

Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

inside
Four County
Connection



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Four County EMC
offices will be
closed Monday,
Sept. 5, for the
Labor Day Holiday.

Join Us in October for the Annual Meeting!

Four County EMC's 2022 Annual Meeting will be held at the Duplin Events Center located at 195 Fairgrounds Drive in Kenansville. Every cooperative member is encouraged to attend this once-a-year event to cast your vote for cooperative directors, share in community fellowship and to learn more about the cooperative and the seven principles the organization abides by.

All employees will be present at the event, so this is a great opportunity to greet your board of directors, meet those member service representatives you have spoken with on the phone, and the linemen that help keep your lights on.

Each year the company also gives back to the members via prize giveaways. Attending members are entered to win a bill credit, multiple prize give-a-ways, and the grand prize of a 2015 Ford Escape SUV. Drawings will take place at the meeting and the winners will be awarded their prizes that night!

Registration

The meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 10, 2022. Members can register as early as 5 p.m. and refreshments will be available at this time. The evenings' entertainment will begin at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Look for your annual meeting registration

card and official notice of the meeting on the front cover of the October issue of the Carolina Country magazine. Please bring this card with you to expedite the registration process.



Children's Area

This area is designated for children from the ages of 4-9 years old. This fun, safe and secure area

is available at the beginning of the meeting and parents are to pick their children up promptly after the meeting ends. Members will sign their children into the children's area before the meeting starts.

The Meeting

The business portion of the meeting will consist of reports on the progress of the Four County EMC organization during the previous 12 months. Updates on the financial status, programs and plans will be discussed, as well as the election for the three directors.

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Election

Abiding by Four County EMC's set bylaws, a committee is appointed prior to each annual meeting to nominate directors to fill any expiring seats.

The 2022 Nominating Committee consists of:

- James Potter, East Bladen
- Gwendolyn Sutton, At-Large
- Scott Brown, East Duplin
- Henry T. Smith, West Duplin
- Daniel Carr, Jr., At-Large
- Gordon McIntyre, West Pender
- E. C. Johnson, Jr., West Sampson
- Henry Lucas, Jr., East Sampson
- Tom Lancaster, West Bladen
- Kenneth Lanier, East Pender

Terms of the following three directors expired as of this year: Bertice Lanier – East Pender; Kenneth Thornton, Jr. – East Bladen; and Clayton Hollingsworth – At Large. These directors are running for a three-year term. The nominating committee nominated these three directors at its Aug. 3 meeting and will be presented for election on Oct. 10, 2022.

Proxy Voting

If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can still vote by using a proxy* form (Proxy forms are not eligible for prizes). Proxy forms will be available on the reverse side of your registration card that will appear on the cover wrap of the October issue of *Carolina Country* magazine. Any member may vote his or her vote and one (1) proxy vote on behalf of one residential member and (1) one additional

proxy vote on behalf of members such as churches, businesses, organizations or similar groups, provided the member is so designated as the authorized representative of the organization. Moreover, all proxies must be valid as determined by the Credentials and Election Committee.

To assign your proxy vote to another member, you must fill out the information on the back of the registration card, including the name of the person you give your proxy. Please date and sign your name to the proxy and have someone witness your signature.

Mark your calendars to attend this year's annual meeting on Monday, Oct. 10! Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

**Proxy forms are not eligible for prizes.*

Youth Tourists Represent Four County EMC

This year, North Carolina's electric cooperatives sent the 2022 delegate class to represent the electric co-op community during a weeklong Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., continuing a co-op tradition more than 50 years strong in North Carolina. They joined thousands of students from across the country to meet with federally elected officials, participate in networking events and learn about our nation's history and the importance of civic engagement.

Rylee Mintz, a rising senior at Pender High School, and Makayla Robertson, a rising senior at Pender Early College, represented Four County Electric on this year's June 18 – 24 tour. Rylee and Makayla earned the opportunity to attend after being voted the most outstanding male and female leaders by their peers at Youth Leadership Weekend, which was held at YMCA Camp Kirkwood in March.

Rylee summed up his Youth Tour experience, saying, "I didn't know what to expect when I arrived in D.C., but I knew that I would leave here with connections and more knowledge about how different policies and history have affected our everyday life."

Makayla expressed, "I was nervous when first arriving and meeting everyone because the only person I knew was Rylee. After getting acquainted, I got comfortable, gained more confidence, and learned more about electric cooperatives and their importance to the community. I appreciate Four County for allowing Rylee and me to experience this opportunity."

