

Member Matters

DECEMBER 2017

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

What's important to you is important to us at BEMC. Like, reliable electricity that keeps your home comfortable and powers so many things in your daily life. Saving money by finding ways to be more energy efficient and lower your energy bill. Being a good neighbor and making our community an even better place to live.

That's why in this magazine each month we feature energy efficiency articles and tips, and why we use special publications and social media to tell you about tools like SmartHub that give you more control over your energy use. It's why your cooperative makes low-interest energy efficiency loans to members for things like a new electric heat pump, insulation and duct repair & replacement. It's also why we work tirelessly to keep rates stable. Because we're member-owned, we listen to your needs.

Brunswick Electric also works for the sustainable development of our communities through grant and community programs that directly affect our members. An example of these efforts that has shown to make a real difference in peoples' lives is our Warm Homes, Warm Hearts community heating assistance program. It is your generous contributions that make this simple program the success that it has become. Since 2008 nearly \$816,000 has been raised through donations from our members, co-op employees, and BEMC's \$50,000 yearly matching contribution. Our partnering agencies, the Columbus County Department of Aging and Brunswick Family Assistance, distribute these funds to members according to need. We are continually impressed by your generosity as we see donations come pouring

in from individuals, businesses and organizations. Together, we are making a difference.

Your fellow members, including myself, here at BEMC are grateful to live, work, and be a part of communities throughout Brunswick Electric's nearly 1,500-square-mile service territory. At our district offices, and in every community we serve, we see first-hand the effectiveness of teamwork and looking out for one another. The golden rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you, has been around a long time and we believe it's a good one. That rule connects all of us to our friends and neighbors, and Brunswick Electric values the power of connections. Beyond connecting lines and poles, meters and AMI systems, we make it our priority to connect with those we serve. On behalf of our board of directors, staff, management and employees, BEMC wishes you a safe and happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous 2018.



Don Hughes

Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager

You & your community

Brunswick Electric is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit cooperative and as such, operates under seven key principles that guide how we do business. One of those key principles is Concern for Community, and we demonstrate our concern for our members as a whole, year round through several community-focused programs.



Neighbors helping neighbors

Each year BEMC matches member donations, dollar for dollar up to \$50,000, to help our neighbors in need of heating assistance. Together we have raised almost \$816,000 since 2008 for the Warm Homes, Warm Hearts program and that number continues to grow. The 2018 campaign kicked off during the 2017 BEMC Annual Meeting and our members donated more than \$1,100 that morning for this cause, totaling \$2,200 with BEMC's match.

Please consider joining BEMC's board of directors, employees, and your neighbors in this community effort by making a contribution today. One hundred percent of your donation goes directly to those in need right here in our communities through our partner agencies, Brunswick Family Assistance and Columbus County Department of Aging. Look for a donation envelope in your December electric bill and/or please consider mailing a check made out to Warm Homes, Warm Hearts to BEMC, PO Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459. Please do not include your donation with your bill payment.

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Applications due February 15, 2018

The 2018 Community Grants application period is now open and community groups and local organizations seeking funding for special projects are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$2,500 each.

Since 2003, Brunswick Electric has used the funds raised from the equipment auction at the annual membership meeting to fund worthwhile projects by local organizations and community groups. These grants are awarded for projects in the areas of family services, civic and community programs, cultural and arts programs, emergency services, and economic development. Applications must be submitted online at bemc.org.



Applications due March 15, 2018

Each year Brunswick Electric awards two graduating high school seniors with a \$5,000 college scholarship. One student will be selected from Brunswick County and one will be selected from the Columbus County area. Scholarship recipients will be selected 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.

Applications are available in school guidance counselors' offices across our service territory and online at bemc.org. Applications must be submitted through your student's guidance counselor's office.



Bright Ideas 2017 Winners

Congratulations to BEMC's 2017 Bright Ideas grant recipients! This year, a total of \$33,204 was distributed to 26 teachers for special projects in Brunswick and Columbus county schools.

Since 1994 the Bright Ideas program has given almost \$11 million to teachers across the state for special projects that may not have been funded otherwise.



