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*Linda Bozard (left),  
Volunteers In Action Chair,  
presents Arnette Willey  
(right) with a plaque  
honoring her 35 years  
of service to the  
VIA Committee.*



**T**he Halifax EMC Volunteers In Action, along with the Halifax EMC Board of Directors, recently honored Arnette Willey for 35 years of dedicated service. Arnette was presented a plaque recognizing her years of service and commitment to the Volunteers In Action at a dinner prior to Halifax EMC's regular board meeting.

Arnette began volunteering in 1977 when the group was referred to as the Women's Committee. In those days, members of the committee served as the public relations arm of the Cooperative. They assisted the co-op in various ways from stuffing Annual Meeting notices in envelopes to taking member surveys. The ladies also collected and sorted recipes for a statewide cookbook and prepared member booklets to be mailed to members.

As technology prevailed, and a bill-stuffing machine was purchased

## Volunteer Member Honored for 35 Years of Service

by the Cooperative, the Committee shifted their focus to include more community outreach. One of the early programs included a New Member Visitation Program. Working in teams of two, within their own home communities, the women visited a random selection of new members. The purpose of the visitation was to give each new member a brief explanation of the Co-op's overall, non-profit operation, show him or her how to read a meter, explain the billing process and answer questions related to Halifax EMC.

In 1994 the Women's Committee changed its name to the Volunteers In Action and the duties of the Committee continued to evolve. Among many things, they assist the Cooperative at the Annual Meeting, raise money for scholarships and collect food items for goodwill baskets during the holiday season.

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



## Electric Lines

“Consider all the things you can do with a dollar’s worth of electricity.”

by Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

I’ve noticed that the amount of my weekly grocery bill has steadily been going up, up, and up some more over the past few years. When I stop to consider what my grocery bills were like 10 years ago compared to what they’re like today, that’s an eye-opener.

Consider this, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the aver-

age annual price increase for a loaf of bread from 2000-2010 was 4.2 percent. The price of ground beef went up 4.8 percent per year. Eggs? 6.5 percent per year.

And what about gasoline? The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the average price of gasoline has gone up a whopping 10.9 percent per year in the last decade.

In comparison, electricity prices have only increased 3.7 percent a year nationally for the last decade. As manager of Halifax EMC, I’m proud of that. We work hard to keep electricity, a 24-hour-a-day commodity, not just affordable, but also reliable.

Another way to think about the value of electricity is to consider all the things you can do with one dollar’s worth of electricity. You can:

listen to the radio for 117 hours, toast 1,108 slices of bread, make 132 milkshakes in a blender and run a CFL bulb for 641 hours. You can’t even buy a cup of coffee at most coffee shops for \$1.

As discussed in my message last month, the costs of power generation are increasing due to a number of factors such as aging infrastructure. Increasing

regulations as well as changing consumer needs and expectations. Halifax EMC, along with many of North Carolina’s electric cooperatives, are facing the need to implement a rate increase. Halifax EMC’s rate increase will take effect October 1, 2012. We will continue to do all that we can to provide our members with electricity at the lowest cost possible.

In today’s digital society, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster, or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that we at Halifax EMC are looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation, and putting you, our members, first.

