

# Roanoke Electric FLASHES

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Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

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## Roanoke Electric helps Fineline Industries obtain loan to boost production, increase space

Woodland, a Northampton County town with more than 800 residents, was once a booming industrial town and an economic engine for the county in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The town manufactured shirts, wood and metal caskets, zippers, and baskets. Those were the good old days. Today, overseas competition has caused many American manufacturers to close their doors for good in small towns like Woodland.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative knows the economic challenges faced by rural communities, and has made it a mission to work toward reigning-in new business, while developing already existing companies.

Through the USDA's (United States Department of Agriculture) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG), Roanoke EC helps rural businesses acquire zero-interest loans to keep their operation afloat; companies like Fineline Industries.

Fineline Industries makes high-performance world champion towboats. In recent years the company has expanded its national and international markets and needed additional funding to maintain its employee



*Fineline Industries occupies a building that once housed a bustling zipper factory. The zipper company had more than 500 workers and once was one of the largest employers in Northampton County.*

base, and meet the production demands of its growing international market.

A \$350,000 loan will help Fineline Industries add 5,000 square feet of space to its existing building, update equipment, expand production and retain 63 employees, most of whom live in and around Northampton County.

The Woodland operation is where the boats are painted, fiberglass is laminated, and interior is installed and shipped to customers. "It is important that businesses survive and that they continue to grow to keep rural parts of North Carolina alive," said Les Clark, general manager

of Fineline Industries. "It's great to be able to put money back into the local economy in huge amounts."

The last of three casket factories shut down a few years ago in Woodland, making Fineline Industries the only manufacturer in town.

Gary Brown, executive director of the Economic Development Northampton County Commission, sees the loan program as a great asset to local businesses and residents. "The program sustains our communities, enables reinvestment and new product development and ultimately creates more jobs," said Brown.

# The Roanoke Center expands computer room for public access to high-speed Internet

A growing number of Americans own computers and access the Internet for news, information, and emails and to pay bills. And then there is the other 45 percent who are on the other side of the digital divide—where owning a home computer and connecting online is not an option. Adequate and affordable high-speed Internet access continues to challenge rural communities.

The Roanoke Center in Rich Square has been proactive in providing high-speed Internet access to residents. The center has expanded its computer room to seat more users as part of its effort to close the gap between the digital divide. The original computer room at the center was moved to a larger space in the same building. It houses 10 computers for users to surf the Internet, five more computers than before. They are

available to the public at no cost. These computers have the latest Microsoft Office software: PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel and Word.

The facility is open to adults and children of all age groups. “We’ve got a lot of parents bringing their children in. We get school-aged children, and many people come in to search for jobs,” said Diana Mitchell, director of the Roanoke Center.

Other office support services at the center include printing, faxing and copying. There is also a notary public available.

The Roanoke Center is a subsidiary of Roanoke Electric Cooperative that helps people access technology services and resources and provides training



*Five additional computers have been added to the public access room at The Roanoke Center in Rich Square. Pictured: Phyllis Tann and her granddaughter Mia Flyte take advantage of the new seating capacity.*

and workforce development as part of its broader vision to build sustainable communities.

The public access room is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 409 North Main Street in Rich Square. For more information, contact Diana Mitchell at (252) 539-4600, ext. 230.

## Proper home insulation key to energy savings

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home’s heating and cooling costs and improve comfort involves installing proper insulation.

Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house. To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of

its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation’s effectiveness. When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it’s installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it’s important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

For more information, visit [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)



# Why should I purchase green power?

## Buying green power...

- ✓ Improves regional air quality and the environment.
- ✓ Supports North Carolina jobs and economy.
- ✓ Helps stabilize fuel supply and cost.
- ✓ Reduces dependence on fuel sources from other states and countries.

## NC GreenPower and You

Your tax-deductible contributions will go directly toward the purchase of renewable energy from independent generators located in North Carolina.

You are building a cleaner energy supply, healthier environment and stronger economy for North Carolina now, and for the years ahead.

Each \$4 block of NC GreenPower subscribed monthly will annually offset approximately:

- ✓ 2,497 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)



- ✓ 7 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- ✓ 3 pounds of nitrogen oxide (NOX)
- ✓ 972 pounds of coal required to produce the same amount of electricity

The annual reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from one block of NC GreenPower subscribed monthly is equivalent to planting 192 trees, or not driving 3,039 miles or 73 days.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative members can voluntarily participate in NC GreenPower by putting in contributions along with their electric bill. Individuals may contribute as little as \$4 per month to add one block of 100 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy to the electric supply.

For more information, call Roanoke Electric at (252) 539-2236.

## Statewide Energy Sales Tax Holiday is November 7-9

Have you been meaning to replace that old appliance in the house, but the cost at the time was too much to bear? Now might be the time to do it—tax-free.

North Carolina is offering a tax holiday weekend on Friday, November 7, through Sunday, November 9, on certain Energy Star products. The state is exempting sales and use taxes on the following Energy Star-rated products:

- Clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers, and refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less per item
- Central air conditioning units, heat pumps, boilers, and furnaces priced at \$6,000 or less per item
- Ceiling fans and room air conditioning units costing \$500 or less per item
- Programmable thermostats with a sales tag of \$200 or less per item
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)

Tax savings do not apply to Energy Star product rentals or sales for use in trade or business.



*The Energy Star label means that the appliance meets strict energy-efficient criteria set by the federal government.*

# Teach your children the ABCs of electrical safety

As a parent, instilling your children with knowledge and resources to better their lives is a common creed. Along with real-world guidance, it is vital to teach your children the importance of electrical safety.

With the modern popularity boom of cell phones, gaming systems and even mini laptops, school-age children are experiencing and using more technology than ever before. These electronic devices may pique the curiosity of children and toddlers. Teach your children the following safety tips to make sure they know the dangers of electricity and how to protect themselves against it:

## Toddlers

- ☆ Discourage playing with outlets. Use plastic socket protectors over outlets to encourage safe handling. Make sure your child does not pull the protectors out, as this could become a choking hazard as well as an electrical hazard
- ☆ Tell your toddler to never stick anything in an outlet
- ☆ Remind your toddler that power tools should not be treated as toys
- ☆ Teach your toddler to never play near or touch outdoor power lines or power poles
- ☆ If you still use incandescent light bulbs, demonstrate to your toddler the importance of waiting until the bulb is cool before touching it

- ☆ Make sure your toddler dries his/her hands before touching any appliance

## School-age Children

- ☆ Teach school-age children to always pull an appliance out by its plug, not its cord
- ☆ Teach children to never fly a kite near a power line
- ☆ Remind children to never climb trees near overhead wires
- ☆ Do not allow your child to overload an outlet or power strip. Encourage gaming systems and controllers to be plugged in separately, as multiple controllers and the system itself require a great amount of energy that many power strips cannot handle
- ☆ Make sure your children know what to do when a thunderstorm hits. This includes coming indoors, never holding anything metal, not showering or bathing, and not using appliances or phones with cords.



Roanoke Electric Cooperative recognizes the importance of safety and agrees that one of the best ways to ensure your children understand the importance of electrical safety is to set an example as parents. Practice safety around appliances, outlets and power lines and teach your child to follow in your footsteps.

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For electronic bill payment:  
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## Holiday Closing

Roanoke Electric Cooperative will close for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 27, & Friday, November 28. Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!  
For emergencies, call (800) 358-9437.

