

DECEMBER 2016

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Hali**facts**

HALIFAX ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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WISHING YOU A MERRY Christmas

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Craig Abbott
Julia Allsbrook
Vivian Arrington
Lauren Bowser
Rod Bozard
Sandra Bryant
Mike Butts
Jill Causey
Roger Chappell
Raymond Conner
Wanda Cooke
Sandy Cox
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Gerald Hale
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BY HALIFAX ELECTRIC
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION,
ENFIELD, NC. COMMENTS,
ARTICLES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS
ARE WELCOMED.

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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

“Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions—from the way we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Halifax EMC value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. For the past 27 years Halifax EMC has supported Halifax County 4-H as a co-sponsor of a golf tournament fundraiser. The co-op also supports area Relay for Life events as well as the Roanoke Valley United Way. Halifax EMC employees annually gather items for food baskets to be delivered to those in need during the holidays.

Halifax EMC members help us give back, too. Through the Operation RoundUp program,

members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community.

So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did.

Meghaan Evans contributed to this column. She writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Daniels Retires After 33 Years of Service

Coworkers and family recently gathered to honor Phenious A. (P.A.) Daniels' 33 years of service to Halifax EMC and celebrate his retirement.

A well-known face to many co-op members, P.A. began his career at HEMC in 1983 as a member of the right-of-way maintenance crew. From there P.A. worked his way up to the position of lineman first class. For the past 10 years he has worked in the position of meter reader/collector.

P.A. will certainly be missed at HEMC not only by his fellow employees but also by the members. He has always been



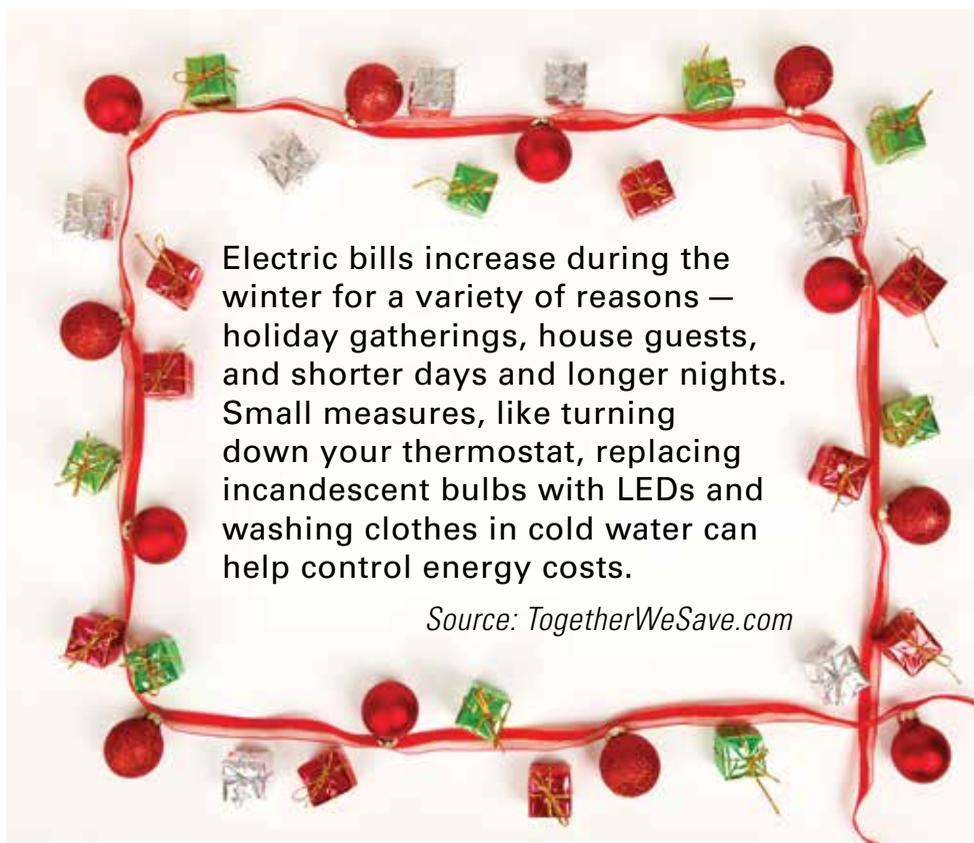
quick to offer a hand to anyone in need. We are thankful for his dedication and loyal friendship over the years.



Co-op to host
Enfield Blood Drive
Thursday, December 8
12:30 pm–4:30 pm

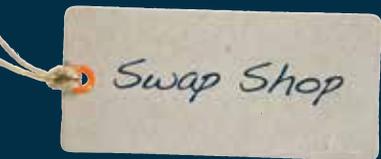
Holiday Closings

Friday, December 23
Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons — holiday gatherings, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com



For sale: Rat Terrier/Feist/
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Hurricane Matthew: Counting Our Blessings

Back in October, like many eastern North Carolinians, Halifax EMC employees carefully monitored weather forecasts anticipating Hurricane Matthew's path. The co-op reviewed its storm plan to make sure all employees were prepared to respond should members begin to lose power. Restoring power quickly and safely is Halifax EMC's priority.

Hurricane Matthew made its way into Halifax EMC's service territory on a Saturday morning, and as weather conditions worsened throughout the day, co-op members began experiencing outages and the on-call crew began responding. Outage numbers continued to rise during the afternoon and all line crew members reported for duty. Impeded by overwashed roads, fallen trees, debris and flooding, Halifax EMC line crews worked diligently to repair the distribution system as safely and quickly as possible.

"Storm preparation is important in the electric utility industry, but there are some situations you cannot prepare for," said

Charles Guerry, Executive Vice President and General Manager at Halifax EMC. As conditions deteriorated and darkness fell, two members of the Halifax EMC line crew found themselves in a life-threatening situation. While traveling along Highway 903, unbeknownst to the crew, the road had collapsed from fast-moving currents, sending the pickup truck with the two line crew members several hundred feet down stream with the rushing waters. The truck became lodged between trees and as waters rose swiftly, they climbed on top of the truck and waited for rescue.

Roanoke Valley Rescue Squad and their Swift Water Rescue team, along with the Scotland Neck Voluntary Fire Department, were able to rescue both crew members several hours later.

Thankfully no one was seriously injured, just shaken up. The decision was then made by the cooperative to cease repair efforts until daylight hours the next day. We are certainly counting our blessings that these men returned home to their families!

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