

# Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**



## The new and improved Roanokeelectric.com

By Curtis Wynn, *President and CEO*  
Members have now gained new ways of conducting business with the cooperative via the Web—the New and Improved Roanokeelectric.com.

We are excited about this recent launch as the new site is easier to use as well as interesting and informative. It's a benchmark for success.

The new website, launched last month on Aug. 1, has a cleaner, more user-friendly design for easier navigation. Its design makes it easier for us to update the site, giving you access to the latest news. The remodeled site has the same features as the former site: energy tips, important information, news and updates, along with the ability to sign up for service or pay your bill online 12461401. The Member Services Portal, the Outage Map Viewer and a new Facebook page are new features that add value for you. Additional features will be unveiled throughout the year.

### **Easier online account access**

The new site gives you the best possible way to conduct business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! This feature lets you control your account(s) in an easy-to-use, easy to customize online application. It acts as a single point of access to account

services such as online bill payment, application for service, Round Up or Auto-Pay, credit card and e-check profile maintenance and numerous other options.

Account History and Billing History can be viewed as in the past. The online account access is also a direct pathway to Alerts and Reminders, which are sent via e-mail or text message.

### **Track outage restorations**

The new site will grant public access to the cooperative's service restoration efforts following events causing power outages. You will be able to track progress in recovery efforts. From our home page under Quick Tools and Report and Outage, click View Outage Map.

The map displays the location of any current outages in our service area by county. It updates automatically every two minutes, so you can be sure that you're getting the most current information. The Outage Viewer gives the total number of outages and the number of members

affected. In addition, you can find the phone number for reporting an outage.



*Curtis Wynn*

### **We're on Facebook!**

We also have launched your cooperative's Facebook page. Here you will be able to follow our news and check out our photos and videos. You'll find frequent postings on energy efficiency tips, REC developments, and outage restoration efforts. Please "Like" our page by clicking on the Facebook image on our web site.

Your cooperative family will continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, while enhancing the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve. With these improvements, we're making it easier than ever for you to stay connected to the convenient services we offer!

Visit [www.Roanokeelectric.com](http://www.Roanokeelectric.com) for more.



*Find your account number in this newsletter, contact us and win \$25 Roanoke Bucks!*

## Reminders...

### Bright Ideas grant deadline is September 23



**BRIGHT  
IDEAS**

The Bright Ideas Grant program is more important than ever! In the coming school year, schools will be dealing with even more budget cuts and reductions. The primary elements of the online application process include an explanation of the project and its creative elements as well as its potential benefits to students. The deadline for the 2011-2012 school year is Friday, September 23! An application and contact information are available on the Bright Ideas website [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

### Do you plan to purchase an electric vehicle?

Please contact Roanoke Electric Cooperative if you plan to purchase an electric vehicle that will be charged at your home or business served by Roanoke EC. The co-op needs to ensure the distribution transformer and conductors are adequately sized to serve this added load and that no safety issues exist.



## Roanoke Electric presents commemorative book to libraries

Roanoke Electric Cooperative (REC) prides itself on being a staunch supporter of the community. During the June 27 Board of Directors' meeting, REC presented a book entitled "Local Lights: America's Electric Cooperatives" to surrounding libraries. Libraries represented were Halifax County Library System, Northampton County Memorial Library, Sallie Harrell Jenkins Memorial Library, Roanoke Rapids Public Library and KIPP. Book presentations were also made at Southeast Halifax High School, Halifax Community College, Scotland Neck Memorial Library and Halifax County Library.

The book, written by Frank K. Gallant, commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), known today as the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The agency, a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), began during the New Deal era of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It was created to provide funding to fledgling electric cooperatives that provided affordable access to electricity for many rural Americans. Electric cooperatives are part of our national fabric and the book captures the enduring values and core beliefs of electric cooperatives: Cooperation, Community, Unity of Purpose, Leadership & Education, Stewardship, Outreach and Innovation. The book also gives special recognition to REC for its community involvement in the Roanoke Chowan and Roanoke Valley areas.

