



# POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

SEPTEMBER 2011



## September 23 First Day of Autumn



### Fall Reminders

#### Let's Remember

During September as summer vacations come to an end and kids go back to school, as those hot sunny days of summer transition to cooler more-bearable temperatures, and the countryside turns from bright green to a beautiful array of yellows, oranges and browns, let's not forget what this month also brings....REMEMBRANCE! Please take time out of your busy schedules this month and join Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in remembering those victims who lost their lives 10 years ago on September 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 people died that day.

#### In Memory of the Following Victims

- \* The World Trade Center
- \* The Pentagon
- \* American Airlines Flight 11
- \* United Airlines Flight 175
- \* American Airlines Flight 77
- \* United Airlines Flight 93
- \* Firefighters, Police Officers, Port Authority Workers, Medical Workers, and Paramedics



#### CALL 811 Before You Dig!!

Now that cooler weather is approaching, everyone is eager to get outside, enjoy the weather and get those fall projects started. Just remember, if your project requires any digging, call Miss Utility 48 hours in advance. It's the law! Miss Utility will contact Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative about your upcoming project so that we can mark those lines for you. Something as simple as planting a tree or shrub, installing fence posts, building a deck, or digging a drainage ditch can become a costly project if underground lines are buried in that area. Aside from the repair, you could also become seriously injured or disrupt electrical power to your home or your neighbors' by digging in the wrong place. Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative cares about your safety, so be sure and call 811 before you dig and help those projects go a lot smoother!!

#### It's Yard Sale Season & MEC Needs Your Help!

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's employees work day and night to maintain the flow of electricity to your home, and we need your help to keep our employees safe. In order to maintain our power lines, MEC's linemen climb utility poles, and any material or debris on the pole can cause serious injury. Just one small nail or tack from hanging a yard sale sign, poster, fence, bird house, or unauthorized light can be harmful. These can prevent the lineman's spurs on his climbers from going into the pole causing him to fall, or they could snag the rubber protection he is wearing and cause him to receive an electrical shock. Please keep the pole near your property clear of material which could create a hazard. If you see an item that is too high to reach by hand, please call us and we will come and remove it for you.

**Do not** try to climb a utility pole or use a ladder to remove the object.



# **MEC Offers Many Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill**

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative strives every day to make our services easier and more convenient for our members. We realize that life seems to move at a much faster pace and everyone has busy lives and schedules. With the help of technology, we are able to offer newer, faster, and easier means for you to view and pay your electric bill, change your address and update your phone number. Of course, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative always enjoys the opportunity of getting to see our members come into our offices to pay their bill or manage their account, but we want to provide as many alternatives as we can to make your life easier. Check out these options and see if one fits your schedule.

## **1. eBill Services**



In order to sign up for this service, visit Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's website at [www.meckecec.org](http://www.meckecec.org) and click on "Online Billing and Payment" and "eBill Enrollment." By accessing eBill services, you authorize Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative to deliver your electric bill electronically. This option allows MEC and the member to be more environmentally friendly because no paper bill will be sent to you.

## **2. Automatic Direct Bank Draft or Automatic Credit Card Draft**



With either the Automatic Direct Bank Draft Program or the Automatic Credit Card Draft Program, you can have your electric bill automatically withdrawn from your banking account or credit card each month. You continue to receive a paper bill, so that you will know your usage and bill amount; however, printed on the bill will be a message stating how much and on what day your bill will be drafted. Please call Priscilla Lawson at 434-372-6137 if you are interested in enrolling in either of these programs.

## **3. Automated Phone Services**



This easy option is available any time, day or night, seven days a week. Simply call 1-877-541-5737. All you need is your MEC account number, your credit card number, the 3 digit security code (on the back of credit card), the expiration date, and the billing zip code. It's that simple.

**Our Offices will be closed on  
Monday, September 5th, in  
observance of**

**LABOR DAY**

