

Back row (L-R): Principal Renee Mizelle, teachers Cindy Blackmon, Jessica Williams and Deborah Foster-Durham, and Halifax EMC Marketing Manager Brady Martin. Front row: Kindergarteners at Vaughan Elementary.



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Teachers Megan Lewis (left) and Stephanie Williams with Halifax EMC General Manager Charles Guerry at the Bright Ideas dinner.

Rewarding Bright Ideas in the Classroom

This past November, Halifax EMC had the privilege of honoring teachers from Halifax and Warren Counties by awarding \$6,000 in Bright Ideas education grants. More than 614 students in elementary, middle and high schools in these counties will participate in five projects funded by Halifax EMC's Bright Ideas grants this year.

Halifax EMC celebrated its winning teachers, along with five other eastern NC co-ops and their winning teachers, at a dinner on November 12 at the City Hotel & Bistro in Greenville, NC. Those teachers were Megan Lewis, Hollister Elementary—Common Core and Technology; Stephanie B. Williams, Pittman Elementary—Eagles Taking Flight via Physical Activity; Deborah Foster-Durham, Jessica Williams and Cindy Blackmon, Vaughan Elementary—Sing To Learn; Amy Whitten, Warren New Tech High School—Petals and Dirt; and Marissa Mullinix, Warren New Tech High School—SeaPerch.

Statewide, the electric co-ops awarded more than \$620,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding to educators this school year.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and winning proposals

are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2013.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.halifaxemc.com or the Bright Ideas website at www.ncbrightideas.com. Become a fan of "Bright Ideas Education" on Facebook to receive regularly updated news about the program.



Brady Martin presents Marissa Mullinix of Warren New Tech HS with her Bright Ideas check.



Brady Martin presents Amy Whitten of Warren New Tech HS with her Bright Ideas check.

Office Closings

The offices of Halifax EMC will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, for the New Year and Monday, January 21, for the Martin Luther King Holiday.

Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

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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

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

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

“Proper maintenance remains the key to efficient heat pump operation.”

Like all heating and cooling systems, proper maintenance remains the key to efficient heat pump operation. The difference in electric use between a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one ranges from 10 percent to 25 percent!

Remember not to set back a heat pump's thermostat if it causes any backup heating system to kick on; back-up systems are usually more expensive to operate. When switching the system from cooling to heating, make sure the thermostat is in the normal heat mode and not set in emergency heat mode. Continuous indoor fan operation can also hurt heat pump performance unless you use a high-efficiency, variable-speed fan motor. Operate your heat pump with the “auto” fan setting on your thermostat.

Clean or change filters once a month or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Dirty filters, coils, and fans reduce airflow, which will decrease system performance and possibly damage the compressor. Clean outdoor coils whenever they appear dirty; occasionally, turn off power to the fan and clean it; remove vegetation and clutter from around the outdoor unit. Clean the supply and return registers within your home, and straighten their fins if bent.

You should also have a professional technician service your heat pump at least every year. The technician should do the following:

- Inspect ducts, filters, blower, and indoor coils for dirt and other obstructions
- Diagnose and seal duct leakage.
- Verify adequate airflow by measurement.
- Verify correct refrigerant charge by measurement.
- Check for refrigerant leaks.
- Inspect electric terminals, and, if necessary, clean and tighten connections, and apply non-conductive coating.
- Lubricate motors and inspect belts for tightness and wear.
- Verify correct electric control, making sure that heating is locked out when the thermostat calls for cooling and vice versa.
- Verify correct thermostat operation and educate the consumer.

To learn more about heat pumps, visit www.energysavers.gov.



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America





Annual Meeting 2013

Save-the-Date for Halifax EMC's 74th Annual Meeting, to be held Saturday, May 18. In December, the Board of Directors selected a member from each of the directorate districts to serve on the

Nominating Committee for the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Members. The committee will meet February 7 to make their nominations for Districts 4, 6 and 8. Any member who would like to be considered as a candidate for Districts 4, 6 or 8 of the Halifax EMC Board of Directors may contact the cooperative office after Tuesday, January 1, for the names of the 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 Leon Williams, District 4; Stanley Brothers, District 6 and Robert Edwards, 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 no later than 5 p.m. March 15, 2013.

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 8, 2013. Any member who would like to be considered as a candidate for Districts 4, 6 or 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

Martha's Hot Almond Spread

- 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup mayonnaise
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1 pinch ground black pepper
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- 8 oz. shredded Swiss cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 350°. In medium bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, onions, pepper and nutmeg. Stir in the Swiss cheese. Transfer to small ovenproof glass bowl. Sprinkle $\frac{1}{2}$ of almonds on top. Bake for 7 minutes. Stir and bake for an additional 8 minutes. Sprinkle remaining almonds on top, and serve.

Source: allrecipes.com

Halifax Helps Gives \$21,000 to the Community

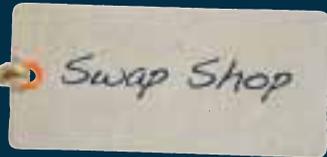
Halifax Helps, Inc., the administrative organization for Halifax EMC's Operation Round Up® program, awarded its eighth round of grants at a luncheon held at the Co-op on Friday, November 16. Debbie Hardy, President of Halifax Helps, along with Charles Guerry, Executive Vice President of Halifax EMC, made the presentation of checks to the recipients.

The following organizations were awarded grants: Warren County Middle School—Odyssey of the Mind Team, represented by Tammie Harris and Kristen Clarke, received \$1,125; Disaster Immediate Response Team (D.I.R.T.) Ministries, represented by Ruth Moseley, received \$4,000; Mariam Boyd Elementary was awarded \$2,143 and Shirley Pendergrass and Pat Riethmeier accepted the check on behalf of Mariam Boyd; The American Red Cross—Frederick E. Turnage Chapter, represented by Lindsay Lee, received

\$4,000; The Enfield Volunteer Fire Department, represented by Chief Ronnie Locke was awarded \$4,500; Downtown Enfield Restoration & Preservation (D.E.R.P) Association received \$4,000, Jackie Allsbrook and Gayle Locke accepted the grant on behalf of D.E.R.P.; and South Creek Middle School PTA, represented by Lisa Smith and Teresa Carlisle, was awarded \$1,500.

Also attending the luncheon were members of the Halifax Helps and Halifax EMC Board of Directors as well as Halifax EMC Senior Staff personnel.

Funds for the Halifax Helps grants are voluntarily generated through Operation Round Up® by rounding up Halifax EMC members' electric bills to the next nearest dollar. At the present time grants are awarded twice a year. The deadline for the spring submission is March 28, 2013. To date, Halifax Helps has awarded over \$185,000.



For sale: 27" Sony TV, \$30; Whirlpool washing machine, good cond., \$100. Call (252) 567-8433 (Rocky Mount).

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. Remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

Youth Tour: Seeking Applicants



Calling high school juniors! Halifax EMC is now seeking applicants for the 2013 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid educational trip to Washington, D.C., that will take place June 15–21.

To apply for the 2013 Youth Tour call 252-445-5113 ext. 2034, or send an email to jallsbrook@halifaxemc.com to request an application. The application and essay form can also be downloaded from www.halifaxemc.com. Simply look under the tab labeled "Education." All information must be completed and submitted by February 28, 2013.

Touchstone Energy Sports Camps

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

Twenty-six girls will be selected to attend the Kellie Harper Wolfpack Basketball Academy, August 1–4. Likewise, twenty-six boys will be selected for the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp held June 15–19.

Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply. Applications will be accepted January 1–March 30, 2013. Download applications from www.ncelectriccooperatives.com.

