



this issue

Electric Lines 18

Recipe 19

Energy Efficient Tips 19

Halifax Helps Grants 20

*Halifax EMC
wishes to all of
its members*

*A happy, safe,
and prosperous*

New Year!

*Thank you
for your past
patronage
and we look
forward to a
brigher future!*

*Halifax EMC will be
closed on*

*Friday, January 1,
for the New Year
and*

*Monday, January 18,
for MLK Day*

Halifax EMC Awards Bright Ideas Grants to Local Teachers

Halifax EMC recently awarded \$6,000 Bright Ideas grants to local teachers at a dinner held at the City Hotel & Bistro in Greenville. The dinner was in conjunction with five other Eastern North Carolina cooperatives. This was the 16th year for awarding Bright Ideas grants to local area teachers.

Receiving grants this year were: Deborah Foster at Vaughan Elementary for her project "It's Mine for Keeps"; Trina Paynter at Vaughan Elementary for her project "Clicking In"; Sharon Fraizer from Aurelian Springs Elementary for her project "Expanding the Mind Through Literature"; Elizabeth Guest from Aurelian Springs Elementary for her project "Leap into Literacy"; and Cheryl Dixon from Aurelian Springs Elementary for her project "Let's Get Fit." Presentation of the grants was made by Brady Martin, Manager of Marketing and Charles Guerry, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Halifax EMC.

One teacher from each cooperative present was selected for a special drawing to win a scholarship to



the Ron Clark Teaching Academy in Atlanta. Deborah Forster from Vaugan Elementary was Halifax EMC's entrant. However the winner was Jan Lee Wicker from Weldon Elementary, sponsored by Roanoke EC.

Bright Ideas is just one of the many ways that Halifax EMC is working in our communities. The grant program was started in 1994 by North Carolina Electric Cooperatives, and over the years has awarded more than \$7 million dollars to schools across the state and impacted more than one million students.

Hali-facts

Published monthly by Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield, NC. Comments, articles, and photographs are welcomed.

Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

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Business Hours

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Locations

Enfield: (252) 445-5111

Macon: (252) 257-3900

www.halifaxemc.com

Tell Us...

Halifax EMC is your electric cooperative. Your comments and questions are very important to us. Please tell us how we may improve our service.

Return your comments/questions along with your payment, or e-mail them to bamartin@halifax-emc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



Electric Lines

“Wind and solar power aren’t free. The machinery to convert these elements to power are expensive.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

The North Carolina General Assembly’s Senate Bill 3 produced an off-shoot called Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards (REPS) which will have an impact on members’ electric bills.

Beginning sometime the first of the new year you will see a rider listed on your monthly bill. The charge will help pay for costs associated with meeting the state mandates.

The mandates require that Halifax EMC and other electric cooperatives to have 10 percent of the electricity they sell generated by renewable energy sources and/or by energy efficiency programs by 2012. The REPS rider will be adjusted annually to reflect the anticipated costs for compliance with the mandate for that year.

On the national scene, our congressional representatives and the new administration are set to pass additional energy policies. This is why it is so important for members to voice their opinions to our congressional leaders through the “Our Energy, Our Future” program. Cards are available at the cooperative offices in Enfield and Macon. Please let your representatives know how you feel about the rising cost of

electricity.

From preliminary indications, these new policies could be costly to every consumer, especially to those living in the southeastern United States where we depend on coal for generating electricity.

We hear a lot in the national media about wind and solar energy being the answer to rising costs because they

are free. To a certain point that is true. We do not have to purchase the sun or the wind. What we do have to purchase is the machinery to convert the sun’s rays and the wind into electricity, and that is expensive.

Our rates are based on two components--the cost of wholesale power and the cost to get electricity to you. So when you flip that switch, that light reflects more than the wholesale cost of electricity. It also reflects the lines, poles, equipment, personnel, and facilities that are required to bring the power to you.