"It is an informative book and we hope it will add



value to the libraries' collections," said Allen Speller, chairman of REC's Board of Directors.

Electric Cooperatives are consumer-owned, not-for-profit utilities that began appearing in small towns and rural areas in 1935. Today, more than 900 co-ops in 47 states provide affordable electric service to more than 4 million consumers.

REC was formed in 1938 with 317 members and 56 miles of line. Today, it serves over 14,500 homes and businesses in the Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, and Perquimans counties with 2,207 miles of line.

REC staff encourages the public to visit one of the area libraries to learn more about the corporation's valuable heritage. You can also contact the cooperative office at (252) 209-2236 or via email at [info@roanokeelectric.com](mailto:info@roanokeelectric.com) to request a copy of the book for \$32.20.

# Operation Roundup: Change is good for the local community!



With Operation RoundUp, your spare change can help make a tremendous difference in the lives of those who need help within our community. Help us help others by participating in our Operation RoundUp program. By signing up, your electric bill is “rounded up” to the next highest whole dollar amount 497702. For instance, if your actual electric bill is \$83.87, it will be rounded up to \$84. The additional 13 cents provides monetary assistance for various charitable and non-profit organizations.

Average contributions are only about \$6 per year, and never exceed 99 cents in a single month. Individually, the amount contributed to Operation RoundUp may not seem significant, but put this change together and it can go a long way in making a difference within our community.

For the third quarter of 2011, the Roanoke Electric Care Trust board (RECT) met on July 20 and funded six area organizations totaling \$7,500.

Organizations who received grants during this funding cycle were:

- **Hannah's Place, Inc., \$2,000**
- **Northampton County Department of Extension, \$500**
- **Northeast Center for Human Development, \$1,000**
- **American Red Cross-Greater Albemarle Area Chapter, \$2,000**
- **Bertie County Council on Aging Senior Center, \$1,000**

The cooperative thanks all members for lending a helping hand by rounding up their electric bill.

To participate in Operation RoundUp, call (252) 209-2236 or visit [www.roanokeelectric.com/roundup](http://www.roanokeelectric.com/roundup). The RECT board's next quarterly meeting will be held on October 19. Applications are due in the cooperative's office by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 7.



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# Dorm electric safety tips for college students

Eager college freshmen filled college campuses across the state and nation last month. Most students brought a computer, television, gaming console, mini refrigerator, microwave, fan and a host of other personal electronic devices, like cell phones and iPods.

Sounds like a lot of stuff, right? Don't forget each is sharing that tiny 10 X 10 space with a roommate who has just as many gadgets, all of which need to be plugged in.

Make sure your college freshman follows these tips to avoid turning his or her first college dorm room into an electrical safety danger zone:

- Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets. These items can overheat and/or deteriorate causing the potential for an electric shock or fire.
- Get a power strip with an over-current protector. They turn off automatically if too much current is drawn.
- Be aware of electrical outlets too hot to the touch. If the electrical outlet is so hot that you cannot leave a hand on it, unplug all appliances immediately to avoid the risk of shock or fire.
- Do not run cords under doors or carpets. Extension cords can short circuit and overheat or ignite under carpet.
- Use caution when using electrical appliances and never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet. Replace frayed or cracked cords.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.



Keep in mind that many residence halls were built years ago, and even with renovations, dorm wiring cannot handle the demands of computers, refrigerators, microwaves, gaming systems and other technologies that require electricity. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that nearly 1,600 fires occur in on-campus housing each year, and overloaded circuits are one of the leading causes of these fires.

Your child's dorm should provide an escape plan for your student, but your student needs to walk the route and memorize landmarks in case visibility is an issue. Your child should know two exits to the room in case the most natural exit is blocked. Most importantly, your child should never ignore a fire alarm because every second counts in a fire.

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Visit our web site at:

[www.roanokeelectric.com](http://www.roanokeelectric.com)

## Office closed for holiday

Roanoke Electric offices will be closed  
Monday, September 5, for Labor Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

