

# Tideland Topics

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

## POWER OF EDUCATION: Time to apply for college scholarships

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Students must reside in a home served by Tideland EMC. 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 9, 2018, to apply. An application may be downloaded at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).

For more information, contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or [heidismith@tidelandemc.com](mailto:heidismith@tidelandemc.com).

### FINAL TALLY:

**\$450,000**

## General Retirement

Last month we reported that a general retirement of capital credits for the year 1990 was likely to be approved by our board of directors, but could not confirm the amount of the refund at press time.

The approved refund totaled \$450,000 and the general retirement was issued during the December billing cycle. If you had service with the co-op in 1990, you most likely received your refund as a line item credit on your December bill. A handful of members received refund checks.



## Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way.

During January, they will continue to work on the Blounts Creek circuit while another crews starts at Ocracoke.

Mowing crews will be working on Florence, Whortonville and Trent roads and all side roads in those areas.

Please support these important system maintenance operations. Proper tree care leads to greater system reliability.

# Message to our Member-Owners: Unexpected WPCA decline

by Paul Spruill • Chief Executive Officer & General Manager

**When this issue of our newsletter went to press the first week of December we had just lowered the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) charge.**

It was an unexpected decrease due in part to a fourth quarter refund we received from our power supply co-op. Higher-than-anticipated kilowatt hour (kWh) sales also contributed to the lower WPCA.

From June 2017 to November 2017, the WPCA charge was \$7.49 per 1,000 kWh. On December 1, we were able to reduce the WPCA to \$4.99 per 1,000 kWh right before an unseasonably cold front started to make its way to Tideland territory.

While we are thankful the WPCA unexpectedly dropped to less than half a penny per kWh, when you

compare this year's energy costs to last year (or previous years) you could feel a little sticker shock. The average WPCA experience in the last 24 months, Jan-Dec, was actually a WPCA credit on the bill as opposed to a charge. We returned to our members an average of \$2.33 for each 1,000 kwh consumed. Further exasperating any year to-year differences could be an increase in heating degree days for those of you that primarily heat with electricity.

In its late autumn report, the US Department of Energy forecasted that average household expenditures for all major home heating fuels will rise this winter because of expected colder weather, and to a lesser extent, higher energy costs. Average increases vary by fuel, with natural gas expenditures forecast to rise

by 12%, home heating oil by 17%, electricity by 8%, and propane by 18%. DOE reported: "Temperatures this winter, based on the most recent forecast of heating degree days from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), are expected to be colder than last winter across the country. However, last winter was significantly warmer than normal."

If winter 2018 is 10% warmer than forecast, electric home heating costs would likely increase 4%. If it is 10% colder than forecast, DOE predicts consumer electricity expenditures would increase 12%. Therefore, remember your role as a consumer in controlling costs by observing affordable thermostat settings and weatherizing and conserving when and where possible.

## Give it your best shot

Tideland EMC will provide an all-expense-paid scholarship for one girl to attend the NC State Girls Basketball Camp in Raleigh and one boy to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill this summer. The camps will work closely with attendees to develop fundamental skills to help each excel on and off the court. The girls' camp will be June 10-13 while the boys' camp will be June 16-20.



Rising sixth through eighth graders may apply now. The application can be downloaded at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com). Applications have also been mailed to all middle school coaches in Tideland's six-county service territory.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2018.

Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and written essay.

For more information, call Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.



**TEACHERS INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF BRIGHT IDEAS FUNDING MAY VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NCBRIGHTIDEAS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION. HERE ARE OUR MOST RECENT WINNERS. CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Chrissy French, Mickie Kinnear, and Stephanie Warren**  
**Bridgeton Elementary**  
**“Out of the Box: Morning Work with a Purpose”**

Learning tubs will provide a variety of theme based morning activities for 275 students in grades K-3. The multi-disciplinary tubs will explore numerous subjects including

roller coasters. (If you want to know just how engaging this learning activity is, do an internet search for marble roller coasters. Very impressive!)

