



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Roanoke EC celebrates new Copper Theft Law

Roanoke EC and electric cooperatives across North Carolina enthusiastically welcomed a new copper theft law that took effect on October 1. A key provision of the law is that it will prohibit metal recyclers from paying cash for copper brought to them by any seller. Roanoke EC believes this is critical to reducing copper theft because thieves often quickly sell stolen copper for cash that is then used to purchase methamphetamines and other illegal drugs.

Copper theft is a serious problem that plagues our industry; it is dangerous, costly and illegal, and the new legislation is an important first step in eliminating this problem.

A recent survey conducted by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives showed that electric cooperatives in our state suffered more than \$1 million in damage as a result of copper theft in 2011. While this problem is expensive for co-op members, the most serious threat is that it's extremely dangerous. Recently, one person was killed trying to steal copper from a cooperative substation. We are thankful that



Roanoke has not experienced any fatalities to date.

"North Carolina's electric cooperatives supported the legislation and through a grassroots effort worked to help pass it into law," said Marshall Cherry, vice president of marketing, member and technical services. Co-ops were part of a wide-ranging coalition that also included law enforcement agencies and homebuilders.

Among other provisions, the new law requires recyclers to take photographs of sellers with the metals they are selling and record information about the make,

model, year, color and license plate number of the vehicle used to deliver the metals.

"We look forward to working with law enforcement to apprehend and prosecute copper thieves," Cherry said. "The crime is dangerous and expensive, and this law will help us run a safe and efficient electric system."

While we're encouraged this law will help eliminate copper theft, we ask that you remain on the lookout for suspicious activity around our facilities, including substations, poles and transformers. Call 911 if you see any suspicious activity.



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

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Congressman Butterfield visits The Roanoke Center, chats with group

On Tuesday, August 14, 2012, Congressman G.K. Butterfield attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility of the Ahoskie Fire Department. The site's construction was funded in part by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). While en route to travel to Jackson later that afternoon to celebrate the expansion of the Nurse-Family Partnership into four northeastern counties, he took time out of his busy schedule to visit The Roanoke Center and made use of its Public Access room, which is available to the surrounding communities 107044-001.

Congressman Butterfield has been instrumental over the years in supporting the Roanoke Center, and his visit was definite a display of his continuous commitment to economic and community development in northeastern North Carolina.



Congressman G.K. Butterfield chatted with folks at The Roanoke Center and utilized the public access room, which provides computers with high speed Internet to people in surrounding communities.

Boost your business by joining the Co-op Connections Card program

Businesses! Allow Roanoke Electric to help you grow your business. We invite you to join the growing number of local businesses who have increased their



visitors and sales by becoming a part of the Co-op Connections Program. The program gives your business exposure to the 14,000 plus members served by Roanoke Electric and

millions served by our fellow Touchstone Energy Cooperatives nationwide. We offer you this avenue to promote your business without spending any advertising dollars.

The program is FREE to participating businesses. There is no cost to you other than the discount you offer our members. Simply commit to a discount offer or service. It can be anything that you are currently providing or something new, and then agree to accept the Co-op Connections Membership Card when a purchase is made. In exchange for your participation, we will promote your business and the discount offer at no cost to you. It's that easy! All Roanoke Electric members received a card about three years ago, and

we're regularly providing cards for new members and to replace lost ones.

Your business benefits by:

Increased traffic: Simply display the "We're a participating business" decal.

Increased visibility: You will receive FREE listings in all our member communications about the program, bill inserts, www.roanokeelectric.com, and www.connections.coop.

Increased image: The Co-op Connections Membership Card encourages members to shop locally.

Flexibility: You set your own parameters! Decide what discount or offer you wish to use to attract the customers you need to grow your business.

Ease of enrollment: Complete the Participating Business Contract. Call (252) 539-4601 for your participating agreement or pick up a form at The Roanoke Center in Rich Square.

The program is designed to benefit your business and our members. Roanoke Electric believes in "buying local and staying local." We encourage residents to look in their own back yard for products and services before shopping elsewhere. When this is accomplished, everyone wins and the community prospers.

Home Safety:

Check rooms for hazards

It's a fact — according to the National Safety Council, more accidents occur off the job than on the job for people of working age, and children and the elderly are the most likely groups to experience accidents at home. Most home accidents are preventable and result from a lack of home maintenance. Use the following checklist to spot possible safety hazards in your home.

Kitchen

Make sure all of your appliances carry an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) seal, which means the item was tested and found safe to use. Check electrical cords for fraying or cracking, step stools for splitting or cracking and throw rugs for tripping hazards like bumps and turned-up corners.

Living room

Just as you did in the kitchen, check rugs and runners, electrical cords, lamps and other lighting. Have a professional inspect the fireplace and chimney for fire hazards, and make sure all passageways are clear.

Bathroom

Make sure small appliances, like hairdryers and curling irons, are marked with a UL seal and are plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)

outlet. These outlets monitor electricity flowing in a circuit and trip the circuit if an imbalance is detected, protecting people from electric shock. Check the bathtub, shower, rugs and mats for slipping hazards and make sure cabinets that contain medicines or cleaning supplies are inaccessible to children.

Bedrooms

Examine rugs, runners, electrical and telephone cords, and make sure the area around the bed is clear of items that could cause you to trip.

Basement/garage/workshop

Make sure all power tools bear the UL mark. Check fuse and breaker boxes for possible malfunction. Inspect extension cords and cords on tools and lawn and garden supplies for fraying. Check for proper ventilation and make sure flammable liquids are stored in appropriate containers and at an acceptable temperature.

Stairs

Make sure there's proper lighting on and around stairways. Examine handrails and steps for possible defects or weaknesses, and test stair coverings for possible tripping hazards.

Practice safety and report hazards you see

One of Roanoke Electric Cooperative's missions is to provide safe electricity. To help keep our communities safe, we are educating our members on potential electrical hazards that they should report to our office and ways to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Hazards to Report:

- ✓ Low power lines
- ✓ Leaning or broken poles
- ✓ Cable or phone lines tangled in power lines
- ✓ Open meter bases
- ✓ Someone tampering with a meter

Things to Remember

- ✓ Contact the office before you dig so that underground wires can be marked
- ✓ Do not attempt to cut tree limbs that are tangled in power lines
- ✓ Do not plant trees near poles
- ✓ Do not attach signs or deer stands to poles



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

When calling in to report hazards, 123095-002 please have an address, a description of where the hazard is located, meter number, and/or a pole number. Please do not hesitate to call the office at (252) 209-2236 if you have any questions.

Roanoke EC needs your old photos, memorabilia

Roanoke Electric's 75th birthday is coming up, and we need your help. Your co-op will be celebrating its members and its rich history in 2013. Please send your old photos and cooperative memorabilia, such as old membership cards, electric bills, co-op flyers and bill stuffers, and your memories (examples include those of old annual meetings or a particularly good time when the lights came on) to:

Roanoke Electric Cooperative
75th Anniversary
Attention: Robin Phillips
P.O. Drawer 1326
Ahoskie, N.C. 27910

Please indicate whether you want your items donated or returned, and be sure to include an address for items to be returned. Any questions, call (252) 209-2236.



Holiday closing

Roanoke Electric's offices will be closed on Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. For emergencies, please contact us at (800) 358-9437.



Gain an hour

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 4. Turn your clocks back one hour, and enjoy your extra time that day.

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Energy efficiency tip

When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.

