

# MEMBER

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point  
and many places in between

# News

A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

February 2008



## RoundUP® helps neighbors in need

We chuckle here at CCEC when we recall a comment from one of our members about Operation RoundUP®, our grant program for needy and deserving individuals and non-profit organizations. This member apparently didn't know about the program and wanted to know why she was being charged for weed killing at her home. She apparently confused her Operation RoundUP® contribution listed on her bill with the popular herbicide.

For those of you who may be not be familiar with the program, here is an overview:

- Each month, participants' electric bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar amount. The average amount rounded up in a yearly period is \$6 per member. The maximum amount is \$11.88. CCEC's participating members pay an average of 50 cents a month.

- By contributing just pennies over the past nine years, cooperative members have donated more than \$1.5 million to help improve the lives of their friends and neighbors in Carteret, Craven, Jones and Onslow counties.

### on the web

It's not too late!  
Foundation scholarship applications are due by Feb. 29. Download an application on the Web at:  
[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)



- Money collected is managed by the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation. A volunteer board of directors reviews applications once a month from groups and individuals requesting funding.



CCEC's Operation RoundUP® funds have helped give back to the community in many ways since 1999. Above, father and son, Gerald and Charles Davis, register patients at the Broad Street Clinic, which is a free medical clinic that one of many foundation grant recipients. Below, Katie Utz and her mom, Mary, of Morehead City, visit with CCEC Line Crew Leader Paul Quillen. Katie was diagnosed with a brain tumor in May 2001 and was treated at the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University, another grant recipient.



carteret-craven electric cooperative

## Five ways we enhance system reliability

Even a momentary power interruption can mean significant losses to a business or frustration to the cooperative's members, and that's why reliability is a priority at CCEC.

"We are committed to providing reliable service and strive to minimize interruptions through ongoing maintenance, planning and use of technology," said CCEC's Line Superintendent Shannon Inman. "Outages during major weather events are unavoidable, but we

Shannon Inman  
Line Superintendent



do everything we can to minimize even those."

### Right-of-way maintenance

Controlling plant growth near power lines is an important part of providing reliable service.

Fallen trees and branches are a major cause of widespread power outages during a natural disaster. We have comprehensive vegetation management programs that include trimming trees in industry-standard cycles.

### Checking the lines

Visual inspection is another piece of the reliability equation. CCEC's field service representatives are trained to not only read meters, but to look for problems as they and others ride the entire system each month.

We also routinely use an infrared camera to look for "hot spots" that may spell trouble later on. The camera senses problems with equipment not operating properly, wearing out, or with loose electrical connections.

### Regular inspection and testing

Our system maintenance efforts start in substations where protective equipment is regularly tested and calibrated for optimum operation. Mechanical devices are tested and immediately repaired if necessary.

In our marine environment, we inspect lines and equipment exposed to salt air more fre-

quently than a more inland cooperative might. The corrosive effects of salt are unique to coastal electric cooperatives and require special maintenance.

Poles are inspected for structural integrity, and questionable ones are replaced. Underground transformers, cabinets and other facilities are inspected regularly as well.

### Upgrades and additions

The cooperative systematically upgrades power lines and other equipment as they approach the end of their life span or as needed, such as those exposed to corrosive salt air.

Recently, we completed construction of a transmission project and associated system upgrades in the western part of our service territory to enhance reliability.

New poles and lines were installed just over a year ago on Highway 12 leading to Cedar Island and Atlantic in the far eastern part of our service area, boosting reliability there. Aging underground service in subdivisions is also being replaced as needed.

### Power Blinks

Power blinks, or momentary power flickers, may be annoying, but they are actually designed to improve reliability. They occur when an obstruction, like a tree limb, animal or car, comes into contact with a power pole, line or transformer. To minimize the possibility of damage to the utility system or your home, a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of electricity for a fraction of a second.

If the object remains on the line, a breaker opens and tries to re-close two more times before the power goes out. Without this feature, every brief interruption would result in an outage lasting much longer.

"These are just a few examples of how we use short-range and long-range planning to provide the level of service our members expect," Inman said. "We update our work plan each year to be sure we are staying on top of issues that need our attention."

## 2008 Annual Meeting: Bylaws Summary

The 68th Annual Meeting of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at Glad Tidings Church on Country Club Road in Morehead City, N.C.

