

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

NOVEMBER 2013

PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE



Wake Electric is Installing Battery Back-up Systems on LED Traffic Signals in Co-op's Service Territory

Wake Electric is currently in the process of installing battery back-up systems (Uninterrupted Power Systems- UPS) for the 20 traffic signals in our service territory. While the average annual outage time for any Wake Electric service location is only about two hours per year, even a short outage affecting a traffic signal at a busy intersection can cause serious problems. Some big cities like New York City and Los Angeles have installed units at key intersections, but most smaller cities have not. This is a great opportunity for us to be on the forefront of a unique initiative that will improve public safety and service restoration in our area at minimal cost.

Did you know the Department of Transportation (DOT) has changed nearly all traffic signals to Light-Emitting Diode lighting technology? Each stoplight now has only 150 to 290 watts per intersection. Obviously, this smaller load is much easier to back up than conventional traffic signals, and our cost would be around \$3,500 per installation with a mix of pole and pad mounted equipment to provide up to four hours of back-up power. Before the DOT changed the traffic lights over to LEDs, it would have taken a whole



cabinet of batteries to power the back-up system. Now, because of the efficiency and low power draw of LED lights, it is a much more feasible project that Wake Electric is ready for and excited to tackle.

In addition to the obvious public safety issues, inoperable traffic signals can cause traffic jams that make it difficult for Wake Electric's service vehicles to move from place to place to restore electric service. Adding back-up systems on traffic lights will also help Wake Electric dispatch more efficiently and allow crews to focus on restoring critical community services first, such as hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire departments, along with restoring power to the greatest number of customers in the shortest possible time, before addressing the traffic lights.

During a power outage, Wake Electric will be monitoring the

traffic lights via advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) technology. Each traffic light will have two AMI meters, one to notify the co-op that an outage has occurred and the second to confirm that the lights are being powered by the batteries. The second meter can also alert us to when the batteries are fully discharged and need attention. This helps Wake Electric figure out how quickly to send a crew and how soon the police need to be dispatched to monitor the traffic light area.

Wake Electric plans to complete this project by the end of this month (November).



Holiday Closing

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. For emergencies, please contact us at (800) 474-6300 or (919) 863-6300.

 Wake Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155

Regular office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Telephone hours: M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300

Underground locating service: Call 811

Dedicated pay-by-phone number: 866.999.4593

Bought an Electric Car? Thinking About Buying One?

Let Us Know to Receive Special
Electric Vehicle Rates Starting in January!



Starting in January 2014, Wake Electric will offer a favorable electric rate for residential account holders with an electric vehicle (EV) to encourage charging of their EVs during designated off-peak hours. Please contact Wake Electric if you have purchased or plan to purchase an electric vehicle served by the co-op. Or, simply look for more information regarding qualifications in the December edition of

"ElectriConnection", Wake Electric's member newsletter located inside "Carolina Country" magazine. You can contact us at (919) 863-6312, (919) 863-6316 or via email at communications@wemc.com.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

If you're expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own. Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

Calling All Youth Tour Alumni

For the past 50 years, students have attended the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., visiting monuments, meeting elected officials and learning about rural electrification. Cooperatives such as Wake Electric have sponsored youth to attend this amazing opportunity over the years. With the 50th anniversary of Youth Tour upon us, the search for alumni has begun.



Are you one of the youth

who toured D.C.? If you are, you can join the database of Youth Tourists at <http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/youthtour/alumni.aspx>. Tell us your story, where you are now, or what impact the trip made on you. Help us celebrate 50 years of a trip of a lifetime!



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'Give Us an A' Winners

Wake Electric recently awarded 40 \$25 Visa gift cards to area students who received at least one "A" (or its equivalent) on their report cards through the co-op's "Give Us an A" program. This program encourages academic achievement and Wake Electric encourages the winners to purchase a savings bond through www.treasurydirect.gov with their Visa gift card money. These awards are part of a drawing held three times a year. See the most recent "Give Us an A" winners to the right.

Students in any grade in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties are eligible to apply.

Funding for the "Give Us an A" program is made possible by Wake Electric members through the Operation RoundUp program. Members who sign up to participate in the Operation RoundUp program elect to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. These pennies collectively add up to major dollars for community programs.

The deadline for the next drawing is January 20, 2014, by 5 p.m. Because each school district may have a different time for issuing report cards, if a student's entry misses one deadline, the entry will automatically be included in the next drawing.

To learn more, go to www.wemc.com/giveusana.aspx.

