

# Roanoke Electric FLASHES

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Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

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## Operation RoundUp: Roanoke Electric program awards grants to seven non-profits

Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program awarded \$8,000 in grants to seven area non-profit organizations for the fourth quarter of 2007.

### Those organizations were:

- ✓ **Hertford County High School Band Boosters**, Ahsokie, Hertford County, \$1,000.
- ✓ **Mostmen Mostmen, Inc.**, Cofield, Hertford County, \$500.
- ✓ **Roanoke Valley Adult Day Center, Inc.**, Weldon, Halifax County, \$2,000.
- ✓ **R.L. Vann Community Resource Center, Inc.**, Ahsokie, Hertford County, \$2,000.

- ✓ **Families Supporting Families**, Roanoke Rapids, Halifax County, \$500.
- ✓ **Lincoln Height Community Development Center**, Roanoke Rapids, Halifax County, \$1,000.
- ✓ **Roanoke Chowan Domestic Violence Task Force**, Windsor, Bertie County, \$1,000.

The Roanoke Electric Care Trust grants funds quarterly to non-profit organizations that serve local communities, administers the Operation RoundUp program. Roanoke Electric members round their electric bills to the next whole dollar to create a reliable source of

funds that provides educational, charitable, or economic development services.

If your non-profit organization is located in Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Halifax, Northampton Chowan or Perquimans counties, you are invited to submit grant applications to Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program.

Grant requests can be made for up to \$5,000 and are given in January, April, July and October. The next grant application deadline is 5 p.m., Jan. 5, 2008.

For more information or to receive an application, visit [www.roanokeelectric.com](http://www.roanokeelectric.com).

## Keep your family safe each holiday season

The holidays are a fun-filled time with all of the lights and decorations. However, misuse of these electrical products can put you at risk of accidental fire. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 people and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Here are tips for using holiday electrical products safely:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Use lights certified for outdoor use only for outdoor use.
- Carefully inspect cords and wires before plugging them into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
- Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Unplug electrical decorations before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Use caution when decorating near power lines, especially if using a ladder.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- Turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

# Holiday Greetings from Roanoke Electric Cooperative



## Roanoke Electric's Bright Ideas program funds school projects



**BRIGHT  
IDEAS**

Roanoke Electric awarded \$8,000 in grants to area teachers as part of its annual Bright Ideas grant program.

Teachers submitted applications detailing innovative classroom/school wide projects typically not funded by school systems.

Receiving grants this year are:

- Susan H. Parker of Buckland Elementary, Gates, Gates County Schools: \$860 for "Better Butterflying."
- Syvillia M. Futrell of Ahoskie Elementary, Ahoskie, Hertford County Schools: \$1,251 for

"Discovering the World of Math and Science through Literature."

- Abbey L. Askew of Hertford County Middle, Murfreesboro, Hertford County Schools: \$1,335 for "Engaged...Without the Diamond."

- Pamela H. Flack of Chaloner Middle, Roanoke Rapids, Roanoke Rapids Graded School District: \$387.45 for "Graphic Organizer Gurus."

- Retha Smith of Bertie Middle, Windsor, Bertie County Schools: \$574 for "Honoring and Remembering: Foundations for the Present."

- Chanda Chamblee of Hertford County Middle, Murfreesboro, Hertford County Schools: \$1,000 for "Interactive and Creative Math through Technology."

- Robert J. Brown, Jr. of Bertie High, Windsor, Bertie County Schools: \$1,934 for "Teaching Forensic Science in the Secondary School."

- Dave Edwards of Gates County Senior High, Gatesville, Gates County Schools: \$652 for "Sport Stacking with Speed Stacks."

All teachers, superintendents and principals, were honored in November at a banquet held at the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville.

The Bright Ideas Program, which is administered by cooperatives across the state of North Carolina, awards grants up to \$2,000 to innovative educators in any subject or grade at N.C.-certified k-12 schools.

For more information, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com)



# HELP A CHILD SMILE AT CHRISTMAS

Many children in our area will be unhappy at Christmas, but by joining Roanoke Electric in its commitment in supporting impoverished children, you can put a smile on their faces.



Purchase a fried chicken and BBQ plate by donating \$6 on Friday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Roanoke Electric Cooperative in Rich Square.

Plates feature fried chicken, BBQ, potatoes, slaw and hushpuppies. All proceeds will fund needed items for children who are sponsored by Roanoke Electric.

Purchase tickets from REC, stop by the day of the sale, or call 539-2236, ext. 262 or 539-3028.

If you would like 10 or more plates delivered to your office, call on or before December 4.



Thank You!

## Holiday gift giving ideas that save energy and the environment

Each holiday season, from Thanksgiving to the New Year, Americans throw away 25 percent more trash than any other time during the year. The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the United States could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

This holiday season, as you search for the perfect gifts to give to friends and family, try to make that gift one that will reduce negative environmental effects. Instead of battling the vast amount of people at the shopping centers this holiday season, do your shopping online. This eliminates pollution from car travel, the waste from paper catalogues and the stress of driving back and forth between shopping centers.

The holiday gift-giving season is a perfect opportunity for you to purchase products from companies that support the environment. Look for gifts that are made of natural components such as grown cotton or hemp, especially for items such as clothing, bedding and towels. In addition, look for products that are recyclable or have been made with recycled content. You can also look for products that have the Energy Star label on them that ensures they are energy efficient.

There are several unique gifts that you can give that will stand out from the usual store-bought and commercial aspect of the holiday season as well as help the environment.

- Make dinner for someone or cook other homemade food and deliver it.

- Make a video of family members, friends and loved ones.

- Make a book of family recipes.

- Plant a tree in someone's name.

- Offer to baby-sit or pet-sit.

- Give tickets to an art exhibit or museum.

- Give a gift certificate to a used book or music store.

- Give a sports or health club membership.

- Give an adventure or an experience such as hiking, canoeing, etc.

- Create a photo album or have an old photo restored, enlarged or framed.

- Provide a gift certificate for a lesson such as tennis, swimming, drumming, etc.



## Experts predict winter heating costs to increase

Federal officials advise consumers to brace for higher heating bills, even as a trend toward more moderate winter conditions continues.

“Households can expect to pay about \$90 more for heating this winter,” said Guy F. Caruso, administrator of the Energy Information Administration.

“We’re going to have higher consumption of winter fuels as well as higher prices,” said Caruso, adding that the type of fuel consumers use will determine just how much more they will pay.

Consumers using electricity as their primary heat source will face increases of about \$32, or 4 percent above last winter’s levels. Officials cited regulatory control of electric rates as a major reason why base rates are less susceptible to seasonal changes.

Consumers will face higher prices for fuel processed from crude oil. Oil prices have increased 17 percent since last winter, and are expected to hover in the \$75 per barrel range until at least next summer, driving up heating oil prices. Propane users will also face increases of about 23 cents a gallon over last year. Natural gas prices, which account for about 58 percent of heating fuel sales, will be up about 80 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, a 6 percent increase, Caruso said.

Consumers should be prepared for winter weather patterns similar to last year, and budget accordingly, Halpert said. “Bills went from being very modest in December and January to very high in February.”

### Roanoke Electric FLASHES

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