

# Along the LINE

*September 2022*

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## Edgecombe-Martin County EMC T-Shirt

Now is the time get your Edgecombe-Martin County EMC t-shirt to support our Operation Round-Up program.

T-Shirts are \$15. Adult sizes available are S-2XL. Other sizes can be pre-ordered by special request. You can get yours today at our office. We will also have a table set up at our Member Appreciation Day on October 6. Proceeds benefit Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Operation Round-Up program.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC started the completely voluntary Operation Round-Up program last year. If you choose to participate, and your bill is \$82.15, for example, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will round up your payment to the nearest dollar, or \$83.00; the extra 85 cents pools with other members' Round-Up donations. The pooled money is then placed into a fund for charitable community projects and local needs.

Most people who participate in Operation Round-Up donate about \$6 annually, which isn't much individually, but adds up the more members participate. If you already participate in Operation Round Up, thank you!

Your change can make a big impact. If you have questions about T-shirt availability or would like to sign up for Operation Round-Up, call 252-641-9502.



## Holiday closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.



# Scholarship Winners Train with Top-Ranked Basketball Programs

Two local students practiced alongside athletes and coaches from top-ranked college basketball programs this summer, thanks to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships.

Abigail Teboe from Edgecombe County attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh, led by head coach Wes Moore. Kendall Hopkins from Nash County participated in the Carolina Basketball School, led by head coach Hubert Davis, at the University of N.C. in Chapel Hill.

Abigail and Kendall are outstanding students, athletes and community members. We are proud to partner with two prestigious North Carolina universities to help provide such a unique leadership and learning experience for our local students and future leaders.

The campers joined more than 50 electric co-op scholarship winners statewide at the camps, where they stayed overnight in dorms and experienced life as a college student. At both camps, coaches and student-athletes worked directly with campers to develop basketball fundamentals and practice skills such as teamwork that will help them excel on and off the court.

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships are available each year as part of Edgecombe-Martin



*Abigail Teboe with Wes Moore, head coach of Wolfpack women's basketball*



*Kendall Hopkins with Hubert Davis, head coach of UNC mens basketball*

County EMC's commitment to supporting youth and education in our community.

Congratulations to Abigail and Kendall for earning these scholarships and representing Edgecombe-Martin County EMC at basketball camp this summer!

## Educators, the Bright Ideas Application Deadline is Approaching — Apply Now!

K-12 educators, the 2022 Bright Ideas education grant program application deadline is almost here!

To apply for project funding for the 2022-23 academic school year, submit your application on or before Sept. 15. This year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is awarding up to \$1,500 in grant funding to teachers with innovative, hands-on learning experiences that will enrich the lives of students.

For more information and to check your eligibility status, please e-mail [monicas@ememc.com](mailto:monicas@ememc.com) or call 252-641-9502.

To learn more about the program and apply online, visit [ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com).



# lines

from Manager of Billing & Member Services  
**GEORGIA STRICKLAND**

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device via email, phone or text.

## Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 252-823-2171. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, [ememc.com](http://ememc.com). If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us or use Smart Hub to check the status of your account. Remember, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Edgecombe-Martin County



EMC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

## Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

Cooperatively Yours,  
*Georgia Strickland*  
Georgia Strickland



# Welcome Tucker and Briley

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is excited to welcome Alex Tucker and Cameron Briley as the newest employees at your cooperative.

Tucker was hired as the Materials & Facilities Coordinator. He comes with over 12 years of experience in the electric industry and is excited for this new opportunity.

Briley was hired as a Third-Class Line Technician. He has over two years of experience as a line technician and is looking forward to working at the cooperative.

Tucker and Briley are no strangers to the cooperative world, as both have been members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and proudly call our service area their home.



*Alex Tucker, Materials & Facilities Coordinator,  
Cameron Briley, 3rd Class Line Technician*

## September 2022 Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC maintains 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 September, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming in the Bullock School Road and Pinetops areas.



## Along The LINE

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

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