



Along the LINE

SEPTEMBER 2024

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Integral Role of the Senior Engineering Technician

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Senior Engineering Technician, Phillip Baker, is pivotal in ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of our cooperative. Phillip's expertise and dedication are integral to our mission of providing reliable service to our members.

As a Senior Engineering Technician, Phillip prepares, reviews and approves staking sheets, ensuring they comply with work plans and applicable specifications before construction begins. His meticulous attention to detail guarantees that every project meets our high standards and runs smoothly from start to finish.

Phillip's role also involves collaborating closely with members and outside parties. He meets with individuals seeking new or modified services, handles requests for pole attachments and provides cost estimates for "aid to construction" contracts. His work is crucial in planning line extensions and increasing capacity for our member-consumers, ensuring that their needs are met efficiently and effectively.

His dedication extends beyond his technical duties. Phillip is committed to maintaining open communication and strong relationships with our members, helping them navigate their service requirements and providing expert guidance every step of the way.

Phillip Baker's unwavering commitment and hard work exemplify the exceptional service that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to deliver to our members.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive-thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box, the SmartHub app, or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com.

To report an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.



Avoid Mail Returns and Payment Delays with Account Notifications

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is seeing an increase in the return of monthly electric bills through the mail. As a result, our Member Service Specialists are working diligently to contact members to prevent past-due balances or service disconnections due to undelivered bills.

Many of these mail returns require address corrections, and in some cases, we have already tried to reach out to the member to request an update. However, moving or changing your mailing address is not the only reason bills may fail to be delivered. We have discovered that some returned bills, despite having the correct address, require updating to the new 911 address to ensure proper delivery. These delays can affect any member in our system.

Additionally, we are experiencing delays in receiving mailed member payments, which can impact the timely crediting of payments. This

could lead to late payment fees or even service disconnection if your account is already past due.

To prevent these issues, we recommend the following:

- Log on to the SmartHub and verify that your mailing address is correct.
- Enroll in our free electronic billing service.
- Sign up for a “due date alert” and/or “past due date alert.” Alerts can be delivered via text or email.
- Sign up for a payment confirmation alert to know when your payment has been received and applied to your account.



- Enroll in auto-pay via bank account or credit card draft to ensure timely monthly payments.

You can enroll in any of the services mentioned above by logging into your SmartHub account. If you need any assistance, call a member services specialist at 252-823-2171.

Last Chance for Sporting Clay Fundraiser

You still have time to sign up for our 4-H Sporting Clay Fundraiser, or to become a sponsor for the event.

Our third Sporting Clays 4-H Fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 13. This exciting event consists of a 50-target competition. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the tournament, giving



everyone a chance to relax and enjoy some delicious food.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three individuals and teams. Gun rental services are available, and a maximum of 30 teams will be allowed to participate. Please note that shells are not included in the registration fee but can be purchased if needed. Only 7½ size shot or smaller is allowed. Eye and ear protection is required for all participants.

This event is a fantastic way to support our local 4-H programs,



which provide valuable educational experiences for youth in our community. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have fun and make a difference!

For more information or to sign up, contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.

Founded to bring electricity to unserved communities, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been a cornerstone of community development from the beginning. Since we are not-for-profit and owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. It is one of our seven guiding principles. We take that commitment very seriously, seeking ways to invest resources directly back into our communities.

In 2020, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC implemented our Operation Round Up program. This program encourages members to round up their electric bills to the next-highest dollar, with the money going into a fund for charitable community projects and local needs. Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which more than 200 electric cooperatives across the country participate, including most North Carolina electric cooperatives. The programs go by different names, but they all operate under the same premise: Small change makes a big impact in communities all across North Carolina.

Each month, members who wish to participate will allow Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to automatically round up electric bills to the next highest dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$68.51, your bill will be rounded up to \$69, meaning that month's contribution is 49 cents. If your bill is \$68.90, your bill will be rounded up to \$69, contributing 10 cents. The extra cents will be put into the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Operation Round Up fund. The cost to you will be 99 cents or less per month and will average about \$6.00 a year per member. Individually it doesn't sound like much, but collectively it adds up.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for our Operation Round Up program. The program supports initiatives in emergency energy assistance, economic development, education, emergency responders, energy efficiency and environmental efforts. Operation Round Up is powered by the generous contributions of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members who participate in the program.

Organizations both inside and outside the EMEMC service area that provide services to EMEMC members are eligible to apply for grants. Applications will not be accepted for general operating expenses, tax or payroll expenses, political causes, lobbying or advertising.

To apply, organizations can pick up an application at the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC office or download it from our website at ememc.com. Completed applications must be submitted to Monica Speight, either in person at 679 Hwy 33 East, Tarboro, NC, online at our website or by mail to EMEMC, Attention Monica Speight, P.O. Box 188, Tarboro, NC 27886.

All applications are reviewed by members of the EMEMC Board of Directors, who will make specific recommendations and awards based on the applications received.

Applications must be complete, with all questions answered and all requested financial reports/ documents attached. Incomplete

applications will not be considered. The maximum grant amount awarded to any organization in a calendar year is \$1,000. Only one application per project or event will be accepted from any entity during a calendar year (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31).

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will notify all applicants regarding the status of their requests and promptly forward payment for approved grants after the applications are reviewed. We encourage all eligible organizations to apply for Operation Round Up funding and join us in making a positive impact on our community.

For members who wish to sign up for Operation Round Up, email a member service representative at memberservices@ememc.com or call 252-823-2171. Even after you are signed up for Operation Round Up, you can opt-out of the program at any time by contacting Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Your small change can make a big difference!



Winston Howell
Winston Howell

Educators, Apply Now! The Bright Ideas Application Deadline is Approaching

The deadline for interested teachers to apply for a Bright Ideas grant is quickly approaching, and applicants have until Sept. 15 to submit an application.



The education grants will support local teachers with creative ideas to engage students and improve learning in K-12 classrooms. To find the application or learn more about the program, visit ncbrightideas.com.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Bright Ideas education grant program, with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and electric cooperatives statewide funding over 14,700 projects with more than \$15 million awarded to teachers across North Carolina since 1994. Over three million students have benefited from the projects, technology and enhanced

teaching methods made possible by Bright Ideas grants.

Teachers in any discipline, from engineering to art, can apply to receive a grant of up to \$1,500.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we believe that education is an essential part of building and bettering our community, and Bright Ideas grants enable us to advance excellence in education by helping local teachers who continue to go above and beyond in the classroom.

Submit your application today and help us light up learning for North Carolina students!

Along The LINE

ememc.com

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September Rights-of-Way

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing and cutting vegetation to prevent interruption of your electric service.

Throughout September, Burford's Tree will utilize the sky trim, bucket trucks and bushhogging equipment, in the Bethel service areas and various hotspots on the system.

