



# The Electrifier

[www.frenchbroademc.com](http://www.frenchbroademc.com)

**OCTOBER 2022**

**“Owned by those we serve”**

**Marshall, NC**

## **BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS Attention Customers! Don't be Scammed!**

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 and we do not call you to demand payment. You receive billing notices with your due date information. Some scammers are now calling to reward you for paying your bills on-time and offer you gifts, such as iPads, gift cards and even a reduction in your power bill. Please do not give them your information.

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.

If you get a questionable call like this, please hang up and call FBEMC directly at 828-649-2051 to inquire about your account. 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.

Also, do not use any other website other than French Broad EMC to make your payments. Paymentus is our online bill pay provider, with whom you can create a customer portal and pay online with confidence and ease. There are no charges to use this fast and secure online service. To create an account, visit [www.frenchbroademc.com](http://www.frenchbroademc.com), hover over “BILLING”, click “CUSTOMER PORTAL”, then “Login” or “Register Now” to pay or set an Autopay Schedule. To make a one-time payment, click “Pay Now”. FBEMC is not affiliated with doxo.com as a bill pay provider. The following methods of payment are available for your convenience:

- \* Cash, check, debit or credit card - in person
- \* Check or money order by mail
- \* Debit, credit or electronic check by phone
- \* Automatic Bank Draft
- \* Mobile App found in Play Store
- \* PayPal, Venmo or Amazon Pay

# Manager's Report



## Getting Prepared as Winter Approaches

As we say goodbye to the summer of 2022 and welcome in fall, we know that winter is not far behind. This summer was largely uneventful, which is good news in the electric power distribution business. We experienced a consistently warm summer period, which helped elevate our sales over a long period of time. While the French Broad Electric distribution system has been assaulted by a few storms thus far, their severity and frequency have been much lower than previous years.

It's still too early to know just how bad (or good) the 2023 winter will turn out for us. Experience has taught us that winter here in the Western North Carolina / Eastern Tennessee Mountains can be harsh. We can see a snow storm pop up at any time between November and April that cause wreak havoc on our electrical system, causing power outages for our members.

While we cannot control the weather, French Broad EMC has continued its efforts to strengthen our 4,900 miles of power lines and associated facilities. We have continued to place a strong emphasis on maintaining our power line

right of ways. We understand that trees and power lines simply do not mix and in order for us to keep our members lights during snow and ice storms, the area under our lines must be cleared ahead of time.

In addition to keeping our right of ways clear, we keep a constant focus on the maintenance of our electric grid. Our latest four-year Engineering Work Plan was completed earlier this year and it lays out in detail multiple line construction jobs that will be completed in order to continue to provide a high level of service to our membership. New line extensions, upgrades of existing lines, and the replacement of older poles, wires, and other hardware and devices are all a part of keeping our electric system healthy. We also continue our year round inspection of our wood poles that keep our lines safely in the air. There are over 82,000 poles on the French Broad EMC system and the systematic inspections we perform help identify faulty poles so our crews can change them out before they cause a problem.

French Broad EMC expends a tremendous effort to make sure our electric network can weather a storm. Unfor-

tunately, Mother Nature has demonstrated that she can test any well designed and maintained electric system. When this happens, it's time for our employees to shine. We have some of the best and most dedicated people in the business working at your Cooperative. They are always ready at a moment's notice to brave the elements and are committed to getting everyone's service restored as quickly and safely as possible.

### Update Your Information

Please be sure to notify your local FBEMC office when any of your contact information changes, such as:

- \*mailing address
- \*email address
- \*phone number
- \*phone provider
- \*banking/checking account information for bank drafts
- \*credit card numbers
- \*method of payment changes, ex. from Bank Draft to credit card

Customers are notified of their FlexPay balances, electronic bills, pending disconnects, scheduled outages, etc. via email, text message and/or voicemail.

It is important that you keep us informed so that we can keep our records updated, should we need to contact you.



# 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**

Wormy chestnut lumber. 688-2957.  
 Wormy chestnut fire mantles. 688-2957.  
 Reynolds electric guitar w/ case +amp, \$50. 689-3706 after 5pm.  
 Greenhouse supplies, log chain & 8" mums. 545-0362.  
 Wheel covers for '71-'72 Chev. 545-0362.  
 New Holland 759C backhoe w/ 2 buckets, \$6,000 OBO. 622-7337.  
 English Shepherd puppies, \$250 ea. 683-3126 or 450-3190.  
 Barbie & porcelain dolls. 675-4271.  
 Tea pots, vintage & costume jewelry. 675-4271.  
 1951 Willis Jeep parts, heads, axles, etc. 319-2249.  
 40" white Westinghouse electric stove, \$200. 649-3670.  
 (8) guitars, banjo, amp, books, etc. 720-883-7679.  
 Bugle, flute, recorder, records, music, lessons. 720-883.7679.  
 John Deere Z335E ZTrak 42" cut mower, \$2,300. 682-8036.  
 White Hutch Heritage Begonias, jade plants. 260-9913.  
 Grizzly 10" table saw, \$500. 645-9860.  
 Stone laser wet tile saw, \$75. 319-0836

