

The Electrifier

www.frenchbroademc.com

OCTOBER 2021

“Owned by those we serve”

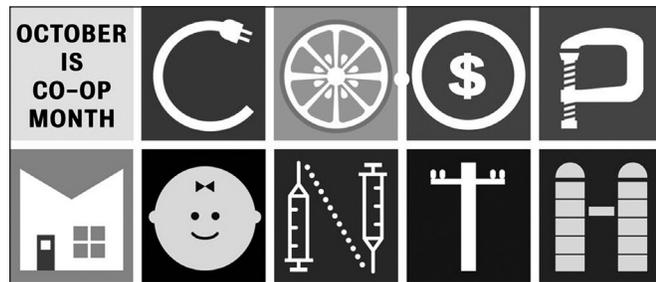
Marshall, NC

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

7 principles set cooperatives apart

Cooperatives are a culture, not just a business. A set of seven shared principles grounds cooperatives in a culture of service. In recognition of National Cooperative Month, we’re sharing the seven principles that guide us:

1. Membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Members’ economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community



As a not-for-profit business, our heart is always in service to you, never in making a profit; these seven cooperative principles guide us in that service every day.

BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

Some French Broad EMC members have reported being targeted through scams where someone claims to be a co-op employee and demands immediate payment, threatening to shut off power if the payment is not received in a certain number of hours. Scammers often ask for personal account information and/or demand that payment be made with a prepaid credit card. French Broad EMC will never contact a member to obtain account or personal information without notice.

Scammers’ tactics can change daily, which is why it’s important for co-op members to stay on top of the latest utility scam reports. If you doubt the identity of someone claiming to represent the co-op, hang up and call French Broad EMC’s office using the phone number listed on a bill or another official document. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to French Broad EMC so we can let others in our community know.

French Broad EMC urges members to be aware of scams and ask that members share information with family, friends and neighbors to help stop scams.

Manager's Report

Footing the Bill for Broadband



Footing the bill for broadband shouldn't fall to French Broad EMC Members. Rural North Carolina needs better access to broadband internet; all of us who live here understand that deeply. The large cable companies never considered serving any of our members outside of Mars Hill or Marshall. French Broad EMC recognized that high speed broadband was never going to be available to most of our customers in our Marshall District so our board of directors challenged our staff to find a solution.

We began applying for grants and other funding opportunities to get high speed service into our most rural areas. In the past four years, we have connected over 5,000 members to our fiber internet service and our plan is to continue to expand our service until every member has access. Without FBEMC, none of these customers would have high speed internet today regardless of what the major cable companies claim.

Recently, we have seen commercials and media from cable companies blaming the lack of rural broadband on electric utilities, including us, a rural, not-for-profit electric cooperative. Their claim is that electric cooperatives are blocking cable companies from using utility poles for broadband.

But what are those commercials not saying? That cable companies want electric cooperatives and

members to foot the bill for broadband deployment.

To deploy broadband, cable companies add equipment and string fiber on cooperative utility poles. When a pole is incapable of safely accommodating their additions, the company can request that the pole be replaced. Under current law, cable companies pay the full cost of replacing necessary poles.

They want to change that and are pushing a proposal at the North Carolina General Assembly that would require co-ops and members to foot the bill for replacing and upfitting poles. This would reduce their costs and increase their profits at our members' expense, which is especially troubling considering there is more government funding available than ever before to support broadband infrastructure.

This profit-driven proposal would raise electric bills for French Broad EMC members and co-op members across our state's rural communities. As cooperative businesses, we are different from for-profit companies that drive profit to benefit shareholders; our service is provided at cost, which means any additional expense to the co-op is really an additional expense for co-op members.

French Broad EMC and all of North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives have fought for our members for more than 80 years on issues that impact rural peo-

ple, pocketbooks and our ability to serve communities with affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity.

When it comes to broadband, we have been working diligently with partners and the General Assembly to close broadband gaps in ways that are efficient and affordable.

We were proud to support two recent legislative advancements that removed hurdles to broadband deployment: The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology ("GREAT") and Electric Co-op Rural Broadband Services laws.

This year, we also worked with lawmakers to propose an accelerated timeline for replacing utility poles because we know firsthand how important it is to make this service accessible to underserved areas.

There is no indication that the cable companies have similarly volunteered to accelerate their deployment of rural broadband to unserved areas.

Cable companies have ignored rural North Carolina, and especially members in French Broad EMC's service territory, for years while we have been here for generations, always advocating for what is right and fair for our members. The issue of bringing broadband to rural communities in a way that is efficient and affordable is no exception.



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

Antique cherry curio w/ curved glass front & claw feet. 712-7661.

