

MEMBER

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between

News

A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

August 2005



Operation RoundUP®

Cooperative members' generosity supports neighbors in need

What in the world is the "RoundUp" charge on my bill?

Just recently, June Garner of Beaufort had to set a friend straight about the cooperative's Operation RoundUP® program, in which our members volunteer to have their electric bills rounded up to the nearest dollar each month to raise funds for a variety of community projects.

Ms. Garner shared her experience:

Recently, a friend said something to me that I thought was funny enough to share with your readers. Perhaps others share her interpretation.

We were discussing the cost of living, and

bemoaning the price of everything from groceries to clothing to gas to utilities. Both of us agreed that we weren't looking forward to the coming air conditioning season and the rise in electric bills. An excerpt from that conversation went something like this:

"Can you believe the power company even charges for spraying weed killer around the light poles?" she asked with an incredulous tone in her voice.

Puzzled, I answered with my own question, "Where in the world did you get an idea like that?"

She replied smugly, "Look at your light bill -- it says right there every month: Round-Up!"

Although cooperative employees make a point to inform members about Operation RoundUP®, there are the occasional few who don't have a clue. Don't be embarrassed if you are one of those.

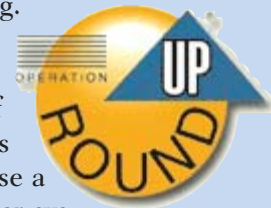
The cooperative adopted the program in February 1999. The money from members' "rounded up" bills is deposited with the nonprofit Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation. Members can opt out of the program, but very few do, in part because the amount is very small (an average of only \$6 a year and no more than \$11.88), and the collective power of cooperative members'

donations has a profound impact on those less fortunate.

"One thing we talk about at our meetings is the importance of trying to connect member donations to the needs of individuals in the community," said Foundation President Ben Ball. "We put an emphasis on that direct connection, whether it's through groups that impact individual lives or on individuals we can help directly."

The board meets once a month to consider individuals and projects for funding.

One recent example was the approval of matching funds to help purchase a Braille computer system for a Broad Creek Middle School student who is blind. Other projects include: Hope Mission Soup Kitchen; the Children's Miracle Network; the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; the March of Dimes; Bright Ideas grant funding for innovative teaching ideas in our public schools; scholarships; Carteret County Domestic Violence program; the Carteret County Department of Social Services and Havelock Ministerial Association for individuals' emergency heating and cooling needs; and much more.



carteret-craven electric cooperative

on the web

You can learn more about Operation RoundUP® .

Go to:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

Click on "Community Involvement"



Prudent landscaping and tree trimming keep system healthy and people safe

Summer brings out the best in our landscaping efforts as flowers come into full bloom and foliage covers shrubs and trees. The cooperative appreciates how you value the appearance of your home landscaping. We know you also value the convenience of



Jerry Cockrell
CCEC Safety Director

electricity, and with that comes electrical equipment, including meters, transformers, and pad mounted equipment.

“Many people try to hide equipment behind landscaping, but our crews still need access to work on or replace this equipment during outages or service problems,” said CCEC Safety Director Jerry Cockrell. “You can help

by placing all trees, plants, shrubs and fences a minimum of 10 feet away from electrical equipment. This will prevent your landscaping items from being removed or trimmed for access to equipment.”

Here are a few landscaping ideas:

- *Use grass, gravel or 2-inch rock around electrical equipment, but do not change the grade.*
- *Do not use ivy or other climbing plants around equipment.*
- *Trees should be planted so that at maturity they remain a minimum of 10 feet away from pad-mounted equipment, and far enough away from overhead lines so they won't need trimming and won't obstruct a truck when access is needed.*

When branches and limbs grow too near power lines, trouble grows right along with them. Our area is prone to high winds year round, not just during hurricane season. Last year, about six percent of all outages were caused by falling trees or limbs that fell on electrical lines. For that reason, we are con-

tinually pruning or removing trees that threaten your electric service and your safety.

Falling trees and limbs can cause wires to break or sag to the ground, presenting a very real danger to motorists and pedestrians. Overgrown trees or limbs near power lines also pose a danger to unsuspecting children who could come in contact with a live line while climbing a tree.

Our contract crews trim trees along our distribution lines on a regular maintenance cycle, employing trained, highly skilled professionals who use the proper tools and safety practices. Instead of cutting the limbs back to unnatural stubs, they commonly use directional pruning techniques, removing only those branches that conflict with or threaten the power lines. This helps direct future growth away from the power lines.

“Generally, we will work within our right of way, but if we need to remove a tree

on private property, we must have permission from the property owner,” Cockrell said. “We will not do the work without it.”

If your landscaping plans call for a tree near electric lines, choose a low-growing variety. Anytime you plant, you should remember to check for underground power, cable and utility lines and keep clear of overhead lines.

