

# COOPERATIVE REVIEW

Energy for Today, Power for Tomorrow.



## Union Power Awards 2009–2010 Bright Ideas Grants

Each year, Union Power Cooperative takes part in the Bright Ideas education grant program. This program is sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Its purpose is to help improve North Carolina's classrooms and award teachers in grades K–12 for their innovative, classroom-based bright ideas.

Nearly 5,700 students will benefit from Union Power's Bright Ideas grants awarded this past November and December. Union Power Cooperative granted \$20,000 this year to area teachers for their "Bright Ideas".

Eighteen grants were awarded in surprise visits to the teachers' classrooms where teachers were presented a "big check" in front of their students. At Kensington Elementary in Union County, a school-wide assembly was held in honor of teacher Ms. Ann Landwehr. Carolina Panthers Cornerback Captain Munnerlyn, Safety Sherrod Martin, and Sir Purr kicked off the winning Bright Ideas project called "Pen-Pals Around the World" at the special school assembly. The players spoke to



**Ann Lanwehr, Union County teacher accepts a \$1,886 Bright Ideas grant for her project, "Pen-Pals Around the World".**

*(Left to Right) Sherrod Martin, Carolina Panthers safety; Ann Lanwehr, Union County teacher; Carrie Cameron, Union Power's manager of communications; Captain Munnerlyn, Carolina Panthers cornerback; and Luanne Sherron, Union Power's vice president of communications and key accounts.*

students about seeing a project through from start to finish and congratulated Ms. Landwehr on her winning a Bright Ideas grant.

The purpose of the Bright Ideas grant program is to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to teachers who have innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K–12 that would not

otherwise be funded. Since 1994, the North Carolina Cooperatives' Bright Ideas program has collectively awarded more than \$6.5 million to North Carolina teachers for their innovative projects benefiting more than one million students.

**See the complete list of Bright Ideas Grant Winners on page 18.**

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# EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

The year 2009 has ended as quickly as it began. With a new year, comes the hope for positive changes in our current economic situation. Predictions are that things are slowly going to improve.

The wholesale power market is extremely volatile and unpredictable, much like the market for wheat, and natural gas. Like all commodities, its price is greatly influenced by market conditions. As a distribution cooperative, Union Power Cooperative does not generate its own electricity, and instead purchases it on the wholesale market through our power supply cooperative, NC Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC). Through NCEMC, Union Power Cooperative joins with other North Carolina cooperatives to obtain the market clout needed to obtain the best possible prices for wholesale electricity. The combination of higher fuel costs and higher generation and

transmission costs is the reason for a rise in the cost of wholesale power. Likewise, lower fuel, generation, and transmission costs result in a decreased cost of the wholesale power we buy.

Over the past six months you may have noticed a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) credit as a line item on your electric bill. Due to market fluctuations in the price of coal and other fuels, we have been able to pass along the credit we are receiving from NCEMC. Substantially lower wholesale power costs are definitely a reflection of our current economic situation. As the market picks up, most likely the prices of commodities such as natural gas and coal will follow the same trend and increase as well.

As the WPCA credit comes in from NCEMC, we're passing that along to you, just as we would do with a charge or price increase. That's the nature of the wholesale power market and the quickest way to respond to market fluctuations.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Union Power returns all margins to our members. That's what sets us apart from other utility companies. During times when wholesale power costs decrease, all our members reap the benefits. When the WPCA factor on your bill reflects a credit, know that Union Power Cooperative is looking out for you.

We wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

## 2009-2010 Bright Ideas Grant Winners



**BRIGHT  
IDEAS**

### **Charles E. Boger Elementary**

Margaret Cuthbertson, Susan Walls, Leigh Samuelson, Lori Tarton, Chris Chilelli, Cindy Eudy, Suzanne Shearon, and Heather McKenzie

### **Kensington Elementary**

Ann Landwehr and the Third Grade Team

### **Mt. Pleasant Elementary**

Beth Smithson and the Fourth Grade Language Arts and Social Studies team

### **New Town Elementary**

Christine Wilson

### **Rockwell Elementary**

Traci Thompson

### **Rocky River Elementary**

Brenda Todd

### **Running Creek Elementary**

Pam Grant, Sherrie Mason, and Ashlee Little

### **Sandy Ridge Elementary**

Melissa LoPresto and Jacob Surratt

### **Wesley Chapel Elementary**

Teresa Matheson

### **Western Union Elementary**

Miranda Thomas

### **Piedmont Middle**

Kelly Gallagher and Lana Funderburk

### **Albemarle High**

Kristina Cole

### **Garinger High**

Erica Alcox

### **Marvin Ridge High**

David Dahari

### **Piedmont High**

Susan Helms and Annette Harris

### **Sun Valley High**

Mary Beth Woodall and Chris Roncone

IT PAYS TO GO GREEN WITH

# UNION POWER

Would you like to see a **\$100 credit** on your power bill?

