



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2021



How power blinks lead to more reliable service

Have you ever noticed your lights quickly blink on and off, even during normal weather conditions? While these power blinks might cause you to worry that there's an issue with your electricity, the opposite is actually true.

Occasional power blinks mean that our system is working the way that it should.

What causes power blinks?

When a quick rise of electrical current is detected in our power system, it causes a switch, known as a breaker, to open which leads to a power blink. The rise in electrical currents often happens when something comes into contact with a power line like:

- A lightning strike
- Vehicle accidents
- Birds or other animals
- Tree & limbs

When the breakers open, it prevents electricity from flowing to the area of concern until the breaker closes again, which usually happens in a matter of seconds. If there are still high levels of current when the breaker closes, it will open and close again to try to let the issue resolve.

If the breaker opens a third time, then it locks out and our Piedmont Electric crew goes to the site to further investigate and resolve the issue.

How does this aid in reliability?

Stopping the flow of electricity at the site of the issue prevents damage from low-voltage conditions to our system. Not only does this keep our equipment in good shape so we can provide you with the power you rely on, but it can also help prevent damage to your electronics and appliances as well.

Without breakers, the power would go out and would not be restored until a crew could arrive. The blinks can allow for enough time for the problem to resolve and keep electricity flowing or, if the problem is not resolved, to disconnect power and prevent further damage.

These brief interruptions in power also help to prevent future, more extensive outages, because they help keep our whole system working properly. As a result, we can provide you with safer, more reliable power.

The next time you notice a power blink in your home, think of it as a quick reminder that we're doing our part to better serve our members.

IMPORTANT DATES

October
National Co-op Month

October
Community Days

Visit one of our drive-thrus during the month of October for a gift bag! Available during each office location's business hours. One gift bag per member.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

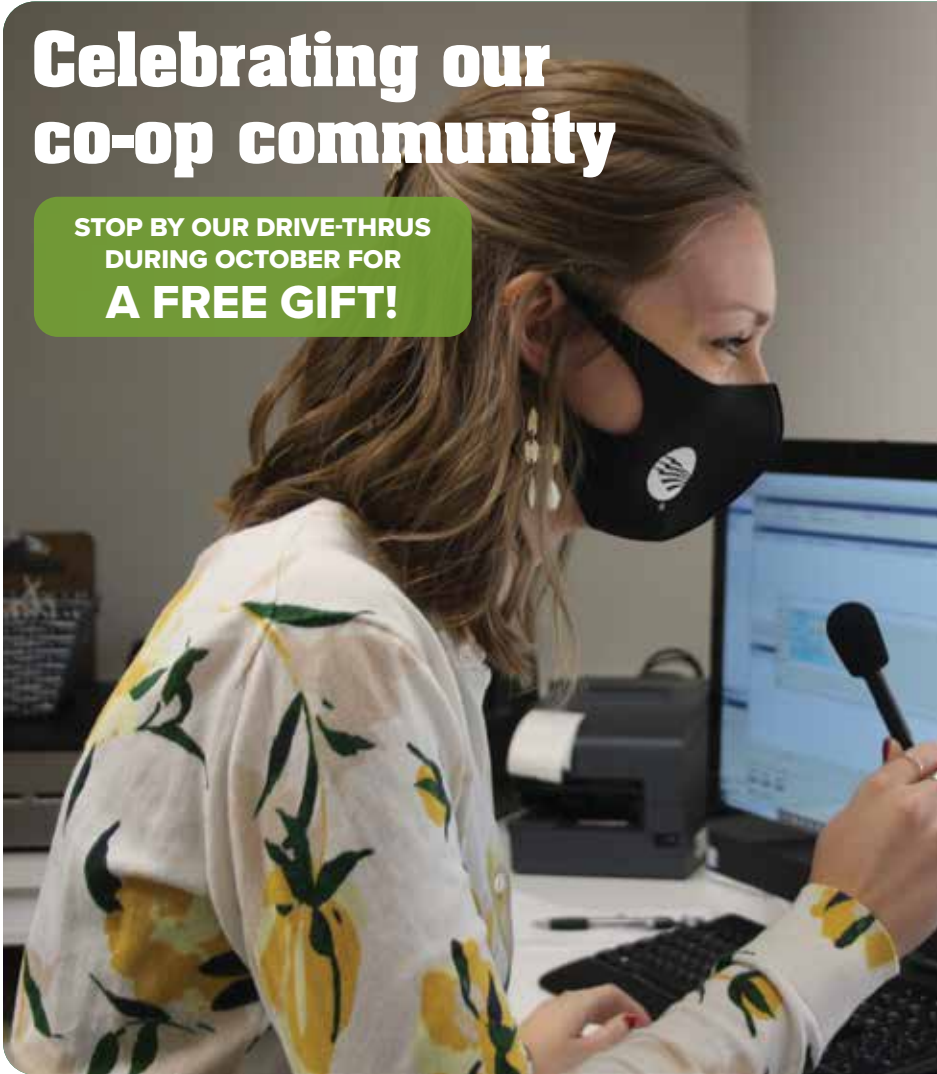
Free WiFi hotspots available at Gunn Memorial Library

