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Linemen Complete ACE Program

In late August, four Halifax EMC linemen received a certificate of completion for the Advanced Certification and Engagement Program (ACE). Congratulations to Danny Saunders, Senior Lineman; John Lassiter, Senior Lineman; and Butch Vogel and Raymond Conner, both Linemen 1st Class. They were invited to the monthly board dinner and were presented their certificates by Board President Basil D. Williams and Executive Vice President Charles Guerry.

The program, which began last fall, is an in-house series of classes that cover a wide variety of topics. Staff members worked with Dan Cook from the North Carolina Statewide office to create the classes; line inspection, public speaking, basic member services, basic energy advisor and an insurance and management/benefit update.

The intention of the program is to give employees a well-rounded knowledge of Halifax EMC's day-to-day operations. It gives employees from different departments the opportunity to learn how each

department contributes to the co-op's daily operations as well as collaborate and share ideas based on differing perspectives. This knowledge basically gives employees more tools in their belt. The result is a "more confident employee and ambassador for the organization," said Charles H. Guerry, Executive Vice President and General Manager.

Several more employees will soon be receiving their ACE certificate contingent upon one requirement from the public speaking course they completed, which is to present a topic at the co-op's monthly safety meeting. At this time, approximately 12 employees have participated in the ACE training. The cycle of classes will begin again next year, giving employees who missed a class the chance to take it as well as giving other employees who did not participate this time around an opportunity to take classes. Halifax EMC is the first co-op in North Carolina to offer this type of training to its employees and is looking into collaborating with other co-ops to offer these courses together.

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

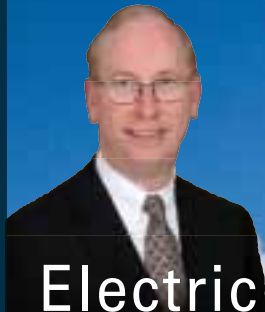
Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

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

“There are many benefits to choosing the prepay option.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

For quite some time now, Halifax EMC has been exploring the idea of offering residential members the opportunity to prepay their electricity bill. This option is certainly not a new idea in the electric utility industry and has proven to be quite successful for many other co-ops. Halifax EMC recognizes that some of our members could benefit from the many advantages of a prepaid electric billing system, which include no more deposits to pay, no more monthly electric bills, no more late payment penalty fees and direct control of your energy budget.

In August, Halifax EMC began offering Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service to all members. As mentioned earlier, there are many benefits to choosing the prepay option. Take for example a new member who may have to pay a security deposit. Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service would be a great alternative to a traditional billing account. Since the account is paid prior to using the electricity, the cooperative does not have to collect the normal security deposit. With Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service, you are required to pay a minimum of \$120.30 to begin service with Halifax EMC. This includes a \$10 membership fee, \$10.30 account processing fee and \$100 that is applied as a beginning credit balance on the electric account. Existing members who were required to pay a deposit and would like to switch to Pay-As-You-Go Electric

Service can have their deposit applied to the prepay account after paying their current bill and may convert to Pay-As-You-Go at any time.

Members who have prepaid service can easily budget their money. Prepaid members can make smaller payments during the month instead of waiting to pay a full month's bill at one time. For example, you can schedule payments to match when you get paid.

Another advantage of Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service is avoiding late, disconnect, and reconnect fees; which can really add up. With Pay-As-You-Go, payments are always made ahead of time, so members do not incur the normal fees associated with paying late or being disconnected. This has the potential to save members a significant amount of money over a year's time if they have regularly paid their electric bill late in the past.

Finally, Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service gives the member direct control of their own energy budget. With traditional billing, you receive a bill after you have used the electricity. This means you cannot do anything about how much you have used because it is in the past. Halifax EMC will send a notice to the member by phone, e-mail or text message when the balance is getting low. When a member knows their balance is low, they become more aware of how they are using their energy. Once they realize they are using a lot of electricity they begin to adjust the

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Piedmont EMC Branch:
2500 Highway 86 South
Hillsborough, NC 27278
877-469-0255

Roxboro Branch:
1125 Oxford Road
Roxboro, NC 27573
336-503-6700



The U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliary Needs You!

You are invited to share the many nautical adventures the Coast Guard Auxilliary has had during its 21 years on Lake Gaston.

