

COOPERATIVE REVIEW

Energy for Today, Power for Tomorrow



Union Power Awards College Scholarships

College is not cheap. Each year, Union Power Cooperative helps ease the financial burden for three deserving high school graduates in our service area. This year, the Cooperative is pleased to award three one-time \$1,000 college scholarships to Elisha Dicharry, Migela Evans and Justin Parke. Union Power is proud to offer scholarships to these three outstanding students and wishes them success as they pursue their goals.



Elisha Dicharry is the daughter of Frank and Remedios Dicharry of Indian Trail. Elisha graduated from Porter Ridge High School with a 4.0 GPA. She plans to attend NC State this fall to major in Sociology. Her hobbies include singing, church activities, and volunteering with Operation Christmas Child. While in high school, Elisha was

involved in FBLA, SADD, TRU, NHS, NEHS, Interact, and Family Career and Community Leaders of America. Elisha's future hopes include running a summer camp for underprivileged children.



Migela Evans is the daughter of Michael and Angela Evans of Charlotte. Migela graduated from David W. Butler High School with a 3.53 GPA and plans to attend NC Central University in the fall to major in Computer Information Systems. Her hobbies include web design, writing poetry, liturgical dance, community volunteer work,

modeling, and shopping. In high school, Migela was involved in NHS, Student Council — Outstanding Sophomore and Junior Representative, and she won the

Microsoft DigiGirlz Outstanding Participant Award. Migela hopes to become competitive in her career field after college.



Justin Parke is the son of Kim Parke of Oakboro. He graduated from West Stanly High School with a 4.6 GPA and plans to attend UNC-Wilmington in the fall to major in Psychology. Justin's hobbies include golf, hunting, basketball and football, board games, video games, and movies.

In high school, he was involved in NHS, Interact, Math Club, Science Club, JETS, West Stanly Golf Team, and volunteered with Special Olympics, Carolina Cross Connection, and Relay for Life. Justin hopes to use his education to help teens with depression and drug dependencies.



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Attention Teachers:

Take advantage of those lazy summer days — apply for a Bright Ideas grant for the 2010–2011 school year.

Visit www.ncbrightideas.com for more details and to apply.

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THREATS FOR POWER OUTAGES



What's that green box in my yard?

It's an underground electric transformer — an important piece of Union Power equipment that services your home with electric power.

- Our crews need clear access to this equipment 24 hours a day.
- It's clearly marked with warning/caution stickers.
- It needs proper air circulation to prevent oil leakage and equipment failure.
- Never let anything get closer than 10 feet from the front (side with lock) or 4 feet from the sides of the transformer.
- If our crews have removed obstructions from around our equipment, please DO NOT replace them.
- Never allow children to play near the transformer.
- The transformer is connected to underground power lines. Never dig anywhere in your yard without first calling your local One Call Center (811) — it's the law and could save your life.

RELIABILITY — IT TAKES COOPERATION

Providing reliable service to our members is important to all of us at Union Power. That's why the co-op has an ongoing underground inspection program in which crews regularly inspect all underground electrical equipment in our service area, including pad mount transformers. During inspection, crews treat the inside of the transformers for fire ants.



Fire ants love to build nests in electrical equipment. This can cause major damage, resulting in voltage spikes

or drops that can damage your appliances or other electronic equipment. If you see a fire ant mound directly at a pad mount transformer, please call our office at (704) 289-3145 or (704) 485-3335.

SAFETY — HELP US HELP YOU

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Union Power. Please help us by ensuring that Union Power crews have clear access to our underground equipment on your property at all times.

Just as blocking a fire hydrant is a safety hazard, so is blocking access to electrical equipment. In the event of a house fire, our crews would quickly need to find and shut off any electrical equipment feeding into the home. Wasting valuable time searching for or trying to access a transformer could result in further loss of property or even life. Imagine how a situation like this could play out if the fire should happen in the middle of the night.



Top photo: Pad mount transformer hidden by landscape rocks and shrubs.

Bottom photo: Shrubs are overgrown, obstructing access to pad mount transformer.

If our crews have clear access to equipment, they can restore power quickly during outages. But if crews must take the time to search for equipment and/or remove obstructions, power restoration is delayed. No one benefits in this case. Our goal is not to ruin your landscaping but rather to provide you with reliable power and exceptional service.

Never enclose the transformer with trees, shrubs, mulch, fences, or other manmade obstructions. This blocks our crews' access, hindering them from restoring power or repairing equipment.

Be smart — do your part!



Copper Theft Is Dangerous and Illegal: Offenders Will Be Prosecuted

COPPER THEFT ON THE RISE

Electric utilities are once again falling victim to people who think co-ops are an easy mark for obtaining metals such as aluminum and especially copper. Complaints of copper theft have increased dramatically, causing concern for member safety. Several substations have been targeted across the country. Thieves are cutting through substation fencing to take copper reels, and copper products have been stolen from utility trucks, transformers, work sites, and storage facilities.

“DANGER — KEEP OUT”

The situation is more serious than thefts alone. Substation intruders in Virginia, Kentucky, Florida and Texas have been electrocuted while attempting to steal copper. By trespassing in substations, these people gambled with their lives and lost. Some pieces of equipment in the substation could be

energized at more than 100,000 volts. Electric utility substations are clearly marked with warning signs that read “Danger - Keep Out.” This means think “safety first,” and walk the other way. Co-ops, including Union Power, also take other precautions to guard electric substations against intrusion. Fencing around substations is normally 8 feet high on all sides, and specially keyed padlocks are placed on entrances.

COPPER THEFT IS A FELONY CRIME

Not only does copper theft create potential hazards for thieves, but it is also a felony crime, and offenders will be prosecuted to the fullest extent the law allows. Copper theft costs the utility money, decreases reliability, and may even put co-op employees at risk of accidental confrontation with thieves.

SECURING SAFETY, DETERRING THEFT

Union Power cares about the safety of our members. Here are a few things that will go a long way in securing your safety and the safety of others:

- If you see any unusual activity in or around substations, towers, utility poles, or storage sites, report it to local law enforcement and Union Power immediately.
- No one should EVER climb substation fences, utility poles, or towers. People must also stay away from substations and transformers. Activity like this is hazardous and can result in severe injury or death.

For more information, visit www.union-power.com and click on Safety Tips, Substation and Transformer Safety.



SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Meeting
Coming in October**

Union Power Cooperative will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 16, 2010, at Wingate University.

Look for more details in upcoming issues!



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CLEARING



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

Winchester Road, Rocky River Road North, Secrest Shortcut Road, Unionville Indian Trail Road, Poplin Road, Scott Long Road, east side of Faith Church

Road in Lake Park, Indian Trail Fairview Road, Younts Road, Sunnyside Circle, Carole Avenue, Third Street, Second Street, and Stinson Hartis 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.

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

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Call Before Dig

NC One Call Center—Dial 811



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)

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