

# Roanoke Electric FLASHES

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Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

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## Miss North Carolina visits local schools

Jessica Jacobs, Miss North Carolina 2007, has a passion for reading and shared it recently with students of Bakers Elementary and Scotland Primary Schools.

Jacobs (pictured) read from several books during her visit, talked about the pageant and her background, and responded to questions from the children.

Miss North Carolina has partnered with Communities In Schools of North Carolina to travel across the state to our schools promoting reading and literacy. Diana Mitchell, Executive Director of Communities In Schools of the Northeast (CISNE),

arranged for Jacobs to visit with Halifax County schools.

Jacobs founded the "Read to Me" literacy program, which inspires parents and mentors to help children reach their full potential by reading aloud to them. Miss North Carolina is a native of High Point and is pursuing her master's degree in Organizational Communication at North Carolina State University. She was the fourth runner-up in the Miss America 2008 pageant. A hearty congratulations goes her way!

CISNE provides resources to the state's northeastern counties and communities by collaboratively



working in the areas of education and community development. Our mission is to champion all youth to stay in school by connecting the best community resources with the needs of students, their families, and schools. For more information about our programs, please call Diana Mitchell or Rosetta Smith at (252) 539-2236.

## Educators and parents prepare mentors for mission



Communities In Schools of the Northeast (CISNE) continues to focus on strengthening public schools. Recently, Rosetta Smith, CISNE coordinator, spearheaded a mentoring workshop in Roanoke Rapids at the Halifax County Visitor Center.

More than 30 parents, volunteers and educators from area counties gathered to hear

presentations from Sonja Leathers, Department of Public Instruction (DPI); Terry Sledge, Weldon City Schools; and Rosetta Smith and Susan Pennock, Communities In Schools.

The presenters shared critical ideas and benefits of effective mentoring. The workshop prepped mentors for the mission to understand and work with students while gaining the support of their parents. "It's time to bridge the gap between students, parents, and educators," stated Diana Mitchell, director of The Roanoke Center.

Sonja Leathers (pictured) delivered a mind-blowing

presentation that discussed several techniques to closing the gap while raising academics. Leathers encouraged all attendees to complete a training seminar offered by DPI that is designed to educate parents, educators and advocates of empowering strategies and techniques that could be used to improve the student's social and academic performances.

Rosetta Smith has helped several education leaders assess their respective needs. To learn more about the services and available resources, contact Rosetta Smith at (252) 539-2236 or visit

[www.roanokecenter.org](http://www.roanokecenter.org)

# Electrical safety in the home and garden

Electrical appliances within the home are part of our everyday life—from the toaster, heaters, hair curler, blow dryer, microwave, television, and stereo. If these appliances are not maintained, stored or used properly, they can pose a serious safety hazard. Here are some safety precautions for electrical appliances in the home:

- ✓ Electrical appliances should not be used around water.
- ✓ When carrying appliances, they should be held by the handle, not the cord.
- ✓ Appliances that get hot such as heaters, toasters, and light bulbs should be kept away from materials that can burn.
- ✓ Small appliances should be turned off or unplugged when not in use.

✓ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you a shock, unplug it and have the appliance repaired or replaced.

Appliances are also used outside for cutting the lawn, trimming bushes and flowers and cutting tree limbs. Appliances that are used for yard work should be labeled for outdoor use. Here are some tips for practicing safety precautions:

- ✓ Unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.
- ✓ Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended to prevent use by children.

- ✓ Handle gas carefully. Never fill gasoline tanks while machinery is on or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container away from the house. Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline or gasoline-powered equipment.
- ✓ Never work with electrical power tools in wet or damp conditions.
- ✓ Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use, and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.
- ✓ Inspect the mower periodically for potential hazards.

## To save money and energy, let the light in

Lighting is a necessity for our day-to-day activities. Whether we use a lamp to read by, a projector light to teach by or an office light to work by, lighting is essential in our 21st-century society.

However, while this resource is valuable and necessary, it can be easy to abuse. Lights consume significant amounts of energy that can be reduced through efficiency

practices. Implement the following tips to save energy and keep more money in your wallet.

