

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Classroom grant funding

K-12 classroom teachers have until Sept. 15 to submit applications for 2024-2025 Bright Ideas grant funds. Individual awards up to \$2,500 per project will be announced by Nov. 1.

Read more on page H...



Pole patrol

A friendly reminder that it is illegal in North Carolina to attach signs and posters of any type of utility pole. Foreign objects such as staples or nails in the pole can lead to a utility worker puncturing their insulated gloves that protect them from being electrocuted. Those objects can also promote wood rot and pole deterioration, reducing structural integrity and stability.

Let's all do our part to keep lineworkers safe and ensure pole integrity.





Joseph Contreras and Coach Hubert Davis

This summer Ocracoke seventh grader Joseph Contreras represented Tideland EMC at the Carolina Basketball Camp on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. The five-day residential camp is lead by head coach Hubert Davis.

The first night, campers are divided into age groups. From there they are placed onto teams with about 8-10 campers. Each team has a coach. A typical day for campers starts with breakfast at 8 a.m. Then they are bused to their respective gyms for morning instruction (fundamentals). They return for lunch and have about an hour of free time. They are then bused back to the Smith Center for the afternoon clinic, where university coaches or former players will talk about offensive/defensive philosophies and touch on the finer points of basketball. After dinner campers are bused out to their gyms for evening games and then it's lights out by 11 p.m.

Joseph is the son of Oscar Rubio Contreras and Lucile Uribe.

Applications for the 2025 camp scholarship go live Jan. 1.

You asked. We delivered.

Payment scheduling is here

Two new payment scheduling options went live on the member portal in August, giving members additional ways to self-manage their accounts.

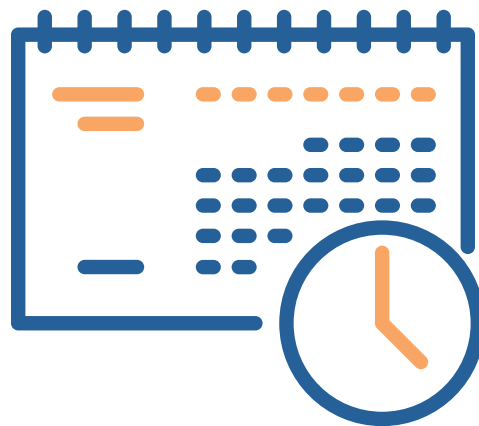
RECURRING AUTO PAYMENT

Similar to the co-op's automated draft plan, with auto-pay you select the date when you want the monthly payment to be processed. You have the option to choose any day between the 1st to the 28th of each month. If you want to modify or update the payment details, you can either contact Tideland or select a new payment date and update the record.

You can also establish a maximum payment amount that will be charged to your credit card or bank account. If the account balance is equal to or less than this amount, it will be paid using auto-pay. If the account balance is greater than the max amount to pay, the balance will not be paid using auto-pay and an email will be sent notifying you that the account balance is above the maximum amount to pay. If no maximum amount is set, the account balance will always be paid.

ONE TIME PAYMENT SCHEDULING

With one-time payment scheduling you select the date you would want payment processing to occur. You may select up to 30 days in advance from the current date. Please be mindful of your billing due date and any potential service disconnect date when using this feature. Otherwise, you could be subject to late payment penalties and/or service interruption.



To change or update the payment, contact Tideland or choose a new payment date and update the record in the portal. The payment amount is the total you want to pay on the date selected.

AUTO PAYMENTS FOR FLEXPAY MEMBERS

Members utilizing our FlexPay program can schedule an automatic prepayment on their account utilizing the recurring auto payment feature. In doing so, the member will establish an account balance threshold that triggers an auto payment. For example, if a FlexPay member sets a low balance threshold of \$25, then anytime their energy use puts them below the \$25 credit balance a payment of your choosing will automatically be made. The minimum payment required is \$10.

