

# Along the LINE

**NOVEMBER 2023**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



## Shooting for a Cause

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Annual Sporting Clays 4-H Tournament was held on Sept. 8 at Rose Hill Shooting Plantation.

Thank you to all our generous sponsors and the great shooters who came out to support our 4-H fundraiser.

The first-place team winner was Nash County Sheriff's Office with Brandon Baugham, Chris Boyd, Josh Trull and Hunter Rackley. Second place went to Four County EMC with Brad Hardison, Caleb Sholar, David Dail and Braxton



**1st Place Team Winner: Nash County Sheriff's Office with Chris Boyd, Brandon Baugham, Hunter Rackley and Josh Trull.**

Treto. Third place was secured by the Tarboro Police Department with Zack Johnson, Doug Britt, Steven Dail and Austin Forehand. The individual winners were: first place, Caleb Sholar; second place, Blake Fleming; and third place, Evan Hill.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC greatly appreciates the support of local organizations and the community, which helps make the fundraiser successful every year.



## Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive-thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to [ememc.com](https://ememc.com).

To report a emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

# The Faces Behind The Phone

As a member-owned cooperative, our service to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

When you visit or reach out to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, your initial interaction is often with our dedicated Secretary/Receptionist, Cynthia Norville. She warmly welcomes you and guides you to the right personnel. Cynthia's role as our Secretary/Receptionist extends far beyond greetings and phone calls. She also performs clerical duties for all departments, prepares and processes purchase orders across the board, and much more.

Most members are directed to our Member Service Specialists or Consumer Services Coordinator. All of these employees are what most people would see as the face of the cooperative, as they are the ones with whom members frequently engage regarding their electric utilities.

Our Member Services Department plays a crucial role in ensuring that our members have a seamless experience. Whether it involves setting up new services, addressing billing inquiries, reporting power outages or requesting maintenance, our Member Services team is prepared to assist, offering clarity and timely solutions. Our Member

Service Specialists — Paula Klutz, Crystal Teel, Melissa Taylor and Jackie Oviedo-Salazar — possess a wealth of knowledge that they readily share. Their expertise not only streamlines the member experience, but also empowers our members with valuable insights into energy efficiency, billing options, and other services.

Working alongside our Member Service Department, Consumer Services Coordinator Nina Draughn orchestrates a delicate balance of member needs. She handles tasks ranging from managing collections and authorizing extensions to revising payment arrangements, coordinating budget billing and working with external agencies for payments, among other responsibilities.

Behind the scenes, the department's leadership is Manager of Billing and Member Services Elizabeth Revels. Elizabeth oversees member services and billing functions while also ensuring the training and development of Member Service Specialists and the Consumer Services Coordinator. From preparing electric bills to managing contract



services for our members, Elizabeth's leadership ensures the seamless functioning of essential services.

Each of these professionals serves as the front line of communication for our members. We are thankful to have such dedicated employees whose commitment reflects the cooperative's commitment to be more than just a utility provider — we are a trusted neighbor, and a partner in the community. Their contributions make Edgecombe-Martin County EMC not only a reliable energy provider but also a place where members receive exceptional service with a personal touch.

## 2022 Safety Employee of the Year

Lead Line Technician Justin Francis named the 2022 Safety Employee of the Year.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC held its annual safety luncheon in October to recognize the safety accomplishments of all employees. Justin Francis received the 2022 Safety Employee of The Year Award during the ceremony. Safety Service Awards recognizing five-year benchmarks were also awarded to the following employees:

- John Abrams - 35 Years
- Chad Bryant - 5 Years



**Justin Francis, 2022 Safety Employee of the Year**

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has proudly allocated approximately \$10,191.64 in Bright Ideas education grants to nine dedicated local educators, enabling them to introduce creative and engaging projects for their students. This initiative is set to benefit over 2,000 students across schools in Edgecombe and Martin counties.

