

Cooperative review

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

New Innovations in Energy Efficient Home Building

When Jim and Debra Badalamenti decided to call their home building business “New Tradition Homes”, they chose the right name. Without a doubt, Jim and Debra are incorporating some of the industry’s best building practices available in the construction of their homes. Not only are their homes beautiful, but they are comfortable, energy efficient, and healthy. Features like sealed crawlspaces and foam insulation make a big difference.

A sealed crawlspace is just that. A plastic liner is installed and all joints are sealed. The foundation has no vents and usually a foundation drain is installed just in case of a plumbing leak that could cause the crawlspace to flood.

The sealed crawlspace provides for an environment that eliminates moisture and mold as well as the usual variety of spiders, mice, and other crawlspace critters. The old days of “let the crawlspace breath” are over. By allowing the crawlspace to breath, you are inviting moisture-laden air in the summer and cold air in the winter to invade the crawlspace. The moisture in the summer creates an environment that is favorable for mold and mildew growth. The cold air in the winter allows for more heat lose through the floors thus causing the home to feel drafty and cold.

Another very innovative feature of the home is the use of Icynene spray foam insulation. The Icynene product creates a healthy, quieter and more energy efficient home. Icynene is a foam spray insulation that is applied throughout the home in all the areas where fiberglass insulation would normally be applied. One real advantage is that the foam seals around all of the openings that are typically found in a wall cavity. The secret to Icynene’s performance is its ability to stop the flow of air. By reducing the amount of air movement, temperature change inside the home is reduced.

The foam is applied in the attic space in such a way that the whole attic becomes conditioned. Typically in the summer months, most attic temperatures can reach well over 100 degrees. The Icynene foam keeps the attic at a very comfortable temperature. This reduces the amount of air conditioning that is needed and also reduces the size of the



heating and air conditioning equipment, thus reducing the initial cost of the HVAC equipment and the monthly utility bill. Jim and Debra have chosen dual fuel, high efficiency heat pumps for most of their homes. Dual fuel systems provide the best in energy efficiency with the option of switching to gas during extremely cold weather. To learn more about Icynene foam insulation go to www.carolinafoamsolutions.com.

New Tradition Homes meet Energy Star and Touchstone Energy Home ratings. Buying a home that meets the Energy Star and or Touchstone Energy Home standards ensures that the buyer is getting a comfortable, healthy, energy-efficient home.

For more information about New Tradition Homes, go to www.nthomes.com. Energy Star rating information can be found at www.energystar.gov/homeperformance and look for Touchstone Energy at www.touchstoneenergy.com. Sealed crawlspaces are a specialty of Moisture Loc. More information on sealed crawlspaces can be found at www.moistureloc.com or by calling 1-888-444-4167.

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Tony E. Herrin
Executive Vice President
and General Manager

Committed to Providing **Affordable, Reliable Power**

Wow, was 2006 a busy year! We connected services to a record number of homes and businesses. Some months we signed up as many as 700 new members. As amazing as that growth seems, it appears that 2007 is going to bear that same growth.

Construction of lines to connect our new members have had us working in as many as 20 subdivisions in one given day. New subdivisions continue to develop over Union Power's service territory, but particularly in Union and Cabarrus Counties. During 2006 we concentrated our efforts in those two counties to supplement that growth. We continue to acquire right of way to build a new transmission line from the Locust area to our Flowes Store Substation transmission line in Cabarrus County. This line will help us meet the increasing electrical load growth in western Cabarrus County.

Also last year we began a project in Stanly County to upgrade the transmission line between the Lambert and Railroad substations. We are replacing approximately 80 wooden poles with steel poles insulated for 100KV operation. This year, we are beginning a project in Union County to rebuild the transmission line from

our Unionville substation to the Indian Trail substation. This will provide additional capacity to the Hemby Bridge area.

The construction of two new substations is under way in Union County. Site preparation has begun for the construction of the new substation on the corner of Will Plyler Road and New Town Road in the western part of the county. Permits have been obtained and property optioned for the construction of a new substation in the Hemby Bridge area. When the two new substations are constructed and connected to our system, Union Power will have a total of 22 substations and two switching stations on our system.

This year we will install a new SCADA system. SCADA, an acronym for Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition, is the remote monitoring system we use for our substations. The SCADA system helps our engineers and dispatchers monitor all of our substations and detect and trouble shoot any problems that may occur. This newer system will provide our engineering and operations personnel with additional capabilities for system operation and monitoring.

Improvements continue to be made in the area of right of way maintenance. Last year, was the first full year Environmental Consultants, Inc. planned and supervised Union Power's tree trimming program. The results have been very favorable. From January 2005 to October 2006, the cost to trim a mile of line went down by over 60 percent due to contracting

efficiencies. During that same period of time the number of member interruptions by trees falling went down 39 percent. For 2007, we have forecasted to trim 554 miles of line. The whole system is forecasted to be trimmed on a 4 year rotation ending June of 2009.

Last year, we did an extensive study of our communications and marketing strategies. Consultants from North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, NCEMC, evaluated our practices and at the end of the year they presented a recommended Strategic Communications Plan. This year, we will be implementing some of these new strategies to communicate with our members in a better way and provide different information and programs that you are interested in.

This year, we will look at our customer service practices and see how we can be more efficient. We will bring in a consultant to follow the progression of the process our customer service representatives use when a member is applying for service with the co-op.

All of these improvements and projects are underway because we want to ensure you have the most reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony E. Herrin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Congratulations, Teachers, for your Bright Ideas!