Youth Tour delegates are also eligible to apply for several college scholarships and have opportunities to represent North Carolina on the Youth Leadership Council. This national cooperative program seeks to develop strong

leadership, presentation, and advocacy skills in America's most promising young leaders. Students interested in Youth Tour should contact marketing@fourcty.org or visit fourcty.org.





Expanding Members Options!

Four County EMC takes pride in upholding our seven cooperative principles. Cooperation among cooperatives is vital in our efforts to provide our members with more options and the best services possible.

Four County EMC members are now eligible to join the ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union. The credit union provides the ability to charge lower rates for loans because they are a nonprofit cooperative. Instead of taking profits and paying stockholders, the credit union returns these profits to members as dividends or improved services. The other great thing about being a part of a credit union is that each member owns one share of the organization, like at Four County EMC.

Join ElecTel today and benefit from the services they provide:



- Free Checking Accounts
- Savings Accounts
- Free Online Banking, Bill Pay, and eStatements
- Visa Credit and Free Debit Cards
- Auto Loans
- Secured and Unsecured Loans
- Home Equity Loans/ Home Loans
- Energy Efficient Loans
- Money Market Accounts
- CDs
- IRAs
- Accounts insured by NCUA up to \$250,000

Becoming an ElecTel Member

All Four County EMC members can become ElecTel members by completing their membership application (this can be accomplished online) and submitting a minimum deposit of \$1.00. You can also stop by one of their physical locations in Raleigh, Hillsborough or Wake Forest.

To apply, you will need a government-issued ID or Passport with your current address, social security number, and date of birth, and you must be a cooperative member.

Remember that if you have Four County EMC as your electrical provider, you are not just a customer but a member! This means that you are a cooperative member and will qualify in that aspect to join ElecTel! Go to electel.org to learn more about the ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union and to apply.

ElecTel's Energy Efficient Program

One advantage ElecTel provides is that they offer an Energy Efficient Loan Program. These loans are easily accessible over the phone, so you do not have to drive to the office to apply. The cooperative offers low fixed rates and up to 100% purchase price financing, including taxes and installation. The payment terms are flexible, and members can loan up to \$35,000 from this program. These energy-efficient improvements include anything from electric heat pumps, weather stripping, electric/solar water heaters, insulation, windows, doors, generators, and other solar or energy star-related items! Review <https://electel.org/apply/energy-efficient-loans/> for more information and to apply for a loan.

If you purchase energy-star appliances, don't forget to apply to Four County EMC for your \$50 rebate per appliance! Visit fourcty.org/rates-rebates-free-checkup/ for more information and to download a rebate application form.

Four County EMC Discontinues Comfort Loans

While Four County EMC will no longer offer comfort loans to our members, any loan a member already has will not be affected, they will continue to make payments as before. The Four County EMC comfort loan program only provided loans up to \$6,500 over five years for a heat pump, insulation or ductwork repair. The co-op wanted to offer our members more after receiving calls on replacement windows, doors, generators, appliance loans, etc. So to better serve our members, the co-op looked into how to expand options. ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union provides the co-op with that option.

Four County EMC rebates are available for any member that installs a 16 SEER or greater heat pump. Please call our office to notify us that you have had a new one installed; proof of purchase will be required to qualify for the rebate.

Visit fourcty.org/rates-rebates-free-checkup/ for more information and to download a rebate application form.

If you are interested in a loan for any energy-efficient improvements, don't hesitate to get in touch with ElecTel at 919-872-2395, and they will be able to assist you. Also ask for our list of recommended heat pump dealers in the area.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

River Landing

If you are traveling 30 miles north of Wilmington on I-40, you can venture into a serene atmosphere with a luscious landscape guaranteed to take your breath away. River Landing is a must-see in the Wallace area located on Four County EMC's infrastructure. The Murphy family has taken pride in making this small-town community what it is today. The relaxing atmosphere is sure to release tension from the everyday hustle and bustle.



This small community offers many amenities. In addition to restaurants and two golf courses, you will find the Inn at River Landing, the Village Store and catch-and-release fishing ponds. The property can host events of all types, with multiple locations within the property to choose from, with features such as a waterfall in front of the clubhouse, bike trails and more. When booking at this location, the sky is the limit.

