



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

Member Newsletter

December 2017

Bright Idea Winners for 2017 -2018

Congratulations to Danisha Williams and Sarah Ruddock of Creekside Elementary, and Ashley Matthews of HB Sugg Elementary. They were the recipients of the Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2017-2018 school year. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina’s twenty-seven Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives to provide additional classroom resources that cannot be met through existing school budgets. Any K-12 certified North Carolina teacher can apply for a grant up to \$2000.00.

Since 1984, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$11 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 2 million students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2018. In order to be considered for a Bright Ideas Grant, the idea submitted by the teacher should be a unique and innovative way to reach the students and increase their interest in learning.

To find out more information about the Bright Idea Grant Program, visit www.ncbrightideas.com.



We’ve Moved!!

The Snow Hill office has moved and is now located at 201 North Greene Street across from Wells Fargo Bank. The office opened on Monday, October 2nd and Kristy Medley and Morgan Taylor were the first customers to visit this new office.



Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

New Location of Snow Hill Office

New location, better service. Yes, renovation to the former Snow Hill Town Hall is complete and we have moved. The office opened for business on Monday, October 2nd.

Earlier last year the Town of Snow Hill graciously offered to Pitt & Greene EMC their Town Hall building as they moved to a much larger facility. The building and location was a perfect fit for our needs. The facility has been totally remodeled bringing it up to current building codes and fitted with all the modern computer and communication systems complete with dual fuel generator backup. This will ensure business systems will be operational even through the most debilitating natural disasters.

Members will now enjoy plenty of onsite parking and the new drive up window. Inside you will find a clean open design with modern energy efficient LED lighting. A collection of historic photos are on display around the building to constantly remind us of our deep roots throughout our rural service territory. Please stop in and check it out. We hope the conveniences of this new facility will serve you and make you proud of your cooperative for many years.



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Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

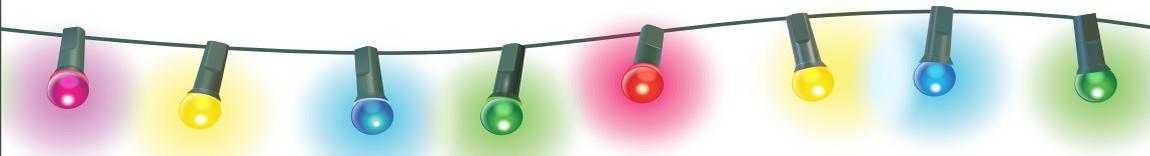
The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year – the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen. As we embark on the holiday season, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- * Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- * Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- * Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- * Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- * Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- * Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- * To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- * Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- * Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- * Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- * Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- * Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit www.esfi.org.

Reminder.....

Colder weather has arrived, have you thought about what your heating system is set on? For example, if you have the thermostat set on 73, the system will come on more to keep it that desired temperature than if you have it set on a lower setting. The colder it is outside the more your heating system will run to keep your home warm. Which will make your utility bill higher. So when you receive your utility bill and it is higher than usual, remember the colder weather outside and what your thermostat was set on inside.



MERRY, BRIGHT AND EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING
Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill! Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.

- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED® lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age-old standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.
- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

Source: Dept. of Energy



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Bundle Up. It's Winter Time

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Winter storms can wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions. Pitt & Greene EMC recommends the following tips to help you prepare for wintry blasts.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months, as people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

Severe winter storms can cause heavy accumulation of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Although it has been several years since we have had any severe winter weather, we still want you to be prepared by having a winter survival kit on hand.

- Food: Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.
 - Medication: Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
 - Identification: Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
 - Other items: First Aid Kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

***Pitt & Greene EMC
will be closed
Monday, January 1st,
for New Years
and
Monday, January 15th, for
Martin Luther King Day.***

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit **www.energystar.gov/productfinder** for a full list of efficient products.

Source: energystar.gov



De lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina
252-753-8778

Co-op Office Hours

Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIAS

During weekends, holidays and after office hours
252-753-8778