

MEMBER

*From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between*

News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

January 2008

Members approve CCEC, HIEMC merger

An overwhelming majority of members of both Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) and Harkers Island Electric Membership Corporation (HIEMC) have met and cast votes in favor of merging the two organizations, effective January 1, 2008. More than 90 percent of the votes cast by members of both cooperatives were in support of combining the two organizations.

“With prices of consumer goods – from gasoline to groceries – continuing to rise, our cooperative members have essentially voted to give themselves a raise, which will put more money in their pockets each month to pay for other things,” said HIEMC Board President Clifford Rice, who

will now serve on the board of the combined organization. “With more than 60 percent of our membership casting votes, this issue was clearly on their minds.”

The directors and staff of both organizations met jointly and independently over several months, carefully reviewing an independent merger study and weighing the benefits. The two boards unanimously adopted resolutions recommending the merger and called for the member vote. Ballots were counted and the results announced at separate meetings of the cooperatives on Thursday, November 29.

Harkers Island members will become members of the “surviving” Carteret-Craven

Electric Cooperative and will see a significant reduction in their electric bills. Escalating costs were the primary impetus behind the merger proposal. The merger will have no impact on bills of the existing CCEC members. However, it will provide another office and warehouse facility in Harkers Island, which will enhance service to all Down East cooperative members.

“We are pleased that our two cooperatives could work together for the benefit of all members,” said CCEC Board President Jerome Meadows. “One of the seven cooperative principles is ‘cooperation among cooperatives,’ and this merger illustrates that principle at its best.”

carteret-craven electric cooperative

on the web

Energy Ant teaches kids all about energy and energy savings.

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www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



Unplug 'standby' devices to save energy

The little “black boxes” charging your cordless drill, your hand-held vacuum and your cordless phone all consume power even when the appliances are fully-charged. In addition, any equipment that responds to a remote control, such as a TV or stereo, also consumes power when turned off, so that it can instantly respond to the remote. A surprisingly large number of electrical devices cannot be switched off completely without being unplugged. In the average American household these standby power devices can cost \$50 a year or more, as much energy as a modern refrigerator. So, if your home is going to be vacant for several days or if you are not going to use these devices for an extended period, unplug them.

Want to save even more energy dollars? Visit us on the Web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.

Transmission project, upgrades completed

Additional source of power will enhance reliability

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative's long-awaited transmission project and associated system upgrades were completed in December, bringing an additional source of power into CCEC's existing transmission system for the western part of its service territory.

"This project is just one example of how we use long-range planning to provide our

Jake Joplin

Director, Engineering Services



member-owners reliable, yet cost-conscious service," said the cooperative's CEO Craig Conrad.

The project, which has been in the works for more than a

decade, includes a high-voltage substation near Maysville, the construction of 16 miles of transmission line and other substation upgrades and rebuilding, all of which will provide enhanced reliability and increased capacity needed to keep up with growth in the area. In addition to adding transmission capabilities, the project included rebuilding of nearly all distribution lines from the new substation to Cape Carteret.

Jake Joplin, CCEC Director of Engineering Services, said the project included 170 steel transmission poles ranging from 70- to 150-foot tall; 90 new wooden distribution poles; 250,000 feet of distribution wire; 242,000 feet of bundled wire conductor (the largest conductor on the cooperative's system); 450 transmission insulators and more.

"This project has been in our long-range planning since 1996," Conrad said. "Acquiring permits and rights-of-way was a lengthy process, but once construction began,

the project moved along quickly."

The construction, however, was not without a few bumps in the road, including several power interruptions that were a part of the final construction and testing.

"We appreciate the patience of our members and others throughout this project, particularly during the power interruptions," Conrad said. "We believe, however, that these growing pains will prevent lengthier outages in the future."

One of the key enhancements the project brings is another source of power for the western part of the cooperative's service territory. Areas along Highway 24 and Highway 58 now have three different sources of power going into the future.



There's still time to apply for foundation scholarships

College-bound high school seniors still have time to apply for one of five Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative scholarships. Five winners will receive a \$4,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester for a total of four years). Deadline for applications is February 29.

The scholarship program is open to students whose primary residence is on the cooperative's lines. To qualify, the student must be a high school senior in the current graduating class and must be accepted at a two-year community/technical college or four-year college or university. Applicants cannot be a close relative of cooperative employees or directors – close relative being a spouse, child, grandchild, great-grand child,

brother, sister, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew, by blood, by adoption, or in-law of an employee or director.

The judges will weigh the following in determining the scholarship winners: need, 50 percent; academic achievement, 25 percent; and extracurricular activities, 25 percent.

Forms are available on the web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop, from the guidance offices at each school, on FastWeb and at our offices at 450 McCotter Blvd. in Havelock; 849 Island Road in Harkers Island, and 1300 Highway 24 West, Newport. Members may request applications be mailed by calling our office at (252) 727-2238 or by sending an e-mail to lisat@ccemc.com.



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You get the added peace of mind knowing your account will be credited immediately.

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



What's your perennial New Year's resolution: Dieting? Saving more money? Getting lots of exercise? Here are a few that will be easier to keep—and can help you save money on your electric bill.

- Remove globes from overhead lights and wash them in warm, soapy water. Clean light covers let more light shine through, which will make your room look brighter and keep you from needing to turn on a second lamp.
- Pull your refrigerator away from the wall and vacuum or dust its condenser and coils. Clean coils help it run more efficiently.
- Switch out your most-used incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent lights. They use 70% less electricity than regular light bulbs, give off less heat and last for several years longer. They also give off the same kind of light quality as regular bulbs.

For more information on energy saving ideas, you can visit us on the Web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



Bright Teachers
earn
Bright Ideas
grants



Broad Creek Middle School teacher Nancy Guthrie, in photo at left, and Gurganus Elementary School teacher Julie Chamberlin-Huber enthusiastically accept Bright Ideas grants from CCEC Community Relations Director Bill Ward.

Educators from 15 schools in Carteret County and Havelock have been awarded Bright Ideas grant funding from the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation and North Carolina's Touchstone Energy® cooperatives for innovative and imaginative classroom projects.

From science and technology to reading, writing, math and more, 31 projects received a total of \$18,815 for the 2007-2008 school year. The projects were selected from 70 applications and will provide enhanced learning for more than 8,000 students.

Grants ranged from \$96 to a maximum of \$1,000. Over the past 13 years Carteret-Craven has awarded close to \$190,000.

Foundation funding for Bright Ideas and other grants come from Operation RoundUP®, a voluntary program that rounds up each cooperative member's monthly bill to the nearest dollar amount.

Across the state, the Bright Ideas program has awarded more than \$5.3 million in grant money for North Carolina's teachers and students served by 27 independent electric cooperatives.

Be safe with electric blankets and space heaters

Cold weather brings a unique set of electrical dangers. Roughly one-third of all house fires nationwide occur during the cold home-heating season of December, January and February.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offer these reminders for winter:

- *Make sure electric blankets are in good repair, certified by*

an independent testing lab. Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut.

- *Do not tuck your electric blanket into mattresses or under children.*
- *Never allow pets to sleep on the electric blanket.*
- *Before using a space heater, make sure it is in good condition, and have all problems professionally repaired.*
- *Place heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level,*

hard, non-flammable floor surface – NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.

- *Remember to keep space heaters at least three feet from all flammable items such as draperies, blankets, and sofas, and never allow children or pets near an electric heater.*
- *Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.*



carteret-craven electric cooperative



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