**Alice Faucette**  
**Bath Elementary**  
**“Sorry about the Mess in the Library. We’re Learning Here!”**

Students in grades K-8 will collaborate to invent, engineer, build and create using Legos, circuits and coding. The school’s library will serve as a Makerspace hub. Through makerspace activities all students will improve their dexterity, problem solving and critical thinking skills, and their ability to follow directions.



earth science, robotics, creative writing, mathematics, art and technology. Hands-on activities improve critical thinking and foster positive socialization by having students work collaboratively with their peers. Studies show that engaging in creative playtime during the school day improves attendance and overall classroom engagement.

**Kaylee Kramer**  
**Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary**  
**“Collaborate, Create & Coast: Force & Motion Roller Coasters”**

Kramer’s fourth and fifth grade students have moderate to severe learning disabilities. As part of their studies about force and motion, each student will construct two marble

**Tami Wagaman**  
**Northside High School**  
**“How Do We See Our Cells?”**

This grant replaces now obsolete school microscopes and water baths to enhance biology lessons related to the study of plant and animal cells.

**Daryn Martin**  
**Arapahoe Charter School**  
**“Monumental Moments”**

The school’s Visual Art students will collaborate with Pamlico Community College’s welding class to design, create and install a sculpture to represent the graduating class of 2018.

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

**1.**  
**Windows**

**2.**  
**Doors**

**3.**  
**Fireplace dampers**

**4.**  
**Exterior wall outlets**

**5.**  
**Plumbing penetrations**

**6.**  
**Clothes dryer vent**

**7.**  
**Recessed lighting**

**8.**  
**Attic access hatch or door**

**9.**  
**Duct work and boot connections**

**10.**  
**Wire penetrations (cable, telephone & electrical)**

# Bright Ideas Winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Melissa Nelson and Debbie Arthur  
Northeast Elementary

“Apples are no longer just for teachers!”  
Second grade students will be introduced to the use of iPad minis in the classroom for both independent and collaborative study in math and language arts.

Jessica Crider  
Pungo Christian Academy  
“Mesmerizing Mimio Math”

Funds will be used to purchase a MimioTeach System which turns any dry-erase board into an interactive whiteboard to enhance classroom learning.

Ashley Leary and Maureen Prendergast  
Pamlico County Middle School  
“Energy in Science”

Ninety PCMS students will annually benefit from the purchase of lab materials to enhance the study of the properties of waves, matter and energy. The teaching team will let up a light lab, a pitch lab and a transverse and longitudinal waves lab. Labs for evaporation, condensation, atoms and molecules will comprise the properties of matter exercise. And the energy unit will include solar and electrical energy labs.

Elizabeth Harwick  
Pamlico County Middle School  
“Creating Comprehension”

Funds will be used to expand on the school’s existing green screen studio by providing video and lighting equipment

as well as a special effects Chromekey body suit.

Alison Bennett  
Pamlico County High School  
“Mars or Bust”

Students will conduct experiments designed to compare and contrast conditions on Mars and Earth and then solve a series of problems associated with getting to and colonizing the red planet.

Naomi Morrison  
Mattamuskeet Elementary  
“21st Century Brain Training”

Fifth grade language arts students will work independently and collaboratively with Fire HD tablets to build both their reading and research skills.

Susan Manning  
Fred A. Anderson Elementary  
“Independent Reading Success”

Funds will be used to purchase learning aids to improve reading lessons in phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension for Manning’s third grade students.

Mary Alons  
Washington County Union School  
“Reading Anytime, Anywhere”

Due to the expense of books, the school has partnered with Pettigrew Library to provide e-book resources. The Tideland grant will purchase the requisite e-readers for 40 students.

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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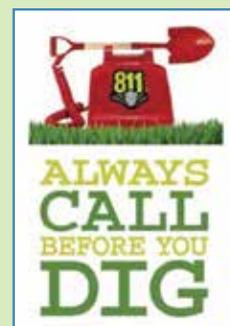
### Member Service

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



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: MONDAY • JANUARY 1, 2018

OUR 24-HOUR CALL CENTER WILL REMAIN OPEN & CREWS REMAIN ON-CALL

## Little things add up

A little D-I-Y can go a long way to reduce energy costs this winter. Here are some tips from our energy auditors:

- Shut crawlspace vents
- Remove window air conditioning units if possible or cover them to reduce drafts
- Add a door sweep or use a draft dodger to reduce exterior door leaks

