

Wake ElectriConnection

*“the power to make
a difference”*

a newsletter for members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation

April 2008



Wake Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Louisburg office to close Customer payments to be accepted at the Youngsville office

Wake Electric's Louisburg customer service office will close at the end of March.

The Louisburg office opened in 1997 and, for a time, was a popular destination for Wake Electric members in the Louisburg area. Members' use of the Louisburg office has declined in recent years and dropped 7.5% in 2007. The decline follows a trend of members using online services rather than visiting an office to conduct business.

As recently as 2003, 40% of Wake Electric's members visited an office each month. In 2007, just four years later, that percentage has declined to 25%. During the same period, online payments [such as electronic banking or payments made over the Internet] have increased from essentially zero to over 20%.

While online payments are certainly an efficient way to conduct business and one that Wake Electric has encouraged, the declining number of office visits make it difficult for a small office, like Louisburg, to remain cost effective.

Wake Electric's Youngsville Operations Center at 228 Park Avenue opened in 1987 and an administrative office building was added in 2001. The front lobby of that building will be adapted for customer service activities. If you have any questions, call 1.800.474.6300 or 863.6300 or visit us on-line for payment options at www.wemc.com.

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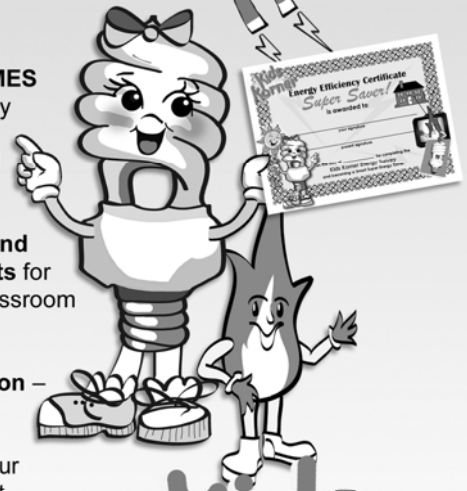
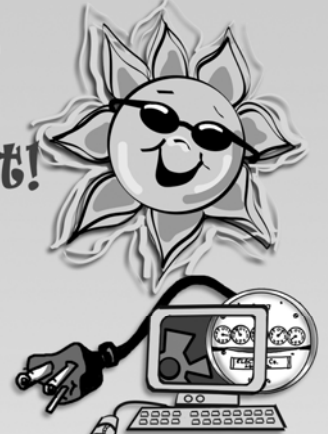
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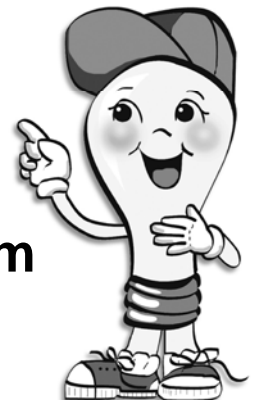
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Kids Korner

Learn about energy
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Wake Electric awards students D.C. trip and \$1000 scholarships

Two local high school juniors were recently selected to represent Wake Electric on a one-week all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. and also a \$1,000 scholarship for college.



Nicolas Garces attends Leesville Road High School. Garces is in the National Honors Society and the National Spanish Honors Society. His school activities include baseball, football, and assistant coaching women's varsity soccer.

Wake-Forest Rolesville High School student Melissa Lantzer, 17, of Wake Forest, and Leesville Road High School student Nicolas Garces, 17, of Raleigh, will attend the annual 2008 Rural Electric Youth Tour. In June, Lantzer and Garces will join nearly 1,500 students from across the United States in the nation's capital. Over the course of the week, students, traveling with delegations from their own state, will visit historic sites and federal facilities and spend time with their congressional delegations. Students will create podcasts and digital photo projects as they learn about electric cooperatives and discuss issues facing their communities and the nation. For more information on Wake's youth programs, go to www.wemc.com. To learn more about the youth tour, visit www.youthtour.coop.



Melissa Lantzer attends Wake Forest-Rolesville High School and is currently ranked first in her class. She serves as junior co-chair of the National Honor Society and performs in drumline and jazz band.

40 local students to be awarded \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds!

If you missed the March drawing, don't worry. 40 more students' names will be drawn in mid-June to receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. Students in Wake Electric's service territory should submit their most recent report card showing at least one grade of an "A" (or the equivalent). For more info. go to www.wemc.com.

Funded through voluntary contributions to Operation RoundUp.



**Jim Mangum,
CEO**

The demand for energy is drastically rising. North Carolina's population is expected to increase by half in the next 25 years, and in addition to population growth, energy demand is expected to climb as electronic devices become more affordable and convenient. We need more generation facilities to keep up with this kind of demand growth, but how is this possible in the new era of climate change?



Now more than ever, we're aware of the effects of climate change. Most scientists agree that greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, warm the Earth and are accumulating in the Earth's atmosphere. The process of generating electricity is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions, followed closely by the transportation industry. Electric cooperatives already have a proud record of commitment and leadership in clean coal technologies, energy efficiency and

From your Wake Electric CEO

renewable energy. We are already working hard to reduce carbon in the Earth's atmosphere, and we are also leading the push to invest and research in development for technologies that will produce electricity with low or no carbon emissions.



Electric cooperatives conduct business for the benefit of their consumer-members, and cooperatives are structured as a not-for-profit entity. We exist for the following reason: to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. As we go forth in this era of climate change and face legislation that may affect the energy we deliver, the impact on your rates will

be our number one priority.



As further research is conducted to determine what technologies will best suit our needs for the future, there is one thing we can all do –

practice ways to become more energy efficient. I recently changed all of my old incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). I also caulked around my windows and added more insulation to my home. These are simple ways we can all contribute to a clean tomorrow. After all, the less energy you use, the less energy is generated, and that's a zero-emission technology.

Ultimate, ultimate mac & cheese



When preparing the following pastas in advance (up to six hours), keep them covered and chilled and then let them come to room temperature before baking.

macaroni until just *al dente*, about 7 minutes, and drain well. In a large bowl stir together macaroni, sauce, Cheddar, and 1 cup Parmesan and transfer to prepared dish.

In a small bowl stir together bread crumbs and remaining 1/3 cup Parmesan and sprinkle evenly over macaroni. Cut remaining 1 tablespoon butter into bits and scatter over topping.

Bake macaroni in middle of oven 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden and bubbling.

Serves 6 to 8 as entrée or 8 to 10 as a side.

ingredients

7 tablespoons unsalted butter
 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 4 cups milk
 1 1/2 teaspoons dry mustard
 1/8 teaspoon cayenne, or to taste
 1 pound elbow macaroni
 3 cups coarsely grated extra-sharp Cheddar cheese (about 12 ounces)
 1 1/3 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese (about 4 ounces)
 1 cup fresh bread crumbs

preparation

Preheat oven to 350°F. and butter a 3- to 4-quart gratin dish or other shallow baking dish.

In a heavy saucepan melt 6 tablespoons butter over moderately low heat. Add flour and cook *roux*, whisking, 3 minutes. Add milk in a stream, whisking, and bring to a boil, whisking. Add mustard, cayenne, and salt and pepper to taste and simmer sauce, whisking occasionally, until thickened, about 2 minutes.

In a kettle of salted boiling water cook

Call to report outages:

919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155

Regular Office Hours:

M– F, 8 am—5 pm

Telephone Hours:

M– F, 7 am—9 pm

863.6300 or 800.474.6300

**Underground locating service
 call N.C. One-Call Center, 811**

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