

**RADIANT  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# Hi-LITES

## Radiant Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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### Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Welcome New Members

**Delwin Cotton**—Buffalo

**Anjanita Williams**—Buffalo

**A & R Operating LLC**—Chanute

**Sky Smeed**—Chanute

**Cassandra Wren**—Coffeyville

**Cindy Sanchez**—Fall River

**Marilyn Wittum**—Independence

**Michael King**—Neodesha

**Jay Farr**—Prairie Village

**Admiral Bay Resources**—

Centennial CO

**Christina Alexander**—Denver CO

## Radiant Announces



*The cooperative way to stop weekend hunger among children in our service area...one quarter at a time.*

## Radiant Board Approves Support Plan to Take Care of Our Own

We now have a practical way of taking care of our own when it comes to providing weekend food for kids who might otherwise go hungry after school when furnished meals end on Friday.

The Radiant Electric Board has endorsed "QuarterQuest" a new plan to fund food for kids in the Radiant service area selected by their own elementary or middle school to participate in the ongoing Kansas Food Bank (KFB) Backpack program.

The new plan asks each Radiant member to voluntarily authorize the addition of a tax-deductible 25 cents (or more) to their monthly bill. The donations are then sent on to the KFB for the purpose of buying supplies to fill the backpacks for children in the Radiant service area at most serious risk of present and future problems stemming from childhood hunger.

At the close spring semester, there were more than 400 children in Radiant's service area participating in the Backpack Kids program from a dozen schools. These children were rescued from serious weekend hunger and given a chance to do better in school and later in life.



One school's social worker reports, "One of our Backpack students always looks forward to getting her food. She has a big smile on her face when I bring it to her every week. Thanks again for all you do."

