

APRIL 2013

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Hali**facts**

HALIFAX ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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Teachers: Apply Now for Bright Ideas Education Grants!

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including Halifax EMC, are accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2013–14 school year. Teachers in K–12 classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$2,000.



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

over 1.5 million N.C. students have participated in approximately 8,300 Bright Ideas projects.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are committed to supporting local communities, and last year, Halifax EMC awarded \$6,000 in Bright Ideas funding directly to local teachers. Since 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$8.5 million in Bright Ideas grant funding, and well

Grant applications will be accepted Monday, April 1, through Sept. 20. It could pay to apply early: all teachers who submit their applications by the early-bird deadline of Aug. 16 will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 gift card.

Teachers can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply online, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.NCBrightIdeas.com.

Like Bright Ideas on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas for regularly updated information regarding the program.

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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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

“Don’t let the warmer weather turn into “summertime blues” when the electric bill arrives.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Summertime is just around the corner. Don’t let the warmer weather turn into “summertime blues” when the monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some tips from Halifax EMC on keeping your electric bill in check.

Adjust the Thermostat. As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates,

lowering a thermostat in the winter can save as much as \$85 a year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save you money, too. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering four pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year. Contact us to learn more.

Be a “fan-atic”. While they don’t replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent in electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Regular maintenance is essential. Halifax EMC recommends that members have their HVAC systems serviced annually by a NATE (North

American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check the entire system to make sure it is running efficiently. This will help to extend the life of the system and save money.

Look for ENERGY STAR equipment.

When it’s time to replace that cooling system,

TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model. This could reduce energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Tax credits and rebates on qualifying ENERGY STAR models may be available so check with us for more information.

Bigger isn’t always better. Too often, cooling equipment isn’t sized properly and could lead to higher electric bills. A unit that is too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors. That’s why it is important to talk to your Touchstone Energy expert at Halifax EMC.

Instead of getting burned this summer with high energy bills, check out Touchstone Energy’s energy-saving website,

TogetherWeSave.com, for more money-saving ideas or call the energy experts at Halifax EMC.



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America





Annual Meeting 2013

Remember to mark your calendar for the Co-op's upcoming Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, May 18, at Inborden Elementary/Enfield Middle School on Highway 481 in Enfield.

Register between the hours of 9–11 a.m. so that your name will be included in the drawing for door prizes, then participate in a free health screening, enjoy a continental breakfast provided by the Volunteers In Action, check out the booths and guest vendors, let the kids play outside and enjoy barbecue sandwiches and hot dogs provided by Abram's of Scotland Neck.

Important Dates

April 24	Notice of Annual Meeting & Ballots Mailed
May 15	Deadline for Ballots*
May 16	Validation & Counting Ballots
May 18	Annual Meeting (Inborden/Enfield Middle School)

* Return your ballot by May 15 in order to be entered in a drawing for an electric service credit.

Co-op To Kick-off 75th Anniversary Celebration at Annual Meeting!

This year marks a very special anniversary for Halifax EMC as it celebrates 75 years of business. In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created to bring electricity to rural areas. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration in May, 1935, with this designated purpose: To initiate, formulate, administer, and supervise a program of approved projects with respect to the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy in rural areas.

Believe it or not, many groups opposed the federal government's involvement in electrifying rural areas. However, farmers' purchases of electric appliances helped to increase sales for local merchants.

Like most rural areas, there was a need to bring electricity to rural parts of Halifax and Martin Counties, so nine men of vision came together and incorporated Halifax Electric Membership Corporation—a rural electric cooperative and the sixth electric cooperative established in North Carolina. The original incorporators, directors, and first members of Halifax EMC were Balfour Dunn of Scotland Neck; Sidney R. White of Scotland Neck; Thomas B. Moss of Enfield; B.A. Whitley of Enfield; E.V. Smith of Oak City; Paul Boseman of Enfield; William E. Powell of Enfield; Stanley C. Whitaker of Enfield and B.B. Everett of Palmyra.

On December 15, 1938, North Carolina's Secretary of State signed the document that created the new corporation. Just a few days later, the first meeting of the Board of Directors of Halifax EMC took place.

Join us Saturday, May 18, to kick off our 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Co-op's Annual Meeting.

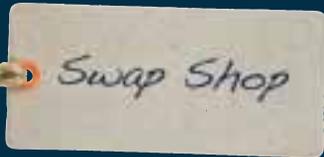
RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Quick Strawberry Jam

- 1 quart hulled strawberries
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 Tbs fresh lemon juice

In a food processor, process strawberries until coarsely chopped. Transfer to a large skillet and stir in sugar and lemon juice. Cook over medium-high, stirring frequently, until jam is thickened and bubbles completely cover surface, 9 to 10 minutes. Transfer jam to a jar and let cool to room temperature. (To store, seal jar and refrigerate, up to 10 days).

Source: *Martha Stewart Everyday Food*, June 2009



For sale: GE chest freezer, 18 cu ft, 10 yrs old, VGC \$125. Sofa, red/green/gold floral, exec. condition, \$175. Call: 252-257-5561 (Macon).

Tip of the Month

Keep energy efficiency in mind as the ground thaws and you plan spring landscaping. Properly selected and planted trees, shrubs, and bushes can create a windbreak that will lower home heating bills in the winter and insulate your home year-round. Before you start, check on the right plants and techniques for our climate at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Needs You!

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 9-3 of Lake Gaston, North Carolina and Virginia is looking for you. Join and volunteer to help keep the lake safe for residents, guests and all who come to enjoy their favorite water sports. If you are a boater and love the water, help make a difference. We need your contribution to continue our tradition of promoting excellent safe boating practices on Lake Gaston.

Remember to get your annual Vessel Safety Check (VSC) from our specially trained staff. They will provide you with a free VSC sticker to illustrate the responsible care you have shown caring for your boat. Ask our Auxiliary members about the new laws and be prepared to share your knowledge with family and friends.

More information is available at the monthly meetings held at 252 River Rd., Henrico, NC, 27842, the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. You may also call Janet Houston, Flotilla Commander at 252-586-3687 or Bob Crnkovic, Vice Commander at 252-586-6811.

—Janet Houston, FSO-PA



American Red Cross

Co-op To Host Enfield
Blood Drive
Thursday, April 11
12 noon–6 pm

Lake Gaston To Celebrate Birthday With a Splash

If you have not heard, this summer marks a special anniversary for Lake Gaston and big plans are under way to celebrate. The Lake Gaston 50th Birthday Splash kicks off on May 4. The 50-day celebration will include 50 events before concluding on June 22.

T-shirts bearing the official Splash logo are available at various outlets around Lake Gaston, including Ace Hardware of Lake Gaston, Mary Sherwood Lake Living and the Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center. Other fundraisers for the event include electing a faux Lake Gaston mayor as well as a 50/50 raffle. Monies raised from these fundraisers will pay for events that the Splash committee has planned.

A few events already on the calendar: An Upper Reach Loons Paddling event on Wednesday, May 8, the annual Wings and Wheels Fly-In at Halifax-Northampton Regional Airport on Saturday, May 11, and the Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center's annual Battle of the Barbecue on Saturday, May 25.

For more information about the Lake Gaston 50th Birthday Splash events, visit osail.org.

