



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

The cooperative's office will be closed on Monday, September 7, for Labor Day. Have a safe holiday. For emergencies, call (800) 358-9437.



Roanoke Electric safety practices receive high marks in unannounced inspection

This year, North Carolina's electric cooperatives became the second in the nation to begin unannounced, on-site safety accreditation inspections.

Previously, co-op management had advance notice of the inspection required for a co-op to meet national accreditation standards. Roanoke Electric Cooperative was the first co-op in the state to undergo the unannounced inspection and scored very high marks, reported Tommy C. Greer, the inspection team leader from North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC).

The purpose of the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP) is to help co-ops maintain a safe working environment for all employees to preserve life and prevent injury, enhance system operation, inform co-op employees about safety and loss control concepts, and recognize accredited systems and management that meet these standards. Besides enjoying a safe workplace, accredited co-ops can earn discounts on their insurance costs.

Established in 1967, the accreditation program is voluntary, but in this state, 25 of the 26 cooperatives participate—the highest participation rate in the nation.

“Our recent unannounced safety inspection component of the NRECA safety accreditation is a good example of how we are becoming more efficient and safer,” said Roanoke Electric's CEO Curtis Wynn.

“Instead of spending two to three weeks of unproductive time preparing for a scheduled safety inspection, our employees understand that it's more important that we always follow safe working practices. Doing this on a daily basis makes the timing or scheduling of the safety inspection irrelevant,” continued Wynn. “I am proud of our employees' response to our challenge to them to work safer, and I'm more confident that we are more efficient in the other things we do.”

A team of four job training and safety professionals with NCAEC conducted the inspection. They followed a rigorous checklist of more than 170 points of inspection, including office, warehouse, garage and yard facilities, overhead and underground lines, substations, work procedures, vehicles, equipment,



Roanoke Electric employees show a pole transformer and line truck to the safety inspection team during the unannounced visit.

tools and general safety awareness among employees.

Wynn, who also sits on the Education Research and Technology Committee of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said a safe environment ranked high, along with reducing operating costs, enhancing customer service and improving performance, in a recent organizational assessment that Roanoke Electric conducted internally. “Working safely is a critical component of everything we do at Roanoke Electric Cooperative,” he said. “So we have placed a significant amount of attention, in the past two years, to making it one of the common values of our organization.”

New headquarters to provide convenience to members, employees

The new Roanoke Electric Cooperative (REC) headquarters in Ahoskie is a one-story, 3,800-square-foot building that provides state-of-the-art amenities, and convenience to both members and employees—it's a large improvement over the more antiquated central office in Rich Square, which has seen better days.

Sometime during the fourth quarter of 2009, REC employees will move from the old building, which has been the REC headquarters since the early 1950s, to the new Ahoskie location—a mile west of intersection NC 11 and 561 highways.

The present location will continue to function as a payment center, as well as house The Roanoke Center, and other electric co-op subsidiaries.

George Price heads Engineering and Operations and is excited about the move. He was around when four buildings could accommodate staff. Then came more growth, which meant expansion and the addition of two modular units.

"I'm in an 8 x 8 space right now, so it's pretty crowded," said Price. "Our current situation makes communication difficult. The new

facility will help us operate more efficiently."

When REC's decision-makers began reviewing a location for construction of the new headquarters, one of its primary goals was to keep costs down. It had to provide members easy access to the highway, be situated in an area free from the threat of flooding, and be a large enough piece of property to accommodate employees and members—that was nearly two years ago.

The new building, which sits about 100 yards off the road, is now 70 percent near completion. It will feature a number of value-added amenities to include improved parking, open space, high ceilings, large tinted windows, multiple meeting and conference rooms, electronic security, a fitness room, and pre-wiring for computer and telecommunication technologies.

