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## Bright Ideas Grants Awarded

Halifax EMC is excited to announce more than \$6,000 in contributions to seven teachers in Halifax and Warren counties this year through the Bright Ideas program. In total, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will contribute nearly \$600,000 to fund more than 550 Bright Ideas projects this year!

This year's Halifax EMC Bright Ideas grant recipients are: Mike Beebe, Northwest High, Solar Math; Nerisa Pampilo, Pittman Elementary, Gong Hey Fat Choy Little Readers; Amy Whitten, Warren New Tech, Growing in this Greenhouse; Cheryl Sebrell along with Amy Whitten and Emily Tartanella, Warren New Tech, Green Knights on a Mission for the Planet; Megan Lewis, Hollister Elementary, KinderCubs Centers Company; and Tiffany Wilson, Inborden Elementary, Reading First. Any certified K-12 North Carolina

teacher may apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 to be used for creative projects in their classroom. The Bright Ideas program began 18 years ago to help teachers who

were funding classroom-based projects out of their own pockets and has since provided funding for more than 7,700 projects.

Since the program's inception in 1994, Halifax



EMC has contributed more than \$65,000, and North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have awarded more than \$7.9 million to N.C. teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached more than 1.4 million North Carolina students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, music and the arts.

*Pictured above are 2011-2012 Bright Ideas grant recipients and their schools' principals along with HEMC staff at the awards dinner held on November 15, 2011.*

**Charles H. Guerry**

*Executive Vice President  
& General Manager*

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District 8 At-Large

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District 8 At-Large

**Business Hours**

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Locations**

Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

[www.halifaxemc.com](http://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](mailto:bamartin@halifax-emc.com). Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



## Electric Lines

“Stealing copper wire is dangerous, costly and illegal.”

by Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

North Carolina, like many states across the nation, is experiencing a surge in copper theft because of rising metal prices. Copper wire is a primary component of electrical distribution lines and substations, like those owned and maintained by Halifax EMC. Removing copper wire from electrical systems



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causes power outages, creates the need for additional maintenance, increases expenses and diminishes service reliability. Although copper prices have increased drastically in the last 10 years, most thieves are only able to steal less than \$100 worth of the metal, a petty amount considering these thieves are risking their lives.

Copper is used to ground electrical equipment, protecting it from electrical surges and lightning by giving electricity a safe path to the ground. It is frequently used in electrical substations where high-voltage electricity traveling through the lines from power plants is stepped down before it travels to neighborhoods. Thieves often climb utility poles, scale fences and break into buildings to steal the metal, which they then sell for scrap.

To a thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make some cash. But it's illegal, it's costly, and it's not worth anyone's life. Not only is it life threatening for the thief, but the results of copper theft can also indirectly harm innocent people and their property. In 2010 metal theft-related deaths occurred in North Carolina,

West Virginia, Illinois and Ohio. A co-op in Oklahoma is facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of the metal last year. In North Carolina, it is illegal for anyone without the proper paperwork to transport or possess more than 25 pounds of copper.

To protect the public, Halifax EMC's substations are secured with high fences, and warning signs are posted around the substations. Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, like an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wire, please call Halifax EMC immediately at (252) 445-5111. If you see anyone other than utility personnel near substations or other electrical facilities, call the police.



# Annual Meeting 2012

Although our next annual meeting, Saturday, May 19, is still quite a few months away, planning has already begun as the election process for the cooperative's board is rather involved. In December the Board of Directors selected a member from each of the directorate districts to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Members. The committee will meet February 1 to make their nominations for Districts 1, 2 and 8. Any member who would like to be considered as a candidate for Districts 1, 2, and 8 of the Halifax EMC Board of Directors may contact the cooperative office after January 1 for the names of Committee on Nominations members. Members then contact the committee member in their districts to indicate their desire to be candidates. The incumbents for these seats are Morell Jones, District 1; Basil Williams, District 2; and Beverly Carter, District 8.

