

# Power Lines

DECEMBER 2011



## Why Haywood EMC may be sending you money in December



*Norman Sloan,  
General manager &  
executive vice president*

In a local electric cooperative, like Haywood EMC, every member owns the business. One of the cooperative advantages is that we provide our members with “at cost”

service, which means we don’t exist to earn a profit.

As an owner and a member, you share in the profits through what are called capital credits. These capital credits represent each member’s ownership of the cooperative. They are margins credited (or allocated) to the members of the cooperative based on their electricity purchases from the cooperative the previous year.

Your Board of Directors recently approved a capital credit refund of about \$358,000 total for the people who were members during 1983-2005.

Those with a return of less than \$10 will see a credit on their December bill. Those with a return of \$10 or more will receive a check mailed in late December.

“Capital credit reflects the nonprofit nature of the cooperative,” explained Norman Sloan, general manager and executive vice president of Haywood EMC. “We work hard each day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it’s nice to know that when there are profits, they come back to you. They demonstrate the power of being a member of Haywood EMC.”

According to Sloan, investor-owned utilities like Progress Energy and Duke Energy return this margin, or profit, to their stockholders through dividends. In the case of a not-for-profit cooperative like Haywood EMC, the margins are returned to the people who own the business, the members.

In addition to the approximate \$358,000 retirement, Haywood EMC has retired approximately \$250,000 in capital credits to estates of deceased members for a total retirement



of about \$608,000. This is equivalent to a reduction in power costs of about 1.2 percent. When a member dies, the administrator of the estate should contact Haywood EMC to claim that individual’s capital credit account. Once the administrator presents a death certificate and completes the necessary paperwork, the cooperative issues a capital credit check. According to our members, many people find this money helpful in paying funeral expenses during a difficult time.

It pays to be a member of Haywood EMC. Your co-op is always there, looking out for you. That’s because in an electric co-op, the people have the power. That’s the Cooperative Difference!

### Haywood EMC wishes everyone a Merry Christmas

Haywood EMC directors and employees send their wishes for everyone to have and enjoy a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. The cooperative’s office will be closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, to celebrate Christmas.



# What's safe in outdoor decorating

For many of us, putting up holiday decorations can sometimes turn into a friendly competition among neighbors. Determined to have the best looking house in the neighborhood, some people are willing to hang miles of icicle lights and plug in scores of inflatable snowmen just to out-do the neighbors. However festive, these embellishments also add electrical strain to your home, and safety must be a priority when decorating. Follow these tips to ensure a safe, joyful holiday season:

- ★ Only use outdoor lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards. Be sure to check to see if the lights you're using are certified for outdoor use.
- ★ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage.



- ★ Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tracks when hanging lights.
- ★ Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- ★ Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- ★ Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- ★ Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- ★ Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold and installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.
- ★ Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights- they could unravel and inadvertently wrap around power lines.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, Christmas trees account for 250 fires annually, resulting in 14 deaths, 26 injuries and millions of dollars in property damage, so follow these tips when purchasing a Christmas tree. .

- ★ Keep your tree well hydrated. Dry branches can ignite when they come in contact with lights.
- ★ Never use electric decorations on an aluminum tree.
- ★ If your tree is artificial, make sure it is fire retardant.
- ★ Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as a heater, vent or fireplace.
- ★ When disposing of your tree, never put the branches in the fireplace. Rather, take your tree to a recycling facility or have it discarded by a community pick-up service
- ★ Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

*Plan accordingly this season to guarantee a Merry Christmas!*

## Power Lines

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Membership Corp.  
376 Grindstone Road,  
Waynesville, NC 28785

### Board of Directors

Roy Stamey, President: 648-1703  
Dr. Kenneth Israel, Vice President: 667-0065  
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### General Manager