4-post wood bed w/ mattress & box spring. 775-3920.

Miscellaneous flea market items, books, furniture & more. 775-3920.

Dwarf burning & snowball bushes, asst trees & more. 545-8802.

Laser 730 heater w/ hoses/fittings, \$800. 675-4661.

AKC Golden Retriever puppies, 1st shots & wormed, \$1,000. 467-0443.

Echo chainsaws, variety of sizes. 206-1502.

Solid steel door, 36"x80", \$70. 575-8544.

Tool box for small truck, \$75. 467-0807.

SurgeGard RV power protection, 50amps, \$100. 688-3378.

ADCO tyre guards (6), 40-42" bus size, \$100. 688-3378.

2002 HD Elec Glide Ultra Classic, 20,250mi, \$7,200. 318-955-2742.

Arctic King chest freezer, 7 cu ft, black, \$175. 318/955-2742.

Cub Cadet LT1024, 50", \$500; Craftsman LT1000, 42", \$500; \$800/both. 779-0352.

¾ acre w/14'x80' Oakwood home, part furn, \$40,000 OBO. 467-0807.

Tamko asphalt roof shingles, 300sq ft, cedar blend, \$175 OBO. 689-3592.

Full blooded Lab puppies, 1st shots, wormed, born 06/21. 450-0392.

Kennebec potatoes. 656-2281.

International tractor 254, bass boat & motor. 682-8038.

Hay, 1st & 2nd cutting, \$5/bale. 682-7268 or 284-7313.

Fresh eggs. 208-5770.

3.16ac, water, elect, septic, Burnsville, \$35,100. 786/218-3249.

Wood house, Roan Mtn. 688-1363.

Hardwood, will deliver. 206-9097.

4-acre bldg. lot w/ mtn view, Madison Co, \$59,500. 352/357-1758.

Jewelry, costume & vintage. 675-4271.

Tea pot collection. 675-4271.

Sourwood honey, \$20/qt. 206-1812.

Cub Cadet riding mower, 42" cut, batt & parts, \$400. 770/910-3345.

Husqvarna riding mower, 52" cut, triple blades, \$2,500 OBO. 770/910-3345.

WANTED

Junk cars. 689-5125.

Site for classroom trailer near Bakersville. 688-1363.

Volunteers to deliver meals for Madison Co Senior Centers. 649-2722.

Old flat-panel & raised-panel doors. 380-1232.

Old barn to tear down for materials. 380-2132.

Someone to do weedeating/yardwork, \$17.50/hr. 682-5020.

Caregiver for two elderly people, Shelton Laurel. 707-1823.

Someone to do landscaping/lawn-care. 208-5777 8am-8pm.

Craftsman lawn mower GT 50". 682-4749.

Lots of mature Rhododendron or Laurel. 273-8565.

MISCELLANEOUS

Will Do: scrape driveways. 713-5574.

For Rent: 10ac horse pasture w/3-stall stable & tack room. 467-9324.

Farmer's Market, MHU, Sat 10-1. www.marshillmarket.org.

FOMCA low cost spay/neuter. 649-9798.

Will Do: vacation home cleaning. 767-0581.

Will Do: window cleaning, exp. 352/283-1027.

For Rent: 2BR/2BA trailer, \$900 + dep, ref, bkgd ck. 206-4263.

Will Do: alterations. 689-3273.

Will Do: chair caning. 273-3161.

Will Do: pressure washing. 675-4003.

Will Do: haul away old AC units for free. 689-3896.

Will Do: haul away old appliances for free. 689-3896.

FREE: dehydrated food in 5-gal buckets, you haul. 689-9095.

TRY OUR APP



French Broad EMC is excited about our new mobile app! The mobile app allows you to view your accounts, view past payments made online, view and pay your bills, view your monthly and daily usage and also receive important messages from us. We hope to add additional features in the future to help our customers manage their accounts more easily. To login to the app all you have to do is use your existing login for the online payment portal found on our website.

To download the app, either go to the Google Play Store on your Android device or the Apple App Store on your iOS device and search for "French Broad Electric". Or you can simply tap on the graphics below directly from your device.

ROW Clearing Schedule
October/November

Marshall District

Cutting

- * Spivey TN
* Leicester
* Little Sandy Mush
* Meadowstown Road



Burnsville District

Cutting

- * Murphytown
* Hunt Dale
* Big Creek
* Hwy 19W
* Cane River Gap Road
* Ewart Wilson Road
* Cattail
* Transmission Line
(from Burnsville to Relief)
(from Relief to Bakersville)

The Electrifier

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

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FBEMC Offices

Marshall (828) 649-2051
Toll-Free 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 is the 15th of each month