

DECEMBER 2011

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1-800-690-0522

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HALIFAX ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

this issue

Electric Lines 22

Recipe 23

Christmas Tree Safety 23

Blood Drive 24

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY BE MERRY **and** BRIGHT

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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

“Safety must be a priority when decorating.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

For many of us, putting up holiday decorations can sometimes turn into a friendly competition among neighbors. Determined to have the best-looking house in the neighborhood, some people are willing to hang miles of icicle lights and plug in scores of inflatable snowmen just to outdo the neighbors. However festive, these embellishments also add electrical strain to your home, and safety must be a priority when decorating. Follow these tips to ensure a safe, joyful holiday season:

- Only use outdoor lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards. Be sure to check to see if the lights you're using are certified for outdoor use.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage.
- Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tracks when hanging lights.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare

wires or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.

- Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold and installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.
- Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights—they could unravel and inadvertently wrap around power lines.





Christmas Tree Safety

There are also a few tips to remember when purchasing a Christmas tree. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, Christmas trees account for 250 fires annually, resulting in 14 deaths, 26 injuries and millions of dollars in property damage, so take heed.

- Keep your tree well hydrated. Dry branches can ignite when they come in contact with lights.
- Never use electric decorations on an aluminum tree.
- If your tree is artificial, make sure it is fire retardant.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as a heater, vent or fireplace.
- When disposing of your tree, never put the branches in the fireplace. Rather, take your tree to a recycling facility or have it discarded by a community pick-up service
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.



Plan accordingly this season to guarantee a merry holiday!



The offices of
Halifax EMC
will be closed on
Friday, December 23, and
Monday, December 26,
for Christmas and
Friday, December 30,
for the New Year.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Jet-Puffed Marshmallow "Truffles"

- 1 tub (7 oz.) BAKER'S Dark Semi-Sweet Dipping Chocolate
- 20 Jet-Puffed Marshmallows
- ¼ cup multi-colored sprinkles

Microwave chocolate as directed on package.

Dip marshmallows one at a time, in chocolate, turning to evenly coat each marshmallow. Gently shake off excess chocolate.

Place a single layer on sheet of waxed paper; top with sprinkles. Refrigerate 20 minutes or until chocolate is firm.

Source: kraftrecipes.com



**Co-op To Host Enfield
Blood Drive
Thursday, December 8,
Noon–6 p.m.**

Tips for a Successful Donation

- Maintain a healthy iron level in your diet by eating iron rich foods, such as spinach, red meat, fish, poultry, beans, iron-fortified cereals and raisins.
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Drink an extra 16 oz. of water and fluids before the donation
- Eat a healthy meal before your donation—avoid fatty foods - tests for infections done on all donated blood can be affected by fats that appear in your blood for several hours after eating fatty foods.
- If you are a platelet donor, remember that your system must be free of aspirin for two days prior to donation.
- Remember to bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID.
- Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow.
- Let the phlebotomist know if you have a preferred arm and show the staff any good veins that have been used successfully in the past to draw blood.
- Relax, listen to music, talk to other donors or read during the donation process.
- Enjoy a snack and a drink in the refreshments area immediately after donating.
- Drink plenty of fluids over the next 24–48 hours to replenish any fluids you lost during donation.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity or heavy lifting for about five hours after donation.
- If you feel light-headed, lie down, preferably with feet elevated, until the feeling passes.

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For sale: Wind-Power brand generator, 120-240 Volt, 1440 Watts continuous duty, 60 Hz, 3600 rpm PTO drive, \$2,500 Call: 252-445-5111, ask for Sonny Haney.

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).