



# Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## inside Four County Connection



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### Get the Scoop

#### Independence Day

Four County EMC offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe and happy holiday!



## Voting Procedures for Your Board of Directors Explained

### Save the Date! October 9, 2017—Annual Membership Meeting

The election of four members to the Cooperative's Board of Directors will be held at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The meeting is set for Monday, October 9, at Pender High School Gymnasium in Burgaw.

In accordance with the Four County EMC bylaws, the terms of the following directors will expire this year:

- » **E. Carlton Raynor**  
—East Duplin  
Directorate District;
- » **S. Franklin Williams**  
—West Duplin  
Directorate District;
- » **R.W. Blanchard, Jr.**—East Sampson  
Directorate District
- » **Arlester Fullwood**—  
At-Large.

The bylaws require that the Board of Directors appoint a nominating committee of not less than 10 persons, with the appointments made not less than 45 days, nor more than 90 days before the annual membership meeting. Each of the eight directorate districts will be represented on

the nominating committee by at least one (1), but not more than two (2) persons.

The nominating committee will meet and prepare a list of nominations for directors, listing the nominee or nominees for each directorate district, and post that list at least 30 days before the annual membership meeting.

Further, the bylaws pro-

vide that any 50 or more members, working together, may make additional nominations by filing a petition. The petition must be on Four County EMC provided forms and be presented to the Cooperative at least 30 days prior to the annual membership meeting.

At least 10 days prior to the annual membership meeting, a statement of nominees for each directorate district will be mailed to every member of the Cooperative along with the official notice of the annual meeting.

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As a member, you are part of the co-op and get a vote in how it operates. Save the date for this important event!

## EDUCATORS: Spark Classroom Engagement with a Bright Ideas Grant!

**ATTENTION TEACHERS!**



Submit your Bright Ideas grant application by the early bird deadline of **August 15** and you could win one of five \$100 gift cards!

Begin today at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

What's your Bright Idea? Four County EMC is accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2017–18 school year. Teachers in K–12 classrooms with innovative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Four County EMC is committed to supporting local communities, and last year, your Co-op awarded \$19,860 in Bright Ideas funding directly to local teachers. Since 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$10.9 million in

Bright Ideas grant funding, and well over 2.1 million North Carolina students have participated in approximately 10,400 Bright Ideas projects.

Grant applications will be accepted through September 18. It could pay to apply early: all teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of August 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

Teachers can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [www.NCBrightIdeas.com](http://www.NCBrightIdeas.com).

### Voting Procedures *continued from page 21*

This list of nominees and the official meeting notice will appear on the cover wrap of the October edition of Carolina Country magazine. Please note that you will not receive a separate mailing listing this information; it will appear only on the cover wrap of Carolina Country.

For more information, please feel free to call Four County EMC at 1-888-368-7289.

### Nominating Committee Meeting

The Nominating Committee will meet on Thursday, August 3, to establish a list of nominees for Directors whose terms expire this year. The list will be published on the cover of the October edition of Carolina Country and will be mailed to all members in late September. The nominees will be presented for election at the Annual Membership meeting on Monday, October 9, 2017.

## Congratulations to our 2017 Scholarship Winners! Local Students Receive Youth Leadership Scholarships

Molly Johnson from Topsail High School and Alex McGowen from Pender High School have each received a Youth Leadership Scholarship from Four County EMC.

Molly and Alex are rising seniors and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship each to assist with college expenses once enrolled in the college of their choice.

Both students were chosen from students who attended this year's Youth Leadership Weekend. Students attending the weekend camp were selected by their schools (either through junior class teachers and/or guidance counselors). To be eligible to apply for the Youth Leadership Scholarship, attending students were encouraged to write an essay about their experiences during the weekend camp. A commit-



*Molly Johnson and Alex McGowen*

tee judged the entries and made their selection from the applicants which submitted essays.



# Protect Against Power Surges

**P**ower surges are responsible for millions of dollars of property damage each year, and, over time, they can cause cumulative damage while decreasing the lifespan of TVs, computers, stereo equipment, and anything else plugged into a wall outlet—unless you protect them from power surges with Four County EMC's PowerGuard equipment.

PowerGuard is a surge suppression package that helps protect your home appliances and electronics from serious damage caused by unexpected power surges.

