Come Join Us on May 6th for our 76th Annual Meeting
(Madison High School - Marshall, NC)

Schedule of Events

9:00am to 10:30am
*Registration
*Health Fair
*Roving Entertainment
*Kid Zone

10:30am to 11:30am
*Featured Entertainment
(The Whisnants)

11:30am
*Business Meeting

Breakfast will be sold as a fundraiser

Door Prizes will be given away following the business meeting
Weathering the Storms

It’s still early March as this column is being written. Reflecting back on this winter, we experienced some unusually wild weather swings. Early in the year, temperatures hovered in the upper twenties for daily highs for a couple of days with lows dipping into the teens. Now, here in March, we are once again experiencing frigid temperatures. Hopefully, a few of those dreaded summer insects were taken out because of it.

Growing up, we were always told we need some really cold nights to kill the mosquitoes. Evidently, it never gets cold enough to make much of a difference. However, for the most part this has been a winter that will be known for a lack of snow and cold weather. It’s been great wearing short-sleeved shirts on those warm, spring-like days, when highs were recorded in the seventies. It sure made me look forward to spring and I am sure that several folks have even thought about warming up their turkey calls. But we cannot count bad weather out yet.

In the past, we have had some doozies of storms hit the system in the month of March and even April. Everything from ice storms to blizzards are in the mix. No matter what comes our way, the National Weather Service wants us to be prepared for any weather event. Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. It can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, as well as winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds.

This is a great week to sit down and take a few moments to make a plan for your family at home, work, school or even for when you are outdoors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an abundance of tips on their website (www.ready.gov), and they even have an app you can put on your smartphone that includes safety tips, weather alerts and a section to input details about your family’s emergency kit and meeting places.

So how does French Broad EMC prepare? Your cooperative employees work every day to prevent outages and take steps to lessen the impact on you and your families when storms hit, from performing routine maintenance on equipment and utilizing an aggressive right-of-way trimming program to progressive planning for system load growth. Being prepared makes for a much more efficient and effective response. Not only does all this planning result in faster outage restoration, it helps us keep costs down for you, our member-owners.

A well-maintained system is more resilient and can better withstand damaging storms. French Broad EMC has developed a storm plan that is activated in the likely event that our system will be impacted. The storm plan covers activating the storm center, scheduling employees’ work rotation shifts, answering outage calls, fueling up trucks, and securing line materials, equipment, and additional crews (and preparing for their housing and food). With a plan in place, we’re not spending precious time and resources trying to figure out what to do. We’re hitting the ground running as soon as the first outage call comes in.

A key component of our (and hopefully your) storm plan is communication. We do our best to share safety and preparedness information on our website and social media before the storm and provide updates on our progress when we have widespread outages. We also work closely with the news media and emergency management agencies to keep you up-to-date on our efforts. And even though we have employees here to answer phones around the clock, we have several convenient tools that you can use to stay connected to us throughout a storm, such as our website, Facebook and Twitter. Preparedness can make all the difference for the safety and comfort of our families when storms hit. We will be ready to weather any spring storms that come our way, and I hope you will too.
2016 Capital Credit Assignment

If you were a member of French Broad EMC in 2016, you are entitled to a share of the co-op’s profit. At the end of each year, any remaining funds the cooperative has after paying the bills are called *margins*, or *capital credits*. In 2016, FBEMC’s margins amounted to 4.626 percent of its revenues. Your share of the profit is recorded in your capital credits account. Your share is based on the amount of electricity you used during the year. Margins are not refunded immediately but are held in reserve to cover the cost of maintaining the electric system and building new facilities. By using these funds, the cooperative can reduce the amount of money it borrows. The goal is to ultimately refund all credits to you. In the meantime, it serves to provide adequate cash flow for reinvestment in the business and show financial stability required to obtain loans.

**The Electrifier**

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Marshall (828) 649-2051
Toll-Free to Marshall 1-800-222-6190
Burnsville (828) 682-6121
Bakersville (828) 688-4815

**To Report A Power Outage After Hours**

Marshall District
(Madison, Buncombe & Unicoi Counties) (828) 649-2051 • 1-800-222-6190

Burnsville-Bakersville District
Yancey County (828) 682-6121
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**Online Credit Card Payment Available 24 Hours a Day for VISA, MasterCard, Discover 1-844-294-5697**

**Deadlines for submitting ads or notices to: The Electrifier.**

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**The Outlet**

All numbers are in 828 area code unless otherwise listed.

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**FOR SALE**

Westinghouse oven, white, $200. 680-9658.
Amana college refrigerator, $70. 680-9658.
Cargo carrier w/ racks, Sears. 688-3693.
3BR/2BA DW on ¼ acre. 682-4965 after 5pm.
Firewood, hardwood, $125/cord, you haul. 407-8434 or 280-0719.
Ford log truck, diesel 9000 series. 423/743-7491.
Electric dog fence, 30ac range, $135. 682-2860.
Prom dress w/ sequins, hot pink, strapless, size 8 fits 6, $30. 385-1204.
Precious Moments dolls, various, $5-$70. 385-1204.
2006 Wildwood gooseneck 33’ camper, sleeps 10, $6,200. 682-1407.
2006 Chevy Impala, black, 108k mi, auto, $3,100. 682-1407.

Master air compressor, portable, $125. 536-5052.
3BR/2BA DW, must be moved, $20,000. 231-7025.
3BR brick house on 1.47ac + 23 Acres. 682-6885.
(2) Walkers, (1) Wheelchair. 243-5913 or 423/557-6641.
Kimball piano and bench. 683-9427.
Little Guy teardrop camper. 206-9820.
Bobcat 773. 206-9820.
Late 2010 Macbook Air, $399. 989-7771.
Walnut lumber, 800 bd ft, $1,600. 423/743-4157.
LP records, approx. 200, 70s/80s misc music, make offer. 765-2081.
Propane grill w/ 2 burners & side burner, $100. 622-7225.
John Deere D140 riding mower, 22HP, $1,475. 622-7225.
2009 Harley Davidson Rocker C, 7k mi, black, $8,500. 334/296-6198.
2006 Sierra 36’ 2BR fifth wheel camper w/ 3 slides & hitch, $25,500. 691-5987.
Spring is just around the corner and your home’s #1 source of energy use is related to heating and cooling.

French Broad EMC continues to offer mini-split heat pumps at an affordable rate, which can be financed on your electric bill upon credit approval.

Visit our website for more information: www.frenchbroademc.com