We're thrilled to award such dedicated and innovative educators with Bright Ideas grants, their creative projects will enhance engagement within the classroom setting, assist students in cultivating creative thinking and exploring beyond conventional boundaries and teach skills that will build students into strong leaders of the future. Educators possess incredible, imaginative concepts for imparting knowledge to students, yet often lack the resources to transform these ideas into reality.

The recipients of this year's local Bright Ideas grant are as follows:

- Sara Trinidad - Edgecombe Early College
- James Guy - Edgecombe Early College
- Rachel Wells- GW Bulluck Elementary
- Brandy Chappell - Martin Millennium Academy
- Ashley Dow - North East Carolina Prep
- Tammy Hedgepeth - Princeville Montessori
- Lisa Bargelt - Riverside Middle
- Lakisha Harris - South Edgecombe Middle

These grants are disbursed to projects spanning a multitude of subjects, encompassing music, art, history, reading, science, mathematics and more. Bright Ideas grants are designed to bolster local educators armed with innovative concepts that amplify innovation, broaden learning opportunities, and elevate student achievements across K-12 classrooms.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC stands as one of North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives that offer Bright Ideas grants to local teachers. Since its inception in 1994, these cooperatives have collectively disbursed over \$14 million in Bright Ideas funding, fostering over 13,500 projects that support educators and benefit over 2.5 million students.

The Bright Ideas grant program underscores Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's commitment to a Brighter Future through education support. Applications for these grants are welcomed annually from April through mid-September, with selected proposals

determined through a competitive evaluation overseen by a panel of judges. Interested teachers will have the opportunity to submit their applications once again in April 2024.

Stay tuned to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's social media platforms, including @Edgecombe-Martin on Facebook and Instagram, to witness the transformative impact the Bright Ideas program has on local students and communities. For deeper insights into Bright Ideas grants, visit [ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com) or follow the program @NCBrightIdeas on Facebook and Twitter.

Cooperatively,

*Monica Speight*  
Monica Speight



***Bright Ideas Winner Tammy Hedgepeth from Princeville Montessori, with Monica Speight, Manager of Communication, and Principal Tenika Mercer.***

# Committed to Teaching Electricity Safety

Now that the school year is back in full swing, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is eager to inform educators about two demonstrations we offer that focus on electricity safety.



For classrooms and smaller settings, we offer a table-top demonstration centered around electricity safety. This free electricity safety program is most suitable for kindergarten through fifth grade, and for as many as 30 children at a time.

Additionally, we provide a high-voltage demonstration trailer that can be transported to your location. This demonstration teaches the hazards associated with working in proximity to power lines and other high-voltage equipment. This demonstration is suitable for students ranging from grades 6 through 12, as well as adult groups like first responders or civic organizations. The trailer operates using a generator, utilizing high-voltage, arcing electricity to illustrate the dangers of activities such as using metal ladders near power lines, disturbing underground power lines,



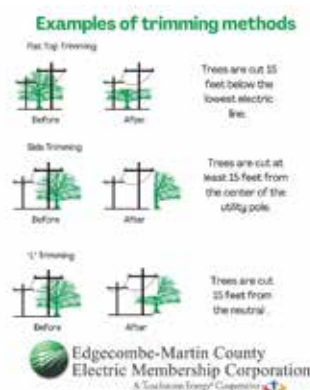
identifying faults on power lines, and more. To schedule an electricity safety demonstration, contact Monica Speight at 252-823-2171.

## November 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.

During November, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Oak City and Hobgood areas, as well as addressing various hotspots on the system.



## Along The LINE

[ememc.com](http://ememc.com)

### Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President  
Jimmie Jernigan, Vice Pres.  
Wayne Harrell, Treasurer  
Norman A. Roberson, Secretary  
Billy Trevathan  
Rejeanor Scott  
Harold Thompson  
Edward B. Simmons, Attorney

### CEO

Winston T. Howell

### Editor

Monica Speight

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486  
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

### After Hours Outage Reporting 1-800-690-0657

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at

1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to [ememc.com](http://ememc.com)