



Along the LINE

AUGUST 2026

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Dawes Represents Edgecombe-Martin County EMC on Washington Youth Tour

Each summer, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC selects one outstanding rising high school senior from our service area to participate in the Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership experience that brings together students from across the nation in Washington, D.C. This year, Blaine Dawes of Hobgood Charter School proudly represented our cooperative.

A rising senior with a strong interest in becoming a line technician, Blaine already has a unique understanding of the electric cooperative world. Having participated in Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's High School Line Academy, he has learned firsthand about the vital role lineworkers play in keeping the lights on and serving their communities. The Washington Youth Tour provided an opportunity to expand that knowledge while gaining a deeper appreciation for leadership, public service and our nation's history.

Throughout the week, Blaine joined students from North Carolina and across the country as they explored many of the nation's most significant landmarks and institutions. Highlights included visits to the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian museums, the National Museum of American History and the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. Students also toured the U.S. Capitol, met with North Carolina legislators on Capitol Hill, attended a Washington Nationals baseball game, and visited many of the memorials along the National Mall, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, World War II Memorial and Washington Monument.

Beyond the historic sites, the Youth Tour offers students the opportunity to connect with peers

from different backgrounds, cultures and communities. Through these interactions, participants gain valuable perspectives on leadership, civic engagement and the importance of working together to address challenges facing their communities and country.

The Washington Youth Tour is much more than a sightseeing trip. It is designed to help students better understand how our government works, how decisions made in Washington affect local communities, and how young leaders can make a difference in the future. For students like Blaine, who are already preparing for careers that serve others, the experience provides valuable lessons that will stay with them long after the trip ends.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we are proud to invest in the next generation of leaders. We congratulate Blaine on representing our cooperative and community so well and look forward to seeing the impact he will make in the years ahead.



Welcoming New Team Members and Celebrating Employee Promotions

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, our employees are at the heart of everything we do. Their dedication, hard work and commitment to serving our members continue to strengthen the cooperative every day. This month, we are proud to welcome new team members while also recognizing several well-deserved promotions across the organization.

Welcoming New Team Members

We are excited to welcome Joshua Cleveland to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, where he will serve as Vice President of Member and Industrial Development. In this role, Joshua will help lead efforts to support member growth, strengthen industrial and economic development opportunities, and further enhance the cooperative's mission of serving our communities. We are glad to have him join the team and look forward to the experience and leadership he brings to the cooperative.

We would also like to welcome Kaden Price, who joined the cooperative in May as an Intern Apprentice Line Technician. Since joining the team, Kaden has quickly become a valuable part

of our operations department, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a eagerness to learn. We are excited to have him on board and look forward to watching him grow within the cooperative.

Recognizing Employee Promotions

We are also proud to recognize several recent promotions within our operations team.

Thomas Hardison has been promoted to Lead Maintenance Technician. His dedication, technical expertise, and commitment to dependable service make this a well-earned advancement.

Chad Bryant has been promoted to Technical Services Coordinator. His leadership and problem-solving abilities continue to make a strong impact across the cooperative.

We are also proud to recognize

the advancement of several team members into Second Class Line Technician roles: Clark Thornton, Ryan Revels, Gavin Simpson, Austin Housand and Cody Thompson. Each of these employees has demonstrated continued growth, reliability and a strong commitment to safety and service as they advance in their careers.



Kaden Pierce (left) and Joshua Cleveland.

Finally, we are proud to announce that Matthew Bailey has been promoted to First Class Line Technician. This achievement reflects his experience, dedication, and ongoing commitment to excellence in serving our members.

Promotions like these are a reflection of consistent hard work, professionalism, and a commitment to doing the job right every day. We are proud of each of these employees and grateful for the role they play in keeping our system safe, reliable and strong.

Please join us in congratulating all of these team members—and welcoming Joshua—to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Together, their continued growth helps move the cooperative forward as we serve our members with excellence every day.



Back row (left to right): Austin Housand, Cody Thompson, Ryan Revels, Matthew Bailey and Thomas Hardison. Front row (left to right): Gavin Simpson, Clark Thornton and Chad Bryant.

Data centers have become one of the most talked-about topics in the electric industry today. We see discussions about them on social media, in news headlines and throughout conversations about economic development and the future of technology. But what exactly are data centers, and why are they receiving so much attention?

Data centers are facilities that house networks of servers used for data storage and processing power, supporting our increasingly digital world. Everyday activities such as internet searches, online shopping, streaming movies, cloud storage and artificial intelligence all rely on data centers operating behind the scenes. Because of the massive amount of computing power required, these facilities also require a tremendous amount of electricity and are considered large electric loads.

As member questions continue to grow around the topic, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC wants members to know that our priorities remain unchanged: providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to the communities we serve. These three principles guide every decision we make when evaluating any new large load request.

Like all electric cooperatives, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has an obligation to serve members within our service territory who operate in accordance with our bylaws, terms and conditions and governing policies. When potential large loads such as data centers express interest in locating within an area, cooperatives work through a detailed planning and engineering process that includes transmission studies, infrastructure evaluations and discussions regarding generation supply needs. These

studies help ensure the electric system can continue operating reliably for all members without creating unnecessary financial risk for the cooperative.

One thing Edgecombe-Martin County EMC believes strongly is that data centers must pay their fair share. Large facilities often require significant investments in infrastructure, substations, transmission improvements and other system upgrades necessary to serve their electric demand.

Existing members should not bear the cost of those investments. Our focus is ensuring that any project connected to the system covers the infrastructure and operational costs associated with serving that load while maintaining fairness and equity among all cooperative members.

At the same time, large loads can also provide benefits to local communities and electric systems when managed responsibly. These projects can create long-term revenue opportunities that support grid improvements and modernization efforts. They can also contribute to local economic development through expanded tax bases, ad valorem revenues, job creation and additional community growth such as housing and increased economic activity.

However, these opportunities



must be balanced with thoughtful planning. Large loads can also introduce volatility, place strain on infrastructure and natural resources and increase expectations around reliability and sustainability. Successfully serving these facilities requires forward-looking power supply planning, risk management strategies and rate structures that protect the cooperative and the communities we serve.

The energy industry continues to evolve rapidly, and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC remains committed to staying at the forefront of these changes while protecting the interests of our members. As conversations around data centers continue, our commitment remains clear: serving the best interests of our members and communities first while continuing to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Winston Howell
Winston Howell

Contact Us Before Disconnecting Your Meter

Safety is our top priority at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. That's why we ask members to contact us before any work is performed that requires an electric meter to be disconnected or reconnected.

Electric meters and related equipment are owned and maintained by the cooperative and should only be handled by authorized Edgecombe-Martin County EMC personnel. If you are planning renovations, electrical upgrades, repairs or construction at your home, farm or business, simply give us a call before work begins. We will coordinate with you and your contractor to safely disconnect and reconnect service at no additional charge.

Today's advanced metering technology allows our team to monitor the electric system around the clock. When a meter is removed, cooperative personnel are immediately notified. While some members or electricians may have temporarily pulled meters in the past to perform electrical work, doing so without prior approval from the cooperative is both unsafe and against the law.

Unauthorized meter removal can create serious safety hazards for anyone working on the electrical system and may result in fines or other penalties. A quick call to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC helps ensure the work is completed safely, properly, and without unnecessary delays.

Make Edgecombe-Martin County EMC your first call before any project that involves your electric meter. We're here to help keep you, your family, and your property safe.



Along The LINE

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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

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August Rights-of-Way

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 vegetation to prevent interruption of your electric service.

Throughout August, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Whitakers area and various hotspots on the system.

Examples of trimming methods

