

MEMBER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF BRUNSWICK EMC

BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

WINTER 2009



Website:
www.bemc.org

E-mail:
info@bemc.org

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Toll Free:
1-800-842-5871

Shallotte:
910-754-4391

Southport and Oak Island:
910-457-9808

Whiteville:
910-642-5011

OUTAGE REPORTING:

1-800-682-5309



Touchstone Energy®

Touchstone Energy is a nationwide alliance of 660 electric cooperatives who provide you, the customer, with state-of-the-art technology, reliable and responsive services and excellent value.

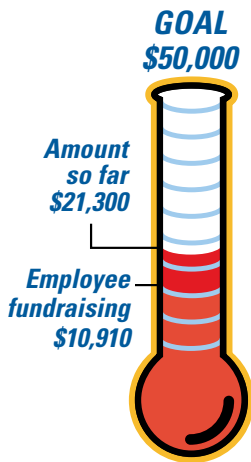
BEMC is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Warm Homes, Warm Hearts Campaign for 2009/2010 Underway!

BEMC's community heating assistance program is off to a great start for this coming winter.

"Warm Homes, Warm Hearts" is a program to help keep everyone warm during winter. Funds may go to help an elderly resident, a struggling young family, or perhaps someone that been swamped with unexpected medical bills or a job layoff. All funds are administered through Brunswick Family Assistance & the Columbus County Department of Aging. Eligibility to receive assistance is determined by those agencies.

Co-op employees have already held a series of fundraising events, raising a total of \$10,910 so far. Generous donations from those who helped out last year have brought the total raised to date to over \$21,300.



Remember - BEMC then MATCHES the funds, (up to \$50,000) that will go to our local agencies to provide financial assistance to those who need help with their heating bills this winter.

Let's join together so no one gets left out in the cold this winter!

To be part of this important community effort, use the donation form below or the fill-in area on the enclosed envelope.

Return using the provided envelope (NOT with your electric bill, please, as this is an entirely separate fund). Checks should be made out to "Warm Homes, Warm Hearts" Campaign. Thanks for helping!

For a full brochure on the program, please visit www.bemc.org or stop by any BEMC office.



Contribution Form

Yes, Count me in! I want all of our neighbors to be warm this winter!



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contribution made in honor of: OR in memory of: _____

Send acknowledgement to name/address: _____

Please make checks payable to: WARM HOMES, WARM HEARTS. Use this form or the one included with the enclosed reply envelope. Send to: WHWH Campaign, c/o BEMC, P.O. Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459. THANK YOU!

To You From Your CEO



Robert W. Leavitt, Jr.
CEO, BEMC

If you think your voice is not heard in the halls of Congress, think again.

Last fall we visited our two U.S. Senators' offices and delivered more than 10,500 message cards from North Carolina electric cooperative members.

These were some of the cards that tens of thousands of cooperative consumers across North Carolina filled out this year asking our representatives to help craft reasonable and balanced national climate change and energy policy.

Your voices told Congress that it's "Our Energy, Our Future," and any climate change policy must take consumers into account.

Well, your voices worked—Congress is paying closer attention to the consumer impact.

We wanted our Congressional delegation to know that climate change and energy legislation should be fair and balanced across all industries and regions of the country. We also stressed any reforms must contain safeguards to prevent energy cost spikes and out-of-control electric bills.

Congress is listening. But this is not the time to rest. It's time to get our second wind. We must keep sending our "consumers first" message to our representatives.

Earlier in the year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to reduce greenhouse gases and shift the way America produces and uses energy.

At that time, electric cooperative leadership met with our entire congressional delegation. We told them to expect to hear the consumers' viewpoint. As of the end of September, more than 54,000 North Carolina co-op members sent more than 337,000 messages to Congress on these issues.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign and contacted legislators through our Web site, "Find a Balanced Solution."

Having seen firsthand the impact of these communications on our elected leaders, I want to challenge all co-op consumers to remain engaged in our communications efforts. The next six months are critical.

Now the Senate is negotiating legislation which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require more efficient use of energy, expedite the development of renewable energy resources, and reduce our dependence on foreign energy.

