

The Electrifier

Visit us at: www.frenchbroademc.com

MARCH 2018

"Owned by those we serve"

MARSHALL, NC

Are you ready for mild weather and sunshine?

The first day of Spring, Tuesday March 20th, is just around the corner. So, if you are looking for ways to save energy and money at home, here are just a few simple things you can do:

1. **Service your air conditioner.** Easy maintenance such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent.
2. **Open windows.** Opening windows creates a cross-wise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switching on air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.
3. **Use ceiling fans.** Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.
4. **Cook outside.** On warmer spring days...use an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.
5. **Install window treatments.** Energy efficient window treatments or coverings such as blinds, shades and films can slash heat gain when temperatures rise.
6. **Caulk air leaks.** Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out.
7. **Bring in sunlight.** During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.
8. **Set the thermostat.** On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10 percent.
9. **Seal ducts.** Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30 percent of a cooling system's energy consumption.
10. **Switch on bathroom fans.** Bathroom fans suck out heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort.
11. **Switch to ENERGY STAR appliances,** which could save nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products.
12. **Choose energy-saving lighting.** Replacing five of your home's most frequently used lights with ENERGY STAR bulbs could save you \$75 a year in energy costs.
13. **Use an electronic power strip.** Help reduce phantom loads and save up to \$100 a year by plugging electronic devices into a power strip and turn it off when not in use.
14. **Reduce energy for water heating** by lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads.

www.energy.gov

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 5th at 9:00am

It is that time again. French Broad EMC will hold its 77th Annual Meeting on **Saturday, May 5, 2018** at Madison High School in Marshall.

Registration, as well as other events, will begin at **9:00am**.

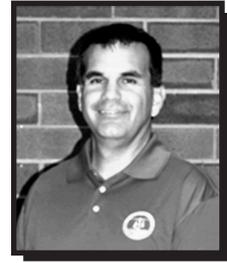
As a part of the Health Fair, various healthcare representatives will be available to offer basic preventive screenings, as well as helpful information.

Featured entertainment will be The Browders. We invite you to come and be a part of this annual event.



Manager's Report

What a Difference a Year Makes



Jeff Loven

Last year at this time I was writing about how mild the weather pattern had been and how it affected our bottom line. What a difference a year makes!

This past December and January have been consistently cold and utilities across the nation have set record peak demands. Low temperatures the first week of January were near zero and highs were only in the teens. After a short reprieve, the middle of January once again replicated this pattern. With all this cold weather comes higher utility bills.

Duke Energy saw 15 consecutive hours of record peaks set in January and French Broad EMC set a new all-time record peak of 138 Megawatts on the morning of January 2nd. Our members who use electricity to heat their homes have seen their usage increase substantially so

far this winter from over a year ago. Electric furnaces and heat pumps with electric strip heat can consume ten to fifteen kilowatts each hour they run. On many of these cold days and nights, heating systems ran non-stop. A heating system using strip heat could use as much as 250 kilowatts or more in a day, costing upwards of 30 dollars. Obviously, it doesn't take many cold days like we have witnessed recently to add up to a large bill.

To make matters worse, you may have heard in the news recently that Duke Energy customers may see as much as a 15% increase on their electric bills to cover the cost of the coal ash clean up, renewable generation, and the replacement of their coal generation fleet with natural gas generation. Duke also passed these costs increases along to their wholesale

customers such as French Broad Electric.

Fortunately, while we are seeing cost increases for coal ash and renewable generation, your Board of Directors was able to restructure our current contract with Duke Energy. With the different rate structure, we are now seeing reductions in other areas to offset most of the previously mentioned cost increases. Over the next year, our power costs to our members will increase very little, overall only about 1.5% to 2%. This is one of the many benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative.

Our directors are also members who live in our communities and are French Broad Electric customers. They strive to keep our costs as low as possible and find ways to keep our power costs affordable while maintaining a high level of reliability.

The Electrifier

Published monthly by French Broad EMC
PO Box 9, Marshall, NC 28753.

Jeff Loven	General Manager
Greg Fowler	District Manager
Tracy Evans	District Manager
Paula Seay	Editor

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FBEMC Offices

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
Mitchell County	(828) 688-4815

**Online Credit Card Payment
Available 24 Hours a Day
for VISA, MasterCard, Discover**

1-844-294-5697



NOTE

The deadline for submitting ads to **The Electrifier**:

April issue	Mar 15th
May issue	Apr 15th
June issue	May 15th
July issue	June 15th



The Outlet

All numbers are in 828 area code unless otherwise listed.

This is a **FREE** service to members for advertising non-commercial items. **Ads are limited to two items per member per month and will appear only one time unless resubmitted.** Ads are limited to two lines per ad. We reserve the right to edit, condense, or refuse ads due to content, unreasonable length, or available space.

French Broad EMC does not endorse services advertised and is not responsible for reliability of services listed.

When submitting ads for The Outlet, please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and account number. Ads without this reference information are subject to not being published.