Everyone's talking about "going green." At Union Power, we recognize that conserving our natural resources is an important responsibility we all share.

That's why we're providing two effective ways for you to join in. The first is by opting to receive your bill electronically. All you need is an email address and a password. Another way to help the environment is by choosing our bank draft payment option. Choosing one of our draft dates that works best for you can also save you the time and hassle of a trail of paperwork each month as well as keeping up with due dates.

Starting in January, 2010, sign up for both our e-bill and bank draft payment options and you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$100 credit on your power bill. It's as easy as calling our customer service department at (704) 289-3145 or (704) 485-3335 or toll-free at 1-800-922-6840. Let's go green together – ultimately everyone's a winner.

\*Drawing will be held at end of quarter.



## Union Power Receives *Business of the Year* Award



Tony Herrin, executive vice president and general manager, accepts the Business of the Year award from Richard Melton, director of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Union County.

Union Power Cooperative was recognized as the outstanding *Business of the Year* from Farm-City sponsored by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension on September 24, for the important role the Cooperative has, and continues to play, in the lives of Union County residents. Tony Herrin, executive vice president and general manager said, "Rural Electric Cooperatives were founded to serve rural communities. It is an honor to receive this award on Union Power's 70th anniversary."

More than five hundred people attended the celebration, which focused on "What Agriculture Means

to Union County." Attendees had an opportunity to watch soap being made, wool being spun, and even "shaking" their own butter, while listening to traditional fiddle music performed by Isabelle Young. Others recognized were the Hargett Farm as the outstanding *Farm Family* and Harry Myers as the *Union County Agricultural Hall of Fame* honoree.

Entertainment was provided by the Union County 4-H'ers through song and dance, featuring the Bill Rusciarelli family, Shane Wyatt, Micaela Hayes, and Laura Cretella.

Investment into our communities shines through the honor of this award.

# RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING



During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood. ABC Tree Professionals, Asplundh Tree Experts, and Carolina Tree Care will be working in the following areas of Cabarrus, Rowan, Stanly, and Union Counties:

**Indian Trail/Matthews** - Stallings Road, Boyd Funderburk Drive, Stevens Mill Road, and Lawrence Daniel Drive.

**Lake Park** - Secrest Shortcut Road, Beverly Drive, Oakland Ave, Reid Road, Woodhaven Road, Courtland St, Third Ave, Etheridge St, West St, Lincoln Court, Truman St, Bessant Drive, Ruth St, Granite Court, Brookstone Trail, Brooktree Lane, Lake Park Road, Olson Lane, Frost Court, Creft Circle, Society Court, Conifer Circle, and Faith Church Road.

**Mint Hill** - Lawyers Road, Old Oak Lane, Farm Oak Lane, Beaver Dam

Lane, Hitchgate Drive, Pitchfork Lane, Canterway Drive, Oakwielde Court, Morris Farm Lane, Plashet Lane, Danbrooke Park Drive, Errington Lane, Camberwell Road, Oakdale Meadows Court, Aylesbury Lane, Chislehurst Road, Ellesmere Court, Markus Drive, Rebus Road, Kuck Road, Willow Bend Lane, Wyndbend Lane, Clear Crossing Lane, Ravenglass Lane, Davis Road, and Ardley Park Way.

**Monroe** - Goldmine Road, Sanlee Church Road, Price Short Cut Road, Airport Road, Public Works Drive, Birmingham Lane, and Rogers Road.

For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call (704) 289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz (ext. 3291). For monthly right-of-way clearing updates, visit our website [www.union-power.com](http://www.union-power.com).

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**Union Power  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Union Power Cooperative provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to over 65,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

**Tony E. Herrin**  
Exec. Vice President & General Manager

**Carrie A. Cameron**, Editor

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#### Business Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday  
(704) 289-3145 or (704) 485-3335  
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#### 24-Hour Outage Reporting Service and Account Information

1-800-794-4423

**Call Before Dig**  
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#### SERVICE CHARGES:

**Security Deposit**—charges vary  
\$0, \$175, \$375  
**Connection Fee**  
\$25  
**Late Payment Charge**  
\$5 or 1.5% of past due balance, if greater  
**Returned Check Fee**  
\$25  
**Meter Test**  
\$75 (refunded if not accurate)  
**Dual Meter Comparison**  
\$50 (refunded if not accurate)  
**Trip Charge**  
\$25 (checks or money orders only, no cash)

#### RECONNECT CHARGES:

(collected in advance)  
**Normal Hours**  
\$50 (if called in before 4:00 p.m.)  
**After Hours**  
\$100 (if called in after 4:00 p.m.)  
**Weekends and Holidays**  
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