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Participating Hardware Stores

ACE Hardware
of Lake Gaston

Lake Gaston
Supply Company

Littleton True
Value Hardware

Norlina Hardware
& Appliance

A big thank you to all of the participating hardware stores for their donations of tools and supplies for our Energy Volunteers!

Warren County Co-op Members Participating in Pilot Energy Saving Project

HEMC is now offering FREE home energy saving workshops to its members in Warren County. Workshop attendees will get coupons for discounts and rebates of 35 percent off energy-saving supplies (caulk, for example) at the participating local hardware stores listed at left.

These workshops are part of a pilot program brought to Warren County by Clean Energy Durham. Clean Energy Durham is a non-profit organization that has pioneered a neighborhood-based energy outreach model in Durham County over the past four years. It invited Halifax EMC to participate in this program, which got under way in August. The program is supported through funding from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Workshops will be taught by Energy Volunteers for groups of neighbors, typically in one neighbor's home, and are designed to be fun as well as educational. Workshops are being scheduled now through April 2012.

Modeled after the successful neighbor-to-neighbor energy education program in Durham, the first step was to find HEMC members in

the Warren County area willing to become Energy Volunteers in their community. Energy Volunteers were taught basic facts about how household energy is typically used and wasted, no-cost and low-cost ways to reduce home energy bills, and how to teach some easy do-it-yourself projects such as wrapping a water heater and sealing cracks around doors and windows.

HEMC had eight members apply to become Energy Volunteers. The free training began in September and the Energy Volunteers attended 15 hours of training classes which were provided by Clean Energy Durham staff. As part of their training, the Energy Volunteers agree to go out in the community and lead seven 1½ hour workshops teaching others how to save on their home energy bills.

CALL NOW to sign up for a workshop near you and save money this winter! Call Julia Allsbrook at 252-445-5113, extension 2034.

Energy Volunteers pictured above: Kneeling Front: (L-R) Tom Higgins – Clean Energy Durham, Brady Martin – Halifax EMC; Standing 1st Row: Lori Silver (Warrenton), Jeanette Walker (Littleton), Tabitha Silver (Warrenton), Judith Alston (Warrenton); Back Row: Stan Hawkins (Littleton), Loyd Hawkins (Littleton), Pat Bello (Macon), and David Duxbury (Littleton)

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

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

“Tax credits are beneficial because they directly reduce dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Last month I discussed Halifax EMC’s rebate program for qualifying heat pumps as well as the Energy Smart Loan available through ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union. This month I thought I would remind our members of the tax credits for energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Tax credits are beneficial because they directly reduce dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.

Since 2005, Congress has enacted a series of tax breaks for consumers who take steps to make their homes more energy efficient.

In December of 2010, Congress approved the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010. This law extends the tax credits for energy efficiency into 2011, although at much lower levels. It reduces the total lifetime credit that can be claimed on energy efficiency improvements made between 2006 and 2011 (excluding 2008, when no credit was available) from \$1,500 to \$500.

It also lowers the percentage of efficiency upgrade costs consumers can recover, from 30 percent in 2009–2010 to 10 percent in 2011.

Basically, energy efficiency tax credits revert to levels approved for

2006 and 2007, before the federal stimulus bill.

There’s also a lifetime cap of \$500 for any work that’s done. If you got more than \$500 in these tax credits from 2006–2010, you are not eligible for anything more. But if you haven’t applied for an energy efficiency tax credit before, this extension gives you a chance to recoup some of the costs

needed to make your home more efficient.

There are maximum allowances for different upgrades such as installing more efficient windows (\$200)

or installing a new water heater, air conditioner, air source heat pump or biomass stove (\$300). For details on specific product requirements that qualify for the tax credit, visit www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Here you will also find information on renewable energy tax credits which do not expire until December 31, 2016.

To claim the credit on your taxes you will need to file the 2011 version of IRS Form 5695 (available in early 2012). Make sure to save your receipts and the Manufacturer’s Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Manufacturers should provide these Certifications on their websites.



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America



Holiday Cooking Safety

Preparing a complex holiday meal can be chaotic, especially when you're surrounded by distractions, as many of us are during the holidays. This year, take a few minutes to learn some kitchen safety tips to ensure a safe, joyful and scrumptious holiday season.

