

Wake ElectriConnection



Published monthly for the members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation

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www.wemc.com

Come join us at the Annual Meeting on Friday, March 23

Mark your calendars for Wake Electric's Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, March 23. The meeting will be held at Louisburg College auditorium. Registration starts at 6:00 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded only to registered members of Wake Electric attending the meeting, including \$3,000 in cash.

This is your opportunity as a member-owner of Wake Electric to learn about the progress your co-op has made, and what is planned for the future. Wake Electric is locally owned, controlled and committed to the communities we serve. There will be a variety of exhibits on display, as well as even more chances for you to register to win prizes.

The grand prize is \$1,000 in cash. Second prize is \$500 cash. There will be two (2) cash prizes of \$250 each and ten (10) cash prizes of \$100 each. At each exhibit on display during registration, members will receive tickets to win one of many other great gifts, such as a DVD player or television. Small promotional items will also be available at the exhibits.

Members who are not able to attend the annual meeting may assign their proxies to eligible members,

Apply now for a scholarship from Wake Electric

The deadline for submitting your scholarship application to Wake Electric is March 30, so apply now! Scholarships are available to students whose parents are served by Wake Electric or who live in a home served by the co-op.

For scholarship requirements and additional information about the program, visit our Web site at www.wemc.com.

including a spouse, an adult relative living in the same house, or a Wake Electric member in his/her own right. There will be a separate cash prize drawing for proxies.

For members attending the Annual Meeting with school-age children, activities will begin at 7:25 p.m. If you would like to attend the meeting, but have needs that require special accommodations, please let us know at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Please contact Wake Electric if you have any questions or would like more information about our Annual Meeting of the Members at (800) 474-6300, (919) 863-6300 or email information@wemc.com.



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www.wemc.com

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From Your Manager...

An update on energy tax credits

Effective December 20, 2006, President Bush signed a bill that extends federal tax credits for certain renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects. The consumer energy-efficiency credits for tax years 2006 and 2007, however, were not extended in the recent law. Therefore, you have only one year of eligibility left to get federal income tax credits for specific energy-efficiency upgrades to your home. There is up to \$500 available per household for upgrading doors, windows, roofing, insulation, and heating/cooling equipment.

Ronnie Kweller, a spokeswoman for the Alliance to Save Energy, urges taking advantage of the credits while they are still available. When it comes to home improvements, it is wise to schedule your work as early as possible, to help avoid delays.

Electricity production

The 2006 legislation did extend the production tax credit through December 31, 2008, for electricity produced from wind power, geothermal power, biomass, landfill gas, small irrigation power, and incremental hydropower, trash combustion facilities. It also provides a similar one-year tax credit extension for new properties that produce geothermal power or make use of solar energy:

- Homeowners that purchase solar water heating, solar photovoltaic, or fuel cell systems

- Businesses that purchase fiber-optic lighting systems, solar energy systems, or fuel cell power plants for new energy-efficient homes

- Energy-efficiency improvements to commercial buildings

For electric cooperative and public power utilities, the act extends the Clean Renewable Energy Bonds program through the end of 2008, and it increases the total annual amount of tax-credit bonds to \$1.2 billion, with a set-aside for electric cooperatives of at least \$150 million. It also extends special tax allowances for cellulosic ethanol facilities to include plants placed in service by 2012. The research and development tax credit, which encourages businesses to invest in new innovations, was extended as well.

For more information on energy tax credits, or to see if a recent home improvement or new construction is eligible, visit the following Web sites:

<http://www.ase.org> or <http://www.irs.gov>

Source: NRECA, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Alliance to Save Energy



Jim Mangum

Just a phone call away...

Call Wake Electric anytime to report power outages at the following numbers:

(919) 863-6499 or (800) 743-3155

- Regular Office Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Telephone Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday at (919) 863-6300 or (800) 474-6300
- Underground locating service, call N.C. One-Call Center at (800) 632-4949
- Interactive customer service line for inquiries on accounts or to report outages from a touch-tone phone: (919) 863-6499 or (800) 743-3155

Offices will be closed to observe Easter holiday

Wake Electric and its subsidiaries will be closed on Friday, April 6 to observe Good Friday.

Employees will be on call to better serve you.

Have a safe and happy Easter holiday.



Practice electrical safety inside and outside your home

For most people, the home is a place where friends and family can come together, rest and relax. However, if electrical appliances are not maintained or used properly, this safe haven can be diminished in a matter of seconds.

Electrical appliances within the home are part of our everyday life – from the toaster, heaters, hair curler, blow dryer, microwave, television, and stereo. If these appliances are not maintained, stored or used properly, they can pose a serious safety hazard. Here are some safety precautions for electrical appliances in the home:

- Electrical appliances should not be used near water.
- When carrying appliances, they should be held by the handle, not the cord.
- Appliances that get hot such as heaters, toasters, and light bulbs should be kept away from materials that can burn.
- Small appliances should be turned off or unplugged when not in use.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you a shock, unplug it and have the appliance repaired or replaced.



