



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Deadline *Approaching*

Teachers in K-12 classrooms have until Friday, September 10, to submit Bright Ideas Grant Applications in Tideland EMC served counties.

The maximum grant award per project is \$2,000. To learn more about the program and Tideland's funding guidelines and to submit an online application visit ncbrightideas.com.



Marsh *Retirement*

Retirement season officially opened the afternoon of August 5 when senior staking technician John Marsh turned the lights off one last time at his Grantsboro office. He originally joined Tideland as a line superintendent in April 1993 after an 11-year career with the City of New Bern.

John and his wife, Wendy, look forward to continued homesteading in Tideland territory. And while John hasn't completely ruled out returning for limited storm duty, it would likely depend on hunting season.





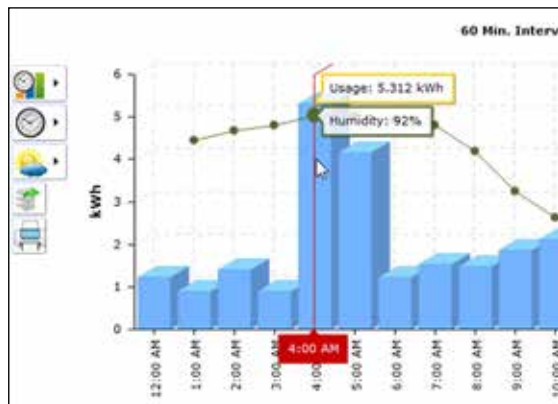
KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. STAY INFORMED. ReadyNC

It's the heat. And the humidity.

This summer our energy auditors spent a good bit of time utilizing the humidity index when reviewing energy consumption data. The index is available for member viewing on the member portal under the "Energy Usage" tab.

dehumidifiers are fighting a losing battle when the outdoor humidity is high. A small 30-pint dehumidifier rated at 300-watts that operates 24-hours a day consumes 7.2 kilowatt hours of

High humidity can lead to uncomfortable indoor conditions if the home's air-conditioning system is oversized, which leads to short-cycling and a failure to remove adequate amounts of moisture from the home.



Increasingly, our energy auditors are finding Tideland members with dehumidifiers located in crawlspaces. For numerous reasons, we are not proponents of such units unless the crawlspace has been properly encapsulated. Minus adequate vapor barriers and proper encapsulation,

electricity. Multiplied over 30 days that would contribute 216 kWh to the monthly electric bill (\$26.95).

To learn more about proper crawlspace encapsulation visit crawlspaces.org.

Peak preparedness

Peak hurricane season is upon us and we're back with another reminder about the importance of emergency preparedness. That's particularly true if you are new to eastern North Carolina and have not yet had to weather a severe tropical event.

While there are plenty of emergency preparedness checklists circulating here are a few items we want to reiterate.

- Read your property insurance policy. Know how to start a claim and what documentation will be required.
- Have the name and contact info of one or more licensed electricians handy in the event your metered service needs repairs before power can be restored.
- If you evacuate, turn off as many unnecessary breakers as possible before leaving. This helps reduce system load during power restoration efforts.
- Test your backup generator now. Don't wait until a storm is on the way. Have spare parts on hand since they will likely be in short supply once a storm arrives. Be sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector if you own a generator. It could save your life.



Yard sale. Lost pet. Fish fry. Favorite political candidate. Free roofing estimates.

No matter the reason, it is illegal in North Carolina to affix signage to a utility pole. Doing so can pose a danger to utility personnel and cause premature pole failure.

2021 Annual Meeting scheduled for October 21

by **PAUL SPRUILL**
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tideland EMC's board of directors is pleased to announce the scheduling of an in-person annual meeting. Last year's meeting was conducted via audio conference call in observance of both federal and state health and safety recommendations related to Covid-19.

This year we will return to the Continuing Education Auditorium on the campus of Beaufort County Community College in Washington. Annual meeting attendees will be required to adhere to any of the facility's masking and social distancing policies that may be in place at the time of the event.



Official Notice

You are hereby notified that the 2021 Annual Meeting of Members of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation will be held at Beaufort County Community College in Washington, NC, on Thursday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. the reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. the election of four (4) directors of the cooperative to serve three-years terms; and
3. the transaction of such other and further business, which may come before the meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

In accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws, the nominating committee nominated the following members as candidates for seats on the Board of Directors:

District 4: Charles Slade
District 5: Paul Sasnett
District 6: Wayne Sawyer
District 8: Clifton Paul

There were no nominations by petition. Meeting registration will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Mark Carawan
Secretary

September rights-of-way schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts and Gunnison Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During September, Lucas will be trimming out the Rose Bay and Dowry Creek circuits. Gunnison will be trimming out the Hyde County circuit out of our Pantego substation.

Our rights-of-way treatment contractor, Progressive Solutions, will be spraying in our Pantego operational district.

We will have construction crews with Lee Electric on the Orchard Creek Road portion of the Merritt circuit, the Rose Bay circuit along Highway 264, and on the Allen Road are of the Dowry Creek circuit.

River City construction crews will continue pole change outs along Broad Creek Road (Washington), Braddy Road and the Pamlico Plantation circuit.

An Osmose crew will be conducting pole inspections in our Engelhard operational district.

Holiday closing

Tideland offices will be closed Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day.

On-call crews will be available to respond to outages and service emergencies. Our 24-hour call center will also be staffed during that time.

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www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Douglas Brinson, President
Clifton Paul, Vice President
Mark Carawan, Secretary
David Ipock, Treasurer
Rudy Austin, Garry Jordan,
Dawson Pugh, Paul Sasnett,
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

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Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



John Marsh and Josh Bain

Passing the baton

In early 2020, lineman Josh Bain stepped away from his career at Tideland to help wife, Hope, with the expansion of her rapidly growing nutrition business. They also expanded their family with the birth of their second child, Brody. In the interim, Josh couldn't quite get Tideland out of his system. Utility posts often showed up on his social media.

Several months after Josh's departure, senior staking technician John Marsh advised the co-op that he would retire the following year. That provided a pathway for Josh to return to Tideland, putting his years of experience and system knowledge to good use as John's replacement. This provided invaluable continuity to our engineering operations in the co-op's largest and fastest growing district.

Having made the transition from lineman to staking technician himself, John can attest to the advantage Josh has having performed the actual line-work that stakers map out. During his tenure, John says the greatest workplace improvement has been the tagging and toning of underground facilities which have vastly improved safety and operational efficiencies. The co-op also undertook a massive mapping project that returned all assemblies to Rural Utilities Services standards which in turn streamlined inventory.

As a small utility, Tideland stakers wear many hats and are often the first co-op employee members engage with in person. We have no doubt that John has left this important job in good hands as he passes the baton to Josh.

