

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

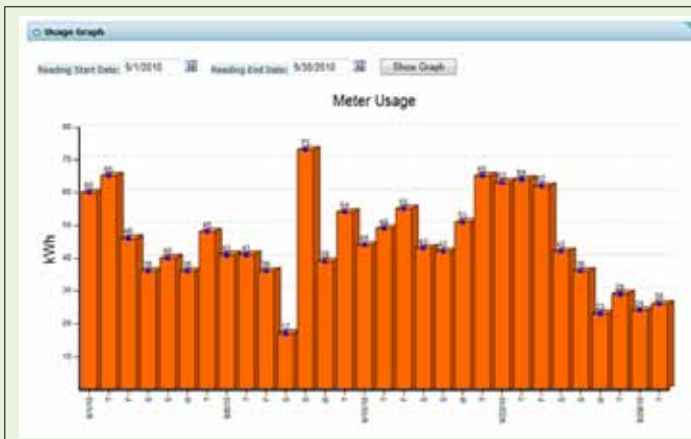
MEMBER PORTAL: Now providing access to hourly & daily kWh data

The co-op has replaced its online account access webpage with a new and improved member portal. Like the previous webpage, the member portal allows you to view and pay your bill online in a safe and secure manner.

However, the member portal offers advanced viewing options that you're sure to find helpful.

Under the "My Account" tab you can change your online password, update your account profile and contact information, and view your security deposit status if you have one.

The member portal also gives you the ability to view both your daily and hourly rate of kilowatt hour consumption. You also have the option to include daily and hourly temperature data, which will help



you learn how weather impacts your use of electric service. Weather data is based on New Bern meteorological readings.

January WPCA credit will be higher than anticipated

The January 2013 wholesale power cost adjustment credit to members will be even higher than the amount reported to members in the December issue of Tideland Topics. The exact billing calculation was not yet available as this issue of Tideland Topics went to press in mid-December but it will nonetheless be greater than \$5.12 per 1,000 kilowatt hours of consumption. The higher credit is largely the result of favorable natural gas pricing, which in turn kept electric generating prices lower than forecasted.

On Monday, December 10, natural gas futures dropped 2.7% as meteorologists revised winter forecasts calling for milder temperatures than originally anticipated.



2012-13 CLASSROOM GRANT RECIPIENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S BRIGHT IDEAS CLASSROOM GRANT AWARD WINNERS!

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right-of-way.

In January, they will be working along the Lowland Circuit:

- Hwy 306 south of Hwy 33 intersection
- Old Sandhill, Rowe, Bergin, West, Idalia and Guilford Station roads
- Hwy 306 north of Aurora to the end of Hickory Point

and all small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads.

Facebook milestone

On Sunday, December 9, Tideland EMC reached a Facebook milestone when we received our 1,000th "Like." That puts Tideland EMC in the second place position among North Carolina's electric cooperatives utilizing the social media site. Help us reach first place by becoming a fan of our page!

Jean Ham
Pungo Christian Academy
"Take Time to Save the Dime"
 Students will receive financial literacy instruction using the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Junior Course.



Andrew Pastoor
Terra Ceia Christian School
"Frictionless Physics"
 Through a variety of lab activities, students will study momentum, acceleration and other laws of motion and kinetic force.

Joshua Singleton
Southside High School
"Becoming a Pro Landscaper"
 Utilizing landscape design software, students will pair up with local property owners to serve as their "client." Following an on site visit of the client's property, students will return to the classroom to prepare landscape designs and make their final presentation to the client which will include CAD designs, photo images, night illumination options, irrigation layouts, and bid sheets.

Tami Wagaman
Northside High School
"Fitness for a Lifetime"
 Freshmen will create a custom fitness and nutrition plan. They will be introduced to various physical fitness routines, including zumba, tae-bo, and yoga, and learn how to make healthy food choices when eating out.

Autumn Wallace
Northeast Elementary
"Bouncing to Great Heights"
 Classroom chairs will be replaced with stability balls which improve posture, increase blood flow to the brain and boost attention span. The balls will also be used for various physical fitness activities.



Sherrie Swain
John Small Elementary
"Fantastic Fractions"
 \$1,186.23
 Numerous manipulatives and games will be purchased to increase student comprehension of proper, improper and mixed fractions.

