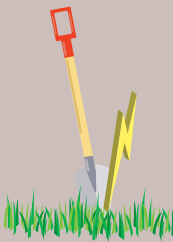




## Dial Before Digging

You never really know what's below the surface when you dig. You may chop right into underground power lines. In addition to causing outages, this is very dangerous. Before digging in your yard, have the underground electric lines located. Please give us three days notice before you dig. Call us at (252) 426-5735.



## Albemarle Sounds

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[www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop)

For outages, call  
**1-800-274-2072**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative    
The power of human connections®

## Sports Camp Scholarships Available

Albemarle EMC will again provide all-expense paid basketball camp scholarships for one girl and one boy.

The girl will attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp, at NC State University, in Raleigh. The boy will attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp, at UNC in Chapel Hill this summer. The dates for the camps were not available at press time. The camps will work closely with each camper to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

Rising sixth through eighth-graders are eligible to apply, and the cooperative will begin accepting applications on Jan. 3, 2012. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2012. Applicants will be judged on

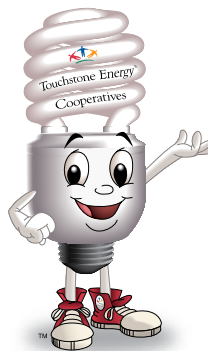
their academics, extra-curricular activities and accompanying essay. Students can download an application at [www.ncelectriccooperatives.com](http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com).

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our state. It is yet another way the cooperatives demonstrate their commitment to North Carolina communities.



*Cole Turner was a 2011 recipient of a sports camp scholarship.*

## Website Teaches Kids About Energy Efficiency



It's never too early to teach children about energy efficiency.

Albemarle EMC has a link on its website ([www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop)) that will take kids to Touchstone Energy's "Kids Zone." The site is designed to teach children in kindergarten through fifth grade how to be Super Energy Savers in their homes. The Kids Zone also includes interactive activities that help students and parents learn about renewable energy, electrical safety and energy savings.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) has employed Disney's Tinker Bell to teach youngsters about CFLs and energy-saving smart strips, as well as closing and turning off computers and systems when

not in use. That website is located at [www.eere.energy.gov/kids](http://www.eere.energy.gov/kids).

**We will be closed Jan. 2nd for New Year's**

# Albemarle EMC Funds 12 Bright Ideas Grants



*Grant recipients were recently treated to a dinner banquet, where they received their grant checks and apple trophies.*

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation recently provided 12 grants to area schools to fund classroom projects. The teachers competed for the grants through an application process.

Maria Ormerod, a teacher at Camden County High School, received \$975.59 for her project "Fitness and Latino Culture in a Bundle." The project involves the teaching of Hispanic culture through dance.

Sharon Meiggs, also a teacher at Camden County High School, received \$750 to fund her project "Let Us Teach!." The money will be used to purchase video cameras so students can make films regarding the subjects of personal finance and food preparation.

Kellie Berry, a teacher at Grandy Primary School, received \$640 to fund her project "Shed Some Light on Literacy." The funds will be used to purchase a laptop, projector and display cart that students will use to explore social studies through virtual field trips and improve literacy through interactive

storyboards.

Stacey Banks, a teacher at D.F. Walker Elementary School, received \$988.92 to fund her project "Going Global." Through the use of quality literature and hands-on technology, students will be exposed to various cultures around the world. Students will focus on themes such as problem solving, communication and collaboration as they read books from across the globe. Students also will create podcasts about themselves as well as the books they are reading.

Janie Joseph, a teacher at Chowan Middle School, received \$612.97 for her project "Recycling Readers, Transforming Reluctant Readers into Fluent Readers." The funds will be used to purchase a set of classic graphic novels, adventure novels and a fluency assessment kit. The goal of the program is to help students become more fluent readers.

Jenny Wells, also a teacher at Chowan Middle School, received \$969.75 to fund her project "Say What!." This project seeks to help students develop, strengthen and improve reading and writing skills. Students will be exposed to movies covering language arts, science, social studies and math.

Donna Corbo, a teacher at J.P. Knapp School, received \$921.22 to fund her project "Reading is Leading." The funds will be used to purchase Amazon Kindles that students can use to form a reading club.

Linda Collins, a teacher at Shawboro Elementary School, received a \$395 grant

to fund her project "Lights, Camera, Action." The grant will be used to purchase video cameras. Children will use the video cameras to film each other performing Reader's Theater, a play in which students read their parts to foster fluency.

Patricia Mouton, a teacher at River Road Middle School, received a grant for \$855.67 to fund her project "My World Contains What?." She plans to use the funds to purchase teaching materials related to environmental science.