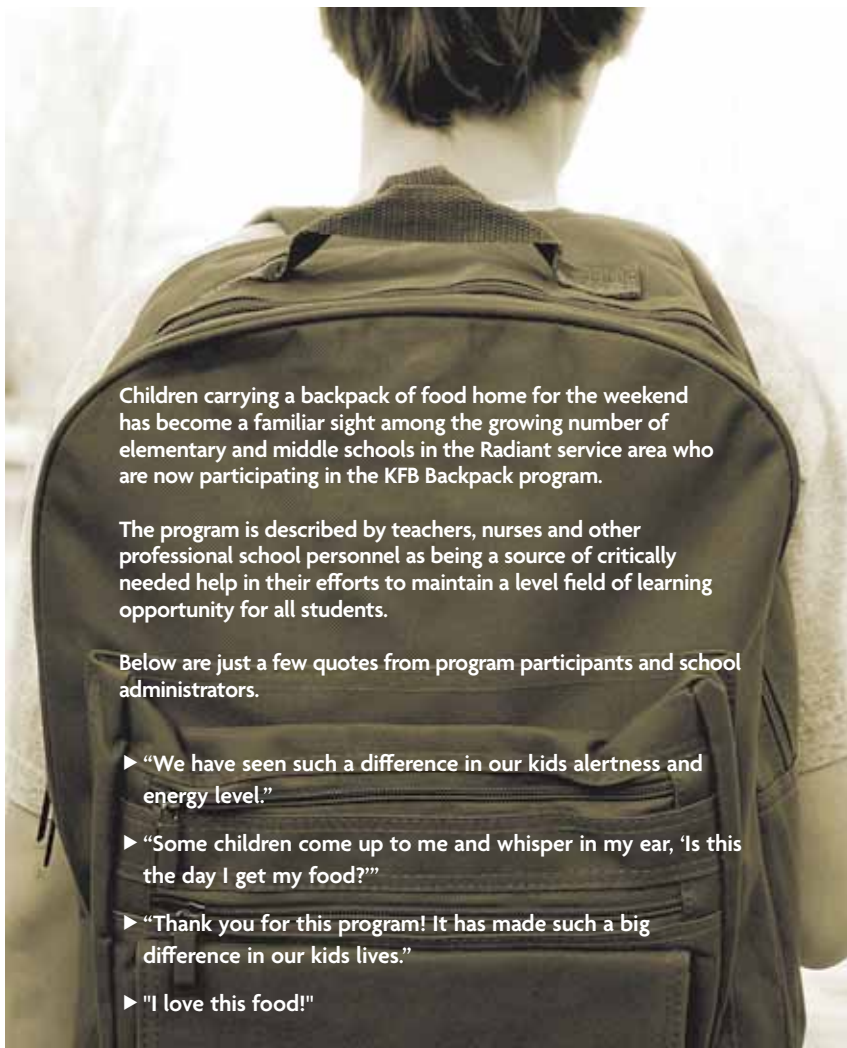
*Continued on page 16-B ►*

## Quarter Quest

Continued from page 16-A ▶

When the fall school term begins, the Backpack Program in Radiant service area schools will start to grow stronger and more secure because of contributions from QuarterQuest—an affordable, sustainable system of support, which lets every member fully share ownership in a local area opportunity to take care of our own, one quarter at a time.

Radiant's Quarter-Quest is expected to be in operation when schools begin in our service area in September. As the first to engage the new system, we welcome other cooperatives to follow, as we welcome full participation from our own members. It's a workable way to help at-risk school children in our own service area stay healthy and strong to become the best they can be.



Children carrying a backpack of food home for the weekend has become a familiar sight among the growing number of elementary and middle schools in the Radiant service area who are now participating in the KFB Backpack program.

The program is described by teachers, nurses and other professional school personnel as being a source of critically needed help in their efforts to maintain a level field of learning opportunity for all students.

Below are just a few quotes from program participants and school administrators.

- ▶ "We have seen such a difference in our kids alertness and energy level."
- ▶ "Some children come up to me and whisper in my ear, 'Is this the day I get my food?'"
- ▶ "Thank you for this program! It has made such a big difference in our kids lives."
- ▶ "I love this food!"

## Look for details on future billing statements



More than 10,000 hours of volunteer services were needed to assemble 150,000 individual packets of weekend food for 5,000 students helped by the Kansas Food Bank Backpack program over the last 30 weeks of the school year. The work was performed by a diverse cross-section of volunteers from Wichita and other Kansas communities, all inspired and motivated by the thought of providing HungerCare to those in most urgent need of it.



Assembled packets of kid-friendly, single-serve, easy-to-open, ready-to-eat weekend food are boxed for delivery to 272 elementary and middle schools from 78 Kansas school districts who participate in the KFB Backpack program. The distribution starts in the Food Bank facility in Wichita from which 600,000 pounds of Backpack food for all program participants were shipped during the last school year.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

# Summit Hill Gardens

Hold a bar of soap in your hand, it feels different than liquid soap pumped out of a bottle. The bar over time conforms to the shape of your hand, never losing its lather or scent.

For Patsy Smeed, of rural Chanute, homemade soap has been in her family for years, she is a third generation carrying on the art.

"My mother, Mrs. K. W. Brant, thought I should learn to cook, as I had a family, but cooking a large meal was not something I desired to do," Smeed admits. Her mother suggested making soap. Remembering that her mother and grandmother Hattie Faye had done this for years, she decided to give it a try. Today, Smeed is cooking, just not those big meals, but healthful soaps that are good for your skin.

Summit Hill Gardens is surrounded by lovely lily and iris beds, herb gardens, blackberry patches and native flowers indigenous to this area. There also stands a building built from recycled material from the Round House in Parsons.

"We have used this building as a barn, then converted it to a building to hold weddings, now it's a retail soap shop," Smeed said.



Patsy Smeed (left), owner of Summit Hill Gardens and her assistant Heather Hardisty, enjoy one of the many flower beds on the property.

Customers will be amazed at what they see when they turn into the curvy lane. Upon arriving, it will feel like you stepped into an English garden. Starting with one acre and an old school house, the now 65 acres which includes the 1874 Summit Hill School has been transformed



Soaps are displayed in an antique wooden bin.

from overgrown wild blackberry brambles to a garden area that any gardener would appreciate. This year a greenhouse was added to the retail shop.

Heather Hardisty, a transplant from Massachusetts has joined the female-based business working in the greenhouse and gardens. Plants are grown from seed and then sold to customers. All plants are grown in an eco-friendly environment. Herbs (which are also used in the soaps), bedding and vegetable plants, along with the native plants, shrubs and a Christmas tree plot are all available at Summit Hill Gardens.