Caswell County residents needing a better internet connection can now check out mobile hotspots from the Gunn Memorial Library thanks to a grant from Piedmont Electric's Helping Hand Foundation. More broadband information on page 22.



Celebrating our co-op community

STOP BY OUR DRIVE-THRU DURING OCTOBER FOR A FREE GIFT!



Our co-op loves to help our community and we want to take time to celebrate. Like last year, we will be giving out gift bags in October at our offices. We invite you to stop by one of our office drive-thrus to pick up a gift bag filled with a color changing cup, a protective face mask and hand sanitizer.*

Celebrating our community through events like this is just one of the ways we follow through on our seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community.

While we celebrate cooperative month once a year, we support our community all year long. We work every day to show our commitment to strengthening our local communities. We do this through initiatives like our basketball camps, college scholarships, community loan programs, youth tour, Helping Hand Foundation and more.

**Available during each office location's business hours. One gift bag per member while supplies last.*

Free public WiFi available



Piedmont Electric is providing free WiFi hotspots at our Person and Caswell County office parking lots and at the Cherry Grove Ruritan Club parking lot, in partnership with RiverStreet Networks. Individuals can access the internet from the safety of their vehicles. The free access name is PEMC-Free-WiFi at both locations. No password is needed.

Locations for free WiFi access:

- Cherry Grove Ruritan Club: 7152 Cherry Grove Road, Reidsville, NC 27320
- Person County: 1125 Oxford Road, Roxboro, NC 27573
- Caswell County: 64 Rascoe Dameron Road, Burlington, NC 27217

PERSON COUNTY, SIGN UP FOR INTERNET NOW!

If you live in Person County, a new high-speed internet solution may be available to you, thanks to the RiverStreet Networks broadband program. Now, your home, business or farm can stay connected with faster, more reliable internet access right in your community. Visit join.buildpedmont.com or myriverstreet.net/piedmont to enter your address to see if you are eligible for service. If you are, a RiverStreet representative will reach out to you to help sign you up for high-speed internet today.

A penny's worth of power



A hundred years ago, you could exchange a penny for a piece of candy or a small toy. Today, it's easy to feel like a penny is worth nothing more than maybe a little luck if you find one on the ground.

But the truth is that a penny can go a long way when it comes to your power. Did you know that with just one cent, you can get:

1 hour of playing video games on a 100-watt gaming console

3 hours of keeping your ice cream cold in a 35-watt freezer

3 and a half hours of watching your favorite shows on a 30-watt television

10 hours of reading with a 10-watt LED light bulb

20 hours of charging your smartphone with a 5-watt charger

Calculated at \$.10 cents/kWh

The value of electricity

As your electric co-op, you can have peace of mind that we're not in this to make money. Instead, our goal is to provide you with electricity at a good value. This is driven by our third cooperative principle, which is Members' Economic Participation. As a not-for-profit co-op, when we collect more money than we need to operate in a year, we return that excess back to you in the form of capital credits.

In addition to putting more money back in your pockets, we're always looking for ways to keep costs down for you. That's why we offer money-saving programs like our smart thermostat savings program, time-of-day rates and load management.