With your support, we expect to help Congress identify achievable targets and timelines for an affordable, achievable national energy policy that will:

- Protect average American consumers against unreasonable rate hikes.
- Consider geographic differences. Some areas have grown faster than others and face different energy challenges.
- Maintain a diverse energy supply, including emissions-free nuclear power; low-

cost, domestic coal using clean coal technologies; geothermal, wind, solar and biomass.

- Recognize that energy efficiency programs are very important. The lowest cost energy is energy we don't use.
- Provide access to least-cost financing for new generation and transmission facilities.

To keep the dialogue going, visit the Web sites below. Thanks for all your support.

The energy bill you save may be your own!



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America
www.ourenergy.coop

**Find A
Balanced Solution**
www.FindABalancedSolution.com



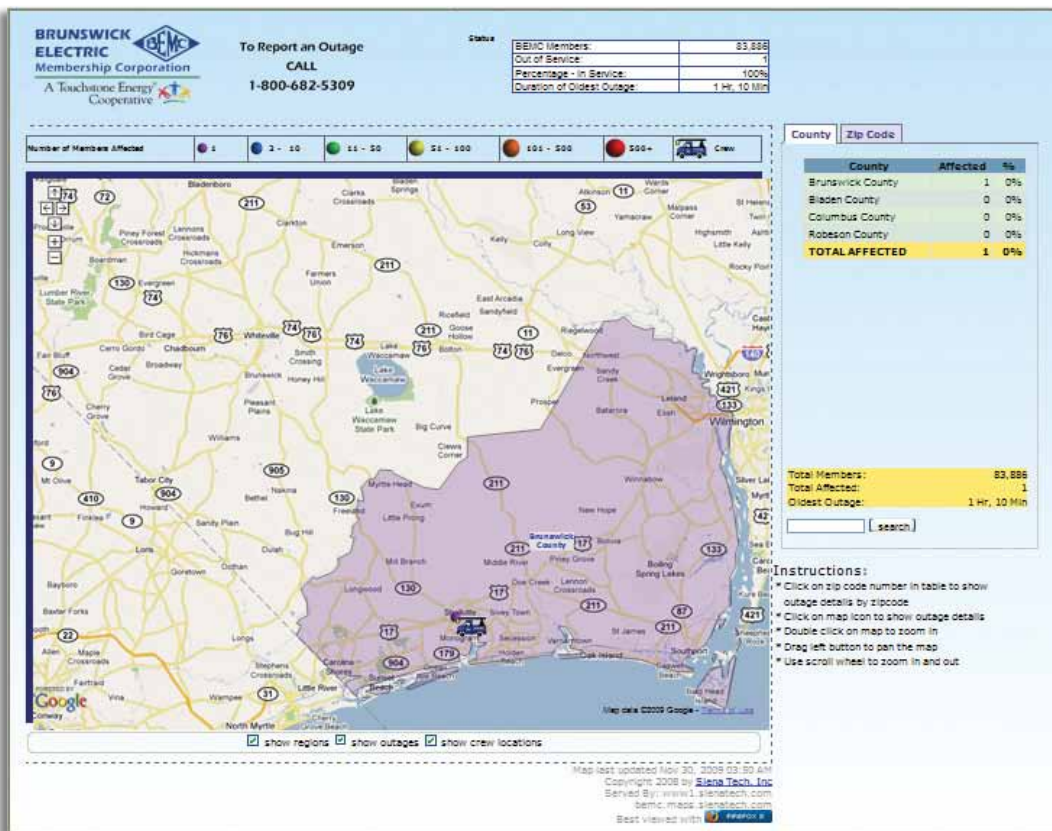
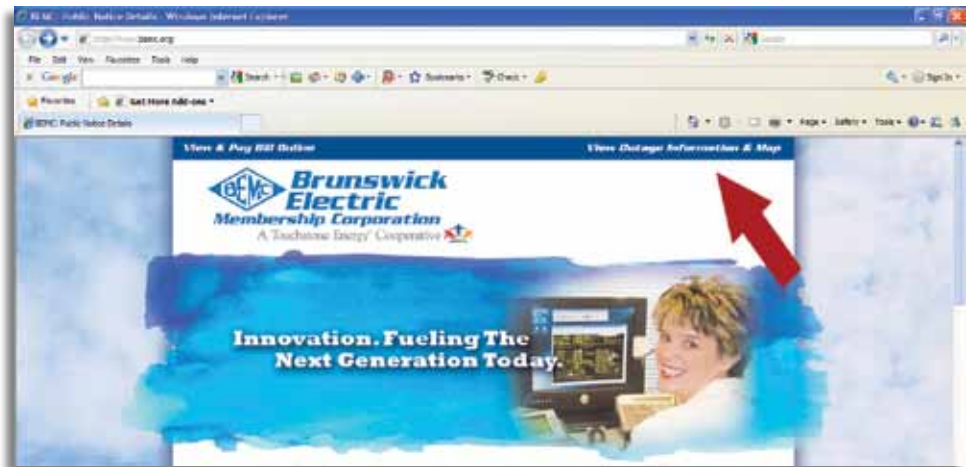
Robert W. Leavitt, Jr., and Brad Furr (GM, Albemarle EMC) presented more than 10,500 postcards from NC co-op members to Perrin Cooke, energy issues staffer for Senator Kay Hagan.

