

Dec. 19, 2007

Act Grants Approved for Two Fire Departments

The Albemarle Community Trust Board of Directors recently approved two grants for two local volunteer fire departments.

The Belvidere-Chappell Hill Vol. Fire Department received \$5,000 to go towards the purchase of a 40,000-watt generator to supply their building during power outages. The total estimated cost of the generator is \$20,000.

“During hurricane Isabel, our small generator simply would not provide the amount of power we needed,” said Bernie Winslow, secretary of the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

The Inter County Volunteer Fire Department was granted \$4,875 to help purchase rescue equipment. The equipment includes a rescue saw for cutting steel and aluminum, stabilization bars to be used for vehicle rollovers and lighted traffic cones.

“All of this equipment is needed to keep up with the growth in our region,” said Chris Carver, captain of the Inter County Volunteer Fire Department.

The grant came from the Albemarle Community Trust (ACT), a fund established by Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation to assist nonprofit organizations. ACT is funded by co-op members who agree to have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. The amount by which the bills are rounded up is then put into the fund. Since its inception in 2001, ACT has granted more than \$250,000. Recipients include such organizations as Albemarle Food Bank, Albemarle Hope Line and the Perquimans Technical Dive Team.

To apply for a grant, call Albemarle EMC at (252) 426-5735. Grant applications are reviewed by a nine-member board, consisting of representatives from the surrounding communities.

Albemarle EMC, based near Hertford, is a member-owned, nonprofit electrical co-op that serves more than 12,000 residences and businesses. The service territory includes the counties of Chowan, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden and a part of Currituck.