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Halifacts

HALIFAX ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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Valentine's Day

Each February we exchange candy, flowers, and gifts with that special loved one. Just why *do* we set aside a special day to say "I love you"?

February has long been a month of romance and this celebration is shrouded in mystery. There are many legends associated with this special day.

One legend takes place during the third century when Emperor Claudius II ruled in Rome. Valentine was a priest who served during this time. Emperor Claudius decided single men made the best soldiers, so he outlawed marriage to increase his crop of potential soldiers. However, Valentine defied the decree, and continued to marry young lovers in secret. When his actions were discovered, Valentine was ordered to be put to death.

In another legend, Valentine, while in prison, fell in love with the jailer's daughter. While waiting his execution, he sent the first "Valentine" greeting—a letter to the young girl and signed it "From your Valentine." This expression is still used today.

On February 14, remember that special person in your life.

Construction on the New Five Forks Substation Is Progressing

Work on the new Five Forks Substation in Warren County is progressing nicely. Once it is completed it will provide a more reliable electric service to members in this area. One of the goals of Halifax EMC has always been to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electric service to its members. The construction of this new substation is just one of the ways Halifax EMC is achieving that goal.

Once the new substation comes on line, anticipated to be about mid-April this year, it will serve approximately 1,200 members—in Lake Gaston Estates, Mariner Cove, Norcarva, Matthew Manorwood, and Pasture Gates—in an approximately



eight-mile circumference around Five Forks.

This substation will be the first of our substations to have automatic meter reading (AMR) capabilities using power lines as the carrier instead of telephone lines. The plans are to have all Five Forks members served by AMRs by the end of the year.

Automatic meter reading provides benefits to members as well as to the cooperative. In the long term, this will be a big cost savings to the cooperative, which means savings to the members also.



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

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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

“Together we can meet the challenges of the new year and provide for our future energy needs.”

by Charles H. Guerry
Executive Vice President & General Manager

We are now a month into the New Year. Along with the New Year will come changes. On the political front a new President has been inaugurated. In the electrical utility industry, there will be an increase in electric rates.

Some of this increase will in the form of a higher WPTA (wholesale power tier adjustment), due to increases from our wholesale

power supplier. We are undergoing a rate study and will keep you informed as this study progresses.

State law, known as the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency legislation that was passed in 2008, requires that a certain percentage of electric sales come from renewable energy sources or reductions in electricity usage through energy efficiency. By 2018, 10% of our electric sales must be generated by renewable resources (solar, wind, water, wood or animal waste, landfill gases, etc.) or reduced energy consumption through energy efficiency programs. Until renewable energy technology is developed so that it is more cost effective, we must concentrate on energy efficiency to help meet these requirements.

Electric lighting consumes up to 25% of the average home energy budget. Therefore, one of the simplest, easiest, and least expensive ways to meet the mandates of the state law is through compact fluorescent light-

ing. If each member of Halifax EMC changed one 60-watt incandescent bulb to its equivalent compact fluorescent bulb (CFL) that uses only 14 watts we would save an estimated 69,000 KWH of electricity per month

or approximately 828,000 KWH per year. When you switch out your incandescent bulbs to CFLs, please let us know as we need

to keep a record to meet this state mandate.

Besides the electricity a CFL saves, there are other benefits to using this type of lighting. These include efficiency, savings, pollution reduction, high-quality light, and versatility. For more CFL information, see page 19.

Your Halifax EMC staff is doing everything it can to keep your electric rates as low as possible. However, there are two things you can do to help keep your energy costs down. First, you can switch your incandescent bulbs to CFLs. As a further promotion of the use of CFLs, we will be distributing CFLs at your Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 16.

Second, tell your elected officials how you feel. You can do this through the “Our Energy, Our Future—A Dialogue with America” program.

As the year moves forward, we will keep you informed about energy costs and ways to help keep your energy bills down.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America





Energy-Efficient *Ideas*

The average American household spends \$1,500 annually on energy bills. Lighting consumes about 25% of the average home energy budget. Here are some benefits of switching to compact fluorescent bulbs.

Efficiency—Compact fluorescent bulbs are four times more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. The lower wattage CFL gives out the same output as the equivalent higher wattage incandescent bulb, but uses 50-80% less energy. CFLs operate at a cooler temperature, thereby reducing the heat given off by incandescent bulbs. This helps to reduce cooling costs.

Savings—The initial cost of a CFL is more than the cost of an incandescent bulb; however, you save money in the long run as the CFL lasts up to 10 times longer than an incandescent.

Pollution Reduction—By replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL you can keep up to a half-ton of CO₂ out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb. The greenhouse effect has long been a concern to many American consum-

ers. Using CFLs can save energy and reduce this problem.