Roxanne Beeman
Eastern Elementary
"Fluent Readers Never Fail to Comprehend"
 The five key elements of literacy, phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension, will be developed through the use of whisper phones, audio books and recording microphones.

Joannie Kellum
Eastern Elementary
"My Plate-USDA"
 The food pyramid has been updated with the My Plate nutrition guide. This grant will provide instructional materials to compliment another grant which will provide each student with their own plate that is properly portioned to represent the various food groups that comprise a healthy meal.



Michelle Wall & Karen Payton
Bridgeton Elementary
"Bridgeton Grows!"
 Students will establish a community garden on campus, learning how to cultivate their own produce while gaining an appreciation for fresh, healthy food options. Compost will be made using leftovers from the school cafeteria. Participants in the library's summer program will help maintain the garden when school isn't in session.

Lizzann Taylor
Arapahoe Charter School
"Weather - Everybody CAN Talk About It!"
 Grant funds will be used to install a weather station to record wind speed, temperature, barometric pressure, precipitation, humidity, solar radiation and UV index. Students will use the data to chart, graph and analyze local weather conditions. Data will be streamed live via the internet.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

You could win a trip to Washington, D.C.

One Tideland area high school student will have an opportunity to take part in this year's all expense paid Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The event, which takes place June 15-21, 2013, involves more than 1,500 students representing electric cooperatives from across the nation.

The Youth Tour recruiting process is open to high school sophomores and juniors. What experiences await Tideland's youth tourists?

- Learn more about America's electric cooperatives
- Lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Visit Capitol Hill and meet with North Carolina's Senators and Congressional representatives



- Visit the sites of Washington, D.C., including the Smithsonian, the Newseum, the Kennedy Center and the Holocaust Museum.

- A boat trip down the Potomac
- Attend an All States Dance
- An opportunity to win a college scholarship

To apply, students must be the legal dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

Application materials have been mailed to all local high school guidance counselors. Students can also download an application at www.tidelandemc.com. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 8. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252-944-2410.

Don't let energy savings go up in smoke

Your fireplace creates a warm, cozy atmosphere during wintry weather, but don't let it add unnecessary dollars to your electric bill.

Fireplaces heat the room they're in but at the expense of the rest of the house. Most of the heat in traditional fireplaces goes up the chimney instead of warming living space, and the draft pulls heat from other rooms. So if your thermostat is located away from the fireplace, it will work harder to maintain room temperatures for the rest of the house.

Fireplace "inserts" help boost energy efficiency. Contact a local retailer to learn about efficient stoves and inserts that will circulate hot air into a room to help lower heating costs. But keep in mind the disadvantages of using high-maintenance fires as heat sources, including constant attention and ash disposal.

If you don't have an efficient insert but love a crackling fire, follow these measures for safety and improved efficiency:

- Fight the draft. If you plan on a long-lasting fire, lower the thermostat to

save energy—just be prepared to wear a sweater in other rooms—and resist the temptation to crank the temperature back up after the fire goes out.

- Clean sweep. Have your chimney and fireplace inspected once a year, and cleaned or repaired when necessary. Even if you don't use your fireplace often, an annual inspection will find any blockage from animal nests or other deterioration.
- Batten down the hatch. Keep the chimney flue closed when not using your fireplace to prevent conditioned or heated air from escaping.
- Choose your wood wisely. Wood that's dried at least six months provides the best heat, so avoid any that's wet or newly chopped. And the harder the tree species, the longer your fire will burn. This makes ironwood, rock elm, hickory, oak, sugar maple, and beech good choices. Store wood off the ground and away from your house to remove the threat of termite infestation, and cover the top to lessen moisture but leave the sides open for circulation.

