



April 2020

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## Record-Breaking Capital Credit Refund Approved

The Albemarle EMC Board of Directors has approved the largest capital credit refund in the history of the co-op.

In an effort to reach the members that have been with us the longest as well as those that are among the newest, the cooperative returned 100% of the remaining margins from 1994, 40% of the margins allocated in 1995 and 4 percent of the margins allocated in 2018, totaling \$606,525.92.

If you were a member of Albemarle EMC during these years, you will receive your capital credits refund in April in the form of a credit on your electric bill. If a member has several accounts, the capital credit system added them together, with

the credit posting only on one account. Anyone who received power during the years shown, but is no longer an active member will receive their refund by check. This is why it is so important for you to give us a good forwarding address when you move off our lines.

Capital credits are year-end margins earned by your cooperative, which are allocated to members based on usage.

“For the second year in a row, your cooperative will refund the most capital credits in our history,” said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. “This is a big part of what it means to be an electric cooperative member.”

## Albemarle Sounds

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[www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop)

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1-800-274-2072  
24-hour payments:  
(252) 426-4419

*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity  
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## Co-op Adds Charging Station



AEMC recently had its first electric vehicle charging station installed at the Hampton Inn, in Edenton.

All of the purchase cost of the charging

station and most of the installation costs were paid for by a grant from the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation. Visitors to the hotel will be able to charge their vehicles and pay Albemarle EMC using a credit card payment app at the charging station. The station can charge two vehicles simultaneously. Driver

phone support is available 24 hours a day.

“This will help tourism in our area by providing travelers with electric vehicles the means to charge their cars while visiting,” said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC.

## Closed for Easter

**Albemarle EMC will  
be closed Friday,  
April 10 for Good  
Friday. Happy Easter!**

# April 13 is Lineman Appreciation Day

On Monday, April 13, Albemarle EMC will join other electric cooperatives across our state and nation to celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day, an annual tribute to the outstanding contributions of our linemen.

“North Carolina has been hit hard by hurricanes and storms in recent years, and our linemen have gone above and beyond to serve our members,” said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. “They work in extremely challenging conditions to provide the power we all depend on, and we’re proud to honor their skill, dedication and expertise.”

In addition to serving their own

communities, linemen are also called on to aid others in times of great need. This commitment of “cooperation among cooperatives” is one of the principles that sets electric cooperatives apart and demonstrates the true strength of our national cooperative network.



*Lineman Ken Winslow connects a transformer at a new service.*

While Albemarle EMC appreciates the work of our linemen every day, the second Monday in April is set aside each year to thank them and give them much-deserved recognition.

Please help us thank our linemen for all they do using the hashtag #ThankALineworker!

# Student/Athlete Recognized



Elizabeth City Middle School student Emma Bailey was recently recognized at a North Carolina State University Wolfpack Women’s basketball game for receiving a 2019 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship from Albemarle EMC.

Emma, who is in 7th grade, was featured on the court at Reynolds Coliseum alongside scholarship recipients from other North Carolina electric cooperatives during the February 16 Wolfpack Women’s basketball game against Georgia Tech. Emma attended the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp last summer.

Each year, Albemarle EMC and other electric cooperatives across the state sponsor young women to attend the N.C. State University Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp, and young men to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Campers at both camps work closely with college basketball coaches and camp staff to develop fundamental skills that help them excel both on and off the court.

## Anniversary Celebrated

On Feb. 24, Albemarle EMC celebrated its 75th anniversary of service.

Employees were on hand to serve cake to members in the co-op’s lobby. Members were also encouraged to fill out raffle tickets for \$75 credits to their power bills. Members Lee Tunnell and Venena Key were both winners of the \$75 power bill credits.



*AEMC employee Heather Ashley serves a piece of cake to member Ashley Woodard.*

In September, Albemarle EMC plans to conduct a special Annual Meeting, in recognition of our 75th anniversary year. Details will be shared with the membership as we get closer to the date.