## How does a power surge cause damage?

First, what is a surge? A "surge" occurs when there is a rapid rise in the flow of power and usually causes damage that is often unseen. Surges are caused by many actions — animals or reptiles coming in contact with power lines, the normal on and off cycling of large appliances, faulty wiring or poor grounding, but lightning is the most common cause.

## Protect Your Appliances and Electronics

It only takes one lightning strike to cause costly damage to your equipment and many times it is not a direct hit. The for-sure way

to avoid damage is to unplug electronics before a storm hits, but do not unplug equipment during a thunderstorm as there is a risk you could be struck. Surge suppressors are made to help protect your electronic equipment by diverting surges away from sensitive electric circuits. Four County's basic PowerGuard package includes one meter-based suppressor. Additional packages include the meter-based suppressor along with one plug-in suppressor with eight outlets, a telephone connection and cable/satellite connections. It's an affordable means of added security and peace of mind!

## Retail surge suppressors vs. PowerGuard

There are other surge suppression products on the market; however, PowerGuard products were specifically designed to meet stringent engineering standards. For example, PowerGuard is a two-stage surge suppressor, whereas retail prod-



ucts are only one-stage. Electronics are changing so quickly and are sensitive to even small voltage changes that are harmful to the longevity of the equipment. PowerGuard devices have a higher energy rating than others in their class, which means you're getting the best protection available.

## How much does it cost?

Four County EMC offers four system packages and financing options are available.

PowerGuard packages available to suit your needs:

- » **Package #1: Meter Treater Device Only:** \$157.56
- » **Package #2: Computer System Protection:** \$223.42  
*Meter Treater*
- » **Package #3: Entertainment System:** \$238.94  
*Protection and Meter Treater*

- » **Package #4: Entertainment System:** \$293.24  
*Protection, Computer System Protection and Meter Treater*

## How can I purchase a PowerGuard unit?

Contact your local Four County EMC office at 1-888-368-7289 for details and we will set you up with one of our qualified utility technicians to install the unit. You can also visit our website for more information about financing options at [www.fourcty.org](http://www.fourcty.org). Sign up for PowerGuard today and stop the surges!





## Winning Recipe

### Ingredients

- » 6 to 8 medium yellow squash sliced
- » 8 oz. sour cream
- » 1 medium onion chopped
- » 16 oz. Pepperidge Farm Herb stuffing Mix
- » 1 stick of margarine
- » 1-2 cups of cheddar cheese (shredded)
- » Cream of chicken soup
- » Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook squash in water until tender. Drain well. In a large bowl, add sour cream, soup, cheese, onion, salt, and margarine to squash. Mix well.



### Squash Casserole



Spoon half of the squash mixture into bottom of 9 x 13 casserole dish. Layer with half of stuffing mix. Layer with remainder of the squash mixture and then top with remaining stuffing mix. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until bubbling.

## Include home energy savings in summer vacation plans

If you're planning a vacation this summer, don't forget to prepare your home so your energy usage goes down while you are out of town.

### Air Conditioning

Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature.

### Electronics

Computers, CD/DVD players, TVs, and VCRs—these and other electronic appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on. We call them "energy

vampires." Take the time to unplug all unnecessary appliances and electronics before leaving town.

### Lighting

Consumers can improve their energy savings, and their home's security, by using timers to operate lights each night. Also, timers can be used to turn on a radio to add sound to help keep possible intruders away.

For more information on how to use energy more efficiently this summer, and all year round, members are urged to contact us at 888-368-7289 or visit [www.fourcty.org](http://www.fourcty.org).

## Four County Electric

### Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

### Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

### Our Vision

- To be an advocate for our Members by:
- Exceeding members' expectations
  - Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
  - Achieving excellence
  - Operating efficiently
  - Maintaining hometown values

## Four County Connection

**Gay Johnson**, Editor

Published monthly by Four County Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 667, Burgaw, NC 28425, as a service to our members like:



**Rebecca Brown**  
Fountaintown, NC

### Board of Directors

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Vice President

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### A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

We believe in the  
Power of Human Connections  
1-888-fourcty (368-7289)  
customer@fourcty.org

Burgaw .....259-2361

Elizabethtown .....862-3551

Rose Hill .....289-4534