




July 2024

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

## Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by  
**Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections®*

P.O. Box 69  
Hertford, NC 27944  
(252) 426-5735

**Kevin Heath**, General Manager  
**Chris Powell**, Editor

Website and member portal:  
**www.aemc.coop**

Outages:  
**1-800-274-2072**  
24-hour payments:  
**(252) 426-4419**

*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Closed for July 4th



Albemarle EMC will be closed Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

## Candidates for Board Seats to be Nominated

Members who desire to be nominated to run for a seat on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors should notify the cooperative in advance of the upcoming nominating committee meeting.

The nominating committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, July 9. Qualified members who wish to seek nomination should notify Public Relations Coordinator Chris Powell by e-mail ([chris.powell@aemc.coop](mailto:chris.powell@aemc.coop)) or by addressing a letter to Chris Powell, Albemarle EMC, P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944. The prospective nominees will be given the contact information for the following nominating committee members: Leroy Temple, Thomas N. Hollowell Jr., Joseph McPherson, Vera Murrill, Nicole Spencer, Dale Davis and Don Lee Keaton.

Prospective candidates must be nominated by the Albemarle EMC Nominating Committee or be nominated by petition of the members. Nominees must have graduated high school, be a cooperative member, reside principally in the county from which a director is to be chosen, pass a background check and meet other criteria.

Up for election this year are board of directors seats for the counties of Pasquotank and Camden as well as one at-large seat for all counties. The co-op's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

## Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment Charge Explained

Over the past few years, Albemarle EMC members may have noticed that the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) charge on their bills has risen.

The WPCA is a charge that enables Albemarle EMC to make minor adjustments to members' power bills to accurately reflect the changing cost of wholesale power. Wholesale power is purchased by the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, then sold to Albemarle EMC. The co-op then adjusts the WPCA to cover the wholesale power cost, if needed. Sometimes the WPCA is a credit, other times it is a charge, depending on the rising or falling cost of wholesale power.

Because wholesale power costs have risen 32.3 percent since the co-op's last rate increase in 2012, Albemarle EMC has hired an independent consultant to conduct a study of the cooperative's rates to determine if a rate adjustment is needed. Albemarle EMC is a not-for-profit cooperative. Any margins made by the co-op are returned to members through capital credits that are applied to April power bills.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation  
P.O. Box 69 Hertford, N.C. 27944-0069  
(252) 426-5735 www.aemc.coop  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE	RENEWABLE	METER NUMBER
061034	061034	7.97		
092102	092102	42.00		
092204	092204	122.29		
092304	092304	122.29		
092404	092404	122.29		
092504	092504	122.29		
092604	092604	122.29		
092704	092704	122.29		
092804	092804	122.29		
092904	092904	122.29		
093004	093004	122.29		
093104	093104	122.29		
093204	093204	122.29		
093304	093304	122.29		
093404	093404	122.29		
093504	093504	122.29		
093604	093604	122.29		
093704	093704	122.29		
093804	093804	122.29		
093904	093904	122.29		
094004	094004	122.29		
094104	094104	122.29		
094204	094204	122.29		
094304	094304	122.29		
094404	094404	122.29		
094504	094504	122.29		
094604	094604	122.29		
094704	094704	122.29		
094804	094804	122.29		
094904	094904	122.29		
095004	095004	122.29		
095104	095104	122.29		
095204	095204	122.29		
095304	095304	122.29		
095404	095404	122.29		
095504	095504	122.29		
095604	095604	122.29		
095704	095704	122.29		
095804	095804	122.29		
095904	095904	122.29		
096004	096004	122.29		
096104	096104	122.29		
096204	096204	122.29		
096304	096304	122.29		
096404	096404	122.29		
096504	096504	122.29		
096604	096604	122.29		
096704	096704	122.29		
096804	096804	122.29		
096904	096904	122.29		
097004	097004	122.29		
097104	097104	122.29		
097204	097204	122.29		
097304	097304	122.29		
097404	097404	122.29		
097504	097504	122.29		
097604	097604	122.29		
097704	097704	122.29		
097804	097804	122.29		
097904	097904	122.29		
098004	098004	122.29		
098104	098104	122.29		
098204	098204	122.29		
098304	098304	122.29		
098404	098404	122.29		
098504	098504	122.29		
098604	098604	122.29		
098704	098704	122.29		
098804	098804	122.29		
098904	098904	122.29		
099004	099004	122.29		
099104	099104	122.29		
099204	099204	122.29		
099304	099304	122.29		
099404	099404	122.29		
099504	099504	122.29		
099604	099604	122.29		
099704	099704	122.29		
099804	099804	122.29		
099904	099904	122.29		

TO REPORT POWER OUTAGE CALL:  
800-274-2072

OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:00 - 4:30 P.M.  
Payment Options: In person; by mail; automatic bank or credit  
card; auto-debit; e-payment; Online Mobile App and  
24-hour automated toll-free service



# Charity Golf Tournament Raises Significant Funds



*Tri B Construction took first place in the Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament. From left are: Paul Holland, Wayne Baker and Phil Debrito.*

The Tri B Construction golf team turned in a score of 52 to take first place in the 16th Annual Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.

Dominion Energy came in second place with a score of 57, and Xylem Tree Experts came in third, posting a score of 58. A total of 67 players on 16 teams entered the tournament. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to purchase toys for the co-op's Christmas toy drive.

"Our deepest appreciation goes out to all those who supported this year's tournament," said AEMC General Manager Kevin Heath. "We raised substantial funds to provide toys for families who could use some help this Christmas."

