

# Lumbee River

Electric Membership Corporation



MARCH 2011 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**RUMBA ON THE LUMBER**

**Fast Races, Hot Chili, and loads of cool, cool FUN!**

Whether you are sweating from the SRMC Family Fun Mile, the LRA 5K, or the hottest chili north of the border, you will find the Rumba on the Lumber to be the best family friendly and exciting festival in the region!

**BLACK WATER GRILLS FIT THURSDAY CHAMBER MIXER**  
February 18 - 5:45-7:00 pm  
Food, beverages, fun, drawings and music by the Southbank Band.

**2011 ART NIGHT NOW**  
March 1-7 - Ostermark Auditorium

**ALLEN ORTHOPEDIC FHL NIGHT PARTY**  
March 4th - 6:00-9:00 pm - Hill Scarp  
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the hospital with a night of music, fun, food, dancing and life's activities. Early job number pick-up for the LRA 5K. Enjoy the sounds of the Southbank Band.

**SRMC FAMILY FUN MILE**  
March 18th - 10:00 am - Downtown Plaza  
Pace and fun for the entire family! Late registration and packet pick-up for Black Water Grills. Subsidy from 8:30-9:45 am.

**LRA 5K**  
March 18th - 11:00 am - Downtown Plaza  
March 18th - 11:00 am - Downtown Plaza  
Late registration and job number pick-up for Black Water Grills. Subsidy from 8:30-10:45 am.

**BOO LIGHT CHILI COOK OFF**  
March 18th - 11:00 am-2:00 pm  
Downtown Water Street  
The area's biggest and best chili cook-off in North Carolina. Sample the finest chili "north of the border" and enjoy a cold beverage from our kiosks at the event. Entertainment provided by the Carolina Breakers Band.

**LUMBEE RIVER EMC KIDZ ZONE (FREE)**  
March 18th - 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
Downtown Plaza  
Tons of fun, activities, including face painting, rock wall, contests and games. A great way for the family to connect and experience a fun and safe environment. Are you? Don't forget about the SRMC Family Fun Mile at 10:00 am.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW**  
March 18th - 10:00 am-2:00 pm  
Downtown 3rd and Water Streets  
Local vendors and vendors will have their work on display or festival goes to open and purchase. This is a great opportunity to browse through items of local talent to pick up that special gift for someone or purchase a simple treasure for yourself.

Presented by:  
LUMBER RIVER AND TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SERVICES AND BUSINESS COUNTY WAREHOUSE SOCIETY

For more information call the Lumbee River Recreation Department at: (910) 671-2876

Visit us on the web at: [www.robesongreardrunners.com](http://www.robesongreardrunners.com)



## Lumbee River EMC Allocates 2011 Funds for LREMC Cares Energy Assistance Program

As the economy struggles to rebound, Lumbee River EMC recognizes the potential struggles our members may encounter trying to stretch their dollars each month just to make ends meet. When a crisis or emergency occurs, often times choices have to be made between medicine, food, and electricity.

administer our LREMC Cares Energy Assistance Program. The agencies will use their existing crisis guidelines to determine member eligibility for funds. Eligible members may receive up to \$150 in assistance one time a year. Funding is now available.

As part of our continued commitment to assist our members, Lumbee River EMC will continue its partnership with local community service agencies to

Agencies will administer funds on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds are depleted. Please contact the agency for your county for additional information.

Don't miss the Rumba on the Lumber—read more about it inside!

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County	Agency	Contact Info
Cumberland	Fayetteville Urban Ministry	910 483-5944
Hoke	Senior Services of Hoke County	910 875-8588
Robeson	Robeson County Church & Community Services	910 738-5204
Scotland	Scotland County Community Services	910 276-8330



## Energy Efficiency

# Shopping List

Planning energy efficiency upgrades at home? Take this handy shopping list with you to your local home improvement store.