“We are all proud and yet humbled to have the privilege of serving our cooperative’s membership,” said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC.

## ACT Grant Assists Water Rescue

Perquimans County Emergency Management recently received a \$2,000 Albemarle Community Trust grant that will be used to purchase a 5 h.p. Honda outboard motor for their water rescue boat.

Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow said the boat has been used during flooding events to evacuate residents from their homes.

“The boat has been powered by an electric trolling motor, but the battery would not last long enough,” he said.

The Albemarle Community Trust is funded by Albemarle EMC members who contribute voluntarily through their power bills.



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# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

## AEMC is Environmentally Friendly

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

As an avid hunter, I recognized early on the role that power line right of ways play in creating beneficial habitat for wildlife. These right of ways create what wildlife biologists refer to as early successional habitat. Trees are intentionally kept from growing tall in right of ways, which provides ample sunlight for beneficial vegetation such as honeysuckle, blackberries, warm-season grasses and more. Right of ways become akin to a home cooked buffet for deer, turkeys, rabbits, quail and nongame animals. Much of our area's woodlands have been converted to pine plantation that offers very little sustenance for wildlife. Power line right of ways that bisect these large pine plantations provide essential nutrition for wildlife. Did power companies, such as Albemarle EMC, set out to create miles and miles of wildlife habitat? No. The right of ways were created to provide reliable power transmission. Even so, the byproduct of maintaining power line right of ways helps wildlife and provides needed ecological diversity. In my book, that's still worthy of recognition.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 and serves as an annual recognition of the importance of protecting our planet and its resources.

At Albemarle EMC, we are committed to delivering power that is affordable, reliable and low carbon. More than half of our power comes from emissions-free nuclear, and we are increasingly incorporating renewable energy sources and grid-optimizing technologies to take this commitment even further.

As a co-op member, you can help amplify the benefits of electricity by using it as a cleaner, cheaper and smarter alternative to fossil fuels. Appliances, equipment, agricultural and industrial processes, and even your car, can now be powered by electricity, resulting in cost savings, lower emissions and increased productivity and efficiency.

Albemarle EMC recently installed its first electric vehicle charging station at the Hampton Inn, in Edenton (see article, page 25). Electric cooperatives are building a statewide electric vehicle charging network and implementing other innovative initiatives that support increased commerce, tourism and economic development in the communities

we serve. You can learn more about the benefits of driving electric at [ncdriveelectric.com](http://ncdriveelectric.com).

Your co-op also recently switched all member outdoor security lights to high efficiency LED. The new security light is 48 watts and replaces the 100-watt high pressure sodium and the 175-watt mercury vapor security lights.

Albemarle EMC is environmentally minded in several other aspects of its business as well. Several years ago, your cooperative switched all of its older mechanical meters to smart meters that are ready automatically. In addition to being a smart business move, automated meters provide environmental benefits. The technology eliminated the need for meter readers, who used to drive from house to house physically reading each meter. The automated meters also enable members to monitor their electricity usage on an hourly, daily or monthly basis through the cooperative's web portal. The information enables members to spot unusually high usage at their home and more quickly take corrective action. The system also automatically notifies cooperative employees when exceptionally high usage occurs so members can be notified.

Members can have the option of receiving their bills electronically, which reduces the amount of paper products entering the waist-stream. The co-op also offers used utility poles free of charge to the general public. Though no longer satisfactory for utility use, these poles are often good enough for other uses such as construction of pole barns. If these utility poles were not reused, they would be destined for a landfill.

Energy audits are offered to members at no charge. These audits evaluate heating and air systems, water heaters, air leaks around windows and doors, insulation levels and more. Efficient use of power lessens our overall impact on the planet. To schedule an audit, simply call (252) 426-5735.

On Earth Day and every day, we are building a brighter energy future for our members and the communities we serve. Albemarle EMC is committed to protecting the environment, which includes the soil and water from which many of our members make a living. To find out more about our programs and services, visit [www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop) or call 252-426-5735.