REC plans to operate the facility in an environmentally friendly way by using things like non-toxic, low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paints, sufficient insulation, and energy efficient lighting. It plans to become LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, an accreditation given by



Top: Artist rendering of new Roanoke EC headquarters. Bottom: Headquarters under construction.

the Green Building Certification Institute. The professional accreditation recognizes high standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

Oakley Collier Architects, P.A. in Rocky Mount designed the new facility. A.R. Chesson Construction of Williamston serves as the primary contractor on the project. Many of the sub-contractors who work at the construction site operate businesses in REC's service territories.

Source: Charles Martin, who writes about issues relating to Roanoke Electric Cooperative.

The Roanoke Center helps host the Financial Education Fun Day

Community members recently gathered for a day packed with fun and information on money management and asset building.

The United Faith Coalition, The

Roanoke Center, Northampton County Missionary Baptist Association and CADA sponsored the event, held in late June at Central Elementary School in Jackson.

Community members took advantage of information sessions that covered a variety of topics such as homeownership, banking services, and budgeting tips and how to start a small business.

Additionally, representatives from Mary Kay, Roanoke Electric

Cooperative, Communities In Schools of the Northeast, and Hertford County Health displayed their respective businesses.

The event provided activities for both adults and children, with lunch prepared by Dewitt Creecy of Rich Square. "Smiley Clown" provided face painting and other entertainment.

"I appreciate everyone coming out to support this worthwhile cause," said Financial Literacy Coordinator Ann Riddick. "In these economic times informing and empowering the community members are necessities."





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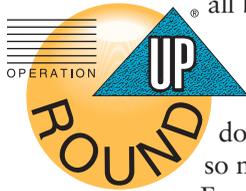
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Roanoke Electric Cooperative
 Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Roanoke EC members provide spare change for 'change'

Local programs have touched many lives through Operation RoundUp. Charitable programs, healthcare and research, civic and educational organizations have



all benefited from this program. By consenting to round up your electric bill, that spare change you so graciously donate to these causes can change so many lives.

For the third quarter of 2009, the Roanoke Electric Care Trust board (RECT) met on July 15 and funded six area organizations totaling \$8,500.

Organizations who received grants during this funding cycle include:

- ❑ Rheasville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. received \$1,500 for equipment to fight fires and remove smoke from structures;
- ❑ Mostmen, Mostmen, Inc., received \$1,500 for operational expenditures associated with running the Male Youth Empowerment program;
- ❑ Northampton County Department of Extension received \$500 for Animal Agriculture Day, helping students become more familiar with agriculture produced around them;
- ❑ Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department received \$2,500 to purchase turnout gear for new members of the fire department;
- ❑ Gates Volunteer Fire Department received \$1,500 to purchase Diver's equipment for water rescue and Recovery Team; and
- ❑ Josh Lane Golf Tournament to benefit Juvenile



Organizations receiving Operation RoundUp grants included (clockwise from top left): Josh Lane Golf Tournament benefiting Juvenile Diabetes Research; Mostmen, Mostmen, Inc.; Northampton County Dept. of Extension and Rheasville VFD. Others receiving grants not pictured were Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department and Gates Volunteer Fire Department.

Diabetes Research Foundation received \$1,000 to assist in finding a cure for Juvenile diabetes.

The cooperative thanks all members for lending a helping hand by rounding up their electric bill. To participate in Operation RoundUp, call (252) 539-2236.

The RECT board's next quarterly meeting will be held on October 21. Applications are due in the cooperative's office by 5 p.m. on October 9.

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Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park opens fossil dig

Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park has opened a new fossil dig, where children and adults can search for nature's ancient artifacts. Visitors can uncover the remains of sharks, whales, bony fish, corals, shells and other invertebrates, as well as view more than a thousand exotic birds and animals at the park in Scotland Neck. For more information, call (252) 826-3186 or visit www.shwpark.com.



Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park's Bird's Nest tree house opened to the public on Saturday, August 1, offering visitors a great view of the park's wetlands.