Get Real-time Outage Information at www.bemc.org!

Ever wondered if an outage at your home or business is an isolated incident or widespread? Want to know if a repair crew is working on it?

Now you can find out quickly if you can access the Internet with a computer on battery power or even a cell phone!

On any page at www.bemc.org, simply click on "View Outage Information and Map" in the top right corner. (or the link on the Storm Center page.)



A new page opens up with a map of the entire BEMC service area...detailing outages, if any, anywhere in the system.

At the top of the page is a summary of total services, total affected by the outage and the duration of the longest outage.

This is real-time information, as it is tied directly to our Outage Management System and is updated every 3 minutes or less.

The map even shows a truck icon when a crew has arrived at an outage location.

This is technology at its best, working for you, working to keep you informed.

2009 Annual Membership Meeting Report

At the 70th Annual Meeting of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation on Saturday, September 19, the following were re-elected to serve another three-year term on the BEMC Board of Directors:

District 7	Hubert Brittain	Winnabow, Bolivia area
District 9	Bryan Smith	Sunset Beach, Calabash, Longwood, Thomasboro area
District 10	Calvin Duncan	Evergreen, Oakdale, Western Prong area
District 11	Monroe Enzor	Cerro Gordo, Tabor City area

A record-breaking crowd of well over 3,000 enjoyed a comfortable sunny day of activities, a model railroad display, auction, arts & crafts, health fair, entertainment, food, fellowship and learning about this year's Warm Homes, Warm Hearts program. At the business meeting, CEO Robert W. Leavitt Jr updated the members on the importance of working together to Find A Balanced Solution to the country's energy needs. Rich Milhaven of Sunset Beach won the grand prize of \$500 at the conclusion of the meeting, with several other members winning \$100-\$250.

In the Community

Community Grants Applications Due Feb. 15, 2010



Each year since 2002, BEMC has granted funds to help local agencies and groups with their community programs. Prior year grants have contributed to the quality of life in our area with a broad range of programs from safety equipment, social services like food banks, medical and counseling services, senior citizen services and facilities, nature and environmental programs, to literacy projects, youth programs, economic development activities, arts and cultural programs and more.

We consider programs that provide a range of educational, social, cultural and economic development services to citizens in the BEMC service area. We realize that the need is even greater this year and anticipate many requests for funding.

The BEMC Community Grants program makes grants up to \$2,500. The grants are made to organizations, not individuals, and range from \$500-\$2500. In the first seven years, nearly \$170,000 has been put to work in our communities.

Stop by any BEMC office and pick up a grant application package or download it from the website: www.bemc.org—click on the Community Services page. There are both MS Word documents and Adobe Reader PDF files available.

"Project Backpack" Update- \$500 Grant in 2009

Sandra Nobles of the Chadbourn Evening ECA Club waited for the tax-free weekend to get the most value.