Virginia Talmadge, a teacher at Sheep-Harney Elementary School, received \$906.88 to fund her project "The Weather Report." Talmadge plans to use the funds to purchase a video camera that will be used to produce weather reports that can be broadcast to the entire school.

Jenna Lassiter Caldwell, a teacher at Perquimans Central School, received \$1,000 to fund her project "TEAM (Technology Expands All Minds) CALDWELL." She plans to use the funds to purchase a Leapster Personal Learning Tool to assist students in the areas of technology, science, spelling, math and reading.

Michele Swinney, a teacher at Perquimans Middle School, received a \$984 grant to fund her project "Reading on the Go?." The funds will be used to purchase eReaders or PC tablets and non-fiction science eBooks. Students will be able to borrow the materials from their science or language arts teachers.

## Thanks for Supporting Operation Roundup

We'd like to thank you for your continued support of the Operation RoundUp program.

Operation RoundUp was established in late 2001 and is a trust fund made up of donations from Albemarle EMC members as a way to give back to the community. Each month participants' bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar, and those pennies are put in a trust account. The maximum monthly amount a bill can be rounded up to is 99 cents. Because most round-ups are less than that, the average cost per member factors out to \$5.26 per year.

"The phrase 'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much' comes to mind here," said Jonetta Long,

manager of corporate services.

While 1 cent to 99 cents may not sound like it would help anyone, everyone's pennies combined quickly grows to around \$5,200 by the end of each month.

A board of nine volunteers from Camden, Chowan, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties oversee the trust. The directors meet every other month to review applications from organizations as well as individuals with a specific emergency-type need. The applicants must submit financial statements,

references, and define exactly what their request is for. In the past ten years, your donations have funded the Food Bank of the Albemarle, equipment for several volunteer fire departments in four counties, the local American Red Cross after Hurricane Isabel, Albemarle Hopeline, and many others. You have also assisted with wheelchair ramps, eyeglasses, and many other programs.

When a new member joins Albemarle EMC's membership, they are signed up for the program. If any member, new or established, prefers not to participate they may opt out at any time. To do so, you may either call our office at 252-426-5735, or mail us a letter.





# At Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

## Common Sense Saves Energy Cents

Bet you didn't know that the average monthly cost to operate an aquarium is \$12.05; a dryer is \$11.22; a dehumidifier is \$17.82 and a deep freezer is \$16.17. Though these may not seem like large amounts, they do all add up with numerous other electrical devices to produce a substantial electricity bill. Below are some basic ways you can reduce your electricity consumption.

### Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- Ensure ducts are sealed tightly to prevent air leaks. Ducts should be sealed with duct mastic.
- Check to make sure that your heat pump defrost is working properly. (Hint: If your unit looks like an igloo, the defrost isn't working.)
- Have a service technician check the refrigerant level and clean the indoor and outdoor coils.
- Make sure that grass clippings, plants and debris are kept away from the outside unit.
- Keep heat no higher than 68 degrees in the winter.
- Change the filter the first of each month.

### Water Heater

- Verify that the pop-off valve and drain valve are not leaking.
- Set water heater temperature to no higher than 120 degrees. For households with one or two members, a 115-degree setting may work fine.
- Install a water heater wrap, if the unit is located in an unconditioned space.
- Insulate exposed hot water lines.
- Limit shower length to five to seven minutes.
- Install low-flow shower heads.
- Wash clothes in cold water; use hot water only for very dirty loads.
- Do only full loads of laundry.
- If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size, especially when using hot water.



### Clothes Dryer

- Keep the dryer filter screen clean. You should also make sure the hose is not kinked or clogged and that the hose is connected to the wall fitting as well as the dryer fitting. You should verify that there is a strong draft leaving the exhaust port and that the draft hood door closes when the dryer is off. Never over-dry clothes; use a moisture sensor if available.

### Refrigerator

- Keep the refrigerator coils clean and make sure the door seals airtight. Unplug unused refrigerators or freezers. Set the refrigerator temperature to 34 to 37 degrees and freezer temperature to zero to five degrees. If your refrigerator has a power-saver setting, turn it on.

### Thermal Envelope

- Keep windows locked to prevent the sashes from separating and letting in drafts.
- If windows are single pane, consider installing storm windows.
- Keep window shades drawn during the day in the summer and open in the winter.
- Consider adding shade screens to exposed west-facing glass.
- Keep fireplace dampers closed when a fire is not lit.
- Caulk around all plumbing penetrations, windows and any other gap or crack. Also, weather strip the attic hatch.