Name	School	County
Joseph Adgate V	Heritage Middle School	Wake County
Sophia Adgate	Heritage Elementary School	Wake County
Dominique Bateman	Charis Academy	Wake County
Nathanael Bateman	Charis Academy	Wake County
Ronald Berrier	North Raleigh Christian Academy	Wake County
Joshua Blalock	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Savannah Blalock	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Dyvonne Body	South Granville High School of Health and Life Sciences	Granville County
Aubrianna Bryan	Thales Academy	Wake County
Alexander Butulis	North Forest Pines Drive Elementary	Wake County
Christopher Butulis	North Forest Pines Drive Elementary	Wake County
Nickolas Ebadirad	North Forest Pines Drive Elementary	Wake County
Jessica Graham	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Greyson Grybosky	Cleveland Elementary	Johnston County
John Gura	Heritage Middle School	Wake County
Drew Hill	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Matthew Hoffman	Cedar Creek Elementary	Franklin County
Jessica Honhart	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Finn Jarrell	Heritage Middle School	Wake County
John Kessler	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Matthew King	Wake Forest High School	Wake County
Elena Kidd	Sanderson High School	Wake County
Ryan Kidd	Sanderson High School	Wake County
Shane Majercik	Gorman Christian Academy	Durham County
Kailyn Middleton	North Raleigh Christian Academy	Wake County
Christopher Mills	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Joshua Mills	Franklinton High School	Franklin County
Nolan Mullens	G C Hawley Middle School	Granville County
Aden Perry	Sanford Creek Elementary	Wake County
Anna Pollock	Glendale-Kenly Elementary	Johnston County
Emily Rafferty	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Nicole Rafferty	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Alyssa Roland	Franklin Academy	Wake County
Ashley Sajecki	Wake Forest-Rolesville High School	Wake County
Laura Sales	Heritage High School	Wake County
Kelsey Selna	Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy	Wake County
Thomas Simpson	Heritage High School	Wake County
Emily Stephens	Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle School	Wake County
Julianne Strickland	Athens Drive High	Wake County
Morgan Wilder	East Wake High School	Wake County

Kitchen Safety During the Thanksgiving Holiday

The kitchen is a popular place, especially during the holidays. Between the turkey, stuffing, casseroles and pies, you're likely to spend a great deal of time there during the next couple of months. It's important to remember the kitchen isn't all sugar; there's some spice, too. Keep the following safety tips in mind this holiday season.

GENERAL SAFETY

- ★ The best place to start in the kitchen is at the sink; washing your hands before and after handling foods, especially raw meat, keeps you and your family healthy.
- ★ Prevent slips and falls by wiping up spills immediately.
- ★ Never, ever leave cooking foods unattended.

CHILDREN

- ★ Never leave children unattended in the kitchen. It's not just about cookies in the cookie jar; there are too many hot pans that could topple and sharp knives in arm's reach.
- ★ Put locks on cabinets and ovens to divert the curious hands of your youngest helpers.

BURN AND FIRE PREVENTION

- ★ Watch out for steam burns. Be careful when lifting lids off of pots or opening things that have been microwaved.
- ★ Put food gently into boiling water or hot oil to prevent it from splashing and burning you.
- ★ Always turn pot handles inward, toward the back of the stove, so they are not as easy to knock over and burn you.
- ★ Use a dry pot holder when



handling hot pots and pans. A wet one will not keep the heat at bay.

- ★ Always keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and make sure you and your family members know how to use it before an emergency.
- ★ When you are finished cooking, make sure the oven and stove top are turned off.

ELECTRICAL

- ★ Make sure your hands are dry when plugging in appliances.
- ★ Always unplug appliances after you are finished using them.
- ★ GFCI outlets should be installed in your kitchen to help prevent shortages and potential electrocutions.

KNIFE SAFETY

- ★ When cutting or peeling, always do so away from yourself.
- ★ Never dump knives in sudsy dishwasher. You won't be able to see them amongst the suds, and they could cut you.

TURKEY FRYER

- ★ If you are planning on frying a turkey this holiday season, consider this--the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) says deep fryers cause an average of five deaths, 60 injuries, and more than \$15 million in property damage each year.
- ★ If too much oil is in the fryer pot, hot oil may spill out when the turkey is lowered in, causing flare-ups in the burner. Read directions to know how much oil should be used.
- ★ Be sure that your turkey is fully thawed and dry before frying it. Frozen or partially frozen turkeys can cause oil spills and fires. Lower the turkey slowly to prevent spills.
- ★ Place the fryer outside away from structures and other flammable materials.
- ★ Finally, never leave the fryer unattended. The oil temperature will continue to rise until combustion occurs.

Following these safety tips will hopefully result in more time spent eating and enjoying family and fewer accidents. Happy Thanksgiving!