## Director Qualifications

- must be a bona fide member of Halifax EMC in his/her own name;
- must have their primary residence in the directorate district for which he/she seeks election

## Candidates may be nominated for the Board by two methods:

### 1) By Petition

Any 30 or more members of the co-op acting together, may make nominations by petition. The petition must include the member's legal signature and name printed legibly, member number, listing of nominee(s), the directorate district(s) for which they would represent, and the name of the incumbent director(s), if any. The petition must be filed with the Corporate Secretary, Leon Williams, 661 Rabbit Bottom Road, Warrenton, NC 27589 no later than 5 p.m. March 16, 2012.

### 2) By Committee

The second method for nominating candidates is by a Committee on Nominations - consisting of nine members appointed by the Board, one each from Districts 1-7 and two at large from District 8.

The appointments to this committee are made at least 115 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Committee on Nominations then meets and prepares a slate of candidates that is posted in the Enfield office no later than 5 p.m. on February 2, 2012. Any member who would like to be considered as a candidate for Districts 1, 2 and 8 of the Halifax EMC Board of Directors may contact the cooperative office for the names of the Committee on Nominations, and then contact the committee member in their district to indicate his or her desire to be a candidate.

### Floor Resolutions

Any proposed resolutions of matter for consideration to be acted upon by the membership must be submitted in writing to the Corporate Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the meeting.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Black-eyed Pea Dip

- 2 cans shoepeg corn
- 2 cans black-eyed peas
- 1 cup onion (diced)
- 1 cup red or green bell pepper (diced)
- 1 small bottle Italian dressing

Combine all of the ingredients and refrigerate over night. Serve with your favorite dipping-style chip.


*Submitted by Jill Causey,  
HEMC Member Services Rep*

# Win A Trip To Our Nation's Capital

Would you like to win an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.? Halifax EMC is now accepting applications for the 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour which will take place June 16-22. Any high school junior whose parents or guardians are members of Halifax EMC is eligible to apply!

The Youth Tour is an amazing opportunity for teenagers. Since the late 1950's, students from small towns across the nation have traveled to Washington, D.C. to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the legislative system. Not only do students visit historic monuments and museums but they also get to meet their local representatives.

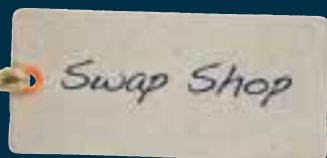
To apply for the 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour call 252-445-5113, ext. 2034, or email: [jallsbrook@halifaxemc.com](mailto:jallsbrook@halifaxemc.com) for an application and essay form. You may also visit [www.halifaxemc.com/Education/youthtour.apx](http://www.halifaxemc.com/Education/youthtour.apx) to download these materials. All information must be completed and submitted by February 29, 2012.



**The 2012 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour**  
**A WEEK YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!**

Visit Historic Monuments, Museums & so Much More  
See Our Nation's Government in Action  
Join More Than a Thousand Students from Across the Country

Go to [NCElectricCooperatives.com](http://NCElectricCooperatives.com) and [YouthTour.org](http://YouthTour.org) to get highlights from the 2011 tour. You can also join our Facebook page by searching for North Carolina Youth Tour on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com). The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington is an annual event coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. Youth Tours are sponsored by local electric cooperatives.



**For sale:** Set of rims, 17" x 7"; \$400 or best offer, Call: 252-257-2145 (Warrenton).

**For Sale:** Homemade wooden boat for sale w/ or w/out motor, must see to appreciate, MAO, Call: 252-257-1679 (Macon).

**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).

## Office Closings

The offices of Halifax EMC will be closed on Friday, December 30, for the New Year and Monday, January 16, for MLK Day!

## Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships: Apply Now!

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Halifax EMC, are providing all-expense paid scholarships for 52 young men and women from across the state to attend basketball camps this summer.

Twenty-six girls will be selected to the Kellie Harper Wolfpack Basketball Academy at N.C. State in Raleigh, and 26 young men will attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp at UNC in Chapel Hill. Each camper will work directly with championship-winning collegiate coaches to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court. The camps will be held in June on the college campuses.

Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply, and the cooperatives will begin accepting applications on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 30. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities and accompanying essay. Students can download an application at [www.ncelectriccooperatives.com](http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com).

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our state and is yet another way the cooperatives are demonstrating their commitment to North Carolina communities.