



January 2020

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## Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by  
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*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity  
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## AEMC Hires Two Linemen Apprentices



*Alex Perry, of Tyner, was recently hired  
as a lineman apprentice. He previously  
worked for Lee Electrical Construction as  
a groundsman.*



*Drake Trueblood, of Sunbury, was  
recently hired as a lineman apprentice.  
He previously worked for the Town of  
Hertford as a lineman apprentice.*

## Howard Holley to Retire



Maintenance Technician Howard  
Holley will retire in January.

Holley began work at Albemarle  
EMC in 2000. During his career, he was  
responsible for much of the behind-the-  
scenes work at the co-op, running the  
forklift and performing various other  
warehouse and office duties. He assisted  
the co-op through hurricanes Isabel, Irene  
and Dorian as well as several ice and  
snow storms.

“Howard performed his duties with

dedication, professionalism and a smile,”  
said Jody Parker, manager of operations.  
“He was someone we could count on, and  
he will be missed.”

Holley said he is grateful to have  
had the opportunity to work with  
friendly coworkers and learn how the  
power industry functions. When asked  
what advice he would give to a starting  
employee, he responded, “Work safely.”

## Closed for New Year's Day

  
**Albemarle EMC will be  
closed Wednesday, Jan. 1  
for New Year's Day.**

# Local Educators Win Big

More than \$15,000 in grants were recently awarded to area educators through Albemarle EMC's Bright Ideas program.

Bright Ideas is a program whereby educators can apply for grants to fund creative classroom projects that, otherwise, would not be possible.

Christy Stanley, a teacher at Camden Intermediate School, was awarded \$528.10 for her project "Access for All." Her grant will be used to purchase the Unique Learning System for Teachers, which caters to students with a wide range of learning and communication barriers.

Grandy Primary School teacher Katrina Byrom was awarded \$945 for her project "Writer's Workshop." The Writer's Workshop is a curriculum that includes the three forms of writing: opinion, narrative and information. The lessons incorporate whole group mini-lessons and small group implementation.

Roberta Heath, a teacher at Camden County High School, received \$924 for her project "Tough Topics for Teens: How Literature Can Help Navigate the Storm." Heath will use her grant to purchase 48 PermaBound young adult books. Students will read young adult novels that address current issues such as drug abuse, racism and mental illness. Students will then create a digital presentation to display their findings.

Glenna Markham, who teaches at Grandy Primary School, received \$826.29 for her project "Making Math Fun and Engaging." Markham will use her grant to purchase math games and a math kit. The project will give students hands-on math games to make the math curriculum fun and engaging.

White Oak Elementary School teacher Brandi Richardson received \$730.04 for her project "Plant, Grow, Eat, Repeat!" She intends to purchase gardening tools for the school's greenhouse. Students will learn plant life cycles by growing herbs and vegetables.

Kristie Williams and Bonnie Lee, who teach at D.F. Walker Elementary School, were awarded \$1,000.93 for their project "Growing Agriculture Literacy One Veggie at a Time." Their grant will be used to purchase materials to create raised beds to plant vegetables. Their project will incorporate hands-on science lessons to connect students to the world of soil and plants.

Christy Stevens, who teaches at White Oak Elementary School, was awarded \$608.93 for her project "Boost Your Brain." Stevens' grant will be used to purchase technological learning devices that promote reading and math comprehension.

Chowan Middle School teacher Deborah Bunch was awarded \$274.02 for her project "Mathematicians and Scientists Will Be Attending the World Conference." Her grant will be used to purchase biographies and non-fictional texts about world leaders in the fields of math and science. The students will become that person for a period of time and explain their accomplishments using creative presentations.

Janie Joseph, a teacher at Chowan Middle School, received

\$999.88 for her project "The Magic of Coding — From Harry Potter to Drones. Joseph will purchase a drone kit and coding kits to make Bluetooth Harry Potter "magic" wands.

Anne Radke, who teaches at Moyock Middle School, received \$1,001.90 for her project "Community Dog Whistle." Her funds will be used to purchase student agendas that can be shared on social media to enhance better communication between the school and home.

P.W. Moore Elementary School teacher Adrienne Beasley was awarded \$1,036.50 for her project "Goo Goo for Gaga Ball!" Beasley will use her grant to purchase a Gaga Ball game set. The game will give students more physical education activities to do during school recess.

Doriane Felton, who teaches at Sheep-Harney Elementary school received \$720 for her project "Interdisciplinary Instruction in Art and Science." Felton plans to purchase static electricity kits, sprout and grow kits, weather instruments and kites. Her students will study plant parts, wind force and more.