- ✓ Use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) in fixtures that are on for two hours or more a day. These bulbs use 70 percent less energy than regular incandescent light bulbs. An added bonus? These bulbs last seven years longer than average. They are also cooler, emitting less heat into your home.
- ✓ Install a motion sensor for outdoor lights, reducing costs and energy.
- ✓ Always turn off lights when you aren't using them. For lights you want to have on constantly, such as a stairway light, consider purchasing bulbs with the lowest wattage possible to cut back on excessive energy use. Studies show replacing a 75-watt bulb with a 15-watt bulb reduces your energy use by 80 percent.
- ✓ Consider installing a skylight in your home. These are

attractive ways to allow natural sunlight in your home without the added cost of electricity.

- ✓ Practice task lighting—concentrating light only where it is needed. Working in your home office or reading in bed? Turn on a desk lamp and leave the ceiling light off.
- ✓ Consider purchasing fixtures that include a dimmer switch. This way, you control the amount of light the light emits, thereby controlling the amount of energy used.
- ✓ Open the blinds and pull back the curtains to let natural sunlight into your home. Be sure to close the curtains at night to prevent heat loss.
- ✓ Illuminate your home effectively through these practices.

When followed, these are simple, effective ways to control energy use and still maintain a bright environment. Saving energy and money...now that's a bright idea.



CFLs use 70 percent less energy than a regular light bulb.

Champion the connection...

HELP KIDS STAY IN SCHOOL  
AND PREPARE FOR LIFE

Communities In Schools of the Northeast  
and The Roanoke Center

Proudly present

*"Stars of the Northeast:  
Light Our Path"  
Spring Gala*

Saturday, April 12, 2008  
Seven o'clock p.m.  
Nebo Family Life Center  
Murfreesboro, N.C.

*Live Auction*

For Reservations or Ticket Purchase  
Call 252-539-2236 ext. 230 or 280  
or visit  
The Roanoke Center  
409 N. Main Street  
Rich Square, NC

Tickets: \$25 per person

Accepting Donations for the Gala Auction  
All Proceeds Benefit Our Youth and Education  
Sponsored by: Roanoke Economic Development, Inc.

*Dr. Harold Griffin, President of Halifax Community  
College, will be the Spring Gala Guest Speaker*

# Supporting renewable energy

If you had the opportunity to help preserve the environment, would you do it?

If you answered yes, you can start making a difference. Roanoke Electric members can sign up for NC GreenPower, a voluntary program created to provide renewable energy and clean air in North Carolina.

Roanoke Electric, other utilities, environmental groups, suppliers of renewable energy, and Advanced Energy (a non-profit corporation that creates economic and environmental benefits through innovative approaches to energy) have teamed up to support NC GreenPower, the first statewide, independent program of its kind in the country.

NC GreenPower is designed to help improve the quality of the environment by allowing North Carolinians to choose cleaner, “greener” energy solutions.

All electric utilities in North Carolina have agreed to be part of this program: Progress Energy, Dominion North Carolina Power, Duke Power, ElectriCities and NC’s electric cooperatives.



## It's up to you

You have the power to protect our environment. Through this program, your voluntary contribution of \$4 (for a block of 100 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy) per month can be added to your electric bill and will fund the development of new energy sources.

Your contribution is the easiest way for you to increase the use of solar, wind and biomass generation to help protect the environment by providing renewable energy to North Carolina’s electric supply. These natural resources will help power homes across North Carolina.

Large businesses can also support NC GreenPower. Large-volume power users may contribute toward 100 or more blocks of green power at only \$2.50 per block. A different mix of renewable energy will be used.

NC GreenPower was created by the N.C. Utilities Commission as a way to provide North Carolinians with greater options for their energy sources. All contributions will be collected and given in full to NC GreenPower. Roanoke Electric keeps none of the contribution.

How do you get NC GreenPower? Call Roanoke Electric at (252) 539-2236 to sign up for this exciting new program or visit: [www.ncgreenpower.org](http://www.ncgreenpower.org) to learn more!

Help put renewable energy to work in North Carolina.

## Roanoke Electric FLASHES

Published monthly for the member-consumers of Roanoke Electric Cooperative

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