FlexPay members can also find their Debt Management history under any of the payment tabs.

Message to members

Five years post-Dorian

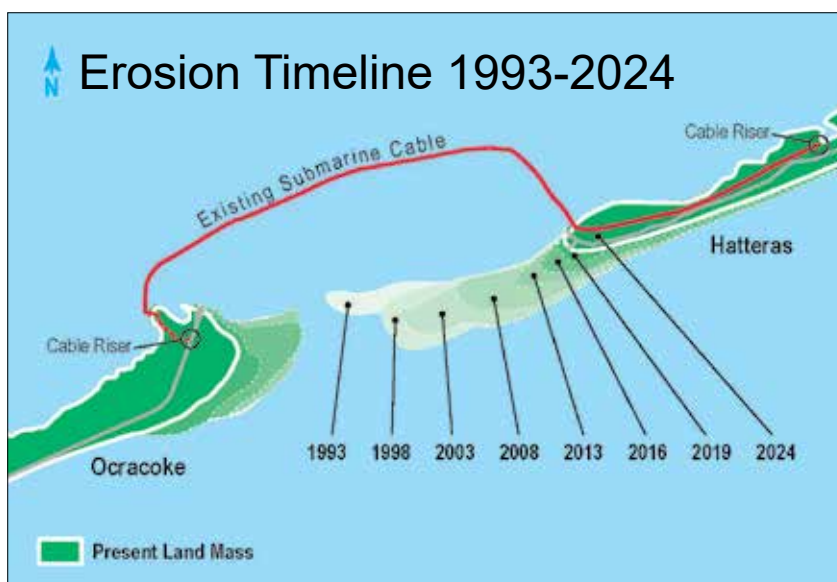
by **PAUL SPRUILL**
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If you live in Tideland territory for any length of time you are likely to find yourself timestamping life by memorable hurricanes like Floyd, Isabel, Irene and Florence. If you reside or even vacation at Ocracoke, Dorian is no doubt one of your timeline markers.

Pamlico Power and Light founder P.D. Midgett, Jr. was known for saying, "You never get caught up in the electricity business," and that was as much due to the forces of nature as it was system growth. The forces of nature have certainly taken some frequent swings at Ocracoke, particularly on the north end of Highway 12.

While recovery is still underway for some homeowners on the island, the village itself has proven extraordinarily resilient due in large part to

continues on page H



Chloe O'Neal and Coach Wes Moore

Wolfpack Camp

This summer, Ocracoke seventh grader Chloe O'Neal represented Tideland EMC at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp on the campus of North Carolina State University. The four-day residential camp is lead by head coach Wes Moore. Chloe is the daughter of Bobby and Allison O'Neal.

With an experienced group of current NC State coaches and staff as well as current and former players, the camp focuses on mastering the fundamentals of the game—both offensively and defensively—while also competing in team games and individual competitions.

One attendee selected from each electric cooperative in the state is provided a The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship to cover the cost of tuition.

Applications for the 2025 camp scholarship will go live on the web Jan. 1.





Remembering Steve Barber

On July 4, Tideland lost another cherished member of our work family with the passing of retiree Steven Wayne Barber. In the last 20 years of his life, Steve fought cancer nine times, yet he was one of the brightest beacons of hope one could ever encounter.

Steve was a 1972 graduate of John A. Wilkinson High School in Belhaven and, shortly thereafter, he served in the US Navy aboard the USS Saratoga. After retiring from a 27-year career at Weyerhaeuser, he joined Tideland where he remained for 10 years until his health began to decline.

His own life challenges led him to become a stalwart supporter of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. He returned annually to Tideland to encourage each of us to participate in the organization's annual fundraising event.

Steve was invested in the lives of others and the community at large. Among the many tributes following his passing was a letter of gratitude from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper in recognition of Steve's contributions to his fellow man.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children and a whole host of surviving family and friends.

