons: Requires planning well ahead so the bowl is frozen and ready. Bowl requires re-chilling between batches.

Compressor ice cream makers have a built-in refrigeration system that chills the bowl during operation, eliminating the need for pre-freezing.

- Pros: More convenient, no pre-planning required, can make

multiple batches in a row. More control over texture, with different speed and temperature settings.

- Cons: More expensive, larger and heavier machine.

Other factors to consider

- Capacity: Determine how much ice cream you typically want to make at once and choose a machine with a suitable batch capacity.
- Churn speed: Faster churn times can lead to finer ice crystals and a smoother texture.
- Ease of use: Look for simple controls, easy-to-clean components and a clear lid for monitoring the churning process.
- Cleaning: Are parts dishwasher safe or require hand washing?

Eliminate dock dangers

With 45 major lakes and more navigable miles of waterways than any other state except Alaska, Kentucky is a boater's paradise. If you moor your boat at a private dock, take steps to prevent electrical hazards.

"Outdated wiring and a lack of routine maintenance on docks can cause situations where electricity 'leaks' into the water," says Dustin Skaggs, Fleming-Mason Energy's safety coordinator. "If someone swims into that energized water, the result can be electric shock drowning."

In Kentucky, a "boat dock" is legally defined as "a structure that

protrudes into a body of water for the purpose of mooring a boat or for other water-related recreation and that is connected to an electrical power source in any manner." Adhere to these steps for accident prevention at private docks:

- Install ground fault circuit interrupter breakers on circuits feeding electricity to the dock. Test GFCIs monthly.
- Use bonding jumpers to connect all metal parts of the dock to a ground rod on the shore. When a dock is properly grounded, any electrical charge occurring on it

will trigger the GFCI to shut off power.

- All electrical installations should be performed by a licensed electrician familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance.

Take these simple steps to bring your boat dock up to safety standards to make your boating adventures as safe as they are fun.



NINO OASO/WILSHUTTER/STOCK

Congratulations to the 2025 Fleming-Mason Energy Annual Meeting Scholarship Winners

Brooklyn Reed

Bath County High School

Jared Ishmael

Fleming County High School

Laney Pease

Fleming County High School

Kiley Robinson

Fleming County High School

Carriann Highfield

Lewis County High School

Creighton Arnold

Lewis County High School

McKenzie Cunningham

Lewis County High School

Chasity Gies

Lewis County High School

Braxton Malone

Mason County High School

Jessica Jones

Rowan County Senior High School

ELECTRICITY AND WATER DON'T MIX

Has your home or basement been flooded?

**DON'T BEGIN CLEANING UP UNTIL AFTER THE
POWER HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED.**

- **Keep a flashlight and batteries on hand** in case you must maneuver flood waters in the dark.
- **Make sure your wet/dry vacuum is plugged into a GFCI outlet.** Look for power strips that have GFCIs to use during cleanup.
- **Don't allow** power cord connections to become wet.
- **Replace all circuit breakers and fuses** that have been submerged in water.
- **Don't touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse if your hands are wet or if you are standing on a wet surface.** When resetting breakers, use a dry plastic- or rubber-insulated tool. Use only one hand.



NIRKYTOR/ADOBE STOCK