10 PLACES TO LOOK FOR AIR LEAKS

1. Windows

2. Doors

3. Fireplace dampers

4. Exterior wall outlets

5. Plumbing & wiring penetrations

6. Clothes dryer vent

7. Recessed lighting

8. Attic access hatch or door

9. Duct work and boot connections

10. Exhaust fans

Scholarship deadline approaching

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland EMC is accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the legal dependent of a Tideland EMC member. The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

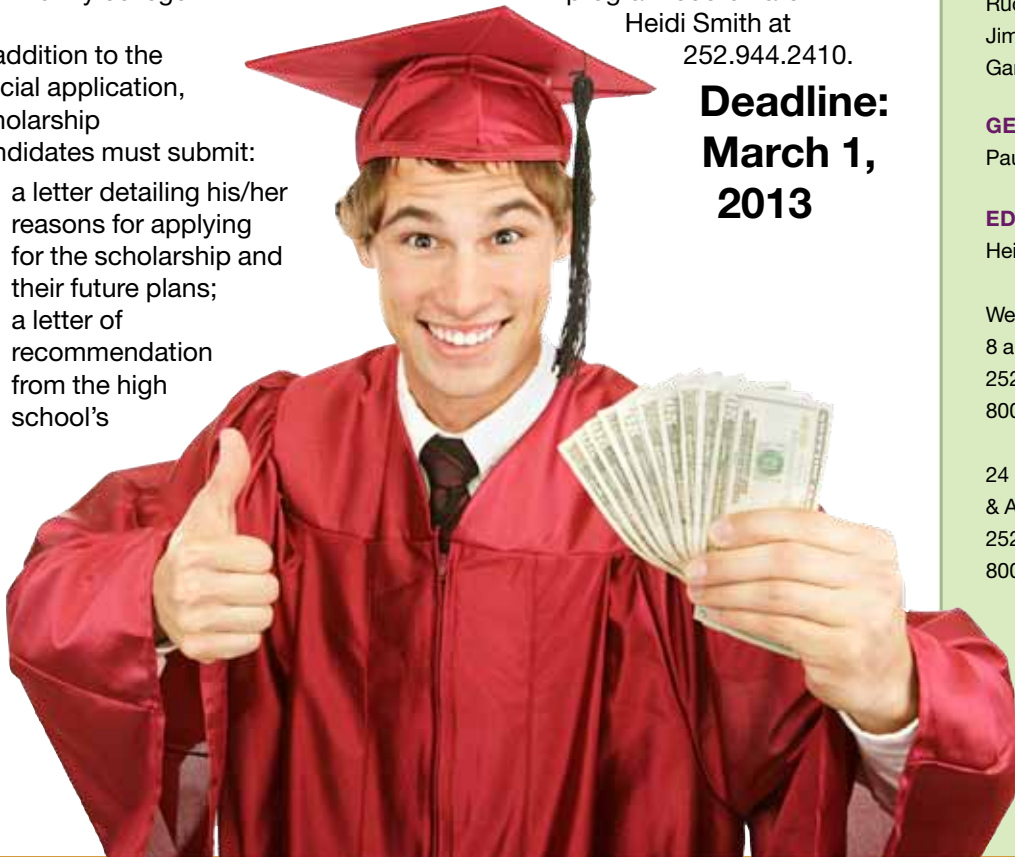
In addition to the official application, scholarship candidates must submit:

1. a letter detailing his/her reasons for applying for the scholarship and their future plans;
2. a letter of recommendation from the high school's

- principal, guidance counselor or academic advisor;
3. a complete transcript of high school courses and grades; and
4. SAT or ACT scores if applicable.

Students have until Friday, March 1, 2013, to apply. An application may be downloaded at www.tidelandemc.com. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

**Deadline:
March 1,
2013**



Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President
Clifton Paul, Secretary
David Ipock, Treasurer
Rudy Austin, Leon Bryant,
Jimmy Burbage, Mark Carawan,
Garry Jordan & Wayne Sawyer

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

Weekday Member Service
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
252.943.3046
800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting
& Automated Services
252.944.2400
800.882.1001



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

HOLIDAY NOTICE: OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED JANUARY 1, 2013

Give it your best shot

This summer Tideland EMC will provide all-expenses paid scholarships for one girl to attend the NC State Girls Basketball Camp in Raleigh (August 1-4) and one boy to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill (June 15-19). The camps will work closely with attendees to develop fundamental skills to help students both on and off the court.



Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply and Tideland EMC will begin accepting applications on January 1. The deadline to apply is March 30. Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and written essay.

Applications have been mailed to all middle school coaches in Tideland's six county service territory. Students can also download an application at our website: www.tidelandemc.com. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at Tideland EMC at 252.944.2410.