

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Bright Ideas *classroom grants*

Teachers, it is time to apply for Bright Ideas classroom grants for the 2020-2021 school year. Maximum grant award per project is \$2,000.

Visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com) to begin the online application process. Submit your application by August 15 to be eligible for Early Bird prize drawings. Final deadline is September 15.



## Hurricane season 2020

June 1 officially kicks off the start of the 2020 hurricane season. Take time now to review your home and business preparedness plans. That should include doing any required maintenance on backup generators to make sure they are ready for service.

Summer thunderstorms also increase risk of surge damage so be sure to invest in quality protective devices for electronics and other sensitive loads.





April 18  
Whortonsville  
wind storm

# Ward retires after 39 years of service



Windy weather impacted service in four Tideland served counties on April 18. The hardest hit area was Whortonsville, where 182 members on the Merritt circuit experienced an extended outage after a carport and other flying debris broke two power poles, damaged a transformer and left a large amount of wire on the ground.

Tideland crews were restoring power at the site of an auto accident in Craven County when the call arrived. Our thanks to the sheriffs department and volunteer fire officials who helped secure the area until our crews could arrive.

It took approximately five hours to complete the Whortonsville repairs.

## Social distancing cuts goodbyes short

When the front doors are unlocked and members can once again visit our Grantsboro office there will be a noticeable absence: Connie Ward retired on April 30 after 39 years of service.

Connie had intended to retire earlier, but with Karen Auth's departure last year, Connie extended her tenure long enough to train two new service representatives. It was very important to Connie to make the transition as smooth as possible for all the members she came to know and love.

Connie had an uncanny ability to remember the name and year of every hurricane during her many decades of service. One of the most memorable was Hurricane Florence during which Connie camped out at the Grantsboro office alone. When tornado alerts were issued, she



Connie Ward

moved her bedding into the records vault and hunkered down for the night.

We will miss Connie's daily presence but wish her all the best as her retirement adventures begin.

# \$2.7 million upgrade underway

## Ductile iron to replace 141 wooden poles

In November, we reported on a project to harden the infrastructure between our Five Points and Washington substations. Work got underway in late April following a brief delay when the construction crew was called off the job to respond to tornado damage in Anderson, South Carolina.

Ductile iron poles will replace all 141 existing wooden poles. The project will take 2 to 3 months to complete depending on weather events.

In 2015, a tornado did significant damage to this section of line. In May 2019, straight line winds again snapped poles on this circuit.

Ductile iron pole characteristics:

- Resistant to woodpeckers, insects and rot
- Service life of 75-plus years
- Low maintenance and corrosion resistant
- Consistent and uniform strength
- More cost effective than steel and concrete alternatives



The subtransmission route between the Five Points and Washington substations.



MasTec construction crews prepare to place protective rubber sleeves on the energized line so they can begin work on new iron pole installation.

## Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During June they will continue trimming in Oriental, Arapahoe and Minnesott Beach.

Our construction crews with Lee Electrical will be working at Lake Phelps, Trent Road and Old Bay River Road in Pamlico County, and Ocean Road at Ocracoke.

MasTec construction crews will be working on pole replacements between the Five Points and Washington substations.

Osmoste will be conducting pole inspections in Merritt, Arapahoe and Fairfield Harbour.

## Remembering Allen Burrus



Allen Burrus, 85, of Swan Quarter, passed away on April 30.

Born in Dare County on May 29, 1934, he served in the US Navy during the period of the Korean conflict and was a member of the Hyde County American Legion.

He spent his working years as a utility man working for Pamlico Power and Light in Engelhard and joined Tideland EMC when the co-op purchased PP&L.



# The seafood industry returns to Belhaven



WHOLE LOT OF YUM!  
COUNTY ROAD SEAFOOD, BELHAVEN

## Where to purchase County Road products

At press time, County Road Seafood, which does not yet have its own retail operation, was making its products available locally at these locations:

Ginn's Seafood  
837 Carolina Ave.  
Washington  
252-940-0036

Dowry Creek Marina  
110 Spinnaker Run Rd.  
Belhaven  
ICW Mile Marker #132  
252-943-2728

Game Changer Outdoors  
831 US 264 Bypass  
Belhaven  
252-945-8724

Riddick & Windley  
235 Pamlico St.  
Belhaven  
252-943-2205

## Tideland economic development loan aids County Road Seafood construction

After more than a year of securing funding and repurposing a vacant seafood processing plant, County Road Seafood is officially open for business in Belhaven, and employees started picking their first batches of crabs.

