



March 2022

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®*

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

## Co-op Mourns Loss of Director

Albemarle EMC mourned the recent passing of Director Aubrey Tynch.



A co-op member since 1976, Tynch was first appointed to the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors in 2019. Prior to that, he served as a volunteer for several years on the co-op's Albemarle Community Trust, which awards grants to local organizations that benefit the community at large. Tynch also voluntarily served numerous times on the co-op's Nominating Committee as well as the Credentials and Elections Committee.

He grew up on Albemarle EMC lines and credited *Carolina Country* magazine for his career choice to become an electrician. He received his electrical license in 1978 and worked as an electrician for the Perquimans County school system. Prior to that, he worked 36 years as a facility services manager for Vidant-Chowan Hospitals, from which he retired.

Albemarle EMC President John Spence honored Tynch's service, saying the following: "Aubrey embodied the cooperative principle of commitment to the community. He was very conscientious of his responsibility as a director. Always striving to be better educated about the issues facing the cooperative, Aubrey took the initiative to enroll in the course studies offered by NRECA. He attained his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, a set of five courses that focuses on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of a director within his first year as a director. He continued his studies by recently completing the second part of the director education program, the Board Leadership Certificate which focused in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. He was constantly striving to improve. It was exciting to see his interest in AEMC and his growth as a director. Our community has lost a humble and dedicated servant, and AEMC has lost a valuable asset in the passing of Aubrey Tynch. His presence in the boardroom will be greatly missed."

## Work Continues on Bethel Substation Lines

Albemarle EMC contract crews have been installing utility poles and lines that will extend from the future Bethel Substation.

The Bethel Substation will be located across the street from Bethel Baptist Church, on Burnt Mill Road, in Perquimans County. The substation will be equipped with a 25-megawatt transformer that steps the voltage down from 34.5 kilovolts to 13.2 kilovolts.

Much of the work this year will involve extending lines from the site of the future Bethel Substation to the areas it will supply power. Also, concrete pads for the substations's transformers will be poured. The Bethel Substation should be completed in 2022. The Bethel Substation will remove load from the Edenton Substation as well as replace the entire Burgess Substation, which has reached capacity.

The Bethel Substation will be fed by the cooperative's West Albemarle Substation, which was completed in 2021. The West Albemarle Substation is the hub of the western part of the co-op's service territory. Equipped with two, 40 megavolt-amp transformers, the substation is a transfer facility that also feeds the existing Edenton Substation.



*An Albemarle EMC contractor works on a newly installed utility pole in Perquimans County. The taller, more substantial poles are needed to hold the larger power lines that will extend from the future Bethel Substation.*

# Rates Updated

Albemarle EMC recently approved changes to two rates and the addition of two new rates.

The co-op added the Residential Net Metering Service rate. This schedule is voluntarily applicable to all co-op members' residential dwellings where renewable generation is connected on the customer side of the meter. The renewable generation will work in parallel with the cooperative's electric system and be designed to offset a portion or all of the consumer's electrical requirements normally supplied by the cooperative.

Consumers who choose this rate will pay 27.6 cents per kWh (kilowatt hour) on peak and 7.43 cents per kWh off peak. Facilities charges will be \$49 per month for single phase and \$76 per month for three-phase.

The current Residential Time of Day Rate will remain the same, with the exception of off-peak-hour charges which will increase to 7.43 cents per kWh.

The Qualifying Facilities Purchased Power rate was changed to an energy credit of 2.71 cents per kWh for all power

produced by a qualifying facility, with a \$3.75 monthly facilities charge.

The co-op also added the Electric Vehicle Rider. This rider is available voluntarily to any member who owns or leases a plug-in electric vehicle and is served under the Residential Time-of-Day Service – Energy Only, or the Residential Net Metering Service rates. All energy used between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. will cost 5.43 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) to encourage charging electric vehicles off peak. Costs to charge at all other times will fall under the normal on- and off-peak rates. For on- and off-peak rates, days and times, please see our rate schedule, located at [www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop), under the Documents drop-down menu.

