

Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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



PREEMPT HIGH BILLS: Put high-use alerts to work for you

A stuck water heater thermostat could increase your electric bill \$12 a day. A malfunctioning HVAC system that is both heating and cooling could cost you \$24 a day. How would you know any of these issues had occurred before the arrival of an enormous electric bill? You probably wouldn't unless you signed up for high energy use alerts from Tideland EMC.

When members sign up for high-use alerts they choose the daily dollar amount that will trigger an alert. For example, if your goal is to keep monthly

electric bills below \$210 a month we recommend that you set your high-use alert for \$7 a day. Anytime you use more than \$7 in a 24-hour period we will send you a text or email message with the day's total energy consumption. While a single day's alert needn't cause alarm, getting alerts several days in a row could indicate problems with an appliance or HVAC system. To enroll in high-use alerts, log into your account on the member portal via www.tidelandemc.com or call our 24-hour member call center at 800.637.1079.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Colcannon

3 pounds unpeeled potatoes
2 sticks butter
1-1/4 cups hot milk
Black pepper
1 head cabbage, cored
1 pound ham or bacon
4 scallions, chopped
Fresh parsley, chopped



Steam potatoes in their skins for 30 minutes. Peel then mash thoroughly. Add 1 stick of butter. Gradually add hot milk, stirring all the time. Season with pepper.

Boil cabbage in unsalted water until it turns a darker color. Add 2 tablespoons butter to tenderize. Cover with lid for 2 minutes. Drain thoroughly before returning it to the pan. Chop into small pieces.

Cook ham/bacon. Remove any fat and chop into small pieces. Add cabbage, scallions, and ham to mashed potatoes, stirring gently.

When serving, make an indentation in each portion and place 1 tablespoon of butter to create a butter well for dipping. Sprinkle with parsley.



Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. In March they will be working in the Yeatesville, Free Union and Sidney areas of Beaufort County.

This includes all connected lanes and roads in that area where overhead power lines are present.

Mowing crews will be working in the following Hyde County communities: Sladesville, Scranton and Swan Quarter.

Please lend your full support to our tree trimming efforts. Trees are the number one cause of outages.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**SIEMPRE
LLAMA
ANTES DE
EXCAVAR**

Message to our Member-Owners: 2015 off to a good power cost start

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Power costs started off on a favorable note as 2015 got underway.

On January 2, the co-op announced that the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit increased to \$4.25 per 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). That was up from the December 2014 WPCA credit of \$3.87 per 1,000 kWh.

Our power cost news got even better when on February 4 we announced that the WPCA credit for the month had increased to \$6.33 per 1,000 kWh. That brought the billed rate per residential kilowatt hour down to just 9.95¢ for the month of February. A year earlier the cost

per residential kWh was 10.71¢. And three years ago the billed rate was 10.722¢.

While weather and kWh consumption are still the primary factors that determine the amount



of your monthly electric bill, we're always glad to pass along any amount of rate relief when possible.

Our day-to-day fleet operating expenses have also greatly benefitted from what may ultimately

be short-lived reductions in transportation fuels. January 2015 fleet fuel expenses were down nearly 30% compared to January 2014.

Ultimately any savings we realize are passed along to you, our members, either in the form of reduced rates or higher member margins, which ultimately are returned to you through capital credit disbursements.

One thing not down are electric sales. January 2015 was slightly warmer than the historical average and 17% warmer than January 2014. However, kilowatt-hour sales increased 4% from the same time last year. That increase is primarily driven by the continuing consumer trend to switch to electric home heating.



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Save Energy, Save Water, Save Dollars

... and get all this FREE!

Earth Massage showerhead

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- As featured in Good Housekeeping magazine



Kitchen Faucet Aerator

- Easy fingertip on/off feature



Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators



Total Kit Value:
Over \$50!



A Bright Idea that keeps on growing

In November 2012, Bridgeton Elementary teachers Michelle Wall and Karen Payton received a Bright Ideas grant in the amount of \$1,492 for their project "Bridgeton Grows!" Since that time, staff and students have constructed a total of eight garden boxes. Wall writes that "With each passing year, the soil

gets richer and more productive. This winter, we had great success planting broccoli and collards. My students participated in broccoli tastings and collard tastings. With broccoli, they tried it raw with ranch dressing, steamed with garlic salt, and steamed with parmesan cheese. Our cafeteria workers helped prepare some collards so the students could compare fresh collards to frozen collards. Then the students completed a survey to show which collards they prefer. According to the survey, nearly all of the students preferred the fresh collards to the frozen collards. I also had seven students who had never tried collards before, and all seven liked them! Thank you so much for giving my students this opportunity to participate in growing their own food and learning to try new things while eating healthy."



SPRING ARRIVES MARCH 20

1.

WHILE CHANGING OUT YOUR AIR FILTER, REMOVE THE RETURN AIR GRILLE AND GIVE IT A THOROUGH CLEANING TO REMOVE DUST BUILDUP

2.

GIVE YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER GASKETS A THOROUGH CLEANING WITH A SOFT BRUSH AND WARM SOAPY WATER

3.

CLEAN RANGE TOP DRIP PANS SO THEY WILL REFLECT MORE HEAT FOR FASTER COOKING

4.

CLEAN YOUR CLOTHES DRYER VENT HOSE FOR FASTER DRYING AND TO PREVENT FIRES



Two local Touchstone Energy sports camp scholars were recently recognized mid-court during halftime at a North Carolina State University women's basketball game. Riley Cutler and Ashaureah Wall each earned all-expense-paid scholarships from Tideland EMC to attend the Wolfpack Women's basketball camp last summer.

Riley is the daughter of Michael and Mary Ann Cutler of Pantego. Ashaureah is the daughter of Rosa and William Burke of Vanceboro.

Through March 31, Tideland is accepting current year applications for the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill and the N.C. State Wolfpack Women's camp in Raleigh. Applications can be obtained online by visiting www.tidelandemc.com.



Nine-year-old Abbey Cutler joined sister Riley for the Wolfpack festivities.



Camp scholars saw their names flashed across the jumbotron at Reynolds Coliseum during halftime.



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