



## this issue

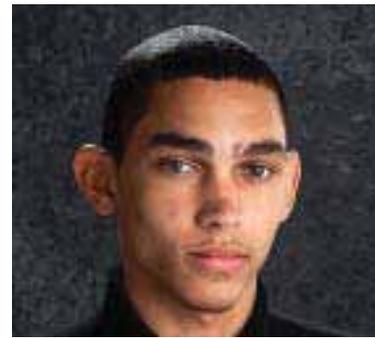
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## 2012 Youth Tourists Explore Nation's Capital



Two area high school students recently represented Halifax EMC on the 2012 Youth Tour to Washington D.C. Some 1,200 high school students from 40 states gather in Washington, D.C., for an all-expense-paid week in early June. Participants visit the historical sites they have studied about, learn about the rural electrification program and see U.S. Government in action.

JaR'eika (Jay) Smith lives in Scotland Neck and attends Southeast Halifax High School. She is the daughter of Wanda and Samuel Smith, Jr. As a rising senior, Jay participates in a variety of sports and is on track to be her class Valedictorian.

Michael Leonard resides in Warrenton and attends Warren New Tech High School. The son of Julia and Glen Leonard, Michael participates in basketball and baseball as well as Jets Club. He is interested in graphic design and when he is not hanging out with friends or playing sports he enjoys being a Warren County Jr. Firefighter.

HEMC was so excited to send these two high schoolers to Washington, D.C. We look forward to hearing about their experiences during the trip and their plans for their senior year of high school and beyond. Congratulations, Jay and Michael!



**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](http://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](mailto:bamartin@halifaxemc.com). Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



## Electric Lines

“People and businesses across the nation are facing economic challenges.”

by Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

As many of you may recall, if you attended the Co-op's Annual Meetings over the past few years, one of the topics discussed during the Executive Vice President's Report is the increasing costs of power generation. Due to these increasing costs, Halifax EMC along with many of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, are facing the need to implement a rate increase. Currently, there are a number of issues impacting the electric utility industry that are forcing cooperatives to examine existing pricing structures. There are three significant drivers of recent cost increases:

- Aging infrastructure
- Increasing regulations
- Changing consumer needs and expectations

People and businesses across the nation are facing economic challenges greater than those they've ever felt before. This is especially true in traditional rural cooperative service areas in North Carolina. Utility infrastructure has been in place for decades. It is aging and needs to be replaced or updated. The industry has been forced to comply with increased regulations, mainly environmental, in a compressed timeframe, which creates sharper cost increases. Changing consumer needs and expectations are compelling utilities to invest in new technologies and software to better manage data and processes. Those

new technologies also improve system efficiencies that provide value for all concerned over time.

While we are all working to mitigate the impact of these drivers, when combined, this set of challenges gives way to the need for a rate increase.

To provide its members with electricity at the lowest cost possible, Halifax EMC, along with most of the other electric cooperatives in North Carolina, belongs to the North Carolina Electric Membership

Corporation (NCEMC). NCEMC negotiates with regional power producers to purchase wholesale electricity in bulk for its member cooperatives. The cost of all of the components necessary to get the electricity to members is added to the wholesale electric rate to develop the cooperative's retail rate. Halifax EMC is a nonprofit business, so retail rates are set just high enough to meet the cooperative's financial goals. Because Halifax EMC is a cooperative, any margins (profits) the company earns are later returned to the members in the form of capital credits.

Halifax EMC is committed to providing reliable and affordable service to our members. In the coming months we will take a more in-depth look at the factors contributing to higher wholesale rates as well as give you no-cost and low-cost energy efficiency tips to help you control usage in your home and ultimately save you money.