Hardisty also enjoys making dog biscuits that are sold in the retail shop. A healthy treat for man's best friend it is made from fresh garlic, flax seed, wheat flour, and fish oil. The dog biscuit is not only flavorful but helps with doggy breath.

Smeed's daughter, Kanza Stich is also involved in the retail shop, making bibs and other baby items from vintage material. Also for sale, are eco-green toys made from 100 percent recycled materials made in the United States.

*Continued on page 16-D ▶*

### Blackberry Festival at Summit Hill Gardens

- ▶ Saturday, July 18 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ Enjoy music, trick horse, newborn goats, Horseshoe contest, pick blackberries
- ▶ Greenhouse will be open
- ▶ Produce for sale

## Billing Reminder

July electric bills will be due on July 21, 2009. As of July 1, Radiant has completed the transition for moving the billing date to align more closely with the reading date on the first of the month.

The billing staff wishes to thank all our consumers

for working with us during this transition period. The June 1 through June 30 usage will be read at midnight on June 30. That reading will be calculated for your electric bill on July 1 and mailed soon thereafter. All residential and small commercial accounts will be due by the 21st of every month.

# Summit Hill Gardens

Continued from page 16-C ►

The retail shop carries a wide variety of handmade soaps. Smeed has developed nearly 30 different varieties. Spices and herbs are added to selective bars for their natural color, wholesome scents and therapeutic value. Essential oils from all over the world are included to retain skin moisture, clean dirt away and remove dead skin. These oils also increase fragrance, enhance sensual pleasure and many oils have healing properties. All soaps are made from edible oils. She favors oils from Madagascar.

"The oils come from a nut that only women are allowed to gather," Smeed said. "The women of that country have the most beautiful, soft and clear complexion, having used it for generations."

She also adds clay ingredients to the majority of her soaps for its ability to clean toxins and dirt off of skin. Spices are added for color and scents. But it's the difference in the amount of oil that is used that separates her soap from others.

"Where they use drops of oil, I use cups," Smeed remarked.

Small batches of soap are made from scratch to ensure the quality of the product. Colors may vary, which is part of the charm of each batch.

The soap mixture is poured into pans to create chunks of soap or into molds for those who prefer their soaps to have different shapes.

"The molded soaps are popular for gifts, but the chunks of soap are the best seller," Smeed said. "The chunks sell by the ounce, so a customer has the choice of buying a whole bar or maybe a slice."

Once poured, the soaps will cure for three weeks. Each bar contains coconut cream, castor oil, glycerin, goat's milk, Shea butter, and vitamin E.

An antique wooden bin displays the numerous soaps in her shop. The bin was salvaged from her Uncle Stub's filling station after the station was closed in Earlton. Though an auction was held, this piece was never sold. It sat hidden away for years, until Smeed came looking for it to display her soaps. Uncle Stub's hand writing is still on the bins, each drawer identifying what part was stored in the drawer.

The retail soap shop and gardens are located at 2605 160th Rd in rural Chanute. They are open on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. Also available to area clubs, schools



Homemade bog biscuits are also for sale.



Summit Hill Gardens a step into an English garden setting.

and tour groups are tours of the gardens, the restored native stone Summit Hill School and soap shop. Please allow one hour. The cost is \$10 per person. For a more extensive tour, you will also see a soap making demonstration and receive a free soap gift. Please allow two hours for this tour, the cost is \$20. Advance reservations are needed. Reservation can be made by calling 620-212-3878. You can also contact Summit Hill Gardens by e-mail is also available at [pksmeed@aol.com](mailto:pksmeed@aol.com).

If you would like to be featured in the *Kansas Country Living* centerspread or have a story suggestion please call Radiant at 620-378-2162 ext. 139. Suggestions may also be e-mailed to [ann@radiantec.coop](mailto:ann@radiantec.coop).



Baby bibs, bonnets, slip on shoes for infants along with eco-friendly toys are feature in the shop



An antique porcelain sink filled with plants in the greenhouse.