Rights-of-way Maintenance Schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree to trim vegetative growth in our rights-of-way.

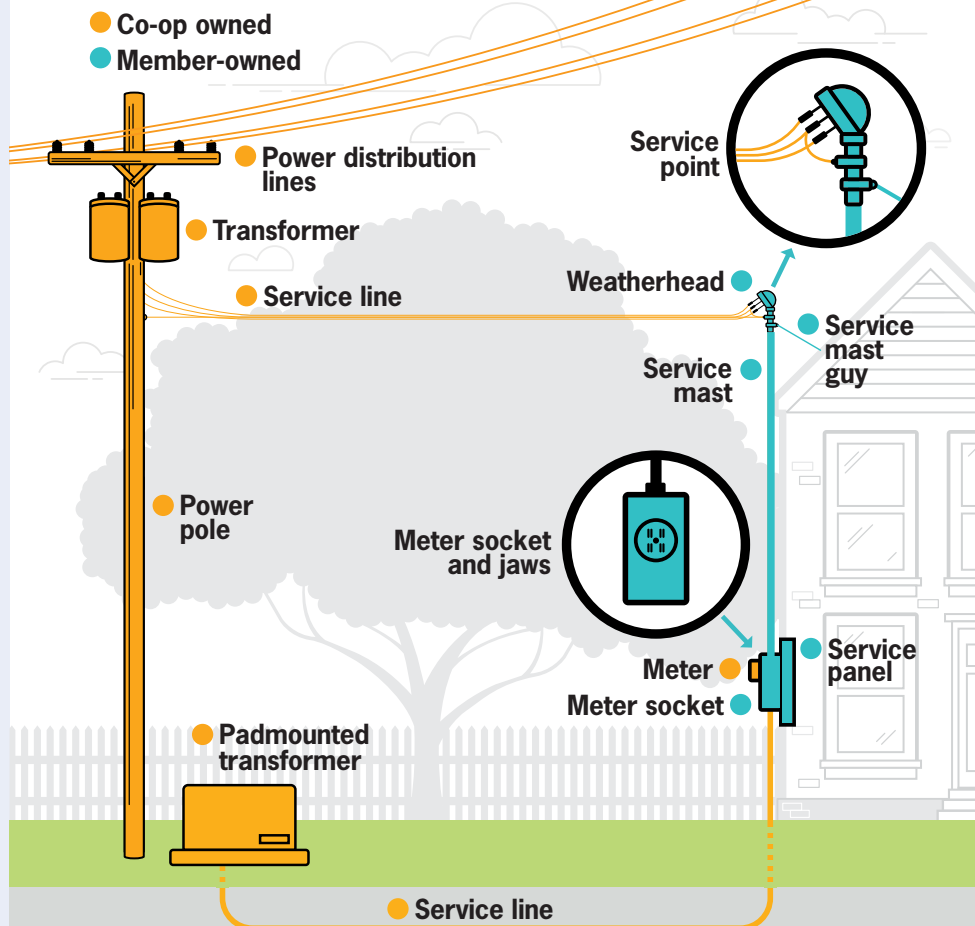
During September, Gunnison will continue work on the Fairfield Harbour 1 and 2 circuits. They will also bring in an extra crew to work in Arapahoe, Dawson Creek and Minnesott Beach.

Lee Electrical Construction will be working on targeted pole change-outs throughout our Pantego, Grantsboro and Engelhard districts.

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

Who owns what equipment?

Do you ever wonder what equipment is owned and maintained by the co-op and what equipment you own and are responsible for maintaining? The graphic below depicts what is owned and maintained by the co-op (in gold) and you, the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we will handle all of the repairs. However, if there is any damage to member-owned equipment, you will need to handle making the repairs. We recommend to always hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to your equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts both overhead and underground service. Your service will be either overhead or underground at your home or business, not both.

Steps to Restoring Power

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when storms or another natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired.

