

Along the LINE

NOVEMBER 2021

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Tesla Ride and Drive Day

A ride and drive day in Edgecombe-Martin County's new electric vehicle will be held on Wednesday, November 10.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is not in the car business, but we are in the business of providing education and awareness to our members about the growing electric vehicle (EV) industry, which has significant impacts on electric utilities. Electric vehicles are less expensive to fuel than gasoline powered vehicles. The average person drives between 10,000 and 15,000 miles and spends between \$1,000 and \$1,500 on gasoline per year. In comparison, the cost of electricity to power a Tesla Model 3 over the same distance is up to four times lower. Over the six-year average length of car ownership, that's between \$4,300 and \$6,400 in gasoline savings.

In order to provide firsthand education and awareness about the quickly growing electric vehicle industry, we recently purchased a Tesla Model 3 and we want you to try it! The Tesla is an all-electric, zero-emission vehicle with a range of 353 miles. If member-owners are considering an electric vehicle or are just curious and want to test drive one, we encourage you to participate in this event. Participants will also have the opportunity to speak with employees about our EV rates and rebate programs.

Test drives will be by appointment only, Wednesday, November 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the co-op's headquarters. Members wishing to participate must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance (liability and collision).

To schedule your appointment call Monica Speight at 252-641-9502 or e-mail monicas@ememc.com.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, 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

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

Local Educators Receive Bright Ideas Education Grants

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is awarding \$9,490.77 in grant funding to local K-12 educators in support of 11 creative and innovative projects that will impact students in Edgecombe and Martin counties.

Typically, these grants bring creative projects to life inside classrooms. However, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been flexible with the types of projects awarded to ensure that all students are able to benefit, whether they

are in the classroom or learning remotely. Grants are awarded for projects in all subject areas, including music, art, history, reading, science, math, and more.

This year's winners are Brittany White and Sara Trinidad from Edgecombe Community College; Tammy Jones and Cliff Hudson from Rodgers Elementary; Denise Key, Cynthia Carpenter, Amber Nead, Lynn Huff, and Ashley Dow from North East Carolina Prep School; Brandon Woody from Riverside High School; Amy Burger from North Edgecombe High School; and Patricia Gregory from South Creek Middle/High School.

Join us in congratulating this year's grant winners by following Edgecombe-Martin County EMC on Facebook. To learn more about the Bright Ideas Education Grant Program, visit ncbrightideas.com or follow the program @NCBrightIdeas on Facebook and Twitter.



Ronald McDonald House Newborn Clothes and Toy Drive is Underway

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is hosting a Christmas newborn drive for the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina.

This drive will be held for newborn toys and clothing. Often there are many items donated for infants and young children; there is a need for the newborn age.

The Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina provides a warm and caring home-away-from-home for families of hospitalized children. When a family has a child in the Hospital during Christmas, shopping can be challenging. The Ronald McDonald House has a Gift Closet that allows families to pick out gifts for their child at no charge.

There will be a collection box at the entrance of our building for you to safely drop-off items during business hours. We are accepting new toys and clothes for newborns. Any other drop-offs or concerns, contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.





At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we strive to provide exceptional service and electricity to power your home, business, and life at the lowest cost possible.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's last rate adjustment was in October 2017. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's board of directors and employees work diligently to achieve operating efficiencies to help keep your rates low. As your local, not-for-profit electric cooperative, our primary goal is to provide you with safe and reliable electricity at the most economical cost.

Over the last several months, we have compiled all of the information needed to conduct a cost-of-service study and rate analysis. This process is very detailed, and an abundance of data must be collected in order to provide an accurate analysis. Completing the cost-of-service study and rate analysis will ensure we provide rates that are fair and equitable to all members while fulfilling our duty of keeping your cooperative financially sound.

This very detailed and thorough process needs to be completed periodically to ensure fair and equitable rates and your cooperative's financial stability into the future.

As in most businesses, costs continue to rise on many of the items necessary to conduct business. Materials, equipment, insurance, and benefits have all seen their share of increases over the past four years. Much like the increasing cost of the goods we purchase for our homes and family, the cost of the Cooperative's materials and supplies used for our operations and maintenance have also increased. These increases are in addition to the escalating power cost due to increases in the cost of coal, its transportation, and associated environmental compliance.

We strive to maintain and improve our electrical system so we may continue to provide you with the reliable electric service you have come to expect. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC monitors and evaluates the cost and expenses needed to provide safe and reliable service to our members. Budgets and contracts are reviewed annually and adjusted to meet the ever changing system and business needs to provide quality service to our members without jeopardizing reliability and safety.



We encourage our members to embrace energy efficiency in their homes and businesses as we work with them to provide educational energy efficiency information. For information on making your home or business more energy-efficient, please contact our office at 1-800-445-6486. As we move through the process and finalize the cost of service study and rate analysis, we will communicate the findings to you through Facebook and our newsletter.

If you have questions or concerns about the cost-of-service study and rate analysis, please contact us to discuss them.

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

Detached Ductwork Can Lead to High Bills this Winter

When was the last time that you ventured into your home's crawl-space or attic to inspect your HVAC system's ductwork?

If it has been a while, then it would be a good idea to slip on some old work clothes and have a peek at the condition of the ductwork in these seldom seen areas.

Ductwork should be inspected twice a year; once before you turn on your cooling system in the summer and once more before you begin using your heating system. Ducts often fall or become detached due to improper installation techniques. Mastic sealant is the only thing that should be used to seal ducts to register boots and plenum connections. HVAC or duct tape should NOT be used. Over a period of time, these tapes will lose their adhesive properties allowing ductwork to fall down in the homes crawl-space or attic. When this happens, all you are doing is dumping conditioned air, that you paid good money for, under your home or in the attic!

So, take a few minutes and survey your ductwork before it cost you high energy bills this winter.



Add an LED Area Light to Extend Your Day

Daylight Savings Time ends this month, and that means it will be dark earlier.

With days getting shorter and nights growing longer, outdoor lighting can help you better utilize your outdoor space during the fall and winter months.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers LED lights that come on automatically at dusk and go off at daybreak. Maintenance is handled by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and does not cost the member extra on top of the monthly security light charge.



Installation of any security light requires a deposit of thirty dollars. A 48-Watt LED light on an existing pole is \$9.72 per month; a 98-Watt LED on an existing pole is \$10.40 per month.

For more information about having a security light installed, please call one of our member services representatives at 252-823-2171.

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