

# NEWS



**Preparing for Hurricane Season**

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**Bright Ideas Deadline Approaching Fast**

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*Manager's Message:*

## How Your Power is Restored

*Tri-County EMC crews are ready to restore power at a moment's notice.*

**J. Michael Davis**  
 General Manager



**W**hen electricity goes out, most of us expect power to be restored instantly. But when a major storm causes widespread outages with downed lines and broken power poles, it takes longer time to repair. Rest assured that while you wait, our crews are springing into action to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

Our first priority is to restore power to emergency and public service facilities, and to give immediate attention to any unsafe situations such as downed power lines in roadways or streets. In some situations, our tree crews must clear branches or limbs from an area before any repairs can be made.



Transmission lines supply power to our substations. Thousands of people are served by high-voltage transmission lines. If the transmission lines are operating properly but the power is still out, we next monitor our 15 substations. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be

corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

Main distribution lines carry electricity away from the substations. These lines are checked after the substations.

When problems are fixed at this level, all members served by this distribution line could see the lights come on, as long as there is not another problem farther down the line.

Tap lines carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring power to the greatest number of members.

Finally, once repairs to the larger system are complete, crews work on damage to individual service connections. These are the lines running directly to a home or facility from a transformer. If you have not called to report your outage, we may not know you are without power. In addition, you are responsible for some parts of your service connection. You may need to have a licensed, qualified electrician make repairs before your power can be restored.

**Office closed for Holiday**  
 Tri-County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, 2019, in observance of Labor Day. Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to [tcmc.com](http://tcmc.com). You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone. To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Saturday, November 9, 2019  
**79th Annual Meeting of Members**  
 Kornegay Arena, University of Mount Olive, Mount Olive NC  
 Registration begins at 12:30 P.M.  
 Business Meeting begins at 1:30 P.M.



## Take Steps to Prepare During Peak Hurricane Season

**T**his month marks one year since Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina, bringing catastrophic winds and historic flooding that impacted much of our state. It was followed closely by Tropical Storm Michael, which also left a path of destruction in its wake, and many are also still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew, which took its toll in the fall of 2016.

As demonstrated by these storms and as many of our members know all too well, hurricanes can have dangerous and long-lasting impacts, so it's critical to make preparedness a priority no matter where you live. We are currently in the peak of hurricane season, which occurs from mid-August to late October.

Here are some simple steps you can take to prepare for potential storms:

- ➔ Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family before a hurricane or storm warning is issued to minimize confusion and fear. If you have pets or livestock, include them in your plan.
- ➔ Create an emergency kit that includes:
  - Important documents sealed in a watertight plastic bag
  - Cash
  - Three days' worth of non-perishable food, water and medication
  - First-aid kit
  - Battery-powered radio
  - Flashlight
  - Extra batteries
  - Personal hygiene items
  - Extra clothes and blankets
  - Food and other supplies for pets

- ➔ Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings.
- ➔ Follow Tri-County EMC at [facebook.com/tricountyemc](https://www.facebook.com/tricountyemc) to stay informed about weather, outages and other information.
- ➔ Bookmark our live online outage map to find real-time outage information and estimated restoration times: <https://outage.tcemc.com>.
- ➔ Review safety tips and information at [tcemc.com](https://www.tcemc.com).

Tri-County EMC members should report outages by calling 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869. Members are also reminded to never go near or drive over downed power lines, to avoid traveling on flooded roads, and to heed the warnings of state and local officials.

To learn more, visit [tcemc.com](https://www.tcemc.com). Additional information regarding hurricanes and emergency preparedness can also be found on [ReadyNC.org](https://www.ReadyNC.org).



**HURRICANE FLORENCE APPROACHING THE U.S. EAST COAST, September 2018**



## Final Deadline to Apply for Bright Ideas Grants is Sept. 23

**I**t's the final call for Bright Ideas Education Grant applications! Educators with innovative ideas for hands-on classroom projects can apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$1,000 from Tri-County EMC until Sept. 23. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and other helpful information at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com). Educators may apply for the grants as individuals or as a team.

Grants for the 2019–2020 school year will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and disciplines, including music, art, history, language, reading, science, mathematics and information technology, just to name a few. Last year, Tri-County EMC awarded more than \$78,000 to local teachers to fund 94 projects.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Bright Ideas program. Since its inception in 1994, Tri-County EMC has awarded more than \$1.5 million to sponsor nearly 1,693 projects in Wayne, Lenoir and Duplin counties.

# Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



**Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.**



**Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.**



**Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.**



**Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.**



**If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.**

*Source: SafeElectricity.org*

## GET CONNECTED

### FACEBOOK:

[facebook.com/tricountyemc](https://www.facebook.com/tricountyemc)

Find current events and get updates during major outages by following us on facebook.

### WEBSITE:

[tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com) Find current news, information about your cooperative, managing your account and energy use, special programs, outage safety and more.

### TWITTER:

[twitter.com/TriCoEMC](https://twitter.com/TriCoEMC)

## COMMUNITY EVENT



### SAVE THE DATES

#### 13th Annual Historic Farm Days

October 25–26, 2019

9 a.m. until

LaGrange Farm Park

Rouse Loop Road, LaGrange, NC

FREE Admission

910-440-9282 or 252-526-8536

#### The Outlaw Foundation

#### 6th Annual Golf Tournament

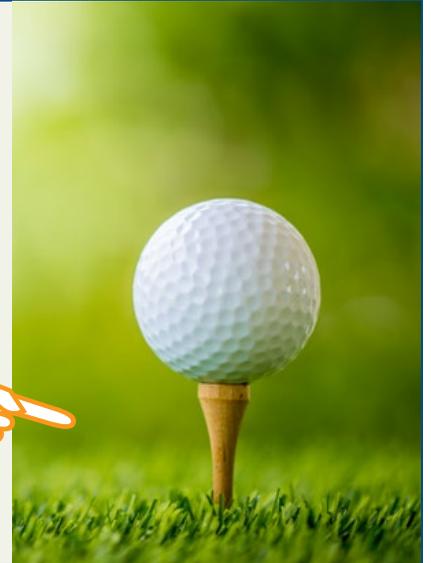
Friday, October 18, 2019

Duplin Country Club

148 Duplin Country Club Rd.

Kenansville, NC 28349

Register by October 10, 2019



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

**Cookware Tip:** Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**Tri-County Electric  
Membership Corporation**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

### Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

**We are here to serve you 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week and 365 days a year.**

### For Outages or Emergencies:

919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

[tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com)

### J. Michael Davis

General Manager

### Management Staff

#### Kenneth E. Davis, Jr.

Manager, Finance & Administration

#### Robert B. Kornegay

Manager, Member Services

#### Deidra Locklear, Editor

Manager, Marketing and Communications

#### Tony Grantham, P. E.

Manager, Engineering

#### Michael Wood

Manager, Operations

#### Tamah Hughes

Manager, Information Technology

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Jeff Henderson

Patrick Lynch

Randy McCullen

Worth Overman

Brandy Rouse

### Employee of the month



### Bob Kornegay

Bob Kornegay is one of 46 employees ready to serve you. Bob has worked with Tri-County EMC since October 22, 2001 and is the manager of Member Services. Bob and his family live in the Scotts Store area.