Always call or go online to report an outage to help co-op line crews isolate local issues.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tideland EMC

Real People. Real Power.

2024 ANNUAL

YOUTH TOUR

WITH JULIA ROUSE

Washington DC

JUNE 15-21, 2024





This summer I had the privilege of representing Tideland EMC during the 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in our nation's capital. I had a phenomenal week in Washington, D.C., learning more about both our government and the cooperative business model. I also appreciated the opportunities to make friends with people from across North Carolina and many other states. When you spend a whole week with the same 40 or so people, you get to know them better and make fun memories with them, and I know that I will stay in contact with those people even after the Youth Tour.

On the Youth Tour, I visited many monuments and museums in Washington, D.C. I went to the American Museum of Natural History, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, and the National Cathedral to name a few. I really enjoyed visiting these places and built a deeper appreciation for our nation's history and capital. On one of the days, the group from North Carolina visited the Capitol building and toured it before having lunch with two staffers for the North Carolina Senators. We were able to ask them questions and understand what their job looks like, and after hearing how their careers unfolded, I can admit my interest in pursuing an internship in Washington, D.C. after college.

During my visit, I was also fortunate enough to talk with my advisors and get to know them better. I appreciated everything they did before the trip and during the trip to make it run smoothly. They put a lot of hard work into planning the trip and being a part of the trip. I am thankful for them as well as Tideland EMC for allowing me to go on this trip to represent them. I would recommend and encourage high school sophomores and juniors to apply for the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

- Julia

K-12 Classroom Teachers

Real People.
Real Power.

Bright Ideas application deadline is Sept. 15

Tideland is partnering with outstanding educators to bring creative learning to life! Starting this month, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$2,500 to fund projects that enhance student success in K-12 classrooms and would otherwise not be possible.

Applications and more information about the program can be found at ncbrightideas.com. Grants are available in all curriculum areas including art, science, history and

mathematics. Tideland will provide over \$13,000 in total funding during the 2024-2025 school year. Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 15.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$16 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 14,700 projects that have benefited well over 3.6 million students statewide since 1994.

Message to members

continued from Page C

a strong sense of community that is bolstered by the unwavering support of generations of vacationers from near and far dedicated to Ocracoke's revival.

Dorian delivered a substantial blow to the north end of Highway 12 resulting in unprecedented erosion of the ferry staging area and leveling large sections of dune lines that the North Carolina Department of Transportation has worked hard to maintain. It also endangered Tideland's existing infrastructure.

Immediately after Dorian, Tideland undertook a major project to harden the island's 25kV line. The work involved the replacement of 143 poles along a 6.6-mile stretch of Highway 12 starting at our northernmost recloser and going south towards Ocracoke village. Our capital investment in that work totaled \$946,000.

Those areas that Dorian carved out and further exposed to the forces of wind and tide, were newly and significantly impacted by multiple

winter storms between December 2023 and April 2024. By the end of September, Tideland will have relocated 17 of the new poles we set in 2020 as the Atlantic Ocean further encroaches on another section of Highway 12. The new poles, moved closer to the Pamlico Sound, will now be afforded an additional layer of protection thanks to a secondary dune line. We are grateful to our partners with the United States Department of the Interior's National Park Service and NCDOT for facilitating this work critical to service reliability and storm recovery on the island.

Electric system resiliency is a moving target that we can't always plan for but it's one we aim to keep pace with and when and wherever we can, get ahead of.

With peak hurricane season now underway, our greatest hope is that 2024 provides no new storms that bookmark our lives. But come what may, your electric cooperative is up to the task of response and recovery and then turning the page to ensure a brighter energy future.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Text OUT to short code 85700

Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



Labor Day Closing

Our offices will be closed
Monday, Sept. 2, for the
Labor Day holiday.

To report an outage,
call 800-882-1001 or
text OUT to short code
85700. For 24-hour
member service call 800-
637-1079.

Please celebrate safely!