“It's unlawful and unsafe to take equipment within 10 feet of high voltage lines,” Cockrell said. “Be alert. Keep hand tools, ladders and other items away from those lines.”

If you have any questions about landscaping or tree trimming around power lines and equipment, call us at (252) 247-3107.



Directional Pruning



A bus law primer

Rules you should know as the new school year approaches

Soon, bright yellow school buses will be traveling our roadways and children will be walking or biking to school.

It's the time of year to slow down and be extra vigilant. In fact, if you don't have any pressing appointments, you might consider postponing your travels first thing in the morning from 7:15 to 8:45 a.m., and again in the afternoon from 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.

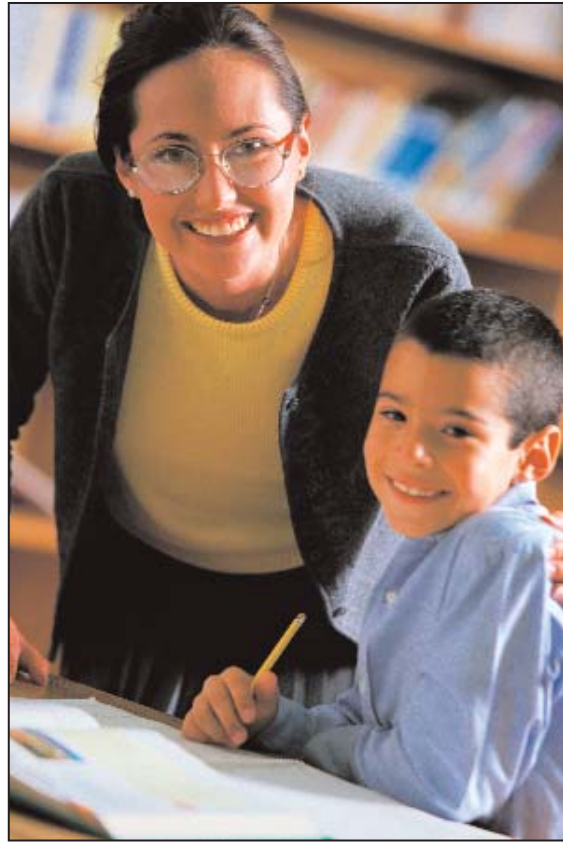
Knowing when it's legal and illegal to pass a stopped school bus can be confusing for motorists. Here are the rules:

- *On divided highways of four lanes or more with a median separation or center turning lane, only motorists following the bus must stop.*
- *All motorists on two-lane roads and two-lane roads that have a center turn lane must stop.*

It is important for motorists to remember the rules for buses when they stop. A bus must be completely stopped for loading and unloading. The red warning lights must be activated. The stop arm must be fully extended. (The stop arm should not be activated until the school bus comes to a complete stop).

Motorists required to stop must remain stopped until the stop arm has been withdrawn, the flashing red stoplights have been turned off and the bus has moved on.

"Crowding" stopped buses is a safety concern, too. Drivers need to keep a safe distance behind and in front of buses when they are stopped and should not start moving until the stop-arm is in and the bus is rolling.



Teachers have a unique source for educational programs: Bright Ideas grants to fund innovative teaching projects.

Your local electric co-op makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, the co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit.

And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, your co-op is always with you, reinvesting in the community, with programs such as Bright Ideas. That's why in an electric co-op, the people have the power.



**Carteret-Craven
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Chargers, battery backups add to your bill

There are items in your home consuming electricity that are very inconspicuous, but can add a few dollars to your bill each month.

Cell phone chargers, for instance, continue to draw electricity if they remain plugged in after the phone is removed. Electronically controlled items like telephones and computers draw small amounts of power to maintain their programmed memory.

Microwave ovens, televisions VCRs, DVD players and stereo systems have "instant-on" features so they

are ready the moment you want to use them.

Is your coffee maker still heating yesterday's brew?

A U.S. Department of Energy study showed that the energy used by each of these items is 4 to 7 watts per hour, even more for large items like VCRs and television sets. That usage adds up over a month -- an average of 50 Kwh for most households -- at a cost of about \$4. By year's

end, these less-obvious energy consumers cost you about \$48.

To get a better calculation for your home, list all the standby power devices, such as those

named above. Multiply the number of devices by 7 watts. Then multiply that figure by 24 hours to get a one-day total. If you divide that figure by 1,000, you will get the number of kilowatt hours consumed in one day, and you can multiply that by the cooperative's summer residential rate of .0756 to figure the daily cost.

Are there any items you can do without? Some can be unplugged. But you might lose programmed memory of others unless they have battery backup.





Everyone wins!

These golfers emerged victorious in the Harold Anderson Jr. Memorial Fund golf tournament in June to honor the former Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative lineman who lost his life while restoring power during Hurricane Isabel. The players are, from left, Jim Wellborn, Mary Ann Sutton, Susan Wellborn and Sue Rice.



carteret-craven electric cooperative

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