

Halifax EMC Scholarships

Seniors applying for Halifax EMC scholarships may also apply for the scholarships offered by the Volunteers In Action.

Halifax/Nash Community College Scholarships

Students interested in attending either Halifax Community College or Nash Community College may apply for a Halifax EMC scholarship through the financial aid office at either school. These scholarships are open to the traditional and non-traditional students. Any person living in a household served by Halifax EMC who is 18 years old or older may apply for these scholarships.



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Opportunities for Middle School and High School Students

Halifax EMC is providing opportunities for middle school and high school students. These are just a few of the ways that Halifax EMC is involved in its communities.

Basketball Camp Scholarships

Middle school students in grades 6-8 are eligible to apply for a scholarship to attend either the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at NC State for girls or the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill. To apply the student may go to www.ncelectriccooperatives.com to download an application. Letters have been sent to coaches and principals at the middle schools. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, March 31, 2010**. The dates for the camps are: Kellie Harper Basketball Camp will be held June 20-23; and the Roy Williams Basketball Camp will be held June 19-23.

Youth Tour for High School Juniors and Scholarships for Seniors

High school juniors have an opportunity to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC this summer the week of June 12-18. This is a fun-filled educational trip where students get to tour our nation's capital, visit with their congressional leaders, meet other students from across the state and nation, and have an opportunity to win college scholarships. For more information and to apply for the Youth Tour, go to www.halifaxemc.com and click on Youth Programs, Youth Tour and print out an application. **The deadline for applications is Sunday, February 28.**

High school seniors have an opportunity to apply for college scholarships offered by Halifax EMC and the Volunteers In Action. To apply, go to www.halifaxemc.com and click on Youth Programs, Scholarships to print out an application. The student's parents and/or guardian must be a member of Halifax EMC. **The deadline is Thursday, April 1.**

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

“Cold temperatures, extended days of usage, and holidays add up to higher bills..”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Over the past several months we have been experiencing higher than usual electric bills. There have been several causes which include colder than usual temperatures, extended billing cycles, and the holidays.

Because of the lower than normal temperatures heating systems have been running longer than usual. When the weather

is cold we have a tendency to turn the thermostat up. For each degree you can keep your thermostat below 70 degrees you can save as much as three percent on your heating costs. Wear layered clothing so that you can put on or take off as the temperature changes.

Another way to cut down on your electrical usage is to replace incandescent bulbs with CFL bulbs.

During the month of December we experienced an extended billing cycle. Check your electric bill to see if your billing cycle had anywhere from 3 to 5 days extra days in it. This will also account for a higher electric bill. We are in the process of changing out the standard electric meters to TWAC meters, which are automated meter reading meters.

We also enjoyed the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays

during this time. Not only did we enjoy the beautiful holiday lighting, we also enjoyed family and friends visiting, and holiday meals with family. More lights burned, more cooking occurred, more baths taken, and more

going in and out of the house. All of these things contributed to higher bills without us realizing it until we receive our electric bill.

To help keep your electric bills down, there are things that you can do. First, turn off any appliances that are not in use. For example, today's TVs continue to use electricity even when it is turned off. If no one is at home during the day, unplug your TV before leaving home or when you go to bed at night. Unplug chargers for cell phones and PDAs when not in use.

You may also consider levelized or budget billing to help shift some of the high usage to months when usage is normally low. Talk to one of our member services representatives to see if either of these methods would help you.

Remember, only you can control how much electricity you use. There isn't anything we can do about the weather, but we can control the thermostat.



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 go up as much as 50 percent this year. Almost half of that energy goes to heating and cooling your home. Lighting and appliances represent about a quarter. Home electronic products like computers, TVs, cordless phones, and cell phone chargers take a significant and growing share of what is left. One way to help with energy savings is through home weatherization.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federal program managed by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity. It is designed to help residents who meet federal low-income guidelines to lower their energy usage and costs. This is achieved by home weatherization and client education.

Weatherizing a home involves conducting an energy assessment to identify the most cost-effective energy improvements that need to be performed on the dwelling, and then making those improvements at no cost to the household.

