



this issue

Electric Lines 18

Recipe 19

Annual Meeting 2015 19

Employee Spotlight 20

Halifax EMC Awards Bright Ideas Grants To Local Teachers

Halifax EMC awarded 13 teachers with \$7,420 in Bright Ideas education grants in November to fund 10 innovative classroom learning projects. More than 1,100 students at schools in Halifax and Warren counties will participate in Bright Ideas projects funded by Halifax EMC this year.

HEMC, along with other electric cooperatives of Eastern North Carolina, honored teachers with a dinner at the Murphy Center located on the campus of East Carolina University in Greenville on November 13.

HEMC presented awards and checks to Cheryl Sebrell, Warren NewTech High; Nerisa Pampilo, Pittman Elementary; Shane Dongilli, Dawson Elementary; Stephanie Williams, Pittman Elementary; Pamela Flack, Halifax Academy; Amanda Rissmeyer, Dawson Elementary; Donna Liles, Trina Paynter, and Erin Simons, Vaughan Elementary; Ken Ramsey and Tyler Williams, Enfield Middle; Carla Amason, Pittman Elementary and Michael Markofski, Warren NewTech High.

During November, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives awarded teachers statewide close to \$600,000 in Bright Ideas Education grants.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Halifax EMC has contributed more than \$136,000 to local teachers. North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$9.1 million to teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached well over 1.6 million North Carolina students and sponsored more than 8,800 projects in all subjects, including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

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

Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President
& General Manager*

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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@halifaxemc.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

“Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill is in your mailbox, be proactive.”

Another colder-than-normal winter is predicted for much of the country this year. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work over time, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open that bill. Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill is in your mailbox, be proactive. Here are some simple steps you can take now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less:

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Log on to your Halifax EMC account to keep up with your use. If we've had a few days of frigid temperatures, see how you can try to save on days that are milder.
- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants, or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime.
- For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.
- Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.
- Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you.

Article source: April Lollar writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.





Annual Meeting 2015

Save-the-Date for Halifax EMC's 76th Annual Meeting, to be held Saturday, May 16. In December the Board of Directors selected a member from each of the directorate districts to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Members.

The committee will meet February 5 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 or 8 for the Halifax EMC Board of Directors may contact the cooperative office after 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 Morell Jones, District 1; Basil Williams, District 2 and Beverly Walker, 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 13, 2015.

2) By Committee

The second method for nominating candidates is by a Committee on Nominations - consisting of eight members appointed by the Board, one each from Districts 1-7 and one 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 6, 2015. Any member who would like to be considered as a candidate for Districts 1, 2 or 8 of the Halifax EMC Board of Directors may contact the cooperative office for the names of the Committee on Nominations members, and then contact the committee member in their district to indicate his or her desire to be a candidate.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Zannie's Black-Eyed Pea Dip

- 1 can (14 oz) black eyed peas
- ¼ whole onion, chopped fine
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 8 slices of jarred jalapenos
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 3 Tbs salsa
- hot sauce to taste
- salt and black pepper to taste

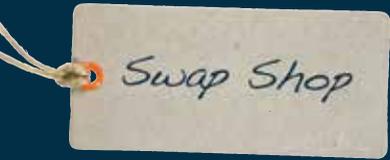
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Drain black-eyed peas and partially mash, leaving some whole.

Add all other ingredients, stirring to combine.

Spread into a 1½ quart baking dish and bake for 20 to 30 minutes until hot and bubbly.

Serve with tortilla chips!

Source: The Pioneer Woman



For sale: Twin bed w/ like new mattress; includes bedspread and pillow, wooden headboard, \$200. Call: 252-257-4215 or 252-578-2393. (Arcola).

For sale: Official size Table Tennis from box, \$50 OBO. 252-257-4945 (Hollister).



Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/halifaxemc



Debra Montgomery

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Touchstone Energy Sports Camps: Now Accepting Applications!

Halifax EMC is accepting applications from middle-school students for all-expense-paid scholarships to summer basketball camps at the University of North Carolina and NC State University. Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill, and young women can vie for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in Raleigh.

Students can download an application at www.ncelectriccooperatives.com beginning Jan. 2, 2015. Halifax EMC will select one student for each camp in a competitive process based on academics, extra-curricular activities and a short essay. Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to

apply, and the final application deadline is March 31.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program, sponsored by Halifax EMC and the state's 26 electric cooperatives, sends more than 50 students statewide to learn from renowned collegiate coaches and athletes each year. Both camps will work closely with students to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

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

Employee Spotlight

This month's Employee Spotlight features Debra Montgomery. Debra will be celebrating 30 years with HEMC this May. She began her career as a Cashier/Receptionist and now serves as Executive Assistant.

Debra has been married to her husband Stevie for 22 years and has two children; Brandon, a student at A&T State University and Danisha, a kindergarten teacher at Creekside Elementary in Greenville, NC.

Debra is very active in her

church, Lebanon Baptist Church, where she serves as Church Clerk and Trustee.

Debra enjoys working for the co-op because she loves the Cooperative spirit of networking and helping others. She said, "The employees are always getting together and donating to different charities, especially during the holiday season. The Co-op has allowed me to meet a lot of people and create a lot of friendships and the employees share a family bond!"