Golfing

The two 18-hole championship golf courses are in pristine condition. They are ranked as Eastern North Carolina's Top-Rated Residential Golf Courses. Clyde Johnston of Hilton Head, South Carolina, truly outdid himself when creating the courses.

One perk the courses offer is they both have the option





“In addition to restaurants and two golf courses, you will find the Inn at River Landing, the Village Store and catch-and-release fishing ponds.

to be played as regular traditional courses or as par-3 courses. A par-3 course is perfect for those who want to enjoy a quick game or are new to the sport. The River Course, #1 in the region and #23 in the state, runs along the Northeast Cape Fear River. The Landing Course, #2 in the region and #41 in the state, showcases the properties River Landing offers with its beautiful different architectural designs.

River Landing Amenities

The golf courses are just a few of the top-rated amenities. River Landing has won numerous awards over the years, including This is the Place WWAY3 Viewers' Choice Awards, America's 100 Best Places to Live (Ideal living) 2022, and the Heart of NC Weddings Vendor 2022.

Developed in 1996, the Murphy family strived to exceed all expectations and deliver more than anyone dreamt. They founded River Landing and made it what it is today, a place for families and communities to come together for the greater good of one another.

Wendell Murphy's philosophy has always been "be careful what you promise, and make sure you deliver more than you promised, not less." The promise and dreams for River Landing the Murphy family had held true as the place is a spectacular sight to see.

River Landing has opened its membership to the community. People who become members will have the opportunity to enjoy two 18-hole championship golf courses, a fitness center, outdoor pool, tennis courts, pickleball/bas-

ketball courts, dining privileges, and more. You no longer must be a River Landing property owner to become a member. There are four different types of membership currently you can choose from.

It's amazing what our service territory has to offer. No need to travel in order to support local businesses and take advantage of Duplin County. Treat yourself to a game of golf today and dine at the Mad Boar for the ultimate River Landing experience. The best part is that Four County members can save money while making memories doing what they love!



Four County Members now get a discount off their purchase of one round of golf per co-op member that day when using their Co-op Connections card at either of the River Landing courses! The special rate for the round of golf is \$69, which is over \$30 in savings! This discount includes greens and cart fees, as well as range balls!

Don't forget that Four County members also get 15% off lunch (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the Mad Boar Restaurant and Pub & 10% off at Village Subs when using their Co-op Connections Card.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS PRESENTS RIVER LANDING
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S TOP RATED RESIDENTIAL GOLF COURSE

FOUR COUNTY MEMBERS NOW PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF AT A SPECIAL RATE OF \$69 USING THEIR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

RIVER LANDING





Member Spotlight: **Marvin Brown**

Marvin Brown has been a Four County EMC member for over 51 years. He has seen a lot of changes over time as our small communities have evolved. One change he has seen is the decrease of fishermen in the area, especially commercial fishermen.

In Marvin's pastime, there was nothing he loved more than catching a net full of Shad in the Cape Fear River and selling them at the local fish markets. Shad are a type of fish that spend most of their life in the sea, but they enter the rivers as they spawn. Shad fish have a rich taste and are known for their many small bones; they are also fun to catch.

Marvin said he had an old boat trailer that his friend wanted 50 years ago. His friend made a deal with him and said, "If you let me get your boat trailer, I will teach you how to Shad fish." Marvin did not know much about Shad then, but he did love to fish, so he agreed with his friend.

Marvin enjoyed fishing for Shad so much that he decided to pursue his commercial fishing license. Living near the Cape Fear River, he loved to strike out on his John boat at Lock and Dam #1 in East Arcadia and drift down the river as he drifted his net along in the water. He would drift for 6 or 7 miles toward Riegelwood, near where he lives. Marvin told us that commercial fishermen used to fish that area because it is considered commercial fishing water since the tide rises and lowers. Lock and Dam #2 is not commercial waters because the tide does not rise and fall nearly as much.

Marvin worked at the Riegel Paper Company and retired from there as

it is known now as International Paper. He would put his boat in the Cape Fear River at dark and finish by daybreak. When he finished up Shad fishing, he would go into work and pull his entire shift, turn back around, and do it all over again the next day.

Asked how he managed to go fishing while being so busy with everyday life, he replied, "I have had a good woman, my wife, Romelia Brown, by my side for 57 years now, and my buddies out on the river kept me going. There is also nothing quite like pulling that net up into the boat when it is full of fish."