As a member of the cooperative, your staff is constantly working for you to bring you safe, affordable energy. Again, you can help by voicing your opinion to Congress. You can go to www.halifaxemc.com and click on “Our Energy, Our Future” and let Congress know of your concerns.



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America



Energy-Efficient *Ideas*

The average American household spends \$1,500 annually on energy bills—a number that may rise this year. There are ways to become more energy efficient through weatherization but some are more expensive than others. Here are ways to weatherize your home that can save energy, yet they will not cost you an arm or leg:

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, and electric wiring penetrate through exterior walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed.
- Use inexpensive window insulator kits to seal your windows.
- Keep winter out by keeping your doors shut.
- Use draft guards at the bottom of the door to keep the cold wind out.
- Insulate pipes, ducts, and water heaters.
- Cover window air conditioners to seal out the cold air that is leaking in and keep the warm air from leaking out.



Member Weatherizes Home and Saves Energy

Halifax EMC member and employee Mike Butts weatherized his home to save energy and to help reduce his energy bills. His energy usage for November 2009, compared to November 2008, resulted in a reduction in his heating costs by 16 percent for that month. Weatherization items he added to his home included insulation, new siding and Energy Star windows. The contractor who did the work was Delbert Heck with Southern Living Homes in Littleton.



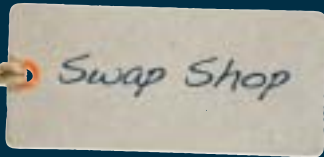
RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Hot Seafood Casserole

- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 can (6 oz) crab meat (flaked)
- 1 lb shrimp, cleaned, cooked, cut in pieces
- ½ tsp salt
- ⅛ tsp pepper
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup buttered Ritz-style cracker crumbs

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all of the above ingredients except the buttered cracker crumbs in a medium bowl. Mix gently. Spoon into an 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle with buttered cracker crumbs. Bake for 30 minutes.

Source: Carolina Country Kitchen, pg. 39



For sale: Circular oak bar, \$150. Call: 252-257-3981 (Macon)

For sale: Big Jim wood fireplace insert w/dble blowers, \$300. Call: 252-445-3577 (Enfield).

Lawn maintenance: Complete lawn maintenance for commercial/residential, fully insured, free estimates. For more details, CALL: 252-904-1598 or 252-826-3957 (Lawn Ranger, Sonny Padgett, Scotland Neck).

Halifax Helps Awards Its Second Round of Grants

Halifax Helps, Inc., the administration organization for Operation Round Up® through Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, awarded its second round of grants at a luncheon held at Halifax EMC on November 24. Debbie Hardy, President of Halifax Helps, made the presentation of the checks to the recipients.



Receiving grants were Enfield Meals on Wheels, represented by coordinator Debbie Pittman, Gayle Locke and Katherine Livermon Johnston to help provide meals for senior citizens; Inez Fire Department, represented by fire chief Harry Williams and Alan Sweeney to purchase necessary equipment to perform duties as First Responders; Halifax County Sheriff's Department, represented by Lt. Chuck Hasty and Major Mike Casey to purchase nine stinger tire deflation systems; Afton-Elberton Volunteer Fire Department, represented by fire chief Joey Andrews to purchase a light tower to be installed on a new First Responder vehicle to provide adequate lighting on fire and EMS scenes; Warren County Youth Services Bureau, represented by Director Debbie Scott, Steve Hyman, and

Mary Marrow to provide an enrichment/educational trip to Washington DC for 20 youths; and Rheasville



Volunteer Fire Department, represented by fireman Michael B. Butts, Jr., Jeffrey Shaw, and Keith Browder to update equipment to meet NCDOT regulations.

Also attending the luncheon were Halifax Helps board members, Debby Hardy, Mitch Smith; Halifax EMC board members; Charles Guerry, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Halifax EMC, and the Halifax EMC senior staff members.



Funds for the Halifax Helps grants are voluntarily generated through Operation Round Up® by rounding up Halifax EMC members' electric bills to next nearest dollar. At the present time, grants are awarded twice a year.