The Coast Guard Auxilliary on Lake Gaston is a group of proud volunteers who need your assistance. The group asks that you join them in providing the community with various boating safety services. The U.S. Coast Guard helps with special training at their schools and online classes.

You can also participate in Coast Guard Webinar classes as well, from the comfort of your home.

For more information, stop by for a monthly meeting at 252 River Rd.

Henrico, NC 27842, the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Or call Tom Van Petten, Flotilla Commander at 252-586-5853 or Janet Houston, Vice Commander at 252-586-3687.



TAKE PRIDE IN SERVING YOUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY WHILE ENJOYING THE FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER FLOTILLA MEMBERS!

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thermostat, use less hot water, etc. It becomes a mindset that hopefully will carry on throughout each day. Studies have shown consumers who receive prepaid electric service tend to use 15% to 20% less electricity.

Members who use Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service can still make payments through all of our normal payment methods other than bank or credit card draft. Should a member

decide that Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service is not the best option, then the member can request to return to our traditional billing system (a security deposit may be required).

Halifax EMC continues to look for opportunities to better serve our members and believes that Pay-As-You-Go Electric Service can greatly benefit many of our members.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Buttermilk Cornbread

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup plus 3Tbsp. plain white cornmeal
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk

Preheat oven to 400°. Lightly grease an 9-inch cast-iron skillet, and heat in oven 5 minutes. Meanwhile, whisk together first 5 ingredients in a bowl; whisk in melted butter. Add eggs and buttermilk, whisking just until smooth. Pour batter into hot skillet. Bake at 400° for 30 to 33 minutes or until golden brown.

Source: Southern Living

Check Rooms For Safety Hazards

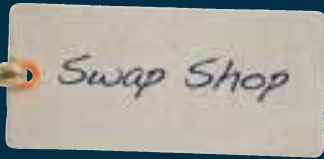
It's a fact—according to the National Safety Council, more accidents occur off the job than on the job for people of working age. Children and the elderly are the most likely groups to experience accidents at home. Most home accidents are preventable and result from a lack of home maintenance. Use the following checklist to spot possible safety hazards in your home.

- **Kitchen:** Make sure all of your appliances carry an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) seal, which means the item was tested and found safe to use. Check electrical cords for fraying or cracking, step stools for splitting or cracking and throw rugs for tripping hazards like bumps and turned-up corners.
- **Living room:** Just as you did in the kitchen, check rugs and runners, electrical cords, lamps and other lighting. Have a professional inspect the fireplace and chimney for fire hazards, and make sure all passageways are clear.
- **Bathroom:** Make sure small appliances, like hairdryers and curling irons, are marked with a UL seal and are plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet. These outlets monitor electricity flowing in a circuit and

trip the circuit if an imbalance is detected, protecting people from electric shock. Check the bathtub, shower, rugs and mats for slipping hazards and make sure cabinets that contain medicines or cleaning supplies are inaccessible to children.

- **Bedrooms:** Examine rugs, runners, electrical and telephone cords, and make sure the area around the bed is clear of items that could cause you to trip.
- **Basement/garage/workshop:** Make sure all power tools bear the UL mark. Check fuse and breaker boxes for possible malfunction. Inspect extension cords and cords on tools and lawn and garden supplies for fraying. Check for proper ventilation and make sure flammable liquids are stored in appropriate containers and at an acceptable temperature.
- **Stairs:** Make sure there's proper lighting on and around stairways. Examine handrails and steps for possible defects or weaknesses, and test stair coverings for possible tripping hazards.

If you notice a potential problem in your home, arrange for it to be fixed immediately to prevent accident or injury.



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).

Co-op Welcomes New Employee

The Co-op welcomes aboard Donnie Johnson as an Apprentice Lineman. Donnie and his wife Rachael have a 2-year-old son and currently reside in Pinetops. Donnie received his Electric Lineman Certificate from Nash Community College. He enjoys spending time with his family, attending church and his hobbies include hunting, fishing, basketball and baseball.



Annual Craft Fair Is Set

The Adventurers of Lake Gaston Baptist Church will hold the 5th Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, **November 3, from 9 a.m to 3 p.m.** The craft fair will be held at the church located at 128 Lynwood Road in Littleton (across from Subway). Items for sale include quality crafts and baked goods/food. Door prizes will also be drawn. Begin your holiday shopping and support the community!