

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Membership meeting *May 16*

The annual meeting of members will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at Beaufort County Community College auditorium. Member registration will begin at 6:30 pm. The meeting start time is 7:00 pm. Look for the official notice and annual report in next month's issue of Tideland Topics.



## *A new way* to pay!

Tideland EMC is excited to offer a new convenient option for members to pay their electric bills in person. Pay Where You Shop provides a fast and easy method for members to pay their electric bill while shopping at participating retailers like Dollar General, Family Dollar, Speedway, Walgreens, and CVS Pharmacy.

See Page 21 for details!



*Join us in thanking our line crews for their service*

## Message to members

# April 8 is Electric Cooperative Lineworker Appreciation Day

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Electric cooperative lineworkers are our hometown heroes, first responders, and skilled professionals. They do what needs to be done to keep the electricity flowing to the families and businesses in our communities. The work they do, often in grueling and hazardous conditions, powers our lives.

How can you show your support to our lineworkers?

**Wave or say hello!** We live and work in the communities we serve, so the lineworkers that serve you are also your neighbors.

**Help keep them safe.** Give them some space while they work.

### Engelhard district:

William Sawyer  
Kane Cox  
Joseph Gibbs  
Joe Pugh  
Bubba Calhoun  
Phillip Sawyer

### Grantsboro district:

Caleb Banks  
Michael Baldwin  
Greg Bennett  
Ben Fugate  
Greg Morris  
Timmy Ipock  
Andrew Christie  
Chris Rice

### Ocracoke district:

Donald Austin  
Grant Jackson  
Justin Boor

### Pantego district:

Rustin Reason  
Trent Linton  
Austin Roscoe  
Matthew Neal  
Jacob Hardison  
Jonathan Lee  
Michael Marslender  
Jason Kitchen



Since 2013, Tideland EMC has annually participated in both national and state celebrations to honor these dedicated members of our own workforce on Lineworker Appreciation Day. In North Carolina, electric cooperative's will officially observe that day on April 8.

Unofficially though, we celebrate them each and every day.

That's especially true when you see a stopped utility vehicle. Slow down and move your vehicle over as you would do for other emergency personnel.

**Post a message.** Use the hashtag #ThankALineworker on social media whenever you want to express your appreciation.

# Pay your way with CheckOut

Tideland EMC members now have a new remote payment option providing immediate credit to your account without the payment posting delays or exorbitant fees associated with other third-party providers. To provide this convenient service, we have partnered with the CheckOut payment network.

To begin the process, visit [tidelandemc.com](https://tidelandemc.com) and go to the CheckOut landing page where you will enter your Tideland account number and click "Find Your Account."

The next screen will populate a street number associated with the service address to ensure you've entered the correct account number. After verifying, click "Get Your Barcode."

The next screen will display the barcode unique to your account (sample image below).

If you have more than one Tideland EMC account, you will need to retrieve the unique barcode for each individual account.

You will have the option to "Print Barcode" which you will present to the retail location to process your payment. You can also use a screenshot saved to your mobile device.

Use CheckOut's "Find Locations" link to find a payment location near you. Members are not locked into a specific geographical area in which they can make payments with this system, which is convenient for those with second homes and traveling outside the area.

CheckOut does not have the ability to display your Tideland account balance. If you do not have your bill handy, you can utilize Tideland's member portal, mobile app, or call our office for balance information.

Please note that a \$1.50 service fee is collected with each payment you make utilizing the CheckOut network.

After successful payment, you may retrieve your full detailed E-Receipt at [tidelandemc.meridiancheckout.com](https://tidelandemc.meridiancheckout.com) after entering your account number.

## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

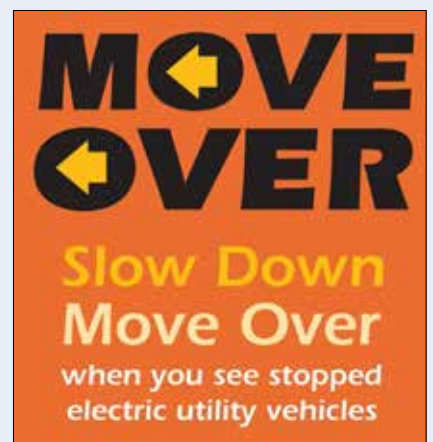
Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree to manage vegetation in our rights-of-way.

During April, Gunnison will continue work trimming the Merritt Circuit out of the Silver Hill substation in areas along Florence Road and Trent Road. Once complete, they will begin works on the Keystown 1 and 2 circuits in the areas of Highway 306 and Keystown Road.

Lee Electric line construction crews will be working in the Engelhard District between the Dare County Bombing Range and the village of Stumpy Point on Highway 264 East. Towards month end, Lee crews will begin work on the Craven County circuit out of the Edward substation in the Tunstall Swamp Road area.

Thank you for your support of each of these important maintenance activities which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

Be sure to give all utility crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways.



**Congratulations.**  
**Your Barcode is ready for use.**

Account Number **7575672006** Street Number **376**

Use the below barcode to make a payment at convenient, participating retail locations. Please be sure to tell the cashier the amount you would like to add to your account.

**SAMPLE**

10101010100001000000000310101

By using this barcode to make a payment, you agree to the full terms and conditions, available at [tidelandemc.meridiancheckout.com](https://tidelandemc.meridiancheckout.com). You may also visit this website to search payment locations and to view your full e-receipts after making payments.

Enter Email Address  [SEND BARCODE TO EMAIL >](#)

[PRINT BARCODE >](#)

[VIEW PAYMENT HISTORY](#)



Members participating in the co-op's residential time-of-use rate plan are reminded that the switch to summer peak hours begins on Tuesday, April 16.

The on-peak hours will be 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Memorial Day, the fourth of July and Labor Day will be off-peak holidays.

*Real People.  
Real Power.*

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

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### Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



## Time-of-use hours change

# April is National Safe Digging Month



With spring in full swing, there's no better time to remember to "Call Before You Dig." According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged every nine minutes because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project or you are hiring a professional, call 811 at least three days prior to starting any digging project to request that all underground utilities be marked. The service is free.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even "just" planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences.

Hitting a line could result in serious injuries and disrupted service for you and your neighbors. It could also make a dent in your wallet for repair fees or other fines.

The 811 hotline points out that there is more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman, and child in the U.S.

Before digging:

- Notify NC OneCall 811 or making an online request 2-3 days before work begins.
- Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
- Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.

Remember that privately owned underground lines will NOT be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines that serve a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

## Holiday Closing

Our offices will be closed Friday, March 29, for Good Friday.

Our 24-hour member service center will remain open and crews are on standby to respond to outages as needed.

