



Along the LINE

SEPTEMBER 2026

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Service Worth Celebrating

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to recognize two employees whose dedication and years of service have made a lasting impact on our cooperative and the members we serve.

Thomas Millwood retired on July 13 after 31 years of service. Most recently serving as Technical Services Coordinator, Thomas dedicated more than three decades to supporting the cooperative's operations and helping ensure reliable electric service for our members. Throughout his career, he was known for his knowledge, dependability and commitment to getting the job done right.

On Sept. 7, Eddie Stocks will retire after an outstanding 40 years of service. As Vice President of Member and Industrial Development, Eddie has played an important role in strengthening relationships with members, businesses and community leaders across our service area. His leadership, vision and dedication to the cooperative have contributed greatly to the growth and success of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

Together, Thomas and Eddie have devoted 71 years of service to the cooperative. Their experience, professionalism and commitment to our members have helped shape Edgecombe-Martin County EMC into the organization it is today.

While we will miss both Thomas and Eddie, we are grateful for their many contributions and wish them all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter. Thank you for your years of dedication and service to the cooperative and the communities we proudly serve.



Thomas Millwood



Eddie Stocks



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

After-hours and holiday payments can be made using the following options:

- Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy
- Calling our automated telephone service at 1-844-967-2463
- Placed in the night deposit box
- Online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

Bright Ideas Grants Help Turn Classroom Dreams into Reality

Teachers across eastern North Carolina are encouraged to start planning now for the 2026 Bright Ideas Education Grant Program. Sponsored by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives, Bright Ideas provides funding for innovative classroom projects that bring learning to life.



Applications are open through Sept. 15, and grants of up to \$1,500 are available for K-12 teachers in all subject areas. Whether it's a hands-on science experiment,

a technology-based learning experience, a creative arts project, or an interactive lesson that sparks student engagement, Bright Ideas helps educators transform ideas into meaningful learning opportunities.

Last year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC awarded grants to local teachers who developed projects that enhanced student learning through creativity, innovation and real-world experiences. The cooperative plans to award approximately \$10,000 in grants again this year.

"Teachers are constantly finding new and exciting ways to engage students," said Winston Howell, CEO of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

"The Bright Ideas program allows us to support those efforts by providing resources that help educators bring their vision to the classroom and create lasting educational experiences for students."

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the Bright Ideas program. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$16.5 million in grants, funding over 15,400 classroom projects and benefiting nearly four million students across the state.

Teachers interested in applying can learn more and submit an application at ncbrightideas.com before the Sept. 15 deadline.

Now Accepting Sealed Bids for the Entire Contents of a Building

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is now accepting sealed bids for the entire contents of a building. Two photos are included to provide a sample of some of the items available; however, they do not represent all contents.

Some of the larger items include two A/C and gas pack units, a freezer, welder, mini wood chipper, wood-burning stove, electric oven, miscellaneous furniture, and much more. Important: The successful bidder is responsible for removing all items from the building, leaving it completely empty. Bids will be accepted through Oct. 31, 2026. Submit bids by mail or in person to:

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
P.O. Box 188, Tarboro, NC 27886



For more information or to request additional details, please contact Alex Tucker at 252-641-9511 or alext@ememc.com. Don't miss this opportunity—submit your bid before the Oct. 31 deadline!

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FROM MANAGER OF ENGINEERING & IT
ETHAN THOMAS

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to announce the completion of our new Mayo-Dunbar Substation, a major investment in the reliability and future of our electric system.

Construction on the new substation began in October 2025 and was completed in June 2026. While members may not notice the new facility during their daily routines, this project represents one of the most significant improvements we can make to ensure dependable electric service for years to come.

The previous Mayo-Dunbar Substation served our members well for many years, but its location presented increasing challenges. Situated in a low-lying area, the site had become more susceptible to flooding—a risk that could threaten critical electrical equipment and potentially impact service reliability during severe weather.



With reliability as one of our highest priorities, we relocated the substation to higher ground directly behind the previous site. By moving this critical infrastructure out of the flood zone, we've significantly reduced

the risk of flood-related damage and strengthened our ability to provide safe, reliable power, even during extreme weather events.

The new Mayo-Dunbar Substation doubles the facility's capacity, increasing from 12.5 MVA to 25 MVA. This expanded capacity allows us to meet today's energy demands while preparing for future growth throughout our service area.

The upgraded substation also enhances the flexibility of our electric system. It now gives us the ability to fully back-feed neighboring substations when necessary. In the event of equipment failures, planned maintenance, or certain outage situations, electricity can be rerouted from the Mayo-Dunbar Substation to help restore power more efficiently and reduce the number of members affected.

Another important improvement prepares our system for the future. The new substation is designed to accommodate a future voltage conversion from 7.62 kV



to 14.4 kV line-to-ground. Planning for this future upgrade now allows us to improve system efficiency and reliability while reducing the need for costly modifications later.

The new facility also positions us to serve larger electric loads as our communities continue to grow. One of the first major projects that will benefit from this expanded capacity is the new Piedmont Natural Gas pumping station. By planning ahead, we're ensuring our electric system is ready to support both existing members and new commercial and industrial development.

In addition, the substation features a new circuit-regulated configuration that provides better voltage balancing across the system. Simply put, this helps maintain more consistent voltage levels for members, improving power quality and allowing electricity to be delivered more efficiently throughout the area.

Projects of this size don't happen overnight. They require months of engineering, planning, coordination, and construction, along with a significant financial investment. Every decision made throughout this project was guided by our commitment to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the members we serve.

The completion of the Mayo-Dunbar Substation is another important milestone in Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's ongoing efforts to modernize our electric system, improve reliability, support economic development, and prepare our communities for the future. While much of the work happens behind the scenes, investments like these help ensure that when you flip a switch, the power is there—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

Ethan Thomas

Ethan Thomas

Helping Members Lower Energy Costs

Many Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members have already taken advantage of the Energy Saver NC program and are seeing the benefits of a more energy-efficient home. Through the program, eligible homeowners and renters can receive rebates to help offset the cost of energy-saving upgrades.

Members have used the program to replace aging HVAC systems, upgrade appliances, improve insulation, seal air leaks and make other improvements that can increase comfort while reducing energy use.

Energy Saver NC offers two rebate options. The **HOMES** program focuses on whole-home energy savings through improvements such as insulation, air sealing, and HVAC upgrades. The **HEAR** program helps income-eligible households purchase high-efficiency electric equipment, including heat pump HVAC systems, heat pump water heaters, electric stoves, and electrical panel upgrades.

If you've been putting off home energy improvements, now may be the perfect time to see if you qualify. Eligibility is based on factors such as household income, the type of upgrade completed, and projected energy savings.

To learn more about Energy Saver NC and determine your eligibility, visit the program website today at energysavernc.org.



A Franklin Energy representative conducts an in-home energy assessment to identify opportunities for energy-saving improvements through the Energy Saver NC program.

Along The LINE

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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, or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

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, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment in the Whitakers area and various hotspots on the system.

