



# Pitt and Greene

## Electric Membership Corporation

*“Where Customers Have A Choice”*

*Member Newsletter*

*April 2020*

### *A special message on the Coronavirus from Manager Mark Suggs*

In response to the Coronavirus, Pitt and Greene EMC has immediately implemented the following changes effective 8:00 a.m. Thursday March 19, 2020.

The lobby for both the Snow Hill and Farmville offices will be closed but business can be conducted by going through the drive-thru or calling our office at 252-753-3128. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We are trying to do our part to protect you, our member, as well as our employees.

Payment of utility bills can be made using one of the following methods during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday:

- Drive-thru window at the Snow Hill office
- Drive-thru window at the Farmville office
- By phone at 252-753-3128

Online payment option available 24/7

- Payments can be made by accessing our website at [www.pgemc.com](http://www.pgemc.com)

If new service should need to be set up, please call our office at 252-753-3128 and we will work with you to complete the necessary paperwork.

All members are responsible for payment of their utility usage. Bills are due upon receipt. If you anticipate financial hardship, please reach out to your county's social service office. We will also work with members to address individual circumstances. Should you have questions, please call our customer service at 252-753-3128.

Thank you for your understanding as we work together during this difficult time.

### *Change is coming as to how payments can be made on accounts...*

**As of June 8, 2020, members who call the office to make a Debit or Credit card payment on their account will be directed to an automated telephone payment system. This change is being made due to Federal Regulation in order to protect our members personal financial information. Cooperative representatives will still be available, as they have in the past, to help with additional business our membership may have regarding an account.**

*Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed  
Monday,  
May 25, 2020 in observance of  
Memorial Day.*

*Happy Mothers Day  
Sunday,  
May 10, 2020*





## *Manager's Message*

*By: Mark A. Suggs*

### *Co-ops and a culture of safety*

His rubber gloves have been checked. His harness is secure. His mind and body are nourished, and his comrades stand below. A lineman begins his climb, inching farther from the ground and closer to the power line above while the wind whirls. He's confident in his training and in his experience, but the dangers of the job are always in his mind.

The U.S. Department of Labor ranks electric line work as one of our country's most dangerous jobs, but that doesn't mean it can't be safe. Safety has been a fundamental part of Pitt & Greene EMC's culture for the past 82 years. It's something we expect from our employees whether they're in the field working to maintain the lines and equipment that deliver electricity to your home, or they're in the warehouse or even in the office. It's a part of who we are.

As members of Pitt & Greene EMC, you are a part of our cooperative family, and we want safety to be a part of who you are. It's a good opportunity for all of us to reconnect with simple practices that will help keep our homes and families free from common and often-overlooked electrical hazards.

#### *Inside the Home:*

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. To clean or repair these appliances always unplug them first.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.

#### *Outside the Home:*

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify our office or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.

These tips may seem basic, but they are important. Please participate in our culture of safety by recognizing May as National Electrical Safety Month. Take a few moments to identify, understand and correct the potential electrical hazards in your home.

## *Bright Ideas 2020 - 2021*

The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects in their classrooms.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric co-ops have awarded more than \$12.9 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. These projects have benefited well over 2.5 million North Carolina students.

Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers in K-12 classrooms with innovative ideas are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1, through September 15, 2020. However, it could pay to apply early, all teachers who submit their applications by August 15, 2020 will be entered into a drawing for a Visa gift card.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [www.NCBrightIdeas.com](http://www.NCBrightIdeas.com).

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## Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Secure windows and outside doors. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground, water, tall isolated trees, and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.



## How will you Celebrate Earth Day?

Earth Day is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use.

***Audit your light bulbs.*** Swapping out remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

***Maintain your HVAC system.*** Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently - keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

***Examine your smart or programmable thermostat.*** Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips, however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

***Seal windows and doors.*** Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets helps to increase efficiency.

While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions they do make a difference.

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## Outdoor Electrical Safety Tips

Warmer weather brings an increase in outdoor work in many parts of the country, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) provides the following safety tips:

- Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders, even those made of wood, that contact a power line can shock or electrocute people coming in contact with them.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions - including wet grass - when using electricity.

Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for more ways to keep your home and family safe this spring and beyond.

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