"We started operation April 6," said County Road Seafood owner Richard Newman. "We're going to end up doing some shrimp and oysters as well, later in the year, but for right now, we're just doing crabs."

As the business gets established, Newman says the facility is sending most of its products to out-of-state markets before it begins navigating the retail side of business.

For Belhaven, the company marks the return of an industry that was once a mainstay of the town's economy. Operating as an affiliate of the Hyde County-based Newman Seafood, the plant will also buy from local commercial fishermen on the Pungo River, creating new possibilities for that industry in Beaufort County.

"Belhaven has a rich history in seafood processing. They've always done it here. I think over the years, they've had as many as five crab processors here." Newman said. "So we knew there was a population of people here who knew how to work with seafood, and that's big."

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# Message to members

## Working our way through change

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

As we wrapped up this issue of Tideland Topics, North Carolina was a day away from entering Phase 1 of a gradual re-opening in response to COVID-19. Since we closed our office doors to public traffic on March 20, we've seen a noticeable uptick in the number of members downloading our mobile app to simplify account management. Likewise, more members are utilizing the many tools available via our member portal. Many of you likely found it quite helpful when analyzing home energy use, especially if you have been regularly telecommuting or conducting homeschooling.

While more members opted in for E-bill services during the stay at home order, the program is largely underutilized with less than 15 percent member participation. Unlike many service providers, Tideland does not require that you abandon a mailed monthly statement when utilizing E-bill. So if you have been hesitant about signing up for E-bill I highly recommend that you give it a try.

Another service ripe for adoption this time of year is leveled billing. If your energy costs are considerably higher during summer then there is no better time to make the switch. One caveat to keep in mind: leveled billing is for members who pay their electric bill on time each month since it is billed based on a rolling average of your most recent electric bills. That's why leveled billing and payment by bank or credit card draft make a perfect pairing. Please reach out to our service representatives at 800-637-1079 if you are interested in any of these service options.

As we buckle in for the start of hurricane season I want to emphasize that with each passing year we are better prepared to withstand and recover from tropical events. We have made both significant and strategic investments to improve the resiliency of our electric system and crews remain heavily engaged across all four of our operational districts as work continues on major capital projects.



## Fuel economy

We all know driving on under-inflated tires is bad on fuel economy, not to mention adding needless wear and tear on the tire itself. And you surely wouldn't drive around for years on end without an oil change.

Unfortunately, many don't give the same time and attention to their home's cooling system. And while service intervals don't have to keep pace with your car, it is a good idea to have your HVAC system serviced annually to include:

- Condenser coil cleaning
- Evaluation of the coolant level
- Lubrication of all moving parts to eliminate friction and wear
- Thermostat calibration
- Ductwork inspection for possible energy loss
- Tighten and inspect electrical connections to verify safe system operation
- Evaluate performance of the blower motor and the condition of the blower belt

### Beat the Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

-  **STAY INFORMED:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.
-  **STAY COOL:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours.
-  **STAY HYDRATED/DRESS APPROPRIATELY:** Drink fluids regularly, regardless of activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
-  **DON'T** leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.
-  **DO** check on elderly friends and neighbors.



SWEETWATER BUNKIE - RIVER DUNES  
BETH FRAZER & ASSOCIATES

# Tideland Tiny

## Stay small, y'all!

While there is no hard and fast definition of what constitutes a “tiny house,” there is definitely a trend towards downsizing, either for full-time living or as a means of occasional escape from a more hectic way of life.

Tideland territory is the beneficiary of this trend towards a receding footprint, with many tiny properties available for short-term rentals. They make the perfect resting spot for prospective home buyers touring the area.

And if you think a tiny life might be more your speed on a more permanent basis, what better way to test the water than with an overnight stay at a tiny house in Tideland territory?

While this issue of Tideland Topics focuses on tiny structures built in accordance with NC residential building codes, we also want to give a shout-out to the numerous campgrounds and RV resorts in Tideland territory that are home to both permanent and transient guests. Many of you are probably scratching your heads wondering what all the fuss is about. After all, you have long since enjoyed the advantages of a tiny escape in a camper or park model. We'll be featuring those spaces as well in a future issue.