High-Quality Light—CFLs give a high-quality of light. Depending on the use and color effect you want, CFLs come in different color temperatures and styles or shapes. CFLs lights are based on the Kelvin Temperature Scale that determine the color of the light from warm white to daylight. Most people prefer 2,700K–3,000K bulbs for a warm, cozy, and romantic cast for residential lighting.

Versatility—CFLs come in a variety of applications for 3-way, dimmable, candleabra, globe, recessed, table lamps, track lighting, ceiling fixtures, flood lamps, and porch lights—any where an incandescent bulb can be used. They also come in different base styles such as plug-in, screw-in, and the latest style GU24.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Pesto and Roasted Red Pepper Dip

- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, divided
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pesto
- 1 (16 oz.) container sour cream, divided
- 1 jar roasted red peppers, drained, chopped (about 1 cup)

WheatThin crackers

Place half of the cream cheese spread in medium-size mixing bowl. Add pesto; mix until well blended. Stir in half of the sour cream. Place remaining cream cheese spread in separate medium-size mixing bowl. Add peppers; mix well. Stir in remaining sour cream. Cover both bowls and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Spoon these two dips alternately into one serving bowl. Swirl with knife for marble effect, if desired. Serve with crackers.

Grant Applications for Halifax Helps Are Available Online

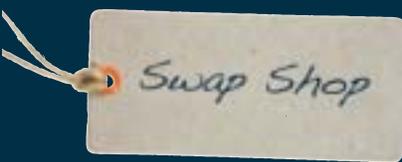
Funds raised through Operation Round Up will be administered through Halifax Helps. Organizations and/or individuals wishing to apply for a grant from Halifax Helps may pick up an application at the Enfield or Macon office of Halifax EMC. Applications are also available online at www.halifaxemc.com.

Grants are awarded for, but not limited to, charitable projects in the areas of economic development, education, emergency response, energy efficiency, and environment.



Individuals applying for a grant must live in Halifax EMC's service area. Organizations may be inside or outside Halifax EMC service area provided they provide services to Halifax EMC members.

Deadline for the first round of applications is March 31 and grants will be awarded at Halifax EMC's Annual Meeting on May 16.



For sale: Oak dining table w/4 chairs, 5' x 3', excellent condition, \$100; iron weight set w/various weights included, \$20; 3 16" tires, good condition, \$15 ea. Call: 252-826-5194 (Scotland Neck).

For sale: Queensize complete bed ensemble w/ decorative pillows, like new, \$35; man's leather jacket, lg size, new, \$40; ladies' black medium size coat, \$35. Call: 252-586-2671 (Littleton).

For sale: Hideaway sofa & chair; coffee table; Kenmore sewing machine w/cabinet.

For sale: Squire free standing wood stove/ glass doors & automatic fan, ex. condition, \$300; Whirlpool almond, side by side refrigerator/freezer, good condition, \$200; stainless steel over-the-range microwave, ex. condition, \$100; stainless steel gas cook top, \$40; kitchen cabinets/counter-top, BO. CALL: 252-586-5262 or 252-883-6474 (Hollister).

High Winds Blew Through Our Service Area Leaving Downed Power Lines, Trees, and Widespread Destruction

On Wednesday, January 7, our service area was hit hard by high winds, leaving in its path downed power lines, trees, and widespread destruction. Due to recent rains in the area the ground was softened easily, causing the uprooting of trees.

The areas that were hit the hardest were Inez and Lake Gaston around Elams and Northern Cove in Warren County and Scotland Neck and Hobgood in Halifax County.

Approximately 300 consumers were affected by this event and by Thursday morning all of our consumers had their power restored.



Halifax EMC Is Preparing for the 20th Annual 4-H Golf Tournament

Halifax EMC has been one of the sponsors of the Halifax County 4-H Superball Golf Tournament for the past 20 years. During this time the sponsors have raised over \$100,000 for the Halifax County 4-H program and Rural Life Center.

This year's tournament will be held on Friday, June 5 at Scotfield Country Club in Enfield. The tee off time will be 10 a.m., with a shotgun start. This is a special event in that it is the 20th annual tournament, but also it's a celebration of the 100th anniversary of 4-H.

If you would like to be a part of this special event, you may contact any one of the sponsors of the event—Halifax EMC, BB&T, Southern

Bank, or Halifax County 4-H—for an entry form. Deadline for entries is May 30.

Entry forms are also available on Halifax EMC's website at www.halifaxemc.com. Click on Youth Programs, then 4-H Superball.

There are various levels of sponsorship available. A prize of a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle will be awarded for a hole-in-one. Other exciting prizes will be awarded.

Entry forms and fees should be returned to:

Leona Padgette
Halifax EMC
P O Box 667
Enfield NC 27823