RESULTS: 59 School backpacks purchased and distributed to students at local shelters and Chadbourn Primary and Middle Schools.

In a note from Families First, Inc., Exec. Director Vickie Pait said, "Thank you for taking the initiative to work on getting these bags for our children.

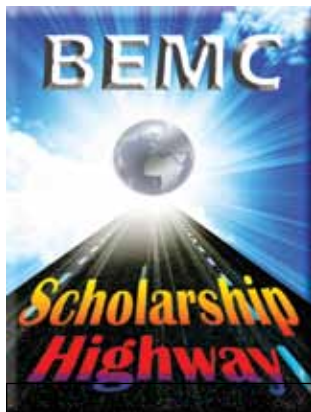


Vickie Pait & Sandra Nobles

There are so many that cannot afford one and the children feel much more confident if they are like everyone else. The children at our shelter were very appreciative and were excited to get them."

That's a big impact for a small grant!

Applications accepted between Jan. 15 & Feb. 15, 2010—Awards will be announced in March.



How to Apply:

See the Guidance Counselor at your high school for an application package, or download it at www.bemc.org **Community Programs /Scholarship** Applications must be submitted through your Guidance Counselor.

**DEADLINE:
MARCH 31, 2010**

The 2010 BEMC College Scholarship Program

In 2010 Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) will again award two (2) scholarships of \$5,000 each to high school seniors, one from Brunswick County and one from Columbus County.

The scholarship awards are based on a combination of academic achievement, participation in community or school-related activities, SAT scores, letters of reference and submission of a 1,500 word essay on:

"RENEWABLE ENERGY: THE REALITIES"

The scholarships are open to all high school seniors meeting the following criteria:

1. must be a U.S. Citizen;
2. attend a high school located in Brunswick or Columbus County;
3. live in a residence receiving electric service from BEMC;
4. must be the dependent of a BEMC member with a permanent primary residence that currently receives electric service from BEMC;
5. have been accepted at an accredited 2-yr community college, 4-yr college, or vocational/technical school for full-time status of 12 or more credit hours;
6. and plan to start school in Fall 2010.

The scholarship program is an extension of BEMC's commitment to education. Along with our Bright Ideas educational grants to teachers, specialized teaching materials like "Get Charged" and "Super Energy Savers"; this provides help for students going beyond high school.

Last year's winners are Brianna Clifton of Whiteville, attending UNC-Wilmington, and Jason Graffius of Leland, attending North Carolina State University.



Bright Ideas Grant Winners for the 2009/2010 School Year Honored at Luncheon

With a record number of applications submitted, this year's selection process was extremely challenging. The array of creative teaching ideas showed the great needs in our schools.

On November 12, a happy group of teachers, principals and Superintendents Dr. Katie McGee, Brunswick County and Dan Strickland, Columbus County joined the BEMC board of directors at a special luncheon honoring this year's recipients of Bright Ideas educational grants. BEMC awarded \$33,914 in grant

checks to teachers from Brunswick and Columbus Counties.

Since BEMC started the Bright Ideas educational grant program in the 1990's, we've awarded local teachers with more than \$330,000 for their creative teaching ideas. Across NC, the electric co-ops have topped \$7 million dollars in grants, impacting over one million students participating in more than 5,900 projects.



DAVID EVERETT, Bellville Elementary School

–You're One Click Away–Utilize eInstruction Classroom Performance System (CPS)

CHRISTINE SCHRODE, Brunswick County Early College High School

–Action, Roll-um, Math Take One–Create videos of math concepts

APRIL TRULL, Bolivia Elementary School

–Worms Alive–Construct and maintain a free-standing soil station.

SARAH PAPE, Cedar Grove Middle School

–Outdoor Art Room–Create art from nature.

LEIGH POPE, J.M. Monroe Elementary School

–A World of Languages–Introduce languages through Rosetta Stone Learning Kits.

KIRSTI MEADOR, Leland Middle School

–Flocabulary–Utilize lyrics and music to improve student vocabulary.

LEEROY HANNA, LTR (Ret.), North Brunswick High School

–JROTC College Credit–Provide tuition assistance for college credit through JROTC Curriculum.