House for sale, Charlotte. 649-9390.  
 30x15 hoop/greenhouse, \$750. 536-5235.  
 (8) 16'-18' Christmas trees, \$275 to \$350. 385-6030.  
 Porter Cable hammer drill 1/2", 2spd, \$75. 319-0836.  
 Hay, in barn, Spruce Pine, \$50/roll. 385-6030.  
 Ventless Empire LPG stove, 21k BTU, \$1,000. 380-3381.  
 Tri-Star welder w/ welding rods, \$500. 645-9860.  
 Solid wood cherry 2-drawer file cabinet w/ folders, \$200. 691-8601.  
 Step-up Selmer Signet soloist wood clarinet, \$499. 691-8601.  
 Yard tractor & accessories, \$200. 777-5767.  
 Yamaha 103 88-key keyboard w/ stand + bench seat, \$800. 678-9095.  
 1999 Jeep Sport, 6cyl, 4WD, auto, \$1,000. 689-4586.  
 (2) burial plots @ Ashelawn Gardens, \$2,400. 231-6733.  
 Dwarf burning bushes. 545-8802.  
 Asst potted trees and shrubs. 545-8802.  
 1996 Saturn SL2, 4dr, 90k mi, manual, \$1,000 OBO. 208-0410.  
 1991 Saturn SL2, 150k+ mi, \$600 OBO. 284-1956.

(2) vent-free ProCom gas stoves, \$250ea. 336-456-4045.  
 Canning jars, \$5/doz. 645-7241.  
 4-burner gas grill. 645-7241.  
 Hay, 1st & 2nd cutting, \$6/bale. 682-7268 or 284-7313.  
 Blue Healer puppies. 682-2050.  
 Solid walnut wood dining table, 31"x84". 301-8722.  
 Solid cherry wood dining table, 38"x66". 301-8722.  
 1917-2022 pennies, \$20. 688-1144.  
 Collection of circulated coins, all or separately. 688-1144.

**WANTED**

Someone to split & stack firewood, wood splitter provided. 536-5235.  
 Someone to care for elderly couple 2-3 days/wk, COVID vacc req. 707-1823.  
 Experienced handyman, refs. \$25/hr. 682-5020.  
 Experienced carpenter, refs, \$25/hr. 682-5020.  
 Someone to stretch carpet. 941-650-8631.

**Ads, continued on Page 4 >>>**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

FREE: Kiefer pears, you pick. 284-0110.

FREE: wood, newly felled cherry tree. 689-2392.

Primitives Singing, Oct 22 @ 6pm, Maranatha Baptist Church.

Will Do: pressure washing. 675-4003.

FREE: classical music collection on cassette tapes. 689-9337.

FOMCA low cost spay/neuter. 649-9798.

Will Do: bush hogging work & scrap-ing driveways. 713-5574.

FREE: car or scrap metal removal. 284-8320.

Will Do: tree pruning or removal ser-vice. 989-7766.

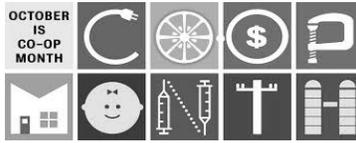
Farmers Market, MHU, Sat 10-1. www.marshillmarket.org.

Career Fair, Oct 18, 10am-1pm, NC Works at Madison ABTech. 782-2632.

Will Do: haul away junk cars, scrap metal for free. 689-3896.

Will Do: haul away junk riding mowers for free. 689-3896.

**OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH**



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.

*The Electrifier*

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

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

**Board of Directors**

Joe Justice President  
Jimmy Ray Vice-President  
John Chandler Secretary  
Gary Wilde Treasurer  
Jill Austin, Paul Badgley,  
Jerry Griffith, Keith Kuhne,  
Carl Ramsey,  
Gordon Randolph, Charles Tolley

**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 **10th** of each month.

**ROW Clearing Schedule**  
**October/November**

**Marshall District**  
**Cutting**

- \* Meadow Fork area
- \* Rice Creek Road
- \* Old Asheville Highway to NC state line
- \* Old Hwy 23
- \* Bear Branch

**Burnsville**  
**Cutting**

- \* Upper Jacks Creek
- \* Coxes Creek
- \* Byrd Branch
- \* Bailey Branch
- \* McKinney Branch
- \* Transmission Line  
(Burnsville to Relief)