"These rates are a result of an extensive study conducted by a third-party consulting firm hired by the cooperative," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. "We believe these rates are fair and will work well to maintain the financial health of Albemarle EMC."

# Linemen Practice Pole Top Rescue



*Albemarle EMC Lineman Apprentice Chase Perry simulates giving CPR to a practice dummy. The co-op's linemen recently participated in their annual pole top rescue training and bucket rescue training. The training simulates rescuing an injured lineman from the top of a utility pole as well as from a line truck bucket.*

# Co-op Celebrates 3,000 Days Without Serious Injury



*Lineman Apprentices Cody Stokely (left) and Chase Perry learn how to safely hang a transformer on the co-op's training pole, using block and tackle. The training power line is never energized and is located behind the co-op.*

Albemarle EMC employees recently celebrated reaching 3,000 days without a lost time accident.

A lost time accident occurs when an employee must miss at least one day of work to recover from a work-related injury. Co-op employees have not had a lost time accident since 2013!

The cooperative puts considerable emphasis behind creating a culture of safety, said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.

"We put a lot of effort into the promotion of safe work practices," Ray said. "Our linemen conduct tailgate meetings every morning before work begins to discuss the safety and details of each job scheduled that day. We also have regular training programs; our co-op receives a safety accreditation inspection every three years and we do much more."

A safe work environment improves morale, enhances productivity and reduces costs to the cooperative. For reaching the 3,000-day milestone, Albemarle EMC employees were treated to a luncheon.

# NEAAAT Receives ACT Grant



*The Northeast Academy for Aerospace & Advanced Technologies students work on STEM projects. NEAAAT was recently approved for a \$5,000 grant from the Albemarle Community Trust. The funds will be used to purchase supplies for community STEM initiatives.*



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



## How to Hire an HVAC Contractor

Your heating and air system is likely the largest consumer of electricity in your house. It is vital that it runs correctly and as efficiently as possible. Often the colder months will reveal when heat pumps need repair or replacement. Heat pumps use the same system to heat as well as cool, so it is a good idea to ensure they are operating properly before the hot summer months arrive.

As a person who helps members with energy efficiency questions, I am often asked if I can recommend a quality Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractor. Albemarle EMC's policy is we do not recommend particular contractors to members, and for good reason. We prefer to stay out of potential disputes between homeowners and contractors. Instead, we encourage members to learn how to vet HVAC contractors themselves, so they can determine who the best possible candidate is for their job. Below is a list of actions a quality HVAC contractor should be able to perform, prior to being awarded a job.

### A quality HVAC contractor should:

- Perform an on-site inspection and provide a detailed bid in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate to you that they have the proper licenses and insurance to repair and/or install heating and cooling equipment.
- Be able to provide their certification for handling refrigerant, which has been required by law since 1992.



*Hiring a quality HVAC repair person is essential to keeping your unit operating properly.*

- Provide examples of quality installation of energy-efficient heating and/or cooling systems, with the names of customers that you can contact.
- Show you a layout of where the equipment is going to be installed, such as ductwork and heating and air system.
- Determine the size of your new equipment using ACCA/ANSI Manual J or an equivalent sizing calculation tool.
- Inspect and repair your existing duct system before installing new mechanical equipment.
- Explain the warranty on equipment, parts and labor.
- Clearly explain the benefits of regular maintenance and help you set up a schedule to keep your system operating at its best.
- List, in detail, all the work that is being contracted.
- Specify all products by quantity, name, model number and energy ratings.
- State the scheduled start and completion date.
- Describe how disputes will be resolved.
- Determine paperwork and permits needed.
- Both you and your contractor should sign a written proposal before work begins.

If a contractor can satisfy the majority of these requirements, odds are they are the right person for the job. Also, by demonstrating that you have done your homework, the contractor will know that you are a customer who appreciates quality work and will likely give them good referrals.