CFLs (4-pack) \$6

Caulk \$2

Weather stripping \$4

Outlet sealing kit (10) \$20

Attic door insulator kit \$40

Programmable thermostat \$40

Mastic \$12

Water heater blanket \$20

Investment: **\$144**

Potential Annual Savings:

**\$700**

Sources:

HomeDepot.com,

TogetherWeSave.com

## Water Heater Wattage Options?

We are often asked why we offer water heater element options of 4500- and 3800-watt configurations. There are good reasons. Keep in mind that element wattage has no bearing on the efficiency of a water heater. A 4500-watt element in a 50-gallon barrel or in a 50-gallon high efficient water heater will draw the same energy, it's just the water heater will store it much more efficiently. Likewise, a 50-gallon tank with 4500-watt element and an identical one with 3800-watt elements will also use the same energy. The 3800-watt will just take longer to do it.

The 4500-watt element is the mainstay of the water heater market. Most units sold at home centers and hardware stores will have 4500-watt elements. It provides good recovery of 21.7 gallons per hour with solid reliability.

The 3800-watt element provides a couple of advantages over the 4500-watt. While it has a nominal reduction in recovery at 17.6 gallons per hour, its wiring requirements are less stringent. A 4500-watt element requires 10/2 wire and a 30-amp (220 volt) breaker. The 3800-watt can be wired with 12/2 wire and a 20-amp (220 volt) breaker. This may be an important consideration if you are planning to replace the water heater in an older house. This is because these houses may have limited capacity in their panel or an older model water heater that commonly used this lighter gauge (12/2) wiring. By using the 3800-watt element, you can change out your water heater without having to upgrade your wiring or service.

The other benefit of using a 3800-watt element is the fact it is the same size as the 4500-watt element, but has reduced wattage going through it. This is known as "watt density." As you reduce watt density, the surface temperature of the element is lowered, resulting in reduced thermal stress and less mineral build up. The combination of lower watt density, reduced thermal stress and decreased mineral buildup increases the service life of these elements in harsh water conditions.

If you would like any information about our energy-efficient Marathon Water Heaters, our rebate program or low interest loan program call a member services representative at (910) 843-4131.



## Deadlines approaching fast for youth opportunities

### Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships

Lumbee River EMC is providing all-expenses-paid sports camp scholarships for one deserving young woman to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp in Raleigh on July 3–6 and one young man to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill on June 18–22. Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply. Application deadline is March 31. Download an application at [www.lumbeeriver.com](http://www.lumbeeriver.com).

### Youth Tour and College Scholarships

Don't forget that applications are now available for college scholarships and for the Washington Youth Tour. Lumbee River EMC has four, 4-year scholarships and two, 2-year scholarships available for students graduating in the spring 2011. Application deadline is March 4!

Your cooperative also has two youth tour scholarships available for juniors that are interested in attending the Washington Youth Tour (June 11–17). Check out our website at [www.lumbeeriver.com](http://www.lumbeeriver.com), visit one of our offices or check with your guidance counselor to pick up your application. Application deadline is March 4!

# Dos and Don'ts for extension cords and power strip surge protectors



It's a fact: wall outlets are not always in the most convenient places, which may mean you'll occasionally need to use an extension cord, and sometimes you might need a surge protector, too.

Although these devices serve useful purposes, they could become potential hazards if not used properly. Extension cords are a length of cable with a plug on one end and one or more sockets on the other end. A power strip surge protector is a strip of electrical sockets that attaches to the end of a flexible cable and prevents voltage spikes while allowing multiple devices to be plugged in.

Here are the "dos and don'ts" of extension cords and power strip surge protectors:

- Look for a certification label from an independent testing lab such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or ETL (Electrical Testing Laboratories) on the package and on the product. For extension cords, look for an attached certification label on the cord near the plug. For power strips and surge protectors, inspect the underside of the casing and make certain that it is marked with the manufacturer's name and the testing lab.
- Use electrical cords and power strip surge protectors that have polarized

plugs with one blade slightly wider than the other, or grounded three-pronged plugs. These features reduce the risk of electric shock.