The more we can collectively conserve energy, the more money we all save. Visit pemc.coop/save-energy-money to learn more about all of the money-saving resources available to you.

By working together to save energy, your pennies can add up to something powerful.



Check to see if your friends and family are owed capital credits

Visit pemc.coop/capitalcredit to see if someone you know has unclaimed capital credits. After this month, the unclaimed credits from the years 1989 and 1990 will be sent to the state and you'll no longer be able to see them on our website. Check today to see if someone you know has money waiting for them!

This applies to those whose last mailing address was in North Carolina. For all other states, please refer to the respective state's Department of State Treasurer.

Serving on the Piedmont Electric board of directors

Piedmont Electric is your local electric cooperative and we are guided by a board of directors made up of 10 Piedmont Electric members from across our service area. These board members provide guidance, oversight and help craft the strategic direction of the cooperative along with cooperative staff. This process sets us apart from other types of utilities and helps ensure that the local needs of Piedmont Electric members are heard and met. Directors are elected on a three-year rotation and are nominated by a nominating committee and follow the requirements below.

The following is an excerpt from our bylaws pertaining to nominations.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations.

(A) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of ten (10) persons who are members but are not directors or close relatives of directors, and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts and the at large directorate shall have one representative thereon. The Committee shall meet and nominate candidates for each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts to be elected at the next annual meeting and the at large director if that directorate is to be elected at the next annual meeting. The Committee shall nominate at least one (1) nominee for each such District and may nominate more than one (1) nominee for each such District. The Committee shall show clearly each nominee(s) and the Directorate District for which they are nominated. In addition, the Committee shall nominate each three (3) years at least one (1) candidate and may nominate more than one (1) candidate for the "at large" position. The Committee

shall ensure that all members nominated meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02. The Committee shall meet as necessary in order to complete its nominations no later than thirty days preceding the deadline for nomination by petition as is set forth in the following subsection to provide the opportunity for any qualified member who desires to be placed on the ballot at the upcoming annual meeting but not nominated by the Committee, to seek nomination by petition as set forth in the following subsection.

(B) NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts from which they are nominated, on or before January 14 preceding the annual meeting at which such directors are to be elected. Any member nominated by petition as a candidate for any Directorate must meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02 before the nominee's name may be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting.

(C) PROVIDING NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

The Secretary shall communicate to the members through any publication routinely used by the Cooperative for communication with the membership on a monthly basis or by electronic means at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, the names of all nominees for each such district, showing separately those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any.

(D) POSTING OF NOMINATIONS

Once the signatures of the members on any petition and the qualifications to serve of the nominees are verified, the names of all nominees for each directorate district and the names of each nominee for the at large directorate, if it is to be elected before the upcoming annual meeting, shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Posted Notice of all nominees shall show the directorate for which each nominee seeks election as director and may indicate those nominated by the nominations committee and those nominated by petition.

Revised 3/18/19

Interested in serving?

The Nominations Committee selects qualified candidates for the ballot from each directorate district in the next election cycle. If you are interested in being considered for nomination, first, check the qualifications to serve as a director in Section 4.02 of the bylaws. Piedmont Electric's bylaws can be found at pemc.coop/bylaws. If you feel you meet these qualifications, email Piedmont.Board@pemc.coop with your name, address and interest in a director position to verify your membership and qualifications and determine if your directorate district is up for election this year. If your district is up for election, you will be provided with contact information for your member of the Nominations Committee. Or, if you are qualified, you can follow the instructions in the bylaws above to be nominated by petition. Again, you should email Piedmont.Board@pemc.coop to verify membership and to learn the particulars of the petition process.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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

Hillsborough and Roxboro Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Caswell Office Hours:
Wednesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
(Subject to change)

Report outages, make payments 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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President & General Manager

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chair
Randy Kinley, Vice Chair
Sam T. Woods, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
Steven P. Bailey, Stephen C. Long, V. Kay Scurlock-Ferguson,
David Poythress, Elizabeth Townsend & Cyrus Vernon

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL OR TEXT 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 online through SmartHub, by completing the form on 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.