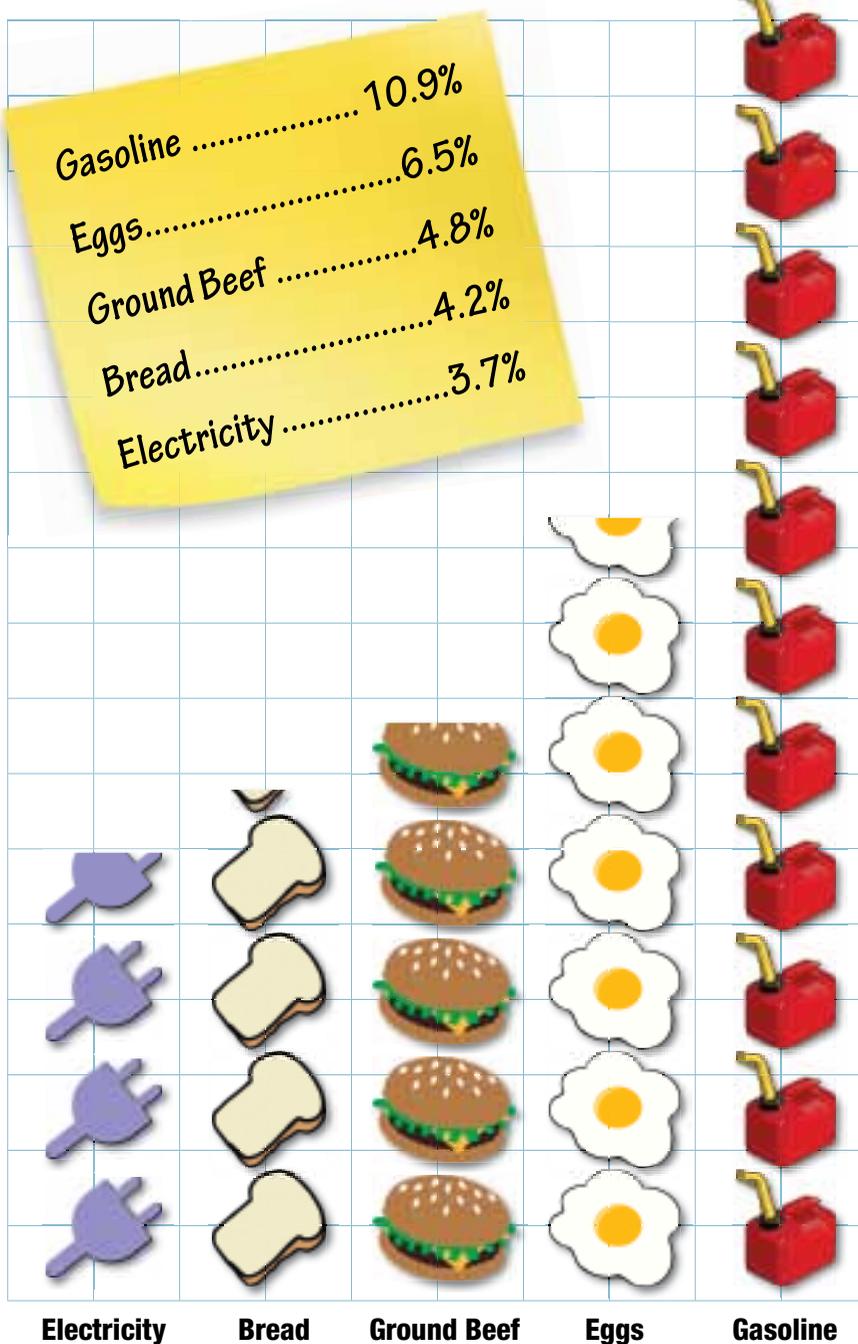


### Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America

# The Value of Electricity

Average Annual Price Increases: 2000-2010



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Grilled Apples

- 2 green apples, sliced
- 3 tbs. butter, melted
- 2 tbs. sugar
- 1 tbs. ground cinnamon

Preheat grill. Place apples in a medium bowl; set aside.

Whisk together butter, sugar and cinnamon until smooth. Pour over apples; toss to coat completely. Wrap apple slices in foil to cover. Place on grill and cook until softened and caramelized, about 30 minutes.

Source: [www.applerecipes.us](http://www.applerecipes.us)

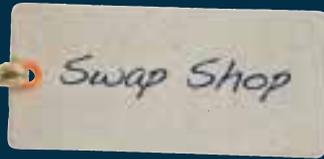
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Arnette has certainly seen this Committee change throughout her 35 years. Earlier this year, she decided it was time to step down from the Volunteers In Action and the Committee reluctantly accepted her resignation. They also voted to make Arnette an honorary member. "This is a meaningful and wonderful accomplishment," said Linda Bozard, Chair of the Volunteers In Action. "We made her aware that she is welcome to come to any meeting and attend any function as it fits into her schedule." She will truly be missed!

## Cookbooks For Sale

The Volunteers In Action have compiled a new cookbook. The cookbooks are \$10 each and are available at the Enfield and Macon offices.

Please contact Julia Allsbrook at [jallsbrook@halifaxemc.com](mailto:jallsbrook@halifaxemc.com) or 252-445-5111 to request a copy sent by mail.



### 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 Padgette, Scotland Neck).

### Halifax Helps

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

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

### Holiday Closing

The offices of Halifax EMC will be closed on Monday, September 3, for Labor Day

## Landscaping and Power Line Safety

Fall officially begins this month, and the cooler temperatures typically give way to lots of home improvement projects. Some of your projects might be around the yard. Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home's exterior a fresh look, but there's one thing many people don't consider before they start their landscaping projects—power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, familiarize yourself with this list of power line safety tips:

- Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. Halifax EMC has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren't too close to power lines, but if you happen to see any trees that may look too close, call your electric cooperative to send out a professional.
- If you have plans to build a tree house for your kids, be extremely cautious. Steer clear of all power lines to keep yourself and your children out of danger.
- Remember, ladders are conductors of electricity. It's best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn't inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.
- Call 811 before you dig (even if it's just to plant a tree or shrub), to identify where underground utility lines are buried. Digging around lines can cause serious injury or even death, as well as electrical outages. For more information regarding N.C. 811, please visit [www.nc811.org](http://www.nc811.org).
- The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) reminds you to "Look up! Look Down! Look Out!" This motto is especially important if your field of work requires you to be in the vicinity of power lines, because lines kill an average of 133 workers per year.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding those items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you're around power lines. Call your local cooperative if you have any questions or concerns about the power lines near your home.