

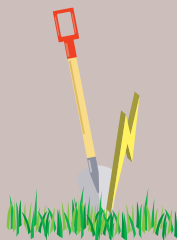


March 2009

Serving 12,000 members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

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

is published monthly by
Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

P.O. Box 69
Hertford, NC 27944
(252) 426-5735

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Visit our Web site at:
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For outages, call
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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Youth Tour Competition Begins

Area eleventh-grade students have the chance to compete for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation will sponsor a seven-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 14-19, for the student who wins an essay-writing competition. Students who enter will prepare a short essay on one of five topics related to electrical co-ops and electricity use.

In addition, the student chosen will also have the opportunity to compete for the \$2,500 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship and the \$2,000 Katie Bunch memorial Scholarship. The third scholarship, worth \$2,000, will be awarded to the student selected for the Youth Leadership Council, which is a national advisory committee to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Eleventh-grade students attending any of the schools in Chowan, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties can apply. Essay and application forms can be found by visiting www.albemarle-emc.com and clicking on the Washington Youth Tour link found on the home page. Completed essays are due by March 9 and should be mailed to Chris Powell, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944-0069. For more information, call (252) 426-2586 and ask for Chris Powell, or e-mail Chris Powell at chris.powell@albemarle.ncemcs.com.



Nicholas Aisthorpe, winner of the 2008 Washington Youth Tour contest, stands in front of the capital building in Washington, D.C.

The Washington Youth Tour provides the winning eleventh-grade student the opportunity to see Washington, D.C., in a way that most never will be able to. During their stay, students from across North Carolina will tour historic sites, visit with North Carolina representatives and have a chance to meet students representing other electric cooperatives.

E-Checks No Longer Accepted

Albemarle EMC will no longer accept E-Checks as a form of payment. The decision was made to protect members from potential identity theft. The E-Check payment system is vulnerable to identity theft because people must recite their checking account number over the phone, without the security measures that credit and debit cards have.

Scholarships Available for Basketball Camps

Albemarle EMC will send one deserving girl to the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp at North Carolina State University and one deserving boy to the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"We are pleased to be able to offer this program," said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "It will be an unforgettable experience for the two scholarship winners, and we're proud to play a part."

The scholarships are available to students in sixth through eighth grades.

Applications for both camps will be accepted through March 27.

Winners will be announced by May 1. Winners of the Touchstone Energy N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp scholarship will attend the overnight basketball camp from June 21-25. Winners of the Touchstone Energy Roy Williams Basketball Camp scholarship will attend the overnight camp also from June 21-25. Campers must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend either camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp.

Sixth through eighth-grade students interested in the scholarships can contact Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC, at (252) 426-2586. Students will be judged on their academics extracurricular activities and an essay that must accompany the application.

Both camps will be conducted by players and coaches from each team. Attendees will be taught fundamentals that will help both on and off the court.



The late Kay Yow (back row, center), who coached the N.C. State Women's Basketball team, poses for a group photo with basketball camp attendees.

Grant Aids Camden Middle School

Camden County Middle School students now have access to a host of science equipment, thanks to a Bright Ideas grant.

Regina Sawyer, a teacher at Camden Middle School, was awarded the grant during the 2008 Bright Ideas competition. Sawyer used the grant to purchase equipment such as microscopes, slides, science kits, a measurement set, safety goggles and numerous other items. Sawyer said the items will be used for after-school programs.

"The workshops will be designed to promote interest and enhance abilities with regard to science," Sawyer said. "Students will have access to resources that will allow them to develop quality projects for the classroom, science fair and other things."

Held each year, Bright Ideas is a program whereby teachers submit grant applications to compete for a combined \$10,000 worth of funding. Grants are used to fund classroom projects that would otherwise lack the necessary funding.



Camden County Middle School students peer through microscopes that were purchased with a Bright Ideas grant from Albemarle EMC.

How to Hire an HVAC Contractor

A quality HVAC contractor should:

- Prove that they have the proper licenses and insurance.
- Provide examples of quality installation of HVAC systems.
- Determine the size of your new equipment using ACCA/ANSI Manual J or an equivalent sizing calculation tool.
- Inspect and repair your existing duct system before installing new mechanical equipment.
- Outline paperwork and permits needed for the job.

VFD Receives Grant

The Durant's Neck Volunteer Fire Department received an Albemarle Community Trust grant that will help purchase a new piece of fire fighting equipment.

The \$5,000 grant to the fire department will go toward the purchase of a forestry skid unit, which will be mounted on a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The skid unit will enable firefighters to fight fires where the larger fire trucks can't access.

"We'll be able to fight forest fires and put out fires on farm equipment," said Robert Eure Jr., treasurer.

The Albemarle Community Trust is funded by Albemarle EMC members who voluntarily have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. More than \$260,000 has been granted to date.



Jimmy Spivey, left, and Robert Eure, both members of the Durant's Neck Volunteer Fire Department, accept an Albemarle Community Trust grant check.