

# Power Lines

JANUARY 2010



## Managers Message: North Carolina Senators are front and center in the U.S. energy debate

The debate on energy legislation, including climate change, has moved to the U.S. Senate. As with most major legislation in the Senate, the result could come down to a close vote. Both N.C. Senators, Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, will play important roles in the debate. It is up to consumers to communicate with our state's Senators and let them know that cost matters.

Due to complex Senate rules, controversial legislation generally requires support of 60 out of 100 Senators. The Democrats currently hold 60 seats, but the majority does not guarantee the party will pass any legislation it wants. On energy issues, Senators must take a bi-partisan approach or bring together a majority that represent a wide range of regional interests.

North Carolina is one of only 12 states represented in the U.S. Senate by one Democrat and one Republican. Richard Burr is completing his first term in the Senate and will stand for election

in 2010. Burr has extensive experience on energy, serving on the key energy committee when he was in the U.S. House, and now in the Senate. Burr has been vocal in his support for nuclear power, criticizing the House's energy bill as too costly and lacking in support for base load generation. Burr has opposed a cap and trade program for combating climate change. Burr sits on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Kay Hagan is in her first year as a U.S. Senator and is new to many of the energy issues for electric cooperatives. It is up to consumers to communicate with Senator Hagan so she can have a full understanding of energy legislation's impact. Hagan has shown in her initial actions that she is open to a balanced approach on energy legislation. When the Senate's energy bill reaches the Senate floor, Hagan will be a key vote.

A poorly written energy bill could raise electric rates in the Southeast in

relation to states that have greater renewable energy resources. Electric cooperatives are urging both Burr and Hagan to consider the regional impacts of any energy bill that moves through the Senate. Cooperatives in North Carolina have asked their Senators to support energy legislation only if it creates real environmental benefits and protects consumers from burdensome cost increases. North Carolina's electric cooperatives support strong incentives for nuclear power, energy efficiency which benefits residential and small business consumers and the development of cost-effective renewable resources.

Contact your Senate offices directly to tell them your concerns on energy by calling (877)-40BALANCE or by visiting [www.findabalancedsolution.com](http://www.findabalancedsolution.com).



Norman Sloan

## Haywood EMC's new program helps save you money

### TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Beginning January 2, 2010, your electric co-op is offering an Energy Audit Weatherization and Insulation program that can potentially save you hundreds of dollars per year in energy costs.

Here's how it works: Haywood EMC will send out their certified building analyst, Mike Singleton, who will perform a state of the art energy audit utilizing thermal imaging, duct blaster and blower door technology. This will allow us to identify insulation shortfalls, as

well as air leaks in your duct system and home. Following the audit, you will receive a report within a few days listing problems found and prioritizing what should be done to make your home more energy efficient.

How much will this cost you? There will be a fee of \$175 for the initial audit, however if you chose to implement recommendations following the report, Haywood EMC will apply your \$175 towards the total costs of weatherization to your home. Haywood EMC can provide 100% financing to qualified co-op

members for five years at approximately 7.9% interest.

This program is designed to help everyone. You, the member, benefit by saving money on your energy costs while making your home more energy efficient and comfortable. It helps Haywood EMC by reducing the amount of energy needed thereby reducing CO2 emissions, as well as help your co-op meet NC Climate Change Legislation mandates.

Call for more information at (828) 452-2281, or toll free 1-800-951-6088.

# HEMC Bright Ideas grant winners

This year's Bright Ideas grant program brought in 46 applications from around western North Carolina. Local teachers submitted many fresh and innovative ideas to incorporate some excitement and fun into their classrooms. Haywood awarded more than \$9,000 to eight of

these outstanding teachers. Haywood EMC believes that education must be a top priority for the children in our communities. Every year we look forward to visiting our local classrooms to see what an impact a Bright Idea grant program can make.



## Jonathan Valley Elementary

**Project: Measurement Matters \$1,000**

**Teachers: Jon Serenius and Carla Billups.**

**Project Summary:** Students will use a variety of tools and technology to gather data, using mathematics to support science, in the content areas of: water, weather, force and motion, and ecosystems. Some of this data will be used in citizen science projects.



## Pisgah High School

**Project: Electric Wheelie Car Build \$2,000**

**Teachers: Sam Warren, Principal Danny Miller and Chip Singleton. Project Summary:** The electric wheelie car will be built in the career department. It will involve at least 3 curriculum areas and their students. The car kit will be purchased from the Shop Rat Foundation for the students to design, machine, weld, wire, and assemble.