Love of Fishing

The fishing turned out to be a pretty good gig for Marvin. He would catch 75 to 80 Shad on a good day, averaging 3 to 4 pounds. He would sell his fish to the local fish markets. Marvin said most people enjoy the female Shad, also known as Row Shad, better because of



“Marvin is old school, sewing his own fishing nets.”

the fish eggs. The females are more prominent, weighing approximately 3 to 7 pounds, whereas the males are 2 to 3 pounds. Most people enjoy shad fillets or cutting the fish into steaks and then deep-fried in your favorite batter. Marvin prefers corn meal.

Marvin is old school, sewing his own fishing nets. He says he has made so many over the years that it is easy to tear up a lot of nets drifting for Shad. He made them in different sizes because you cannot fish with the same net you use on a low tide as you would when it is high.

Marvin would purchase the netting materials, including the line, caulk and ring. The caulk is a cork that helps the fisherman see if any fish have been caught. It will bob up and down in the water, alerting you that you have something in the net. The ring holds the bottom of the net down to help capture the fish in the net, so it does not float up as it moves down the body of water.

In high water, using a 50-mesh net, you want the net to be around 10 to 12 feet down in the water. Marvin recommends a 12-mesh net in low water, letting it sink about 4 feet in the water. The average net he used while fishing the river was around 35 to 40 yards around. In broader water, such as in Navassa, he would use a 100-yard net.

He told us it’s a shame to know that back in the day several boats would be out on the river fishing commercially for Shad; but now, there are hardly any. We asked Marvin how so many people fished the river at the same time back then without it being crowded. He swiftly answered, “people showed courtesy not to be fishing on top of one another. It was an unspoken respectful thing to do; you let one boat float some distance down the river, then the next guy would go, and so on. This allowed everyone to fish fairly and have plenty of room to do so.”

Nowadays, it appears as if Shad fishing is becoming a thing of the past. The local communities used to love purchasing fish at their local fish markets and getting the freshest catches possible. Now that commercial fishing is more regulated, many are not participating in the sport.

You can still catch Shad leisurely with a rod and reel and commercial fish; there just are not many people doing it. Marvin hates to see something he absolutely loved slowly fading away. He hopes that future generations will keep Shad fishing alive. It wasn’t just a hobby to Marvin; it was a way of life.



Attend a Fall Community Meeting Near YOU

Four County EMC is excited about the opportunity to mingle with the members we serve! During the fall community meetings, Four County representatives will share pertinent information about new developments at your cooperative, different beneficial factors to help our local communities thrive, and how our members can save on their electric bill. This year, we will cover organization growth, ways to pay, how we are making your service more reliable, how to make service more affordable, offered programs, rebates, loans, and more! We hope to see you at one of the meetings below.

Tuesday, Nov. 1

Centerville Baptist Church
Kelly, NC

Monday, Nov. 7

Baldwin Branch Church
Elizabethtown, NC

Thursday, Nov. 10

Wilson Chapel Church
Turkey, NC

A meal will be provided to members directly after registration and all members will be entered to win prizes during the event. For more information about a community meeting in your neighborhood, call a Four County EMC service representative at 1-888-368-7289.

Meetings are scheduled with registration starting at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Winning Recipe

from the editor



Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp. Chili Powder
- 1 Tbsp. Cumin
- 2 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp Corn Starch
- 1 tsp. Pepper
- 1 tsp. Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp. Onion Powder
- 1 tsp. Paprika
- ½ tsp. Red Pepper Flakes
- ½ tsp. Oregano

Homemade Taco Seasoning



Combine ingredients together & store in jar with other seasonings. Use 2-3 Tbsp. per 1 lb. of meat.

Watch 'Cooking with Cam' on our Facebook page to see how this dish is made.

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Calling All Teachers: Bright Ideas Grant Applications Deadline Nears

This is the last and final call for Bright Ideas Education Grant applications! The grants for the 2022-2023 school year will be awarded in November for projects in ALL grade levels and ALL disciplines. Educators you may apply for the grants as individuals or as a team. You can apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 from Four County EMC, the deadline is Sept. 15. Last year teachers in our service territory accumulatively won over \$24,000.00. Visit fourcty.org/bright-ideas-grant-program/ for more information on this program.



Four County Electric

Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

Our Vision

To be an advocate for our Members by:

- Exceeding members' expectations
- Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
- Achieving excellence
- Operating efficiently
- Maintaining hometown values

Four County Connection

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