Electrical appliances can also be found outside of the home. Appliances are used outside for cutting the lawn, trimming bushes and flowers and cutting tree limbs. Appliances that are used for yard work should be labeled for outdoor use. Here are some tips for practicing safety precautions when working with electrical appliances outside of the home:

- Unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.
- Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended to prevent use by children.
- Handle gas carefully. Never fill gasoline tanks while machinery is on or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container away from the house. Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline or gasoline-powered equipment
- Never work with electrical power tools in wet or damp conditions.
- Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use, and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.
- Inspect the mower periodically for potential hazards.

Energy mortgages help pay for energy-efficiency

By: Chris Dorsi

The cost of owning a home may soon decrease for the owners of energy-efficient houses. Thanks to recent changes in mortgage lending rules among U.S. banking institutions, the value of energy-efficiency measures, such as attic insulation or energy-efficient heating systems, can now be included in the calculations used to qualify borrowers for home loans.

The new energy mortgages come in two varieties:

- For the purchase of new homes, the Energy Efficient Mortgage allows lenders to consider how much fuel the home will use in the future. Since efficient homes tend to have lower utility costs, this mortgage allows borrowers to apply those monthly savings toward the purchase of a more expensive home.

- For improvements to existing homes, the Energy Improvement Mortgage can be used to finance the installation of new energy-efficiency measures.

Both mortgages allow homeowners to build equity faster by taking advantage of their home's efficiency.

Efficient homes provide benefits that go beyond fuel savings. They are warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, and because they are less drafty, they provide a cleaner, quieter, and more comfortable indoor environment. All the major underwriters of residential mortgages – including FannieMae, Freddie Mac, HUD, and the VA – now offer specialized loans for energy-efficient homes. Ask your local lender for details.

How to make the most out of your next doctor's appointment

By: Rachel Burke

No, it is not your imagination – visits with the doctor are shorter now than they used to be. Whether you are in for a routine visit, or a specific diagnosis, a little bit of planning can make your appointment more productive – and can save you time and money in the long run. Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- Make a list of all the medications you take, the dosage and time you take them, as well as what they are treating.
- Remember to include any over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.
- If you see more than one doctor, make sure they all know what medications you take. Also, remember to note any medications that need to be refilled soon. This is especially important if you are preparing to travel – making sure you have the medications you need before you head out of town can save you an expensive trip to the doctor or pharmacy.

Before your visit, write down questions you want to ask your doctor. It may be helpful to have a family member or friend with you to take notes at your appointment. If you are being monitored for a chronic condition (i.e. diabetes, high blood pressure), note any changes in your condition since your last visit. If your medications were adjusted at your last visit, note your response to those as well.

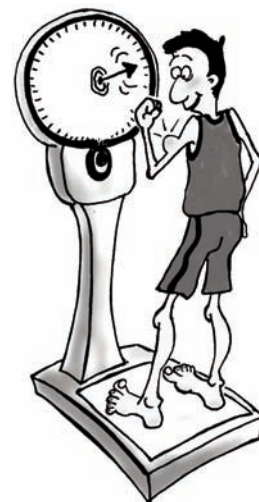
While your doctor or nurse is talking, stop and ask questions if you do not understand something. If you are given new information about a medication or condition, ask for material you can take home. That way you will be less likely to forget what you have been told.

If you are asked a series of questions about your health and behavior, be completely honest in your answers. For example, your doctor may need to know how much alcohol you consume for a number of reasons, but it may be particularly important to have this information if you take certain medications. If you have diabetes, an honest description of your diet is essential to the management of your care. Remember, information you share with your doctor is private.

If your visit is for an acute injury or illness, provide as much information as possible.

Consider these questions:

- When did the problem start?
- What were you doing just before it happened? If you are having pain, describe it. Is it continuous, intermittent, intense?
- Remember your medication list when you are seeing your doctor for an injury. If you fell and hurt your ankle, your doctor needs to know if you are taking a new medication that could cause dizziness.
- If you are experiencing pain, tell your doctor. Speaking up now will save you the expense of a late-night trip to the emergency room when the pain is too much to handle.



Ask your doctor if there are preventive screening tests you should have. For instance, if you are a woman over the age of 40, you should ask about scheduling an annual mammogram. Consult the NRECA Preventive Health Tests brochure to see what tests might be recommended for you. Many serious conditions like colorectal cancer, high cholesterol, diabetes, and high blood pressure can be effectively managed when diagnosed in early stages. Taking the time now to get screened could save you a lot of time and money in the future – and it might even save your life.

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