Ads may be submitted online or mailed to French Broad EMC, Attn: Paula Seay, PO Box 9, Marshall, NC 28753.

FOR SALE

18.92 Acres, unrestricted, Burnsville, \$159,900. 689-5419.

Kawasaki KX250 dirt bike, \$5,000. 777-5422.

Craft fair/market booth, 4x4x7x7 metal frame w/ canopy, \$35. 649-3276.

Camo fabric hunting bline, 40"x40"x5', \$20. 649-3276.

1997 Toyota 4Runner, 3.4, V6, tow pkg, \$750. 279-7007.

2014 Husqvarna lawn tractor, 42" cut, \$800. 683-7223.

(4) Roof lawnmowers & (1) DR trimmer. 766-7899.

1930s hoosier cabinet, pie safe wire rack, \$400 OBO. 321/432-7670.

2016 Flagstaff 19' camper, \$15,500 OBO. 284-0040.

41.7 Ac w/ pastures, timber, gated ent, \$300,000. 704/365-4995.

Propane grill w/ 2 burners, \$100. 622-7225.

John Deere D140 riding mower, \$1,275. 622-7225.

Ford 1900 4WD diesel tractor w/ some equip, \$7,995. 689-2219.

(2) lots at Pisgah View Memorial Park, \$2,000. 689-2219.

Antique drugstore Coppertone display w/ 6 shelves. 683-9169.

1.55 Acres, well/septic, river view, \$52,000. 682-6759.

11 +/- Acres w/ 798' Cane River frontage, views, \$87,000. 682-6759.

R4 tires mounted for 2501 Kubota 4x4, \$900. 688-2535.

2007 Red Ford Expedition, 4WD, 180k mi, \$4,250 OBO. 778-4903.

Gehl 120 Hammer Mill, \$1,200 OBO. 778-4903.

Ping Eye 2 3-SW, putter, 3,5,7,9 woods, \$700. 675-5892.

Cub Cadet rear tine tiller, model RT 65, \$550. 256/534-3957.

2010 Corvette Grand Sport, leather, red, 32k mi, \$41,000 OBO. 680-9801.

Jazzy electric wheelchair w/ 2 batteries, \$1,500. 206-3675.

Hay, square bales. 778-5990 or 649-2968.

Chestnut lumber. 208-0295.

Gemstone jewelry, rings. 675-4271.

Tea pot collection. 675-4271.

Utility trailer w/ title, 7x14, lights, jack, \$1,900. 649-1332.

Leather jackets, \$20ea. 649-8186.

Kirby vacuum/shampoo system w/ attachments, \$275. 206-2453.

Potted plants, trees, shrubs. 545-8802.

Dwarf burning bushes. 545-8802.

Salt & Pepper Shakers. 778-9885.



Bright Ideas

EDUCATION GRANTS

Teachers Can Apply for 2018 - 2019 Bright Ideas Education Grants

French Broad EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2018-2019 school year. Teachers in K-12 classrooms with innovative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1 - September 18th. All teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of August 15th will be entered into a drawing for a Visa gift card.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.NCBrightIdeas.com.

WANTED

Junk cars. 689-5125.

Someone who has a portable sawmill. 407/625-7020.

40-50gal propane tank w/ valve for truck filling. 689-2322.

Old barn, house, bldg to tear down for lumber. 380-1232.

Old doors, lumber, flooring. 380-1232.

Ladder, 24i-28i. 680-0365.

Old buildings to tear down, will clean up. 208-0295.

Sofa, convertible, Q, lt blue pin-stripes, 81i, \$90. 682-9670.

Chair, Pier 1 wicker swivel rocker w/ cushions, \$40. 682-9670.

Hay roller, 4x4 & JD hay mower conditioner. 765-7001.

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE: full & twin pillow-top mattress. 561/704-4994.

For Rent: creekside cabin, pvt, fire pit. 656-2281.

Will Do: caregiver, exp, ref, Marshall. 649-9676.

Will Do: handyman services, junk removal, tree trimming. 284-2137.

Will Do: clean houses. 688-3693.

Will Do: alterations. 689-3273.

Will Do: cabinet services. 675-8001.

Will Do: chair caning. 689-5125.

Will Do: sit with elderly. 649-8186.

Will Do: FOMCA low cost spay/neuter. 649-9798.

Will Do: structure removals, hauling, lot clearing. 208-4599.

**FBEMC offices
will be closed
Friday March 30th
in observance of
Good Friday & Easter**



ROW Clearing Schedule March/April

Marshall District

- * Walnut
- * Sandy Bottom
- * Hopewell
- * Little Laurel
- * Laurel River
- * Whitt Road to Barnardsville Hwy.
- * Morgan Branch Road
- * Sugar Creek Road
- * Buckner Branch Road
- * Upper Flat Creek

Burnsville District

- * Halls Chapel
- * Micaville
- * Double Island
- * Green Mountain Drive
- * Phipps Creek
- * Banks Creek