## Brevard Middle School

**Project: Lights, Camera, Action \$1,571**

**Teachers: Christina Dodson and Annie Talley.**

**Project Summary:** Initiation of the development of a broadcasting studio for the school. This addition will allow the students to broadcast the morning announcements by way of closed circuit televisions that are already set up. Enrichment classes will be taught broadcasting. The dream/vision is to eventually have a fully operational broadcasting studio.



## Davidson River School

**Project: Stone Age Technology \$486**

**Teacher: Joseph Russo. Project Summary:** Purchase flint knapping supplies and other instructional materials for a hands-on lesson that teaches World History students how to make arrowheads, axe heads, and other Stone Age tools.



## AC Reynolds Middle School

**Project: Keeping it Clean \$940**

**Teacher: Jennifer Williams. Project Summary:** Students grades 6-8 will learn where germs reside in the school. The students will also learn effective hand washing techniques in order to prevent disease transmission. The 8th grade students will be actively involved in teaching the other grade levels about effective hand washing techniques.



## North Henderson High School

**Project: Passive Solar Heating Systems**

**Development \$1,395**

**Teachers: Principal, Frank Edney, Gary Massey, Gary Blackwell and Hale Durant. Project Summary:** Students will design and build passive solar heating units based on several design models. Finished products will be monitored to determine their effectiveness and need for refinement. After refinement, the units will be used to supplement electric heating in the school greenhouses and other areas of the school.



## Rosman Middle School

**Project: Calder Mobiles \$985**

**Teacher: Principal, Greg Carter and Elizabeth Ballard. Project Summary:** Use a class set of fiction books to inspire art students to make mobiles and art pieces in the style of Alexander Calder, the featured artist of the book studied.

## AC Reynolds Middle School

**Project: Read, Infer, Create \$700**

**Teacher: Rose Szabo. Project Summary:** Students will create a miniature scene, from their book, using pre-cut foam core for book construction. The miniature will be in 3-D, scaled to 1/12". Students will design their interpretation of the book cover, and write a descriptive paragraph of their scene, inferring details from their book.

# Haywood EMC reminds you to be prepared for winter weather

Snowfall, ice and freezing temperatures affect North Carolinians from the mountains to the coast during the winter. Be prepared and follow these simple safety tips to stay safe and warm this winter.

Ice and snow are heavy enough to pull down power lines and cause outages. Before a winter storm hits, have a plan on how to stay warm in case of a power outage. Keep the following safety precautions in mind when developing a plan:

- ✓ Make sure to have a fire extinguisher nearby when using alternative heat sources.
- ✓ Always keep extra blankets on hand and dress in multiple layers to stay warm.
- ✓ Have several flashlights, plenty of batteries, matches and a first aid kit.
- ✓ Stock a few days' supply of water, medication and food that does not need to be cooked or refrigerated such as bread, crackers, cereal, canned foods, and dried fruits. Remember baby food and formula if you have young children.
- ✓ Keep a close watch of your home's temperature during an outage. Infants and persons over the age of 65 are particularly sensitive to the cold.

Another taxing part of winter is clearing snow and ice around the home. It is hard work and even has the potential to cause a heart attack. To stay safe when clearing snow you

should dress warmly, paying special attention to your feet, hands, nose and ears to prevent frostbite. When shoveling snow, try to push it in front of you and avoid lifting it up. If you have to pick up the snow, lift it up in small amounts and lift with your legs, not your back. You may want to do a few light warm-up exercises before you start and take frequent breaks.

Consider spreading non-toxic de-icing substances such as clay-based cat litter, sand or fireplace ash to prevent slippery sidewalks. Chemical de-icers are potentially dangerous to your pets, plants and the environment. Before you apply a de-icer, remove as much snow and ice as possible. De-icing products are most effective when applied to a thin layer of ice, before accumulation starts, but pre-treatments are also available. Check with your local hardware store for a pre-treatment recommendation.

To prevent your car's windows and mirrors from icing, treat the windows before you go to bed each night. A homemade window treatment can be made with three parts vinegar to one part water and used in a spray bottle. You can also cover the windshield with an old bed sheet or beach towel when snow or ice is in the forecast.



Hold the sheet in place by pinching it in the doors on each side. In the morning all you have to do is peel the sheet or towel off the windshield and go.

Following these simple tips will allow you to have a safe and warm winter.

## Power Lines

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Visit our Web site:

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

## Haywood EMC wishes you a Happy New Year

Haywood EMC directors and employees wish for everyone a safe, happy and prosperous new year. The cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

