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Merry Christmas

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

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Vivan Arrington
Arthur Bailey
Lauren Bowser
Rod Bozard
Chad Bryant
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Hali-facts

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& General Manager*

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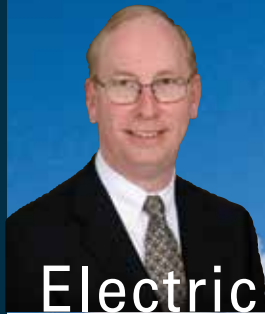
Locations

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@halifaxemc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



Electric Lines

These energy efficiency tips help renters save on their power bills.

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 33 percent of Americans lease their homes. Unfortunately, many lease agreements forbid major alterations to rental properties. But don't worry, renters! Consider using these low-cost, energy efficiency tips from Halifax EMC to improve the efficiency of your home this winter.

Hot savings

Heating the home typically makes up about 48 percent of your utility bill. Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter—Energy.gov recommends 68 degrees Fahrenheit to boost energy efficiency.

During the winter months, take advantage of heat from sunlight. Open draperies and shades during the day to allow natural light to heat your home. Remember to close them in the evenings as the temperature drops and windowpanes become chilly.

Does your home have window air conditioning units? This winter, remember to insulate the units from the outside with a tight-fitting cover, available at your local home improvement center or hardware store. This keeps heated air from escaping outside. If desired, you can remove the window unit during winter months to prevent energy loss.

Another way to save on heating is to make sure your water heater is set at the lowest comfortable setting. Older models of water tanks are often not insulated, which can be easily

remedied by covering them with an insulating jacket.

Bright ideas

Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy, and savings are not strictly limited to winter months. Try replacing a few of your most frequently used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified lights, and save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. ENERGY STAR-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy and light emitting diodes (LEDs) use up to 80 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs, and last several times longer, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs. Practicing energy-efficient habits is another great way to reduce energy use. Always turn off your lights when leaving a room.

Other ways to save

Renting or leasing an older home or apartment? Odds are you have single-pane windows and old or missing caulk. Don't let the winter chill seep indoors! Apply caulk around window frames, sashes and door panels to combat air leaks. Also, be mindful when using electronics at home. Unplug devices when not in use, and use smart power strips to save on energy use. To learn more ways to be energy efficient around the home, visit www.energy.gov.

Original article written by Abby Berry, NRECA writer on consumer and cooperative affairs.



Halifax EMC Lineman Places Second in Statewide Competition

Congratulations to Chad Bryant, lineman II. He placed second in a time of 2:15.86 at North Carolina's electric cooperatives' statewide Pole Top Rescue Competition on Oct. 16. This year's competition had two categories based on the type of fall restraints used by the competitors. One group secured themselves in the traditional way with a lifeline and life hook, while the other group used personal fall restraints that protect from falls during the ascent and descent. Bryant finished in second place and took home a \$500 prize for those competing in the category with the traditional lifeline and life hook.



Bryant has been with Halifax EMC for a year and a half but was previously employed by another electric cooperative in North Carolina. Bryant's father, Charles Bryant of Roanoke EC, also participated in the Pole Top Rescue competition this year. Chad says his father's career as a lineman influenced his decision to become a lineman.

To read more about this father and son, check out pages 12–13 inside this issue of Carolina Country.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Lineman's Chicken and Rice

- 1 whole chicken
- 2 10¾ oz. cans cream of mushroom soup
- 2 10¾ oz. cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 stalk of celery, chopped
- 1 med. sweet onion, chopped
- ½ stick butter
- 1 lb. rice
- salt & pepper to taste

Boil chicken until it falls off the bone. Remove chicken from pot. Remove all bones and skin. Chop chicken into small chunks and place back in broth. Add soups and ½ stick of butter. Add onion and celery and simmer until celery is tender. Add rice and let simmer until rice is cooked. Serve with a side of cornbread. Serves 15 people.

*Source:
Mike Butts,
Lead Staking Technician,
Halifax EMC*



American Red Cross

Co-op To Host Enfield Blood Drive
Thursday, December 11
12:30-4:30 p.m.

Holiday Closing

Halifax EMC
will be closed

December 24 and 25
(Wed. and Thurs.)

in observance of
Christmas



Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/halifaxemc

Director Earns Board Leadership Certificate

Halifax EMC Director Stan Brothers recently earned the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from NRECA.

The Certificate can be attained after earning the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) and then completing a total of 10 credits from courses provided by NRECA.

Director Brothers received the CCD in 2008.

Pictured right: Halifax EMC EVP Charles Guerry, Director Stan Brothers and Board President Beverly Walker.



Member Survey Coming Soon!

Valued Members, your Electric Membership Cooperative will be conducting a residential consumer survey later this year. Rural Utilities Service (RUS) requires Halifax EMC to conduct a consumer survey at least every 5 years. The purpose of this survey is to collect information needed to plan for the future. A sample of our members will be randomly selected for the survey. Your participation in this survey, although voluntary, is very important to us, so please consider completing the survey if you receive a notice in the mail. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your effort to participate in the survey.

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