

Along the LINE

AUGUST 2023

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Thompson Participates in Youth Tour

The Washington Youth Tour is an annual, weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip for rising high school seniors in our service area. Caleb Thompson attended this year's trip representing Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

The Youth Tour is a nonpartisan experience with the goal of helping students gain an understanding of American history and how the decisions elected officials make affect their state and their lives. It is a prestigious event in which thousands of high school students from across the nation join together to gain an understanding of our nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, as well as the many costs of those freedoms.



On the first night of orientation, Thompson captivated the audience of 42 fellow youth tourists and their families with an inspiring speech, focusing on two fundamental cooperative principles: Open and Voluntary Membership and Democratic Member Control.

While in D.C., the tour participants visited famous sites such as the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Smithsonian Museums, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Vietnam Memorial. They met with their congressmen, took an evening boat ride on the Potomac, and

attended a youth night with participants from other states.

Impacting the lives of the youth of today is extremely important to the cooperative community. The mission of the Youth Tour, sponsored by local electric cooperatives across the United States, is built on the belief that textbooks and lectures alone are not enough to help students understand the democratic process and gain the skills necessary to become tomorrow's leaders. Rather, today's teenagers also need an opportunity to experience government first-hand by visiting the nation's capital, meeting their representatives and senators and engaging in interactive workshops and discussions.

By educating our high school students and enhancing their self-worth, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC hopes to promote and inspire responsible and informed participation in the democratic process — in essence, ensuring a stronger future for everyone.



Save the Date for Customer Appreciation Day

Customer Appreciation Day will be held at the Cooperative on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Each registered member will be treated to a hot dog lunch with chips and a drink.

Members will also be entered into a drawing to win a credit on their electric bill.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Simple Steps to Prepare for Summer Heat

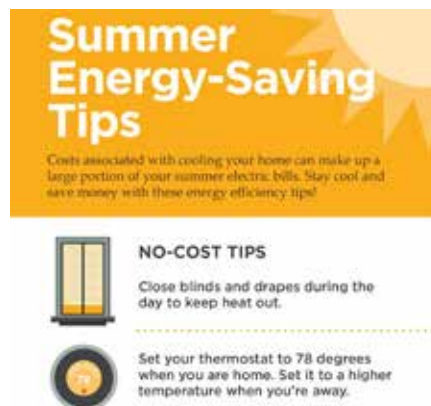
When it's hot, it's tempting to adjust the thermostat way down. But wait! Air conditioning is a big portion of summer energy bills. Try these tips to keep your AC from using more energy than necessary, keep your home more comfortable and save money all at the same time:

Check for leaks. Fix any caulking that is cracked around windows and doors; caulk any areas showing gaps; replace any weather stripping that is worn and weather strip any new areas that need it. This will help keep the warm air outside, where you want it.

Check registers and vents. As furniture gets rearranged over the course of time, registers can be inadvertently blocked. Go room by room and make sure that there is clear space around each register and air vent, and that dust or pet hair is not interfering with air flow.

Change ceiling fan rotation. Running a ceiling fan counterclockwise pushes air down and creates a cool breeze. It won't actually lower the temperature in the room, but it will make you feel cooler, allowing you to set the thermostat to a higher temperature while remaining comfortable.

Schedule an HVAC tune-up. Issues can develop even when your air conditioner is not in use, and they may not be evident until its switched to cooling mode. Getting your unit serviced will ensure it works at maximum efficiency on hot, summer days.



Contact us Before Pulling Meters

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, nothing's more important than the safety of our members, employees and the general public.

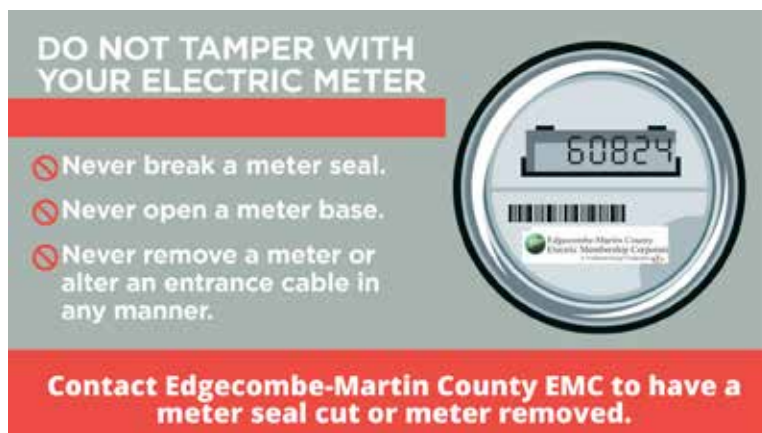
That's why we have policies in place to ensure that only Edgecombe-Martin County EMC personnel can access cooperative-owned equipment, including our electric meters.

That means if you're having work done at your home, farm, or business that would cause your electric meter and/or other cooperative-owned equipment to be disconnected or reconnected, your first call should be to

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. We are happy to schedule a time with you or your contractor to safely and promptly disconnect and reconnect your meter at no additional charge.

New technology and metering equipment help cooperative staff monitor system reliability. When a member or electrician removes a meter, notification is sent to cooperative personnel. It is known that sometimes members needing to perform electrical work on their side of the meter will temporarily pull the meter to complete work.

But disconnecting a meter without permission from the co-op is illegal, unsafe, and can result in fines for the member.



Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting. Bright, warm, purple, green — whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your



Smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet.

best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!

Monica Speight

Monica Speight

Senior “Beat The Heat” Fan Program

With the rising temperatures, it is crucial to ensure that senior citizens and individuals with disabilities have sufficient means to stay cool. Throughout the hot summer months, seniors who lack air conditioning or proper air circulation face a higher risk of heat-related injuries.

The Beat the Heat fan program is a special project that began in 1986 with donations from utility companies to assist seniors in North Carolina cope with summer's sizzling heat.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC donated \$500 to the Edgecombe County Office of Aging. This donation aims to assist in procuring box fans for the Seniors Beat the Heat fan program.

These fans are made available to individuals aged 60 or above who are residents of Edgecombe County. To obtain a fan, interested individuals can contact the Edgecombe County Office on Aging at 252-641-5831 while supplies last. A driver's license or other valid form of photo identification must be shown to verify age and proof of residence.



Eddie Stocks and Winston Howell presented the check during the annual senior's recognition breakfast to Deborah Coley.

August Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management.

This requires pruning, removing and cutting brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service.

Throughout August, Xylem Tree Experts will be trimming Temperance Hall Road in the West Edgecombe areas.



Along The LINE

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