- To prevent kitchen fires, never leave any pot or pan on the stove unattended.
- Keep anything that can catch fire (potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels or curtains) away from the stovetop.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, but not near the stove. Consider keeping a fire extinguisher by the kitchen door. That way it is visible and accessible.
- Read and familiarize yourself with your fire extinguisher's directions for use before there's a fire.
- Inspect your fire extinguisher at least once a month. Make sure the pressure is at the recommended level (the needle should be in the green zone), the nozzle and other parts are not damaged, the pin is intact and there are no visible signs of damage. Some manufacturers recommend shaking your dry chemical extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling/packing.
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.
- If there is a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Do not proceed to open the door until the fire is out. If possible, unplug the appliance if you can reach the outlet safely.
- Check your appliances on a regular basis to make sure they are unplugged.
- Never overload outlets when cooking.
- When children are around, be sure to use the back burners on your stove top as much as possible to prevent burns.

The holiday season is meant to be a festive time spent with family and friends. Practice safe cooking techniques during this special time to protect yourself and your loved ones.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mini Pumpkin Tarts

- 3 pkgs Athens Mini Fillo Shells
- 1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
- 2 cups (plus extra for garnish) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 tsp (plus extra for garnish) pumpkin pie spice
- 1 (3.4 oz.) package cheesecake-flavor instant pudding and pie fillings
- Mint leaves (for garnish)

Remove the shells from freezer and let thaw at room temperature for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, combine the pumpkin, whipped topping, and pumpkin pie spice in a medium bowl, whisking until smooth. Add the pudding mix and whisk until smooth and thick. Spoon 1 tbsp of the filling into each of the shells. Top with whipped topping, a sprinkling of pumpkin pie spice and a mint leaf, if you like. Makes 45 tarts.

Source: FamilyFun.com

Upcoming Community Events

It's already November and the holidays are upon us! This time of year is especially busy and bustling with activity. Here are just a few upcoming events to mark on your calendar.

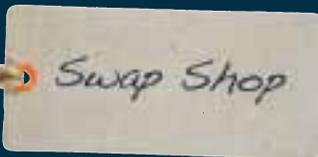
Lakeland Theatre Company and Warren One on One Youth Mentoring Program present "That's What Friends Are For" with Brady Martin and Steve Hyman. Joined by other Lakeland performers, they will take the stage for a one-weekend-only show, benefiting Lakeland and local children's charities. Show schedules are as follows: Friday and Saturday night, November 4 and 5, at 8:00 p.m. and a special Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. on November 6. For details or reservations, call Lakeland at 252-586-3124 or 1-877-330-0574.

Join Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park for Moonlight in the Park on Saturday, November 12. This event will be a special night of fine dining, live entertainment and a live auction. All proceeds support Sylvan Heights. If you'd like to purchase tickets or donate a special item for the auction, please contact Sylvan Heights at 252-826-3186.

On December 2-3, the Downtown Enfield Restoration and Preservation Committee will sponsor FALL for Enfield, a downtown festival featuring open houses with participating merchants. The hours are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Prize drawings will be held, and refreshments offered, at all locations. Participating sites are Mears Etc Etc; Aunt Ruby's Peanuts; Jennie's Beans and Buns; Rowe-Drum Antiques; Delresa Silver Designs; Bellamy Manor and Gardens; The Lodge at Roanoke Valley; Yoga Magnolia; Clarke Screen Designs; Holley's Flower and Gift Shop; Enfield Real Estate; and local artists, Joyce Ross, watercolorist, and Napoleon Hill, muralist.

Other events you will not want to miss:

- Enfield Christmas Parade Saturday, November 26, 2 p.m.
- Christmas in Halifax Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Come and celebrate a Colonial Christmas at Historic Halifax State Historic Site



Cleaning: Commercial and residential cleaning services. For more details contact divadusters01@gmail.com or Call: 252-567-5454/406-7306 (Diva Dusters, Jamie Dunn/Robin Alston, Enfield).

Cleaning: Bonded and Insured for residential and commercial. Call: 252-308-2024 (HCPCleaning Services, Betty, Lake Gaston).

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).

HALIFAX EMC WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, FOR THANKSGIVING.



FEELING GRATITUDE AND NOT EXPRESSING IT IS LIKE WRAPPING A PRESENT AND NOT GIVING IT.

~ WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD