

The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remec.com

Vol. 24, No. 7

Owned By Those We Serve

July 2021

Make Plans for a Safe and Happy Fourth of July

The month of July has always been a favorite of mine. Summer is in full swing, the kids are out of school and of course, we celebrate Independence Day! Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence grilling out with friends, eating homemade ice cream, watching a little baseball and last but not least, fireworks. This is certainly a special time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Rutherford EMC we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we would like to remind you about a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross.

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the night sky! The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you decide to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution in case something goes wrong.
- Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.

- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your back yard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety! We recommend the following tips if you're the one doing the grilling:

- Supervise your grill at all times.
- Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- Always follow the manufacturers instructions when using grills.

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety too:

- Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate this year, Rutherford EMC wishes you a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Waylon Ferguson is ready for the next play! Waylon is the son of Chris Ferguson, REMC employee at Forest City Operations Center.



SWAP SHOP

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

Mail your ads to:

Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569,
Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at cbailey@remc.com.
No phone calls, please.

FOR SALE

Two KLH shielded speakers, Made in the USA, \$75 for both; Dell MMS 5650, 5.1, 100w, surround pc speaker system w/subwoofer for home theatre, \$75; four oak counter height bar stools, \$360; square counter height table measures 36" x 36", dark wood, \$50; computer roll top oak desk w/double pedestal & pull out keyboard, ex. cond., \$375; Smith Corona PWP 2500 5F word processor typewriter, \$60; Lazy Boy Big Man recliner, ex. cond., \$275; Racor-PHL-1R garage ceiling storage rack/lift, still in box, \$99. Pictures available. 980-721-6198.

Roll of vintage silver half dollars, \$280. 704-748-3258.

C.K.C. Yorkie-Poo's – docked tails, de-clawed, shots & worming's to date, Morganton area. 828-433-1374.

Two cemetery plots w/vaults, Lot No.39 in Hillside Garden 4 section, space numbers 3 & 4 at Burke

Memorial Park in Morganton, NC, selling together, asking \$4,000 for all, includes plots & vaults. 828-390-9780.

Tools: ½ hp electric motor, \$40; 32 boxed end wrenches, \$90; Craftsman router, \$40; several cordless drills, \$15 ea.; Antiques: Mrs. Butterworth bottles, \$10 ea.; 117 brass animals, \$500 for all of them, several other antiques as well. 980-241-3799

Farm Equipment: Hardee 300 gallon sprayer, 5 HP garden tiller, Leinbach 20 disk harrow for 3 pt. hitch, post driver, Hesston 2 prong tedder & a 10' cultipacker. Vale, NC. 828-461-6144.

Perfect Sleep Chair – loaded with options, cost over \$1,200 new, has minor cigarette burns, asking \$500. 828-437-1260.

Troy Bilt self-propelled mulching mower w/grass catcher, \$150; cargo mat for Subaru Outback, like new, \$35; assortment of trailer hitches & sway bars, best offer; Peavey Hook, \$45; Murray 22" gas mower, Model 32551A, \$60; wooden canoe paddle, \$15; fiberglass canoe paddle, \$35; floor jack, \$60; men's 18 speed mtn. bike & women's 18 speed bike, good cond., \$225 for both. Rutherfordton, NC. 828-287-7970.

Ford 3910 diesel tractor w/power steering - looks & runs great, easy starter, \$8,500. 828-756-2231.

Adjoining burial plots in Gaston Memorial Park, Gastonia, NC. Plots 49 Lot 153 in Hillside Section, near duck pond, price reduced, willing to pay transfer fees and work with you. 704-735-4198 or 704-922-3891.

Horse hay – large 600 lb. bales, dry & kept in hay barn, \$35 ea. or 3 for \$100; Muscovy duck babies – 3 for \$10 or 10 for \$20. 704-241-3734.

Undercover brand truck bed cover – Model 5040,

fits 2005 – 2020 Nissan Frontier extended cab, \$325. 828-287-7717.

Barcelona Red A.R.E. fitted hard tonneau truck bed cover, fits beds approx. 61 inches long, asking \$600, NEG. 828-803-7930.

Wrought iron staircase (2) 10' x 6", \$500 OBO; Solitude standing Helicon Record (Israel) May 1988, framed, \$50; Troy Bilt 5 HP Honda rototiller, \$200; antique meat slicer, 10" wide x 29" long, \$99 OBO; antique sofa & 2 chairs that have been re-upholstered, \$300; King sized solid wood head board, \$50 OBO; LT8-300/LT8-300P David White transit w/case, tripod & measuring rod, \$500. Pictures available upon request. 828-817-9838.

Lamps, pictures, flower arrangements, large throw rugs, coffee table, end tables, clothes, stackable washer & dryer, dining room table & toys. 704-300-6001 or 704-435-6995.

Oak firewood – some may need splitting. 704-735-2675.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Rent: Myrtle Beach & North Myrtle Beach properties. 704-300-6001 or 704-435-6995.

For stud only: Two NKC registered Australian Shepherds. 980-241-3799

WANTED

Experienced metal roof painter. 828-460-6572 or 828-460-0002.

Model 2600 Ford Tractor – must have power steering & be work ready. 828-756-4624.

Save Energy by Resisting the Urge

When it's hot, it's tempting to crank the thermostat way down. But wait! Air conditioning is a leading culprit of higher energy bills in the summer. Prevent your AC from using more energy than necessary, keep your home more comfortable, and save money all at the same time, with these simple ideas:

- Change air filters regularly, at least every 3 months. Dirty filters make your system work harder.
- Tune up your HVAC equipment yearly to improve efficiency and comfort.
- Make sure air ducts are sealed and insulated.

- Install a smart thermostat. These devices keep energy use at a minimum, and comfort at a maximum, by automatically customizing cooling schedules to fit your life. They can also be adjusted from a mobile app.
- Keep in mind that if your unit is older, or improperly sized, it may not be running as efficiently as a newer, properly-sized model could. When buying a new air conditioner, consider an energy-efficient model for savings that will last as long as you own the system.

And all summer long, resist the urge to lower that temperature setting! It won't cool the house any faster, but it will use extra

energy. Keep the thermostat set to the temperature you want inside, or even a few degrees higher for additional savings.

At Rutherford EMC, we're committed to helping you find ways to save energy and money, this summer and always. Find more ways to save at: remc.com.



All REMC offices
will be closed on
Monday, July 5,
for Independence Day

Reminder:

Don't forget that you can monitor your home's energy use while you are away by visiting our website at remc.com and clicking on the Member Portal tab. If you notice a sudden spike while you are away it may signal equipment trouble, like a malfunctioning cooling system or even a water heater. The sooner the issue is recognized the more money you will save in energy costs.

Don't Fall Victim to Utility Scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.

Just last month it was brought to our attention that several members were targeted through a phone scam where the scammers demanded immediate payment and threatened to shut off power if the money was not received.

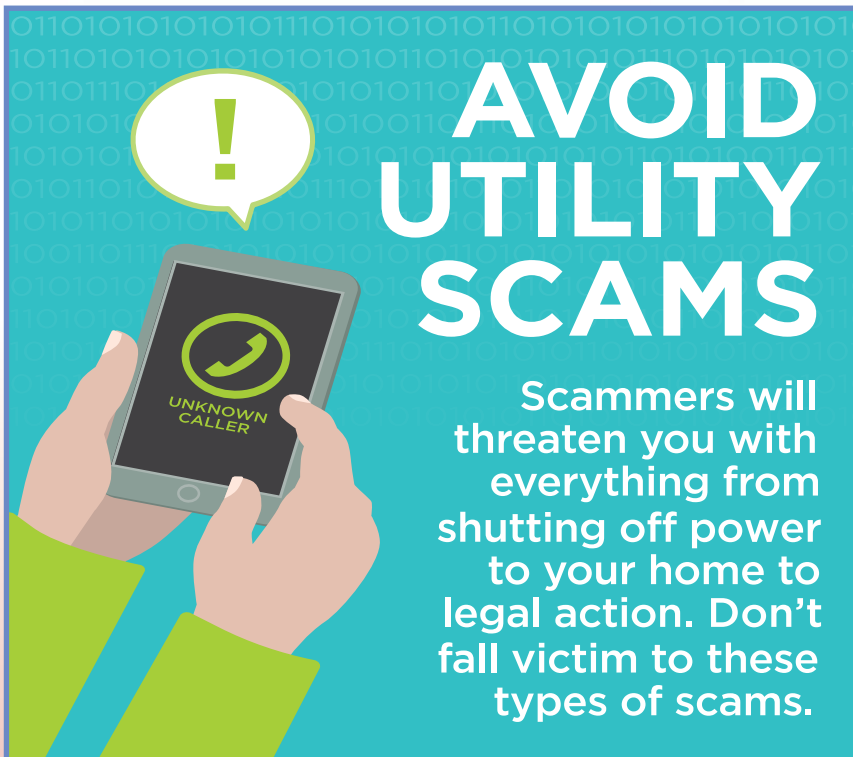
We want you to be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, Rutherford EMC will automatically apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle, unless you are set up on the Budget Billing program, then the overpayment is carried over to your settlement month. Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially from someone claiming to represent a utility. Rutherford EMC will only send you important updates via text if you've signed up for our prepaid metering or high usage alerts. These are just a couple examples of trending scams, so it's important to watch for any red flags.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

- Take your time. Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- Be suspicious. Scammers typically request immediate payments through pre-paid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- Confirm before you act. If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Rutherford EMC or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at any of the numbers listed below to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to Rutherford EMC so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.

Source: Abby Berry of NRECA



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

REMC OFFICES & PHONE NUMBERS

FOREST CITY

(828) 245-1621 or

1-800-521-0920 (Toll Free)

MARION

(828) 652-2136

GASTONIA

(704) 629-6226

MORGANTON

(828) 584-1410 or

1-800-228-9756 (Toll Free)

CHERRYVILLE

(704) 435-5401 or

1-800-228-5331 (Toll Free)

LINCOLNTON

(704) 735-5381

Listen Up, K-12 Educators:

Apply Early for A Bright Ideas Grant and Be Entered to Win \$100

As the old saying goes, “the early bird gets the worm.” Be one of the “early bird” K-12 teachers who submit their Bright Ideas Education Grant application by Aug. 16 to get “the worm,” or a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards in a statewide drawing.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$1,000 from Rutherford EMC is Sept. 15. Rutherford EMC expects to award over \$15,000 in Bright Ideas grants to fund innovative and deserving educators again this year.

To apply teachers must fill out the on-line only application and include a budget; explain the project’s implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project; and of course first and foremost have approval from their schools administration.

The Bright Ideas Education Grant program, offered by Rutherford EMC and North Carolina’s 26 electric cooperatives, advances excellence in education and accelerates student learning by providing funds for innovative projects. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$13.6 million in Bright Ideas grant funding for nearly 13,000 projects benefiting 2.7 million North Carolina students.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit ncbrightideas.com.



Keep Cool and Save Money Too

Hot days and long afternoons are best spent hanging by the pool with family and friends, but are you paying the price for that backyard summer fun? If your pool pump is not Energy Star Certified there is a way to save yourself some money.

Energy Star certified pool pumps are proven to save you money and potentially pay for themselves through savings in the long run. They use up to 65% less energy than the standard single speed pool pump. This could be a potential savings of approximately \$450 per year in energy costs.

Energy Star certified pumps take advantage of the reliable two-speed or even variable speed pump technology now available. These specialized pumps run quieter and tend to prolong the life of your pools filter and plumbing system as well.

Single speed pumps run only in HIGH speed, regardless of what you are trying to accomplish. Simple water filtration is the main task for a pool pump and this can be accomplished by utilizing half the power needed for vacuuming in the same pool. Two speed models are great for allowing these different tasks to be completed while using only the energy needed. Variable speed models can also be programmed to deliver just the right water flow to accomplish many different tasks.

Energy Star certified pumps can potentially save you thousands of dollars over their lifetime. Statistics show that investing in a certified pump will actually pay for the additional up-front costs in less than two years. Visit energystar.gov/products/other/pool_pumps for more details about how you can keep cool and save money too.

If every pool pump in the U.S. were Energy Star certified, families could save up to \$770 million in energy costs each year and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to more than 1 million cars.

Source: [Energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

