



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2020



Showing our community some love

Love is in the air... and here at Piedmont Electric, that means we're spreading some extra love to our community by reminding you about some of our favorite community programs.

Community programs for our youth

We know that Piedmont Electric kids are the future and we understand the importance of investing in them!

Every summer, we select two middle school students – one girl and one boy – to receive a scholarship to attend basketball camp on college campuses. The boys' basketball camp is held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the girls' camp is held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders whose parents or guardians are Piedmont Electric members can apply for the basketball camp scholarship on our website by visiting pemc.coop/basketball.

Similarly, every year we award college scholarships to high school seniors who plan to continue their education at a college, university, community college or technical school. This year, we're excited to announce that we'll be awarding seven, \$2,000 scholarships!

Eligible students can submit their scholarship applications at pemc.coop/scholarships.

As a reminder, the deadline for both the basketball and college scholarships is March 31, 2020.

Community programs for those in need

The scholarship programs mentioned above are funded by our Helping Hand Foundation, which was created to help provide aid for members in need and to support our other community programs like Bright Ideas education grants, Youth Tour and more.

Generous members like you help fund our Helping Hand Foundation by participating in our voluntary round-up program in which you allow your bill to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. As a result, we can support our community and offer new opportunities to members in need.

Thank you for lending a helping hand and spreading the love throughout our community. We couldn't do it without you!

Learn more about our community outreach efforts at pemc.coop/community.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 14
Valentine's Day

March 31
Basketball camp applications due

College scholarship applications due

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February right-of-way maintenance

GRANVILLE/ORANGE COUNTY

Grassy Creek Virgilina Road
 Dave Winston Road
 Grassy Creek Road
 Herbert Faucette Road
 Mount Willing Road
 Chestnut Ridge Church Road
 Borland Road



These *Valentine's Day* gift ideas are *sweeter* than chocolate!

This Valentine's Day, skip the grocery store flowers and box of chocolates and instead get that special someone in your life a sweet tech gift that will help them save energy and money.

These days, it seems like there is a "smart" version of just about everything! Many smart devices work independently without an internet connection, but would need to connect to Wi-Fi if you want to control them from your smartphone or other mobile device. Here are a few of our favorite high-tech gifts for the home that your sweetheart is sure to love:

Smart thermostat

Smart thermostats make it easier than ever to maximize the efficiency of your home's heating and cooling system by learning your behavior and making automatic adjustments. And, as a Piedmont Electric member, you can save even more by joining our smart thermostat savings program.

When you purchase a Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat and sign up for our program, you'll receive a \$50 rebate and get paid for allowing Piedmont Electric to adjust your thermostat through your in-home Wi-Fi by a couple degrees on very hot or cold days.

Of course, you will always have the final say in your home's temperature and you can change your thermostat back at any time. You can find all the program details by visiting pemc.coop/thermostat.

Smart blinds

Consider installing smart blinds throughout your home, which have a built-in motor so that they can be raised or lowered with the click of a remote. Or, you can take it a step further by setting your smart blinds on a schedule so that they automatically open when the sun rises and close when it sets.

This is particularly helpful during these cold winter months when you want to let light in during the day to help keep your home warm and comfortable.

Smart vents

You may not pay much attention to your heating and cooling vents, but with the invention of new smart vents you could be singing a different tune. These automatically adjusting vents can redirect airflow out of rooms that are over-conditioned and into rooms that need it.

A set of smart vents for your home can be the perfect complement to your smart thermostat and both will have your wallet feeling happy when your monthly energy bill arrives.

Smart outlets

If you regularly read our newsletters and bill inserts, you've probably noticed that we talk about "phantom load," which is what happens when appliances and electronics are plugged in and using energy, even when they're not in use.

Smart outlets, which plug into traditional electrical outlets, allow you to control whatever you plug into them from an app. For example, you can plug your television into a smart outlet and then plug that into your regular electrical outlet. Then, using an app on your mobile device, you can turn off the smart outlet so that it's not using any energy. The next time you want to use your TV, all you have to do is turn the smart outlet back on and then turn on your TV as usual.

You can see how much impact smart outlets will have on your energy bill by visiting pemc.coop/tools and using our phantom load calculator to see how much phantom load is currently being used in your home.



Do you need a better internet solution?



If so, let us know you're interested by visiting join.buildpiedmont.com and learn more about how we're working with RiverStreet Networks to help bring faster internet to your neighborhood. If you need assistance, please call 800.222.3107 or stop by one of our offices.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027 found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866)

632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the requested information in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to the USDA by:

1. Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director,
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation **Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pay account and access account information by phone 24-hours-a-day by calling 800.222.3107

Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

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IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US OR TEXT US AT 800.222.3107

Opt in for text alerts by texting "pemc" to 800.222.3107. Once you've opted in, report an outage by texting "#out" to 800.222.3107 or "#status" for an update on your outage.

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. Update the number connected to your account by completing the form that comes with your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Please note that it may take up to 24 hours for our system to recognize new cell phone numbers in the text outage alert program.