KAREN ATKINSON, Shallotte Middle School

–Technology Outfitters–Diversify classroom instruction with an ActivBoard.

PATRICIA LYLES, South Brunswick High School

–Cats on Wheels–Provide new pottery wheels for hands-on learning.

ANGELA PARROW, Southport Elementary School

–GeoCaching–Explore latitude and longitude with handheld GPS systems.

MEMORY KINDLE DAVIS, Supply Elementary School

–Art Rocks! Larger than Life Rock Garden–Cultivate artificial pond to learn animal life cycles.

NANCY BRYANT, Supply Elementary School

–Building Our Futures–Workshops to learn about electricity.

DAWN LONG-MILLER, Union Elementary School

–Go Ahead and Play Away!–Library books on Playaway digital audiobooks.

SUSAN BARRETT BROWN, Waccamaw Elementary

–Passageways to the Past–Students will visit historical sites via electronic field trips.

ANNETTE HARTON, West Brunswick High School

–Bringing the World of Music to West Brunswick–Choral students will view Internet and music software performances on a flat screen television.

NEALA LANE HARDIE, Acme Delco Elementary School

–Energy Around Us–Students learn about Energy; its components, usage and conservation.

RACHEL SMITH, Cerro Gordo Elementary School

–Reading, Writing and Blogging!–Create blogs with MP3 players and microphones.

SHERYL BAUER, Chadbourn Elementary School

–WhisperPhone Reading–Students build fluency skills with hands-free headsets.

DOROTHY CHESTNUT, East Columbus High School

–Enhancing Student Learning with Interwrite Pads–Interactive teaching with Interwrite Pads.

SHERRY JORDAN, East Columbus High School

–21ST Century Classroom–Interactive classroom learning through digital equipment.

STEPHANIE SELLERS, Guideway Elementary School

–Connect with Net Books–Communicate wirelessly within the classroom.

STEPHANIE SELLERS, Guideway Elementary School

–Get Moving! Get Fit!–Improve physical fitness with Wii Fit.

DELIA ROBINSON, Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary School

–Powerful Attraction–Experience magnetism, electric currents and electromagnetism through hands-on exploration.

JULIE SELLERS, Nakina Middle School

–Now Hear This!–Promote literacy through technology in a multi-sensory listening center.

DIANE GORE, Old Dock Elementary School

–In the Beginning–Creation of a school science lab.

TANYA MARTINEZ, South Columbus High School

–Algebra I Classroom Jeopardy–Enhance curriculum with an interactive mathematics game.

DENNIS WILLIAMSON, Waccamaw Academy

–Solving the Mystery with Science–Teach students science by using hands-on materials.

PAMELA SUTTON-MCCULLEN, Whiteville Primary School

–Getting SMART–Impact instruction with SMART boards

Choosing and Using a Space Heater

Space heaters are generally good at warming a room, plus they're small and versatile. But can you believe the claims of some manufacturers that they can significantly lower your heating bill? Let's look at the true output and ultimate heating cost of these heaters, as well as some safety issues.

First, space heaters work best as a supplement to a heat pump system or furnace. They are rarely used as a primary heat source. There are three types of portable electric heaters that can be purchased in the range of \$30 to \$100.

1. Radiant Heaters are easily recognized by their glowing red heating elements and shiny mirrored reflector behind the coils. These heaters do not heat the air in the room, but rather send warmth directly to objects or people.



They can be a good choice if you are in a room for a short period of time and want instant heat. However, they can pose a burn or fire risk and should not be placed near furniture, draperies, pets or small children.

2. Convection Heaters are designed to heat the air—not people or objects, in a room. Hot air from the heater rises to the ceiling and forces cooler air to the floor, where it is then warmed by the heater, and again rises. The cycle is repeated as long as the heater is on.

These heaters are typically either baseboard-style or oil- or water-filled units. The oil- or water-filled units are the most efficient and typically look like a small radiator.

Convection heaters are generally warm to the touch and compared to a radiant heater, have a decreased fire and burn risk. They are generally a good choice if you want to heat a whole room.