Norman Sloan: 648-8496

### Call our toll-free customer

service line

1-800-951-6088

### Waynesville Office

452-2281

### Lake Toxaway Office

966-4215

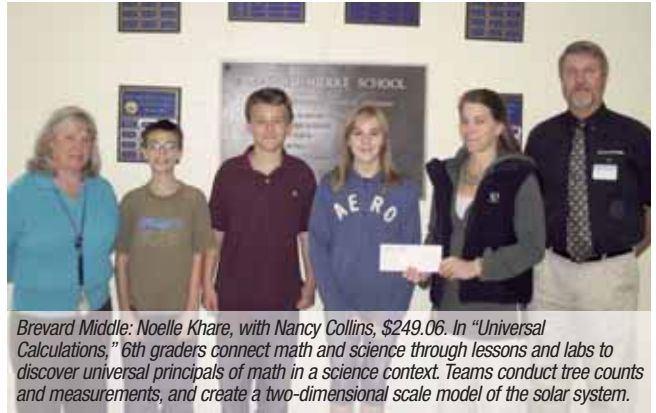
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# The 2011-2012 Bright Ideas grant winners



*Brevard Elementary: Cindy Koerber, with Alicia Anderson, Patti Stahl, Erin Rogers, Don Hogsed, \$850. With wood and paper, we will introduce kindergarteners to the concept of "Properties and Change" to allow students to have an engaging experience with both of these materials.*



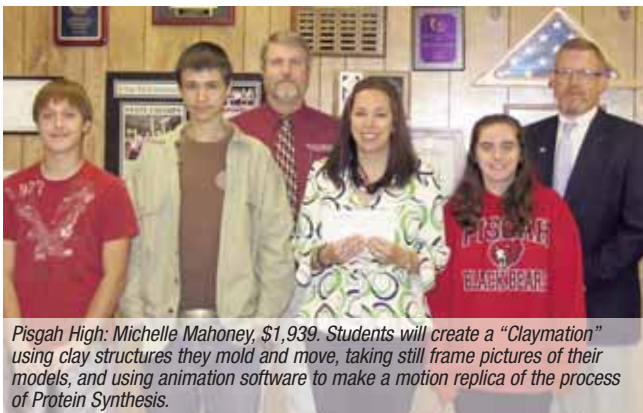
*Brevard Middle: Noelle Khare, with Nancy Collins, \$249.06. In "Universal Calculations," 6th graders connect math and science through lessons and labs to discover universal principals of math in a science context. Teams conduct tree counts and measurements, and create a two-dimensional scale model of the solar system.*



*Marlow Elementary: Natalie Stiles, \$351.80. Project will use a solar oven and related materials for cooking with a focus on how we are using the energy from the sun—a great visual for students to see the sun's energy and how we can take advantage of that power.*



*Murphy Elementary: Rick Carter, \$1,233.52. This project involves 5th graders using math skills to construct dulcimers from kits. Students will also develop music reading and playing abilities. These instruments will allow students to learn more about the history of the Southern Appalachian Region.*



*Pisgah High: Michelle Mahoney, \$1,939. Students will create a "Claymation" using clay structures they mold and move, taking still frame pictures of their models, and using animation software to make a motion replica of the process of Protein Synthesis.*



*Rosman Elementary: Elaine Goar, \$1,835.65. The "Handwriting Without Tears" program and materials for our kindergarten classes will expand to also include first graders next year and then second graders a year later. In three years, a new grant will be sought so upper grades can receive the cursive component.*



*Scotts Creek Elementary (K-8): Linda Potter with Tammy Lowe, \$1,524.75. The "Hunters Love to Read" project will connect middle school boys with a male mentor or father figure through a common interest, hunting, while using community resources to improve reading as well as encourage pleasure reading.*



*Tuscola High: Betsy Gunter, \$1,390.55. My project, Post it!, includes individual research, designing a multimedia poster on Glogster Edu and presenting to class. This will be a daily start up for class. The student will include Today in history or a short biographical sketch, a Today in the News, and upcoming events or problems.*