"SMALL CHANGE"  
OCRACOKE ISLAND REALTY

## Small Change: Ocracoke Island's first conventional tiny house



"SMALL CHANGE"  
OCRACOKE ISLAND REALTY

Tiny island. Big life. So why not top it off with a tiny house?

While there is no shortage of tiny accommodations available at Ocracoke, many were excited to watch as a true blue tiny house arrived by ferry and found a permanent roost atop pilings.

Dubbed “Small Change,” this checks all the boxes of today’s most recognizable tiny home trend. It maximizes a small footprint with high ceilings that allows for a loft sleeping area. There’s a shower stall and flushing toilet as well as full-size washer and dryer. Once on site, a screened porch was added to extend the living area to the great outdoors. Small Change was left unscathed by Hurricane Dorian and is available in the island’s current rental inventory.

Premiere builder, Modern Tiny Living, paid homage to Ocracoke when they unveiled a new floor plan named after the island. The first Ocracoke model is now a permanent fixture at River and Twine, a tiny house boutique hotel located at Rocky Mount Mills in Nash County.



HARBOURSIDE COTTAGE RENTALS  
RIVER DUNES, ORIENTAL



"AQUA"ESTRIAN COTTAGE  
ARLINGTON PLACE, ARAPAHOE

## River Dunes

A distinctly Southern, coastal approach to tiny construction

Avid sailors are accustomed to living in tight quarters, but when they want to give their sea legs a rest there's no better place than River Dunes in Oriental.

Among the first projects to be completed when River Dunes was first underway were the original 400-square-foot Harbourside Cottages. They feature morning kitchens with mini-fridges and Queen size beds to accommodate up to two guests. Rentals are handled by the subdivision's property management team at [riverdunes.com](http://riverdunes.com).

River Dunes also features a tiny chapel, which creates a beautiful backdrop for small, private weddings. The rental cottages make for great accommodations for invited guests.

Building on increasing interest in all things tiny, River Dunes broke ground

on The Bunkies on Boathouse Row. The project's distinctive architecture and charming landscaping is so unique that Southern Living magazine selected Boathouse Row as a Southern Living Inspired Community.

Each quality constructed unit features painted shiplap walls, pine floors, Hardie plank siding, operable shutters and a metal roof. Several Boathouse Row cottages can be booked through AirBNB and other online sites.



SPRING CREEK BUNKIE FLOORPLAN  
RIVER DUNES - BOATHOUSE ROW



## Arlington Place

Some of the best views of Arapahoe's Arlington Place can be found on the front porch of one of their Outfitter's Cottages. The cottages are in close proximity to the Outfitter's Center with dock access to Mill Creek. It's the perfect place to put in for a day of kayaking.

The original cottages barely make the cut as "tiny," coming in at just under 1,000 square feet, but offer more room than a traditional hotel stay in a beautiful coastal setting. Units are available for booking via AirBNB.

Each of the original "tiny" cottages can accommodate up to 4 guests. A few larger models have been added to the lineup that are suited for up to 6 guests.

To learn more, visit [arlingtonplace.com](http://arlingtonplace.com)



THE OUTFITTER'S CENTER  
ARLINGTON PLACE, ARAPAHOE

Right now, County Road Seafood is providing employment for about 12 workers at the Belhaven plant, with about eight experienced crab pickers showing the newbies the ropes. Newman says he could still use a few more experienced workers at the plant.

"I think Belhaven was a good choice, just in the fact that there was some labor here," Newman said. "The people of the town have been really receptive to us. They're happy to see us back and happy to see the jobs here."



The revitalization of the plant, which was formerly home to Seafood Safari, was partially funded by a \$500,000 building reuse program grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, in addition to private investment and a \$50,000 economic development grant from Beaufort County.

Through a competitive application process, the USDA selected Tideland EMC and County Road Seafood, LLC for a Rural Economic Development Loan. The loan combined with the funding above will serve the purpose of permanent financing for the company's investment in facilities, equipment and site development at the Belhaven location.

"Tideland EMC is proud of its successful partnership with USDA

Rural Economic Development and our ability to bring federal financing assistance to successful local projects," said co-op chief executive officer and general manager Paul Spruill.

For more information about County Road Seafood and to check out a virtual tour of the facility, find them on Facebook @countyroadseafood.

## Tideland Topics

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

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