Additional information about this year's annual meeting, including ballots, if needed for election of directors, will appear in the April issue of "Member News."

CCEC's service area is divided into 10 districts. The terms for the directors from districts 5, 7, 9 and 10 expire this year. Directors are elected for three-year terms. To be eligible to be a cooperative director, a member must:

- *have been a member for no less than two years.*
- *receive electrical service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence, which must be in the director district that he or she represents.*
- *not be a close relative of an incumbent director or an employee of the cooperative.*
- *not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, service, or supplies to the CCEC.*
- *not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.*
- *be a United States citizen.*
- *be at least 18 years old.*
- *not have been declared mentally incompetent unless competency has been legally restored.*

- *at the time of taking office, not be a close relative of a former member of the Board of Directors who resigned from the board or died within two years preceding the time of taking office.*

- *not have been employed by CCEC or have previously been an officer or director of or employed in any policy-making position by an electric, telephone, natural gas or other utility.*

The Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of two members each from districts 5, 7, 9 and 10. The committee will nominate one or more members to run for election from each of these three districts.

Nominees may also be nominated by petition of any 50 or more members from their district. The petition must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 3, 2008.

For more information about the nominating committee, contact CEO Craig Conrad, at our Highway 24 office.

Voting for the above positions, in addition to any other business conducted at the annual meeting, shall be done by those who have been members at least 30 days before the meeting. Each member shall have one vote regardless of number of accounts.

The bylaws can be viewed at our offices at 1300 Highway 24 in Newport (west of Morehead City) 450 McCotter Boulevard in Havelock, and 849 Island Road, Harkers Island.

### Directors: District Descriptions

The terms for the directors from districts 5, 7, 9 and 10 expire this year. Incumbent directors for the districts are:

#### **Nellie Garner, District 5**

Representing cooperative service areas in and around Newport, Wildwood & Morehead City.

#### **David Chadwick, District 7**

Representing cooperative service areas in eastern Carteret County, including Otway, Straits, Atlantic & Cedar Island.

#### **Jerome Meadows, District 9**

A seat held by a minority member representing the entire cooperative service area.

#### **Clifford Rice, District 10**

A seat representing Harkers Island, the service area of the former Harkers Island EMC.

# Do your own home electrical safety check

Most of us don't think much about electricity unless we are forced to go without it. But just like light bulbs and appliances, the electrical system in your home deserves your attention.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urges consumers to take an electrical tour throughout their homes to look for potential hazards.

Many dangers are easily identified and corrected, for instance:

- *Check to see that lamps and extension cords aren't cracked, frayed or covered by rugs or furniture.*
- *Check light bulbs to determine that the wattage is appropriate for lighting fixtures.*
- *Electrical appliances should be kept away from damp and hot surfaces and have appropriate air circulation.*
- *Check to make sure power tools have a*

*3-prong plug or double-insulated cords, and consider replacing old tools that have neither.*

- *Surge suppressors only protect the items plugged into it. In the event of a large surge or spike, such as a lightning strike, the surge suppressor is a one-time-use protector and will likely have to be replaced.*

Dim or flickering lights, arcs or sparks, sizzling or buzzing sounds from your electrical systems, as well as odors, hot switch plates, loose plugs and damaged insulation are some other signs of potential hazards. These should be looked at by a qualified electrician.



For more electrical safety tips, visit ESFI on the web at [www.esfi.org/cms](http://www.esfi.org/cms).



Your desktop computer isn't an energy guzzler, but buying an efficient model and using it without wasting energy can help you manage your energy costs. Here are some suggestions:

- Buy a laptop or desktop computer with a low-power "sleep mode," which slips the computer into "standby" after the user has been inactive for more than a few minutes. You can determine how long the computer should be idle before sleep mode kicks in. If you set the standby for 10 minutes, the computer won't go idle while you're working, but it won't remain on for long if you forget to turn it off when you're finished.
- Although computers in sleep mode burn a bit of energy, experts say it's better for your computer than constantly turning it on and off.
- When you plan to shut down your computer for an extended period of time, such as when you go on vacation, unplug it, too, so it won't use any energy at all.
- Choose a computer that bears the Energy Star label—a government assurance that the unit is energy efficient.



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## Offices

1300 Highway 24, Newport  
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## On the Web

[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)

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