

# Lumbee River

*Electric Membership Corporation*



DECEMBER 2007 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Lumbee River EMC Annual Meeting Draws Crowd

Photos by Mark S. Moses, The Red Springs Citizen



President & CEO Ronnie E. Hunt awards Lumberton residents Jessie Mae Mitchell, age 94, and James Thomas, age 88, \$200 cash each for being the oldest female member and male member present at the Annual Meeting.

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**T**he Lumbee River EMC 67th Annual Meeting of Members was conducted Thursday, October 18, at the Givens Performing Arts Center at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. More than 2,300 members and their families attended the meeting.

The members voted from a choice of five candidates to fill the four seats up for election on the board of directors. The election results from this year's election are:

- District 2: Roger Oxendine; incumbent, 5671 Hwy. 130 E., Rowland
- District 5: Madie R. Locklear, incumbent, 5674 Old Red Springs Rd., Maxton  
Broughton Oxendine; incumbent, 4755 W. Great Marsh Ch. Rd., Shannon
- District 6: James Hardin; incumbent, 3299 Yarmouth Dr., Fayetteville

The McNeills and the Unity Quartet provided musical entertainment. The annual business meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with a call to order by Attorney Arlie Jacobs. Mr. Roger Oxendine gave the Chairman's Report and Ronnie Hunt followed with the President and CEO's report.

Following questions from the floor and a presentation on the state of the business, door prizes were awarded. Timmy Sampson of Lumberton won a \$1,200 credit on his electric account and Sallie Locklear of Shannon won \$500 cash. The oldest female and male members present (shown) each received \$200 in cash.



# EMC's "Favorite Recipes" Cookbook Makes A Great Gift

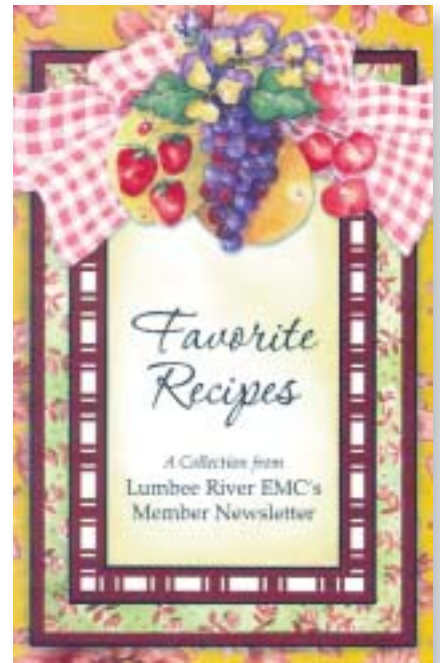
Need a unique gift for the person who has everything? The cooperative's 'Favorite Recipes' Cookbook makes the perfect gift!

The one-of-a-kind cookbook contains more than 200 well-loved recipes, including appetizers, main dishes, desserts and many others. The cookbook costs \$6 and can be purchased at any of the six Lumbree River EMC offices. Cookbooks can also be ordered via phone or by mail (a \$3.00 shipping and handling fee will be charged per book).

All proceeds will go to the LREMC Cares program, which assists cooperative families who qualify as experiencing a crisis or emergency with their electric bill by local community service agencies.

While supplies last, when you purchase a cookbook you will also receive a FREE apron and pastry brush.

For more information or to order your cookbook, call (910) 843-4131. Or mail a check to Attention: Cookbook, Lumbree River EMC, PO Box 830, Red Springs, NC, 28377.



## Office Closings

**Our offices will be closed Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25, to celebrate Christmas. We will also be closed Tuesday, January 1, for the New Year's Day holiday.**

## Make Sure Your Home Keeps Out Winter Chill

Your hard-earned money could be leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows, as well as un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements.

Here are tips to help conserve energy, save money and keep you warm:

- Find air leaks both inside and around the exterior of your home. You can do this by simply wetting your fingertips and running them around the door or window frame to feel a draft. Make sure to check around fixtures that penetrate walls such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
  - Make sure to seal leaks between moving parts (like a door and its frame) with weather stripping. Fill leaks between nonmoving parts (like a window frame and the wall) with caulking.
  - Replace your screens with storm windows and doors, or consider a temporary fix like plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
  - If you are shopping for new windows, glass doors or skylights, look for the Energy Star label. These windows are 40 percent more energy efficient than standard windows, and they can reduce heating and cooling costs by 15 percent.
  - Have your furnace checked by a professional to make sure it's operating safely and at its optimal level. In addition, make sure that your furnace filters are changed monthly to help keep your heating bill down.
  - Adjust your thermostat to a lower temperature during the day when no one is home.
- Remember, heating costs account for 25–50 percent of a home's total energy expense in the winter. Following these tips will help you stay warm and reduce costs.

# Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

The holiday season is filled with festive parties, colorful decorations, and dazzling lights. However, the things that make holidays so special and memorable can also create serious electrical hazards. Each year approximately 1,300 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to the improper installation and use of holiday lighting and decorations.

In addition, there are approximately 500 Christmas tree fires annually, resulting in an average of \$20 million in property loss and damage each year. As you celebrate the holidays with your family and friends, stay safe with these tips regarding trees, lights, decorations, and fireplaces.

## Trees:

- \* When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate that the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- \* When purchasing a live tree, make sure it has fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks are quicker to ignite.
- \* When setting up a tree at home, make sure to place it least three feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and televisions.
- \* Make sure the tree is out of the way of traffic and does not block doorways.
- \* Heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, so be sure to keep the stand filled with water.
- \* Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

## Lights:

- \* Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.
- \* Before plugging in the lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Cut the plug off any damaged light strand, and it throw it away. This will prevent anyone else from ever using the damaged and potentially dangerous strand.
- \* Keep extension cords in good condition. Use only UL-approved cords rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- \* Don't overload extension cords by plugging in too many decorations. You should use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- \* Keep electric cords away from high-traffic areas. Don't stretch them across a room where people can trip over them. Furthermore, make sure not to hide them under rugs or carpets.

- \* Don't attach cords or lights to metal objects.
- \* Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home to prevent the lights from shorting out and starting a fire.
- \* Outdoors, use only lights and cords rated for outdoor use. Don't lay cords across sidewalks, decks, or other walkways.
- \* Make sure to fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Another option is to run the string of lights through hooks that are available at hardware stores.
- \* Check your light strings to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected. Do not exceed this number.

## Decorations:

- \* Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded materials. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- \* Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- \* In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

## Fireplaces:

- \* Use care with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- \* Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.



Don't overload extension cords with too many sets of lights.

# These Holiday Gift Ideas Save Energy and Environment

Each holiday season, from Thanksgiving to the New Year, Americans throw away 25 percent more trash than any other time during the year. The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the United States could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

This holiday season, as you search for the perfect gifts to give to friends and family, try to make that gift one that will reduce negative environmental effects. Instead of battling the vast amount of people at the shopping centers this holiday season, do your shopping online. This eliminates pollution from car travel, the waste from paper catalogues and the stress of driving back and forth between shopping centers.

The holiday gift-giving season is a great opportunity for you to purchase products from companies that support the environment. Look for gifts that are made of natural components such as grown cotton or hemp, especially for items such as clothing, bedding and towels. In addition, look for products that are recyclable or have been made with recycled content. You can also look for products that have the Energy Star label on them that ensures they are energy efficient.

There are several unique gifts that you can give that will stand out from the usual store-bought and commercial aspects of the holiday season as well as help the environment.

- Make dinner for someone or cook other homemade food and deliver it.

- Make a video of family members, friends and loved ones.
- Make a book of family recipes.
- Plant a tree in someone's name.
- Offer to baby-sit or pet-sit.
- Give tickets to an art exhibit or museum.
- Give a gift certificate to a used book or music store.
- Give a sports or health club membership.
- Give an adventure or an experience such as hiking, canoeing, etc.
- Create a photo album or have an old photo restored, enlarged or framed.
- Provide a gift certificate for a lesson such as tennis, swimming, drumming, etc.

## Unique Wrapping

When you do find that perfect gift to give this season, the next step is to wrap that present in a special way. However, wrapping a gift can be very wasteful. If every American family wrapped just three presents in re-used materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields. Here are some ways to wrap your presents this year while being environmentally conscious. Use:

- scarves, handkerchiefs or bandannas.
- old posters, maps or sheet music.
- pages from a child's coloring book taped together.
- newspapers, Sunday comic pages or even foreign newspapers.

- reusable decorative bags.
- wrapping paper made from recycled paper.
- plain boxes decorated with leftover glitter, paint, markers, etc.
- Fabric or wallpaper scraps.

Remember to be environmentally conscious when including bows on gifts. If every family reused about two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet. You can use:

- bows saved from other gifts.
- reusable items, such as hair bows, ornaments, shoelaces or toys.
- stencils or pictures from holiday cards pasted onto a plain brown paper bag or box.
- old neckties or scarves.
- combinations of beads and buttons.
- dried or silk flowers.



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**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

By resetting your programmable thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day (for instance, while no one is at home or while everyone is tucked in bed) you can cut your heating bill by up to 10 percent.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy