

Roanoke Electric FLASHES

INSIDE

North Carolina Citizen Corps 22 African-American Festival this month 23
FEMA training for non-profits 23 Fall electrical savings and safety 24

Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is moving headquarters to Hertford County

Roanoke Electric Cooperative will be moving from its longtime home located at 409 N. Main Street, Rich Square, to a more modern facility that will be constructed near Ahoskie.

Occupied by the cooperative since 1951, the age of the existing facility and the demands to provide superior service are the drivers for this new endeavor. "The co-op needs to upgrade to a more state-of-the-art facility in order to adequately serve its members," says Curtis Wynn, Executive Vice President & CEO.

Roanoke Electric has purchased more than 17 acres of land less than a mile west of the intersection of NC 11 and 561 highways. Oakley Collier Architects, P.A. has been hired to design the building. REC wants to upgrade to a new facility, but keeping cost as low as possible is top priority.

The new site was chosen after an extensive analysis to find a location that met REC's requirement of 15 to 20 acres of reasonably priced land, is free of the threat of flooding and draining issues, had water and sewer access, and provided access to a major highway for accessibility to the cooperative's members,

suppliers, and employees.

The new site is centrally located in the cooperative's service area, which provides significant operational efficiencies for serving the entire membership.

Roanoke is the electric service provider for the site and nearby commercial properties. As economic development is a major concern, Roanoke's presence at the location may enhance the recruitment of additional commercial clients, which provides additional growth for the cooperative's system.

After the move to Ahoskie, the existing headquarters will not go unused. The cooperative's two subsidiary companies, The Roanoke Center and Roanoke Energy Resources Inc, will remain in Rich Square. This building will continue to operate as a payment collection center for those members who wish to continue to make payments in Rich Square. The additional space at the Roanoke Center and Roanoke Energy Resources, Inc. will provide significant opportunities and room for growth, which will



expand REC's outreach into the community.

Roanoke Electric should be securing a contractor for this project in the fall and construction should begin the first part of 2008. The plan is to be in the new facility during the latter part of 2008 or first part of 2009.

Roanoke Electric's Board of Directors and staff look forward to serving the members in the new facility and will work to make the transition from Rich Square to Ahoskie as seamless as possible.

Holiday Closing

Roanoke Electric offices will be closed Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, for Thanksgiving. If you experience a power outage, please call (800) 433-2236. Have a safe and happy holiday.



Grants to enhance development of volunteer services in Roanoke EC area

Two recent grants will further develop volunteer services in Hertford and Bertie counties. The grants totalling \$11,400 will benefit the Hertford County Citizen Corps Council and Community Emergency Response Teams.

The grants, designed to support the development and enhancement of Citizen Corps in the state, were awarded by North Carolina Citizen Corps via the North Carolina's Governor's Office. The awards allow Hertford County to receive reimbursement for outreach and activities consistent with the national theme of citizen involvement, awareness and preparedness.

"I'm humbled and thankful for the incredible support our leaders have given throughout this process," said Hertford County Citizen Corps/CERT Coordinator Stephanie Duffey, who is the Regional Marketing Coordinator for The Roanoke Center. "The progress that has been made thus far is truly a reflection of the commitment and faithfulness of civilians with a common vision towards readiness, helping people, and doing the greatest good for a better quality of life."

Citizen Corps brings together leaders from law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, emergency management, volunteer organizations, the private sector and local elected officials to oversee citizen engagement in homeland security and the promotion of community preparedness and family safety through education, outreach and training.

Since receiving official recognition by the state for its existence in November 2006, Hertford County Citizen Corps has organized multiple training workshops to engage the community in becoming more informed and prepared in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Duffey said the grants will be used for planning, equipment, training and exercise development. One of her goals is the creation of a Campus CERT at Chowan University in Murfreesboro to help promote public safety and a culture of preparedness.

