

Along the LINE

AUGUST 2020

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



2020 Sharing Success Grant

One of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's most unique and exciting community programs is the CoBank Sharing Success program, a matching grant opportunity, open to local nonprofit organizations.

CoBank's \$4 million Sharing Success fund matches charitable contributions made by its cooperative members to local nonprofits in their individual communities. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

If you've heard the old saying that there is power in numbers, you understand why Cooperative Principle No. 6, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," is key for us. Cooperatives serve their members best when they work together. This year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Roanoke Electric Cooperative, Halifax EMC, Albemarle EMC, Tideland EMC, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative, Jones-Onslow EMC, Tri-County EMC, Pitt & Greene EMC and Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative donated a total \$10,000 along with a matching grant from CoBank's Sharing Success program of \$10,000 to Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina. This means the Ronald McDonald House will receive a total \$20,000 of much-needed funding.

For the last several years Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has proudly supported the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina and its mission to provide a temporary "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at local medical facilities. The facility provides a critical service each year to more than 500 families, many of whom are cooperative members.

**ANNUAL
MEETING
RESCHEDULED!**

The 2020 Annual Meeting of Members Has Been Rescheduled

Save the date: the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020 with an alternative inclement weather date of Thursday, October 29, 2020.

More information to come in the September issue of Along the Line.



Fund-a-Family

There are many ways to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. One way is through Fund-a-Family. Fund-a-Family is an opportunity to help families stay at the Ronald McDonald House for a night, a week, a month, or a year.

\$10 supports a family for a night

\$70 supports a family for a week

\$300 supports a family for a month

\$3,650 supports a family for a year

A Culture of Safety

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has always considered safety a top priority for not only its membership, but its employees as well.

We pride ourselves on the safety programs that have been implemented at our co-op. Weekly employee safety meetings, a safety committee, and continuous training aid our cooperative in the culture of safety.

In addition to safety training for employees, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC actively raises electric safety awareness

in our service territory by performing high-voltage demonstrations at many community events. The cooperative also promotes safety-themed handouts and advertisements throughout the year.

"We work within our communities to show our members just how easy it is for an accident to occur when working with electricity," stated Mike Johnson, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's V.P. of Engineering and Operations. "Learning how to prevent these dangerous and sometimes deadly mishaps helps to keep our line technician's, as well members of the community, safe."

In June, line technicians participated in our annual pole top rescue training. As an OSHA-mandated safety training requirement, the course is designed to evaluate each lineman on their ability to properly rescue an injured and/or stranded line technician. Each lineman must

balance their skills with safety, climb a pole and rescue a 185-pound training mannequin. The lineman must then secure the mannequin using ropes and pulleys and safely deliver them back to the ground.



Daily glove inspections



Safety meeting tailgate performed at every jobsite



Preflight check on truck

In a perfect world, this is one skill that you hope a lineman never needs to use. But if they do, the training is an opportunity for the linemen to prepare and hone their skills if the need should ever arise.

Two of the fastest times for the pole top rescue were Blake Fleming with a time of 2 minutes, 8 seconds and Chad Bryant with a time of 2 minutes, 29 seconds.

These are some of the ways our linemen ensure that safety is their top priority when completing a job.



Blake Fleming with a poletop rescue time of 2 minutes and 8 seconds.

Many of us are spending time at home these days. With everyone around the house more, you may see your energy bills start to rise, as well. Why not make the most of this time by finding ways to make your home more efficient and comfortable?

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many members, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. During fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, members desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Conversely, in the spring and summer, the focus is on keeping the hot air from infiltrating conditioned spaces.

Summertime in North Carolina brings warm temperatures. In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To decrease the difference in temperature between the two, and to lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Moreover, using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting up to approximately four degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

Everything you do—from flipping a switch to upgrading your appliances—can add up to big energy savings. Washers and dryers can account for as much as 25 percent of electrical consumption. When running these appliances always use a full load. Clean the lint filter in your dryer after each use. This will keep the dryer from running longer.