RECIPIENT	SCHOOL	PROJECT
Debby Johnson	Bolivia Elementary	The Bear Paw Store
Elizabeth Schmidt	Bolivia Elementary	Focusing on Leadership Through a Lens
Elizabeth Jones	Brunswick County Academy	Robotics
Kathrine Weeks	Brunswick County ECHS	Pen Pals Design Challenge
Kayla Canipe	Cerro Gordo Elementary	Open My World Through Technology
Janell Barnhill	Chadbourn Elementary	Reaching for the STARS
Fred Mason Jr.	Columbus Career & College Academy	Technology for Brickology
Kalee Hill	Edgewood Elementary	Best Selling Bilingual Books
Erica Jackson	Evergreen Elementary	I Learn with iPads
Angela Tyler	Guideway Elementary	Creating and Playing while Learning Science
Rod Gore	Guideway Elementary	Renewable Resources
Veronica Graham	Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary	Science in Action
Ashley Cartrette	Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary	Building Better Readers
Amy Hobbs	Leland Middle	Microscopy
Carla Stewart	Nakina Middle	Financial Literacy, What's In Your Wallet?
Georganna Council	Old Dock Elementary	Project Pro-ject
Stacie Mann	Shallotte Middle	Can You Hear Me Now?
Daniel Corbett	South Brunswick High	JROTC First Aid Training
Claire Herrington	Southport Elementary	Tower Gardens
Miranda Lombardi	Supply Elementary	Building Strong Readers
Jessica Levasa	Supply Elementary	Readers Gonna Read
Jeffrey Brown	Tabor City Elementary	From Farm to Table: A Recipe for Good Health
Polly Westfall	Union Elementary	4th Graders Learning Economic Principles
Katie Watson	Virginia Williamson Elementary	Positive Behavior Support
Dawn Strickland	Whiteville High	Heroes and History
Charity Worley	Williams Township Elementary	Aggies Digging for Nature



BEMC director Larry Fowler presented Guideway Elementary teachers Rod Gore and Angela Tyler with their Bright Ideas 2017 grants.



Students from Mr. Gore and Ms. Tyler's classes at Guideway Elementary were excited to learn about their teachers' Bright Ideas grants from Brunswick Electric.

Watts For Sale

Men's London Fog raincoat, tan, zip out liner, size 40R, nearly new, \$125 OBO; 828-507-1380

Lot, Beaver Creek, Southport, intercoastal views, amenities, \$125,000; 914-417-8226

Gibson oak ice box, early 1900s, 48"x 33"x20", used as liquor cabinet, conversation piece, \$225; 457-9990

2004 23' Sea Pro, great condition; 704-614-9573

Oak table w/four chairs, good condition, \$100; 579-4251

Hand-crafted wood Santa Claus holding a Nativity flag, 36"x30"x8", \$110; 713-8523

Twin bed, wrought iron, excellent condition, \$60; recliner, nautical print, \$60; 408-8243

Ferguson 35 tractor, 3 point hitch, 6' blade, \$2,500; 253-8156

Troy-Bilt Chipper Shredder Vacuum, 8 HP, electric start, 3 speed & reverse, vac hose kit, manuals, new battery, light use, \$550 OBO; 575-1047

VIZIO 40" 2.1 sound bar, like new, paid \$100, asking \$50; 575-3862

Lot, Tidewater, Ocean Isle, brick streets, HOA \$595/year, includes water/sewer, very close to Shallotte River, fishing dock, \$29,995; 919-819-7018

Piano, Kohler & Campbell, matching bench, pecan wood, light, sheet music, \$400; 371-2017

Computer desk w/hutch, \$50; 842-5084

Oak Island property, ocean front lot, \$250,000; 2nd row house, \$250,000; may be purchased separately; 540-0188

Collection of music CDs, #150, variety for all ages, \$150; 540-8000

Dimpled floor mats for use over carpets, (3) 44"x60," heavy duty, used 3 months, \$40 ea. or \$100 all 3; 575-6080

Pecans, \$1 per pound, \$12 shelled in quart freezer bag; 654-1266

Massage table, cart, warmer, stones and heater; 575-3433



All BEMC offices will be closed
Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, 2017, for Christmas and
Monday, January 1, 2018, for New Year's.

BEMC is an equal opportunity employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN AD: Ads must be received via email or fax no later than the first of each month. Ads will then appear in the following month's publication due to the printing schedule. Example: If ad is received by December 1, it will appear in the January issue of Carolina Country magazine. This is a free service for BEMC members to advertise non-commercial items for sale. Ads run ONE TIME, are limited to three lines, and only one phone number. We reserve the right to edit or refuse ads due to content, length or AVAILABLE SPACE. Please no email addresses, names or repeat ads. All numbers are 910 area code unless otherwise listed. Some mobile providers require 10-digit dialing. BEMC does not endorse items advertised and is not responsible for reliability of items.

E-MAIL: watts4sale@bemc.org **MAIL:** BEMC, Attn: Watts For Sale, PO Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459. **FAX:** (910) 755-4299



CUSTOMER SERVICE (800)842-5871 | OUTAGE REPORTING (800)682-5309

Shallotte (910)754-4391 | Southport / Oak Island (910)457-9808 | Whiteville (910)642-5011

P.O. Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459

www.bemc.org | email: newsletter@bemc.org | Auto bill payment 24/7 (866)934-6830



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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