J.C. Sawyer Elementary School teacher Megan Meredith received \$1,000 for her project "Book Characters that Look Like Me." Meredith intends to purchase books that cover the multicultural diversity of her classroom. She hopes that students

will better connect with characters in the books, which will enhance reading skills.

Courtney Hale, a Perquimans Middle School teacher, received \$1,000.44 for her project "Connecting our Community through Stem." Her grant will be used to purchase robot kits to help students problem solve to create projects that will be

showcased during the school's Community Day.

Perquimans Central School teacher Connie Ashley received \$1,000 for her project "Musical Magic." Ashley's grant will be used to purchase musical scores and costume supplies for school plays that every grade level will participate in.

Kristine Garvey, who teaches at Hertford Grammar School, was awarded \$879.97 for her project "Virtually Exploring the World." Garvey will purchase virtual reality glasses that will enable students to experience virtual learning activities.

Perquimans High School teacher Michelle Manning received \$913 for her project "School Mural." Her grant will be used to purchase art supplies that visual arts students will use to create murals that will be hung throughout the school.

Sheila Twine, who teaches at Perquimans High School, received \$1,000 for her project "Pirates on the Move." Twine's grant will be used to purchase an iPad Pro. At risk students will use the device to create multimedia productions that will be posted on the school's "Pirate Production" YouTube channel.

The electric cooperatives of North Carolina's Bright Ideas program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$12.2 million in Bright Ideas grant funding.



*Educators who won Bright Ideas grants were recently recognized at an awards banquet, in Williamston.*



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

## Happy New Year from Albemarle EMC!

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

January is the revolving-door month, with openings and closings happening simultaneously. Another year of business at Albemarle EMC is closing, just as another year begins. As we bid farewell to 2019, we enthusiastically welcome 2020, which holds considerable reason for optimism.

### Anniversary

This year marks our 75th in business. The actual anniversary occurs in February, so I'll have more to say about that next month. But suffice to say that this year is a particularly historic one for Albemarle EMC. We should all be proud to be playing a role in a story that began three-quarters of a century ago.

### No Rate Increase

We see no need for a rate increase this coming year. Wholesale power costs have risen, just as anticipated, due to the Dan River coal ash spill that occurred in 2014. Though the electric cooperatives of North Carolina had nothing to do with that event, we still had to shoulder some of the costs because we are purchasers of wholesale power. During the coming year, Albemarle EMC intends to use wholesale power costs adjustments (WPCA) to offset cost increases. WPCA can either lower, increase or be neutral to reflect current prices of power. However, rate increases are not flexible, which is why we try to prolong them as long as possible.

### West Albemarle Substation

Power reliability will continue to be a focus of your cooperative this year. Work is progressing on the West Albemarle Substation, which is located in Chowan County, near our existing Edenton Substation. The West Albemarle Substation will be a transfer facility that feeds the Bethel Substation, which should be completed in the next couple of years. The West Albemarle Substation will also eventually feed a future substation in Chowan County that will replace the existing Edenton Substation. Not only will this improve the reliability for Perquimans and Chowan members, it will also increase capacity, meaning power will be available for future development.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Early in 2020, Albemarle EMC will install an electric vehicle charging station at the Hampton Inn, in Edenton. All of the purchase cost of the charging station and most of the installation costs will be paid for by a grant from the N.C. Electric

Membership Corporation. Visitors to the hotel will be able to charge their vehicles and pay Albemarle EMC with a credit card at the charging station.

The station will be a single pedestal with the ability to charge two vehicles simultaneously. The unit will feature a color LCD screen that will play an instructional video in multiple languages. Driver phone support will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Electric cooperatives throughout the state are installing charging stations in their service territories.

Charging stations are particularly attractive because of the under-utilized electrical

capacity that all power companies have at night.

### Safety Accreditation

During 2020 Albemarle EMC will receive its tri-annual Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program inspection. All aspects of the co-op's office, work methods, equipment and personnel will be scrutinized and scored. Though always taken seriously, safety will receive even more emphasis during the next 12 months. Maintaining high safety standards is not something we strive for, it is something we expect.

### Service to Members

Service to our members will remain a high priority. We are committed to providing you with safe, affordable, reliable power. We thank you for allowing us to serve you during 2019, and we look forward to serving you in 2020. Happy New Year!



*A charging station similar to the one shown above will be installed at the Hampton Inn, in Edenton.*