The toys will be purchased by co-op employees, then delivered to school coordinators, who have identified the families. The school personnel will then coordinate delivering the toys to the parents.

# Grant Benefits Cooperative Extension



*From left are: Kellie Binnicker, area horticultural agent; Camaryn Byrum, Chowan County 4-H agent; and Mary Morris, Chowan County extension director and family consumer sciences agent.*

The Chowan County Cooperative Extension was recently awarded a \$2,500 Albemarle Community Trust grant to help establish a story-walk in the Chowan County Agricultural Center's Arboretum.

Pages from children's storybooks will be printed and mounted to framed displays throughout the arboretum. Visitors touring the arboretum will enjoy stories about various educational topics that will change on a monthly basis.

The Albemarle Community Trust is funded by Albemarle EMC members who voluntarily contribute through their power bills.

# Electric Buses Coming to Schools

A Chowan County and a Camden County school will soon be adding electric school buses to their fleet.

In 2022, the Chowan and Camden Counties school systems were awarded state grants to purchase a full-size electric school bus, thanks to assistance from Albemarle EMC and the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation.

The school systems were chosen to receive help applying for the grants because they both have schools on the cooperative's lines. Nikki Lynberg, innovation and business development analyst for the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, assisted each school system with navigating the grant application process.

One bus will be located at White Oak Elementary School, and the other bus will be located at Camden Middle School. The grants cover the cost of the buses as well as the chargers and installation. In order to qualify for the grant, each school had to agree to decommission an existing diesel bus. Both school systems had older buses that were already marked for replacement.

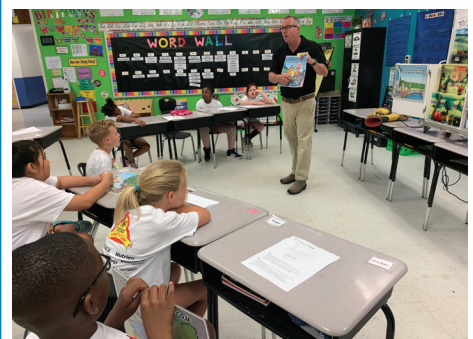
The grants were funded through a legal settlement resulting from a Volkswagen emissions violation lawsuit. North Carolina's portion of the settlement was close to \$70 million. Part of the settlement was designated for the purchase of 161 electric school buses for schools across the state.

Electric school buses have a range of 120 miles on a full charge and can be fully recharged in three to eight hours. The buses should also dramatically reduce maintenance costs.



*Manager of Technical Services Travis Riddick and Engineering Technician II Timothy Meads work on the current transformer and meter for the electric school bus charging station at Camden Middle School.*

# Electricity Safety Taught



*Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC, teaches electricity safety to Hertford Grammar School students. About 140 students received the safety information, as part of the Perquimans County Cooperative Extension's Progressive Safety Day, conducted annually at the school.*



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



## Co-ops Advocate for Grid Reliability

by Chris Powell, director of public relations



*Employees from Albemarle EMC and Roanoke Cooperative recently met with N.C. Rep. Bill Ward (second from right) to discuss the importance of natural gas-fired generation to grid reliability and other issues.*

As the generation of electricity has shifted away from coal and toward cleaner fuels, electric cooperative leaders have become increasingly concerned that grid reliability may be in jeopardy.

At issue is the desire of special interests and some law makers to overemphasize the use of renewable sources such as wind and solar to meet future energy needs. Electric cooperatives have, for some time, adopted an all-of-the-above approach by utilizing wind and solar in addition to more conventional generation. However, there still remains a need for always-on resources such as natural gas and nuclear generation.

Recently the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), which Albemarle EMC is a member of, announced a partnership with Duke Energy on its proposed hydrogen-capable natural gas plant in Person County. This project, called the Person County Energy Complex, is a critical piece of the energy transition away from coal to a source of generation that emits less than half the emissions of coal-fired generation.

Representatives from Albemarle EMC recently met with state legislators to stress the importance of the Person County Energy Complex receiving regulatory approval. Current estimates are that as much as 58 gigawatts of generation could be retired for regulatory reasons by 2030 in the Pennsylvania-Jersey-Maryland (PJM) power market, which includes Albemarle EMC's service territory. Equally concerning is there is currently no clear plan as to how that generation will be replaced. This is why the Person County Energy Complex and the extension of the Mountain Valley natural gas pipeline into central North Carolina are such important projects.

Not only is natural gas a cleaner source of generation, it is also an important complement to renewable energy growth in terms of reliability because it can ramp up and down quickly as generation from renewable energy fluctuates.

Combined cycle natural gas plants operate at increased efficiency by using both gas and steam turbines to produce electricity, effectively capturing exhaust heat from the gas turbine to power a secondary generator. When hydrogen gas becomes a viable source of fuel, a hydrogen-capable natural gas plant will be able to use both natural gas and hydrogen to produce electricity.

If approved, Duke Energy plans to begin construction of the Person County Energy Complex in 2025, with a target of having it operational by late 2028. At that point, NCEMC will own about 16 percent of the electricity produced, or 225 megawatts of the new unit's capacity. Duke Energy will operate and maintain the plant.

NCEMC's share of the Person County plant would expand its generating portfolio comprising more than 60 percent carbon-free generating resources, including a 61.5 percent share of the Catawba Nuclear Station's Unit 1. NCEMC generation resources also includes more than 250 MW of renewables, distributed resources and demand response programs; ownership of a 13.3 percent share of the Duke Energy 750-MW, combined-cycle natural gas plant at W.S. Lee Station in Anderson County, South Carolina; and full ownership of dual-fuel natural gas peak generating plants located in Anson and Richmond counties.