Keep your refrigerator and freezer at the right temperature. If they're 10 degrees colder than necessary, your operating costs will go up 25 percent. Refrigerators should be between 38 and 42 degrees and the freezer between 0 and 5 degrees.

During the hottest summer months, it's more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The waste energy from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates unwanted heat. Install a smart thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees

higher when no one is home or your family is sleeping.

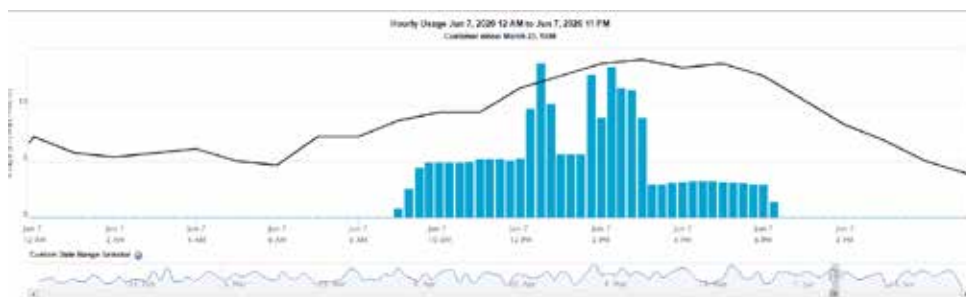
Another way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Monitor your consumption with our SmartHub app. The app includes robust energy consumption analytic tools, which allow you to compare energy consumption over time and against weather data. SmartHub gives you the ability to view your electrical energy consumption on a monthly, daily or hourly interval. You can compare electrical consumption, charges and temperature differences of any two months, side-by-side, to note seasonal or behavioral changes in consumption. This is a great tool to help explain energy consumption on your bill and assist you in making informed decisions about energy consumption. This information is available at your fingertips and will help you manage your energy savings.

To download Smarthub on your mobile device, simply search for "SmartHub" in the Apple App Store or in Google Play. Once the app is open, type in Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as the provider. Your login information is the same for both the web and mobile app.

Cooperatively,

Monica Speight

Monica Speight



Usage Explorer gives you a detailed look at your past and current consumption, all in one place. View your usage and weather trends by month, day or hour.

Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Aug. 11 (8/11) is 811 Day, an annual reminder to dial 8-1-1 at least three working days before beginning any digging project to have underground utility lines marked.

This free and simple step can save lives and reduce risk of injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

According to North Carolina 811, an underground utility line is damaged every nine minutes due to digging without taking proper precautions. Even small digging projects, like installing a mailbox or planting a tree, warrant an advance call to 811.

The national 811 "Call Before You Dig" phone number links residents to a local call center, which alerts utility companies of the intent to dig. Professional locators are then dispatched to mark underground line locations with paint or flags. These marked lines show you where it is – and isn't – safe to break ground. Once your lines have been marked, make sure to dig carefully around the marks, not on top of them.

For more information about safe digging and the "Call Before You Dig" process, visit nc811.org.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Senior Beat The Heat Program

In North Carolina the summer is a beautiful time of year, but the heat and humidity can be brutal. During our hot summer months, seniors living without air conditioning or circulating air are at higher risk of heat-related injuries.

This year the co-op donated \$700 to the Edgecombe County Office of Aging to help purchase box fans for the Seniors Heat Relief Program. The fans are available to individuals age 60 or older and they must be a resident of Edgecombe County. Fans can be obtained while supplies last by calling the Edgecombe County Office on Aging at 641-5831. A driver's license or other valid form of photo identification must be shown to verify age and documentation showing proof of residence in Edgecombe County will also be needed.

Edgecombe-Martin also provides educational material free to the public in the form of booklets and pamphlets, on keeping cool and conserving energy during the summer months. If you are interested in obtaining any of this material please call Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.



Along The LINE

ememc.com

Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President
Jimmie Jernigan, Vice Pres.
Joseph Suggs, Secretary
Billy Trevathan, Treasurer
Rejeanor Scott
Norman A. Roberson
Wayne Harrell
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