The three major improvements performed in home weatherization are:

- reducing excessive air infiltration
- reducing heat loss through attics, walls and floors
- tuning or otherwise making the heating and air systems more efficient

The Weatherization Program is not a remodeling, maintenance or rehabilitation program. The amount that can be spent on each dwelling is limited. Incidental repairs to the home are made only to facilitate the installation and preservation of weatherization materials, not to improve the value of a home.

As a rule the Weatherization Program does not install windows or doors. On rare occasions a primary window may be installed, but only when necessary to reduce significant air leakage. This is considered a low-priority activity because it is not as cost effective as other improvements, such as attic, wall and floor insulation and locating and sealing air leakage sites. Program regulations prohibit the substitution of low-priority measures for more cost-effective ones.

Typical improvements requested that are **not** allowable include window and door replacements, roof or siding replacements, mobile home skirting, painting and mold remediation.

Those applying for Weatherization who assume their home will be remodeled or repaired often become frustrated. Other programs are better suited for remodeling or quick repair purposes. Other housing or human services agency should be contacted for home rehabilitation needs.

For more information on the Weatherization Program, contact the Office of Economic Opportunity at (919) 715-5850.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Zucchini Patties

1 cup Bisquick or other baking mix

½ cup shredded mozzarella or cheddar cheese

½ tsp salt

2 eggs, beaten

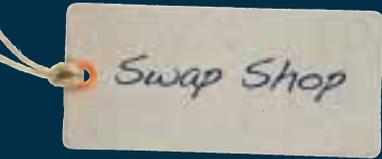
2 cups zucchini, shredded

2 tbsp chopped onion (Optional)

1 tbsp butter

Combine Bisquick, cheese, salt, eggs, zucchini and onion in a mixing bowl. Blend well. Melt butter in a large skillet. Spoon heaping tablespoons of zucchini mixture in skillet. Fry for 3–5 minutes per side, until golden browned. Place browned patties on a paper towel. Add more butter to skillet when necessary for additional batches.

Source: *Carolina Country Kitchen*, pg. 25.



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

Halifax EMC will be closed on Monday, January 18, for Martin Luther King Day!

We will re-open on Tuesday, January 19.

Cooperatives Offer Practical Help to Political Candidates

Across the country, local cooperatives have helped hundreds of political candidates learn more about running effective campaigns. Now, Halifax EMC, along with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, will hold a Campaign Academy in North Carolina. At the Campaign Academy, candidates will learn the dynamics of campaigns from instructors with real-world campaign experience.

The cooperatives' non-partisan Campaign Academy is open to potential candidates, first-time candidates or experienced candidates who need more knowledge about effective campaigns. Topics include:

- Effective fundraising
- State campaign finance laws
- Campaign communications
- The cost of a campaign
- Grassroots campaigning

Since their founding, cooperatives have built strong relationships with local community leaders, including elected officials. When candidates effectively communicate their messages, the voters also benefit. The Campaign Academy can help create better campaigns that help the candidates and the voters.

Anyone thinking about running for office, starting a campaign or running for re-election in a tough district can benefit from the knowledge gained at the Campaign Academy. The academy will be held in Greenville on Thursday, February 2 at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville. The cost is \$30 per person.

If you, or someone you know, would like to know more about effective campaign strategy, please call Brady Martin at 252-445-5113, ext. 2020 at Halifax EMC to learn more about the Campaign Academy, sponsored by your local electric cooperative.

Employees Recognized for Service & Safety

At the December safety meeting employees were recognized for their years of service and safety. Receiving a service and safety award was Rod Bozard for 30 years. Receiving safety plaques were Vivian Arrington for 35 years; Roger Chappell and Sandra Bryant for 15 years; Kathy Warren and Julia Allsbrook for 5 years.

Throughout the year all employees were recognized for their safety record at the safety meeting held during their anniversary month. Safety is an important fundamental when working around electricity.

Volunteers In Action Decorate Office for the Holidays

One of the many projects sponsored by the Volunteers In Action is decorating the offices of Halifax EMC. This was no exception. The offices were beautifully decorated in the spirit of the season.

And in the spirit of the season, the Volunteers also sponsored goodwill boxes that were given to a family in each of the four counties served by Halifax EMC. The food was donated by employees, directors, and volunteers of Halifax EMC.