



# Pitt and Greene

## Electric Membership Corporation

*“Where Customers Have A Choice”*

*Member Newsletter*

*December 2021*

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### *EFFECTIVE January 1, 2022*

Using Debit and Credit cards are easy and convenient for all of us. Unfortunately, the banks charge businesses a processing fee for each transaction. This applies to Pitt and Greene EMC as well. We are charged a processing fee of 2.45% on each transaction. Beginning January 1, 2022, a fee of 2.45% of your total bill will be charged to offset what the bank charges us. Example, your bill is \$100.00 for the month. At 2.45% the fee applied will be \$2.45. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## *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 wintery 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.



## *Manager's Message*

*By: Mark A. Suggs*

It is hard to imagine that another year is nearly behind us. We just held our 84th annual meeting and our sights are focused on the 2022 budget and operating projects.

The annual meeting went great with members hearing reports regarding the financial position and status of work plans and projects undertaken over the past year.

Secretary Treasurer Kirby Bell reported on our audit which gave the cooperative an unqualified opinion with regard to our annual audit. An unqualified audit means your cooperative continues to receive the highest level of approval any company can receive. An approval rating everyone should be proud of.

Over 50 members won door prizes, most of which were donated by vendors we routinely do business with. We offer our sincere thanks to those companies and their continued support and great service.

The following directors were re-elected to serve 3 year terms: District 3, Jeffrey Letchworth; District 4, Richard Harper and District 8, Glenn Smith.

I reported to the members that the cost of power continues to be the most expensive aspect of doing business, a cost of over 60 cents of each dollar. Weather can have the most far reaching effect on that cost.

Looking forward, we continue to feel the financial impact of North Carolinas Coal Ash cleanup. The majority of the cost will no doubt fall on Duke Energy but all rate payers in the state who received power generated by coal will be impacted. Since a portion of our power was generated with coal, we to will be impacted until such time as the determination of complete clean up is finished. At the time of this message it appears that these cost will likely drag on for several years.

Crews continue rehabilitation of many of our main feeder lines throughout the system. This work is necessary to assure that reliability of our system remains top priority. Clean right of ways and strong facilities is at the heart of a dependable and reliable system. Our goal is to provide and maintain the best system possible for you, your family and business.

## *Annual Meeting Door Prizes*

### **\$25.00 Cross and Crown**

David Shackelford  
William E. Mumford

### **\$25.00 Lowe's Gift Card**

Lewis Bryant, Jr.  
Catherine Edwards  
Pamela Jones  
Kathy Jones Barrow  
James Hines  
Don Lanier  
Johnnie Ray Worthington  
Scott Dupree  
Zachariah AME Zion Church  
Sarah Lee Monroe  
James Norman Barfield  
David Greg Brown  
Mary Alice Shirley  
Christine Sauls  
Phillip Johnson  
Geronda Pridgen  
Dewey Wallace Hart  
Evelyn Wade

### **\$25 Walmart Gift Card**

Veta Best  
Jesse Harper  
Florence Gregory Taylor  
Kristy O'Neal

### **\$50 Lowe's Gift Card**

Ella Britt Phillips  
Christine Britt Flores  
Heather Mize  
Joyce Clark Connor  
Ana Jicalan

### **\$50 Walmart Gift Card**

Novella S Williams  
Cleve Ellis Jr.  
Ramona Durden  
Annie Loretta Durden  
Tracy Warren  
Timothy Tripp  
Mary Warren Sheppard  
Gladys Sheppard  
Iesha Hall

Jean F. Williams  
James Davenport  
Mary E. Freeman  
Christy Nicole Taylor

### **\$50 VISA Gift Card**

Tracy D. Ward

### **\$100 Lowes Gift Card**

William Graham  
Andrew Brewer  
Jacqueline Hardison  
Billy Sutton  
Wilton Louis Cox

### **\$100 VISA Gift Card**

Sandra C. Jones  
Gregory Fordham



## *Holiday Decorating Tips for an Energy - Wise Home*

Whether you have already decked your halls, or you are just getting started, there's still time to incorporate the following energy savings into your holiday decorating:

- If you have not strung your lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last for several holiday seasons. They are also safer because they are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking. They are cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers.
- If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 and \$25 and can be purchased from big box stores, independent retailers, and online retailers. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off. This will save you time, money, and energy. If you are using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it is waterproof and intended for outdoor use.
- If Clark Griswold's decorating style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers who sale live Christmas trees, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. Twine, extra ornaments, and sparkly ribbon can be used to create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add an extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (free) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30.00. They run on natural energy from the sun preventing no additional cost to your electric bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are many ways to save energy throughout the season.

*Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Friday, December 31st  
for New Year's and Monday, January 17th for  
Martin Luther King Day.*

## **Postal Service Recommends Allowing more Time for Mail to Reach its Destination**

On October 1, the Postal Service implemented new service standards for First-Class Mail and Periodicals. These new service standards will increase delivery reliability, consistency, and efficiency for our customers and across our network.

Most First-Class Mail (61 percent) and Periodicals (93 percent) will be unaffected by the new service standard changes. Standards for single-piece First-Class Mail traveling within a local area will continue to be two days.

The Postal Service will increase time-in-transit standards by 1 or 2 days for certain mail that is traveling longer distances. By doing so, the Postal Service can entrust its ground network to deliver more First-Class Mail, which will lead to greater consistency, reliability, and efficiency that benefits its customers.

“The service standard changes are part of our balanced and comprehensive Delivering for American Strategic Plan and will improve service reliability and predictability for customers and enhance the efficiency of the Postal Service network. The service standard changes that we have determined to implement are a necessary step towards achieving our goal of consistently meeting 95 percent service performance,” a postal service representative stated.

### **TIPS FOR CONSUMERS**

With new service standards implemented effective October 1, USPS offers these tips for consumers:

1. **Plan ahead** - For mail or correspondence that requires a deadline, the Postal Service encourages consumers to plan ahead and send their mail early. You would not wait to mail your mom a Mother's Day card the day before Mother's Day, so mail your bills, letters and greeting cards with the Postal Service early so the Postal Service can ensure it reaches its final destination on-time.
2. **When sending mail long distance, mail early** - If it would take you more than a day to drive your mail to its destination, make sure to give your long-distance mail extra time to travel with USPS.
3. **Keep mailing letters!** The majority of First-Class Mail will be unaffected by the Postal Service's new service standards. In fact, these new standards mean your letters and mail will be delivered more dependable and consistently than they have been in previous years.

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

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