3. Combination Heaters try to bring the best of both radiant and convection heaters together and often have a fan to help distribute air throughout the room.

However they typically do not perform as well as either the radiant or convection heater.

Are they energy-efficient?

All portable electric space heaters produce 100 percent efficiency due to the amount of heat coming out equaling the amount of electricity going in.

Space heaters may reduce your bill, but only if you're willing to turn down your whole house thermostat. (as low as 50 degrees in some cases) By using a strategy called "zonal heating," once the central thermostat is lowered, a space heater is placed in an occupied room

to increase the comfort level. The effectiveness of this however, depends on the home's design such as an open floor plan which can be difficult to divide or close off certain areas.

Will You Save Money?

It is relatively easy to calculate the expense of operating a space heater. For example, a 1500 watt unit running for **one hour** at the BEMC residential rate of 9.69 cents per kWh will cost 14.5 cents. While this does not seem like a lot of money, if you apply this amount over a **24 hour** period, the operating cost rises to \$3.49. Over a **one month** period, that amounts to nearly \$105.

The bottom line is that for a short period of time, space heaters can make a small area comfortable, but you need to be careful how much they are used and where they are located. Consumers also need to figure how long it will take to recoup the purchase price of the heater.

It doesn't matter where you buy an electric space heater; they all exert the same amount of heat and consume the same amount of energy. In other words, a 1500 watt infrared heater, priced at \$400 would produce the same amount of warmth as a 1500 watt heater costing \$40 at your local hardware store because 'a watt is a watt'.

Alternatives: Space heaters have their place in warming a house, but they simply cannot replace energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements to the home. Stopping energy leaks by using caulk, insulation, weatherstripping or even installing energy efficient windows would likely be a better alternative to reducing your energy consumption.

And the next time an advertisement that appears "too good to be true" arrives in the mailbox, know that it probably is.

Safety Considerations:

- ▶ Make sure your circuit can handle the added load and that your fuses or breakers are properly sized.
- ▶ Avoid using extension cords.
- ▶ Look for heaters that have an automatic shut-off device when the unit overheats and a tip-over switch which disables operation when the heater falls on its side.
- ▶ Finally, buy only Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) approved heaters. Units with this designation meet voluntary safety standards.

Energy Saving Made Easy



Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives have a great new website all about what you can do to save energy at home.

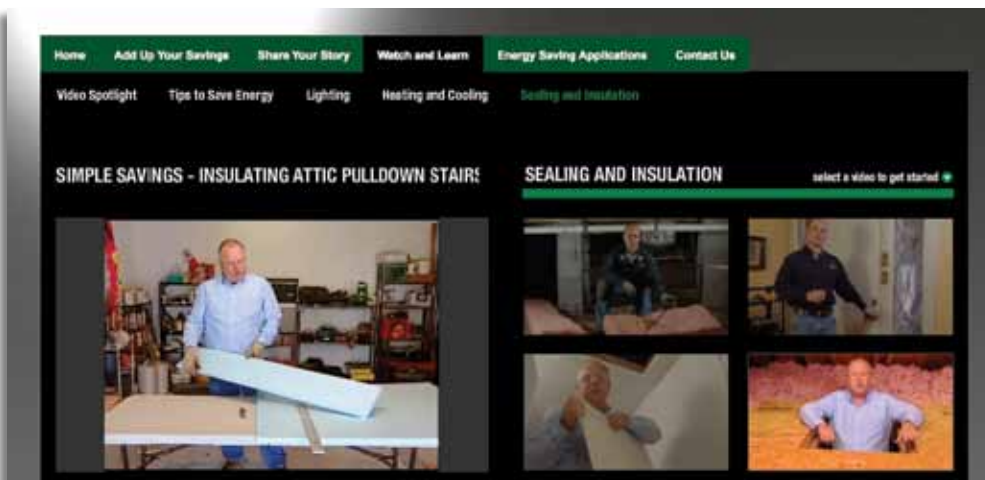
You've probably seen the ads on TV...it's time to take action! WWW.TOGETHERWESAVE.COM is designed to make it easy for you to make changes and make a difference.