According to a press release from the Governor's office more than \$275,000 in grants have been awarded statewide to the North Carolina Citizen Corps, with a total of 31 counties receiving funds including neighboring Bertie County. "We appreciate all the support the government has given us," said Bertie County Emergency Manager Rickey Freeman, who plans to use the funds to increase the number of volunteers.

"CERT affords everyday citizens the opportunity to be part of the community. You don't have to join the fire department or EMS to be a part of this community," he said. "If there is a group or a subdivision that wants to train, we can go to them and teach them."

Freeman and Duffey are discussing the possibility of working together on training initiatives as well. "We just want to do everything we can to make the Roanoke Chowan area as prepared as possible," said Freeman.

"It is heartening to see young people doing a public service," said Hertford County Manager Loria Williams. "I believe this grant will also enhance communication between local government personnel, the citizens and the media and ultimately result in a community that is better equipped to meet each other's needs when disaster strikes."

For information on CERT, contact Stephanie Duffey at (252) 539-2236, ext. 283, (Hertford) or Rickey Freeman at (252) 794-5302 (Bertie) or visit www.citizencorps.gov.

North Carolina Citizen Corps

North Carolina Citizen Corps initiative has been awarded more than \$275,000 in grants for 31 counties statewide for the 2007-2008 year.

Citizen Corps, a volunteer program managed by the N.C. Governor's office, helps local communities prepare for disasters.

Citizen Corps is one way our citizens can take responsibility for their family's safety and learn how to be ready for

emergencies," said Gov. Mike Easley. "I encourage everyone to join a local Citizen

Corps Council or volunteer in a Citizen Corps program to help make our communities better prepared for disasters."

Counties that will receive funding are Alamance, Bertie, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Carteret, Catawba, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Clay, Craven, Cumberland, Forsyth, Graham, Guilford, Harnett, Haywood, Hertford, Jones, McDowell, Moore, Onslow, Orange, Pitt, Polk, Robeson, Rowan, Transylvania, Union and Washington.

For more information about Citizen Corps, visit www.citizencorps.gov. For more information about how to prepare for a disaster, visit www.ReadyNC.org or www.ListoNC.org



FEMA training on public assistance helps non-profits prepare for disaster

Ever wondered what your non-profit would do if a disaster struck? Where would it turn for help?

For many, the natural answer would be the federal government, but knowing how to navigate through the paperwork can be a daunting task. That's why The Roanoke Center thought it would be helpful to host the Public Assistance Training Course.

Constructed by FEMA and the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management, the training provided participants with an overview of public assistance as well as document and eligibility requirements.

The training detailed how issues like insurance could affect the scope of work and funding of a project and emphasized the importance of effective floodplain management and hazard mitigation. It also encouraged giving adequate consideration to historic properties and other federal laws and regulations like the Clean Water Act and grants, loans and licenses.

Public Assistance Grants Manager Willie Mae Cox and



Standing is Public Assistance Grants Manager Willie Mae Cox and seated near the front is Senior Grants Manager Andy Innis. Next to Innis is Liberache Harris, Vice President of Finance & Accounting for Roanoke Electric.

Senior Grants Manager Andy Innis described the importance of complying with local, state and federal program procedures. The trainers instructed the group on how to formulate objectives for projects of various sizes, how to determine the scope of the work, how to develop damage descriptions and construct cost estimates.

They also provided practical guidance on the project management process, which included identifying roles and

responsibilities, working effectively with the applicant, dealing with time restrictions and maintaining proper records during the process.

Attendees were also informed on cost-effective action to prevent or reduce the threat of future repetitive damage (hazard mitigation) and contractual services during the course of procurement. For more information visit www.fema.gov/txt/government/grant/pa/pa_briefing.txt or contact The Roanoke Center at (252) 539-2236.

10th Annual African-American Festival

Saturday, November 3, 2007

**Hertford County Middle School – Murfreesboro, 10:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.
Church Groups & Youth Groups Are Welcome**

Activities: Cartoon Karl (clown), community military exhibit, Black History exhibits, step show, performances by area school students, school bands, college recruiters, military recruiters

Agencies on site: Health Department, Baby Love Plus, Smart Start, Social Security Administration, Roanoke Chowan Hospital, N.C. Department of Corrections, N.C. Institute of Minority Enterprise Development, Roanoke Electric, Communities In Schools, N.C. Cooperative Extension Services, CADA, NAACP, American Legion, Roanoke Chowan SAFE, VIQUEST, N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co., Hertford County Office of Aging and more!

Featured Merchandise: Includes scented oils, artwork, jewelry, ethnic fashions, posters, books, dolls, sportswear, purses, shoes, skin care products, bath oils and soaps, Black History calendars and more!

Exhibits: Military exhibit, Antique kitchen items, old photographs, poster and doll collections and more!

Food: Soul Food Dinners will be in the cafeteria, hot dogs, seafood, candied apples, roasted peanuts and hamburgers

For vendor fee and registration information, call Ann Riddick at (252) 398-8192. Sponsored by: United Faith Coalition and The King Enrichment Program, P.O. Box 397, Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855



Holiday can be tough on electric bill as well as your waistline

November is the time of year when we look forward to spending time together as a family. Holiday occasions normally call for food, which means we are cooking more than usual and washing dishes more often. This extra cooking and cleaning time could increase your bill by about \$20-\$30.

The average consumer uses about 100 kilowatt-hours per month for normal cooking for a family of four people. During November, you are cooking turkeys, hams and cakes that require more oven time. Using your fine china that you save for these occasions usually calls for dishwashing since they haven't been used since the last holiday, and another washing after the meal is over. This extra washing increases your hot water usage, which could increase your electric bill.

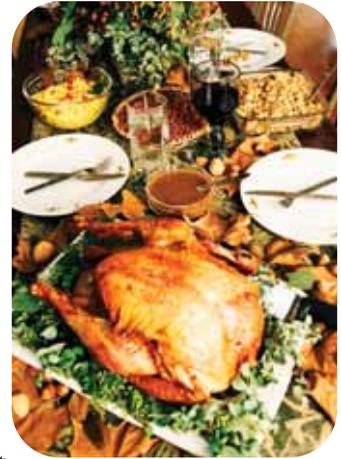
Most people don't realize that the extra cooking on holidays costs you money on your electric bill. Also, cooler days and nights make a difference. The heat pump is running and the hot water heater is working more hours in the colder months.

One solution to holiday cooking may be the method in which you cook. For instance, you could deep-fry your turkey instead of baking. You can find wonderful recipes for deep-frying turkey at

www.eatturkey.com.

Also the microwave can be a big help in certain recipes. Some cake mixes now are just as good cooked in a modern microwave as the oven.

Remember, it may cost a little more to entertain family and friends, but the time together may be worth every penny. Have a wonderful holiday and happy cooking.



Fall into electric safety to prepare for the cold

As the leaves change to their beautiful autumn hues and the weather gets colder, keep in mind the following electrical safety tips for the change of season:

- Make sure space heaters are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Also check that power cords are not frayed, cracked or cut.

- Do not use an extension cord to power a space heater. Plug directly into the electrical outlet. Make sure the circuit can handle the power demands of the space heater and any other appliances plugged into it.



- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials such as curtains, draperies, loose paper and upholstery. Keep space heaters out of reach from small children and pets. Never use heaters as drying racks.

- Space heaters should have an automatic shut-off in the event they tip over.

- If the heater is running on fuels such as gas, kerosene or wood, follow manufacturer's instructions carefully. Make sure carbon monoxide detectors are installed. Keep chimneys and flues free from corrosion or blockages.

- Check to see if electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab like UL. Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress and don't put anything on top of the blanket. Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.

- Check cold weather tools, like leaf and snow blowers, to ensure power cords are in good repair. Extension cords need to be approved for outdoor use.

- Use only weatherproof outdoor electrical appliances for outdoor activities.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

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Published monthly for the member-consumers of Roanoke Electric Cooperative

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