**Our Energy, Our Future**

A Dialogue With America

## Water Heater Quick Tips

- Save \$73 a year by turning your water heater down to 120°.
- Try washing clothes with warm water and rinsing with cold. Or wash and rinse them with cold water.
- Install a water heater wrap per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Drain 1–2 gallons from the bottom of your water heater each year to reduce sediment build-up.
- Insulate exposed hot water lines.
- Try to use less hot water overall—this helps keep your costs down.
- Consider buying a new energy efficient water heater. It's best to start shopping for a new one if yours is more than seven years old.



For more energy efficiency tips, visit [www.halifaxemc.com](http://www.halifaxemc.com).

## Receive Alerts and Reminders by E-mail or Text

As mentioned many times in the past, Halifax EMC strives to better serve our members. Not only is providing safe, reliable service to our members a top priority, but so is meeting the technological needs of our members. Many of you already take advantage of our online bill pay service through the Co-op's website [www.halifaxemc.com](http://www.halifaxemc.com). If you do not currently use this method of payment but are interested in this service, check it out. All you need to create an online account is your HEMC account number.

Did you know that you can also have alerts and reminders pertaining to your account emailed or sent by text? To take advantage of this service, simply call the office at 252-445-5111 and speak to a Member Services Representative. There are several options to choose from. One

option is to have an email or text sent to remind you of your due date and it will allow you to choose the number of days prior to that date that you would like the message sent. Other options include a notification when due date has passed, an alert when your member profile has been updated, an alert if a check has been returned or rejected and also a payment confirmation when the bill is paid.

We hope that you will consider using this new service. Please note that you will need to provide either an email address or a mobile number to register for alerts and reminders. If you choose to receive text messaging, you will also be asked for the provider name (ex. Sprint, US Cellular, Verizon, etc.) of your mobile service. Standard text messaging rates apply.



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### Pear Sorbet

- 5 small pears, peeled and sliced
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sweet white wine or apple juice
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup sugar
- $4\frac{1}{2}$  tsps lemon juice

In a large saucepan, combine all ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered for 8–10 minutes or until pears are tender. Cool slightly.

Pour into a food processor; cover and process for 1–2 minutes or until smooth. Transfer to a 13-in. x 9-in. dish. Cover and freeze for 4 hours or until firm.

Just before serving, process again in a food processor for 1–2 minutes or until smooth. Spoon into dessert dishes.

Yield: 4 servings.

Source: *Taste of Home*

# Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline

The Bright Ideas education grant program, which awards funding to N.C. teachers for innovative classroom-based projects, is accepting applications. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Halifax EMC, have allocated more than \$600,000 to distribute to teachers across the state during the 2012-2013 school year. The final deadline to apply is September 21, and educators who apply by Friday, Aug. 17, will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

Classroom teachers are eligible to apply for Bright Ideas grants of up to \$2,000 for creative projects that would otherwise go unfunded. Educators can learn about the Bright Ideas program and apply online at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Last year, Halifax EMC contributed \$6,100 to local classrooms through Bright Ideas grants.

All teachers who apply by the Aug. 17 early-bird deadline will be entered to win the \$500 Visa gift card. The winner of the gift card will be selected at random and recognized on the Bright Ideas website and Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas](http://www.facebook.com/ncbrightideas).

Since the Bright Ideas program began in 1994, the electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$7.9 million in grant money to North Carolina's teachers to sponsor more than 7,700 projects benefiting more than 1.4 million students.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities. North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties



## Blood Drive

**Thursday, August 9,  
12 noon–6 p.m.**

**Halifax EMC  
Meeting Room**

## Enfield

We hope you will join us to give the gift of life. Blood donations are critically low this time of year and were lower the first five months of 2012 compared to last year.



## Holiday Closing

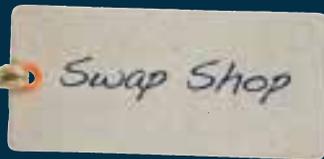
Halifax EMC

will be closed on

**Monday, September 3,**

in observance of

**Labor Day**



### 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).

The deadline for Halifax Helps applications is Friday, September 28!

The application is available online at [www.halifaxemc.com](http://www.halifaxemc.com).