It's a great interactive experience for anyone wanting to learn more about making their home more energy efficient. The site takes you through room-by-room and shows how you can save money and energy all around the house. There's lots of very specific instruction and practical "how-to" resources.



▶ See how the savings can add up room-by-room as you choose energy-saving options.

There's detailed information about each option...



▶ ...and "How-to" videos that show you step-by-step just how to do the projects yourself.

We also urge you to visit the **ENERGY SAVERS** page at www.bemc.org or ask for more information at any BEMC office. We are here to help you!

BEMC Weatherization Loan Funds Available

Starting January 1, BEMC once again has funds available for making Low-Interest Weatherization Loans to our members. This popular loan program has helped countless members with loans totaling over \$6.6 million since it began in 1989. In 2009 alone, we made 154 weatherization loans.

Loans are available to any BEMC member who owns an existing home served by the co-op and that receives a monthly electric bill. All applicants must have had service with BEMC for at least one year and have established a good credit history with BEMC.

Funds can be used to pay cost and labor for caulking, weatherstripping, electric heat pumps, water heater (traditional or solar), ceiling, wall or floor insulation and storm windows and doors.

Visit www.bemc.org or call 1-800-842-5871 for more information and an application.

Interested in an Email Version of this Newsletter? Sign up at www.bemc.org.

For the first time, we have provided this issue of our newsletter in an email version to members who have signed up for email delivery. If you'd like to get the next issue of Member Matters newsletter or other important communications from BEMC by email, just let us know. To sign up, please go to www.bemc.org, and send us your current email address, your name and your account number(s) or BEMC service address.

Warm Homes, Warm Hearts Campaign News!

Brunswick EMC is pleased to welcome PLANET FUN of Shallotte as our first charitable partner for the Warm Homes, Warm Hearts community heating assistance program! By special arrangement, Planet Fun will donate 10% of the proceeds when BEMC members purchase a Planet Fun Center FUN CARD using a special coupon. The coupon offers a great deal on family fun...pay \$10 and get a \$20 FUN CARD - good for play or in the Starz Grille.

Planet Fun offers entertainment for the whole family...32 Bowling Lanes, Laser Tag, Arcade Games, Cosmic Mini-Golf, Soft Playground and more...PLUS a full-service restaurant offering great food, adult beverages and really BIG TVs. Whenever you re-load the FUN CARD, another donation will be made to the Warm Homes, Warm Hearts campaign.

Planet Fun is located at 349 Whiteville Road in Shallotte. **910-755-2FUN**—www.planetfuncenter.com. Be sure to bring your coupon and mention Warm Homes, Warm Hearts when you buy or re-load your FUN CARD.

Present this coupon when you buy your Planet Fun FUN CARD and Planet Fun will donate 10% of the proceeds to the "Warm Homes, Warm Hearts" community heating assistance program. Have fun and help keep your neighbors warm this winter! Every time you add to the card, you'll be helping someone.

Fun for the whole family with 32 Bowling Lanes
Laser Tag - Cosmic Mini-Golf - Arcade - Soft Playground - Party Rooms
Open Mon-Thurs: 9 am - 11 pm ■ Sat: 9 am - 2 am ■ Sun: 9 am - 11 pm

Starz GRILLE A full service restaurant with everything from wings to steak!
Open for lunch, dinner & late night

349 Whiteville Rd, Shallotte
910-755-2FUN
www.planetfuncenter.com

BRUNSWICK EMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

Your elected board represents every part of our service area, serving as the voice of all BEMC members. We welcome you to contact any board member by calling 800-842-5871, or send a regular letter or an email to info@bemc.org with the director's name in the subject line.

Board Member

Hubert Brittain
Calvin Duncan
Bryan Smith
John R. Kopp
Frederick A. Tedder
Monroe Enzor, Jr.
John Ward

Position

President
Sec./Treas
Director
Director
Director
Director
Director

Board Member

JoAnn Simmons
M.C. Herring
David L. Gore
Emery Smith
Jack Miller
Phillip Cheers
Robert W. Leavitt, Jr.
Dennis Worley

Position

Vice President
Asst. Sec./Treas
Director
Director
Director
Director
CEO
Attorney