

## this issue

Electric Lines 22

Recipe 23

Energy Efficiency Tip 23

Holiday Cooking Safety 24

## Celebrating Bright Star

Halifax EMC's first solar project, Bright Star 1 Green Energy Plant, celebrated a birthday in October! In honor of Bright Star's 5th birthday we would like to share a few details.

Commissioned on Friday, October 22, 2010, Bright Star is located on NC Highway 481 in Enfield. The 98.56 kW ground-mount system consists of 448 photovoltaic panels.

Bright Star was the first utility-owned solar project in North Carolina. Did you know that as a member-owner of Halifax EMC, you also own a share of this solar facility?

Now for some fun facts. Bright Star has generated 672,773 kWh. What does this equate to? Here are just a few energy comparison loads:

- 152 4-person households
- 47,094,138 cups of coffee
- 6,727,734 hours of watching television
- 1,681,933,500 times of using an electric shaver



Using solar electricity also helps offset the greenhouse gases emitted into the air. By generating 672,773 kWh, Bright Star has allowed us to avoid 656 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

So, what have you learned? First, as a member-owner of Halifax EMC, you are part of something bigger. You became a part of Halifax EMC's history when Bright Star was connected to the system in 2010. Second, you are helping the planet by reducing greenhouse gases.

Thank you for making a difference!  
Happy Birthday, Bright Star!

**Charles H. Guerry**

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

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[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

“Living in the U.S. in 2015, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity.”

by Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

In the holiday movie classic “It’s a Wonderful Life,” the lead character wishes he’d never been born due to his financial troubles. But through the help of an angel, George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart) sees how many lives would have been negatively affected if he didn’t exist. George comes to realize that, even with his problems, he has a wonderful life with great friends and family.

So what do you think life would be like if community leaders had not founded Halifax EMC 77 years ago?

Living in the U.S. in 2015, it is nearly impossible to imagine life without electricity. So many of our modern conveniences that improve the quality of our lives are dependent on electricity as the “fuel” to make them work. From the alarm clock that wakes us up, to the refrigerator that keeps our morning milk cold and fresh. From the HVAC unit that keeps us cool in the summer and warm in the winter, to the vacuum that lets us clean more efficiently and all those kitchen appliances that save us time and physical energy. Of course,

so much of our entertainment, whether it comes from the TV, radio or computer, depends on the kilowatt-hours that your electric co-op provides. Just think, there would be no smartphones or cell phones if there were no electricity.

Businesses of all kinds rely on electricity to produce and sell the products we need. So, it is no wonder that many electric co-ops feel that, while our primary product is electricity, we are really in the quality of life business.

As we celebrate the season that reminds us to be thankful for all that we have, it is important to remember the 1.3 billion people in the world that still live without reliable electric service. That number is about four times the U.S. population!

Many of the things we take for granted living in the U.S. are much harder and more time consuming for people in developing countries around the world. We are proud members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that is working through its affiliate, NRECA International, and the NRECA International

*Continued on pg. 23*



Continued from pg. 22

Foundation to help bring power to people in developing countries like Haiti and Liberia. [www.nreca.coop/it-starts-with-power](http://www.nreca.coop/it-starts-with-power)

We are thankful that our community ancestors had the vision and foresight to do what needed to be done, gathering friends and neighbors to form our electric co-op. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can

count on Halifax EMC to meet all of your electric energy needs. More importantly, we are here to help improve the quality of your wonderful life.

*Source: Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at [aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop](mailto:aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop)*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps like lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### 3-Ingredient Slow Cooker Apple Spice Cake

- 2 (20 oz.) cans apple pie filling
- 1 box spice cake mix
- 8 oz butter

Mix all ingredients together. Cook in crockpot 2 to 2½ hours on high.

# Holiday Cooking Safety

Cooking is one of the most popular ways to celebrate the holidays and as the holiday season begins, people all over will dust off their aprons and head back into the kitchen.

Use cooking as a way to gather with family and friends, but make sure everyone is acquainted with some kitchen safety basics before getting started.

## Before and After Cooking:

- Be sure that there is a fire extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen. Make sure everyone in your home knows where the fire extinguisher is and how to use it.
- Don't let grease build on range tops, ovens or toaster ovens. Grease is a fire hazard, and remember, water should never be used to extinguish a grease fire.
- Keep flammable items, such as paper towels, plastic bags and holiday decorations, at least three feet away from range tops.
- Carefully read and follow the operating instructions of your kitchen appliances before using them.
- Never plug kitchen appliances into extension cords. This could overload the outlets and cause a fire.
- Plug all appliances directly into outlets when you are using them, and be sure to unplug them when you're finished. Not only is unplugging appliances safer, but it also saves energy.



## While Cooking:

- Never use cooking appliances near the sink or any other wet areas.
- When you are cooking on your range top, turn pot handles toward the back of the range to prevent children from reaching up and pulling down a hot pot or pan.
- Always stay in the kitchen when you are cooking anything on the stove or in the oven. If you have to leave the kitchen, turn these appliances off while you are gone.

Take extra precautions if you're planning a more elaborate meal, like a fried turkey. Never try to use a turkey fryer indoors, even if you think it may be too cold to cook outside. These devices are serious fire hazards. Read the extensive safety instructions that come with turkey fryers very carefully.

Follow these simple cooking safety tips and enjoy the meals you share with your family and friends this holiday season.



Halifax EMC  
will be closed  
for Thanksgiving on  
**Thursday, November 26,**  
&  
**Friday, November 27**