Nearly 4,200 students will benefit from the Bright Ideas grants awarded by Union Power Cooperative during the week of November 13, 2006. Union Power Cooperative granted \$14,000 this year to area teachers for their "Bright Ideas". The following schools and teachers in our five-county service area were awarded for their projects:

Forest Hills High School

Brenda Williams and Bonnie McMurray

Hemby Bridge Elementary

Stebie Thompson

Monroe High School

Rick Kukor

Piedmont High School

Tracy Price and Susan Helms

Piedmont Middle

Karen Barbee

Shiloh Elementary

Kate Milutin

Sun Valley High School

Mary Beth Woodall

Albemarle High School

Carol Sasser

New London Choice Middle

Jamie Mabry

Pitts School Road Elementary

Amy Gossett

Idlewild Elementary

Dan Barber



Teacher, Stebie Thompson's class at Hemby Bridge Elementary

Carrie Cameron of Union Power and Carolina Panthers, Taye Biddle, Nate Salley, and Jeff King award Teacher, Dan Barber of Idlewild Elementary a Bright Ideas check for his project, "Hunting for Family Treasures".



Grants were awarded in surprise visits to the teachers' classrooms during Bright Ideas week. Reactions ranged from screaming and jumping up and down to being in total shock. At Idlewild Elementary in Charlotte, we had help from three Carolina Panthers players, Jeff King, Taye Biddle, and Nate Salley, along with Sir Purr, the Panthers' mascot.

The purpose of the Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), is to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K-12 that would not otherwise be funded. Since 1994, the grant program has awarded more than \$5 million to sponsor 4,500 projects in schools across North Carolina, benefiting more than 850,000 students.

Scholarships to Basketball Camps

Available to Students in Grades 6-8

Across the state this year, more than 27 scholarships will be given out for each the Kay Yow Basketball Camp for girls and the Roy Williams Basketball Camp for boys.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are pleased to provide the opportunity for young men to attend a camp conducted by Roy Williams, coach of the 2005 National Champion Tar Heels and for young women to attend a camp conducted by Kay Yow, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee.

Coach Yow, her staff, and members of the women's Wolfpack basketball team will instruct the Kay Yow Basketball Camp in Raleigh. The 2005 NCAA National Champion, Coach Williams, his staff, and members of the Tar Heel men's basketball team will instruct campers at the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill.

The staff of both camps will work closely with campers to develop the fundamentals of basketball, provide individual, and team competition that challenges young athletes to excel on and off the court.

Scholarship applications for the Kay Yow and Roy Williams camps will be accepted from January through March 31, and winners will be announced in May. Winners of the Touchstone Energy Camp scholarships will attend the overnight basketball camp, courtesy of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and Union Power Cooperative. Scholarship recipients must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the camp and provide their own transportation to and from camp.

Eligible students who are interested in the scholarship can contact Carrie Cameron at (704) 289-3145, extension 3273 or via e-mail at carrie.cameron@union-power.com. Students can also download applications at www.ncemcs.com, beginning in January. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities, and an essay that must accompany the application.

For more information on the Kay Yow Basketball Camp visit www.kayyowcamps.com, and for information on the Roy Williams Basketball Camp call (919) 967-0663.

Play it
safe

Surviving the Winter Season



North Carolina may not experience the harsh winters that other regions of the United States do; however, North Carolina is no stranger to severe winter ice storms.

The extreme cold temperatures of winter ice storms make staying warm and safe a challenge. Here is how to create a winter survival kit for your home to help you and your family survive the cold grasp of winter.

The Essentials

Food: Food that requires no cooking or refrigeration such as bread, crackers, cereal, canned foods, and dried fruits. Remember baby food and formula if you have young children.

Water: In case water pipes freeze or rupture, keep a supply of tap water or purchase bottled water. The recommended amount of water to keep is 5 gallons per person.

Medicines: Roads may be inaccessible for several days due to the storm. Make sure to order or refill any prescriptions that family members may need.

Identification: Make sure to keep forms of identification with you such as social security card, passport, photo ID, and driver's license. In addition, make sure to have bank account information and insurance policies.

Emergency Materials

- + Alternate methods to heat your home:
 - Dry firewood for a fireplace or wood stove
 - Kerosene for a kerosene heater
 - Furnace fuel (coal, propane, or oil)
 - Electric space heater with automatic shut-off switch and non-glowing elements
- + Blankets
- + Matches
- + First Aid Kit and instruction manual
- + Multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher
- + Flashlight
- + Battery-powered radio, clock/watch
- + Extra batteries
- + Shovel
- + Rock salt
- + Non-electric can opener

When creating a winter survival kit for your home, take into consideration factors that are specific to your home and family. For instance, if your home is isolated or on the outskirts of a residential area, making it more difficult for help to reach you, make sure to stock additional amounts of food, water, and medicine. Listening to weather forecasts regularly can provide you with several days' notice to allow you to check emergency materials and to stock-up on essential supplies.

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Providing electricity and energy services to over 60,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

SERVICE CHARGES:

Security Deposit-charges vary
\$0, \$175, \$375

Late Payment Charge

1% of the amount of bill

Returned Check Fee

\$25

Meter Test

\$75 (refunded if not accurate)

Dual Meter Comparison

\$50 (refunded if not accurate)

Field Collection Charge

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RECONNECT CHARGES: (collected in advance)

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After Hours

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Weekends and Holidays

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