- Insert plugs fully so that no parts of the prongs are exposed when the cord is in use.
- Never cover any part of an extension cord with rugs or other objects while in use. If the cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which can result in fire.
- Don't overload outlets with too many appliances. Instead, relocate appliances to other outlets to avoid a fire.
- If you need to use an extension cord outside, make sure the package says it's safe for outdoor use. Outside extension cords should guard against shock and be weatherproofed.
- Do not leave cords dangling from counter tops, tables or spread across the floor where they can be pulled down or tripped over.
- If a cord feels too hot, stop using it immediately, destroy it and throw it away.

Keep these tips in mind to safely use extension cords and power strip surge protectors



## Lumbee River EMC Sponsors 2011 Rumba on the Lumber

Lumbee River EMC is once again proud to be a sponsor of the Rumba on the Lumber 2011, to be held March 4-5.

Things kick off this year with the Allen Orthopedic Friday Night Party and goes through Saturday afternoon with the Arts and Crafts show. There will be something for every member of the family, including lots of food, fun and physical activities!

Be sure and check out the Lumbee River EMC Kidz Zone. This area is absolutely free and offers tons of kid activities including face painting, rock wall climbing, contests and prizes. It is a great way for the family to spend an afternoon in a fun and safe environment. For the more active families, don't forget the Southeastern Regional Medical Center Family Fun Mile at 10 a.m. on March 5 or the LRA 5K immediately afterwards.

Don't forget about one of the most popular festival events by getting your tickets for the Bud Light Chili Cook-Off, the area's biggest and best chili cook-off! Sample the finest chili "north of the border." Entertainment will be provided by Carolina Breakers band.

All Saturday activities start between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and end mid-afternoon. Bring the family out for a wonderful day in downtown Lumberton to the best family friendly and exciting festival in the region!

For more information, visit [www.robersonroadrunners.com](http://www.robersonroadrunners.com).



### Stoneybrook Steeplechase

Mark your calendars for the 60th running of the steeplechase at the Carolina Horse Park. This year's festivities include many new and exciting entertainment events for the entire family. The event will be held on Saturday, April 9, and promises to be even bigger and better than last year. So bring the family out for a full day of fun and

festivities as we welcome spring back to the Sandhills! For additional information call (910) 875-2074 or visit the Carolina Horse Park website at

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



## Avoid Communication Problems: Update Your Member Information

**W**inter weather visited the Sandhills this winter and brought with it more snow and ice than the area had seen in a long time. Lumbee River EMC worked hard to maintain our system's maximum performance for our members.

For those of you who did experience an outage, hopefully you took advantage of our automated Outage Management System (OMS). While we do our best to prepare for storms, once a storm hits and an outage occurs, our phone lines become flooded with more calls than the lines can handle.

That is when our automated system can be the most help to you as a member. The system allows you the opportunity to let us know your lights are out without having to wait to speak to a representative. For the automated outage system to properly work for you, it is extremely important that our records reflect accurate phone information for your account. If your account information is accurate, the system can automatically locate where you live when your lights are out. If you have multiple accounts, it is better that you enter the account number to narrow the trouble location. The automated outage system

provides our personnel with the same information a representative provides, without the delay.

Not only is an accurate phone number for your account important, so is an accurate mailing address, especially when you move. As a member-owner of Lumbee River EMC, you are allocated capital credits annually. Board approval and financial stability determine the annual amount returned to each member. If you move and do not let us know, your refund may not find you! If you are eligible to receive a refund, it will be sent to the last address on your account. An incorrect mailing address will delay, or even obstruct, your receipt of your monies.

So the next time you get your electric bill, look at your account information. If it is not accurate, go online and take the time to get it right! You can also use the form on the flap of your return payment envelope, or you can contact any of our Member Account Representatives and they will be happy to update your information. You may never know when your utility needs to contact you, so be sure we can find you so you can receive all the benefits and service you, as a member-owner, are entitled.

**Saving money on your energy bill can be as easy as changing a light bulb.**

Using compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs, instead of the standard incandescent bulb can result in significant savings in both time and money. Lumbee River EMC sells CFLs at all of its office locations for a very reasonable price. The 13 watt bulbs (60 watt equivalents) cost **\$1.25\*** each.

\*PRICES EXCLUDE SALES TAX

**Bulbs as low as \$1.25**



**Lumbee River**  
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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



**LUMBEE RIVER EMC**

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