

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Seed money to help K-12 ideas bloom

Classroom teachers may now apply for Bright Ideas funding in amounts up to \$2,500 per grant. To access the online application and learn more about the program please visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com). The final application deadline is Sept. 15, 2025.

### Teachers, apply now!

Applications are now being accepted online at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com)!



## Ask Lineman Larry

### What is a hot line tag?

Normally, Tideland breakers are in three-shot operation, which gives anything in contact with an energized line up to three opportunities to clear before a full-fledged outage begins. We refer to those operations as “blinks” because your power will typically blink off and come right back on.

To work safely on energized lines, our linemen and construction crews will place a hot line tag, which includes setting the breaker in one-shot operation. During that time, something as simple as a tree limb briefly touching the line will result in an immediate outage. While the hot line tag process is critical for worker safety, we know it can be frustrating to members to have an outage occur on what is otherwise a bright, beautiful day.

Have a question? Email [linemanlarry@tidelandemc.com](mailto:linemanlarry@tidelandemc.com)



# MOVE OVER

## Slow Down Move Over

when you see stopped electric utility vehicles



**It's the Law!**



## 2025 temperature trends

You may not be playing with the thermostat but Mother Nature sure has

2025 Temperature Averages in Tideland Territory			
Month	Normal	Actual	Departure from historical norms
January	44.6°F	39°F	5.6° colder
February	47.3°F	49°F	1.7° warmer
March	53.2°F	57.9°F	4.7° warmer
April	61.8°F	66.2°F	4.4° warmer
May	69.6°F	72.5°F	2.9° warmer
June	77°F	80°F	3° warmer
July	80.5°F	83°F	2.5° warmer

*On August 8, temperatures were trending 3° cooler than the month's historical norms*

In 2023, when Hurricane Idalia hit Florida, there were numerous reports of close call incidents involving motorists and power restoration crews. So much so that in several cases local and state law enforcement officials were assigned to stay with crews where hazards by motorists were of greatest concern.

In fact, motorists were even pulling into work zone areas and exiting their vehicles to inquire about power restoration efforts.

In North Carolina, General Statute 20-157 states that motorists are required to move over one lane, if possible, or reduce speed for stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights on the shoulder of the highway, including public service vehicles with amber lights. Violating the law could result in a \$250 fine.

Given that most of the roadways in Tideland served territory have minimal shoulder area, observing this law is particularly important for both your safety and ours. If you need a power restoration update the safest way to obtain that information is via our Facebook page, outage text messaging notifications or by simply giving us a call. Never interrupt crews while they work.

Outdoor temperatures are the primary driver of residential energy use. Members often ask "Why did my energy use increase when I haven't changed my thermostat setting?" Because your HVAC system likely ran longer to compensate for outdoor temperature changes.

This June, HVAC runtime requirements were 26% higher than the historical average and 9.4% higher than June 2024. For July, HVAC runtime requirements were 17% higher than the historical average and 8% higher than July 2024.

The best way to track the impact of outdoor temperatures on your home's HVAC system runtimes and overall energy consumption is to log into Tideland's member portal and overlay your daily or hourly energy consumption with the outdoor temperatures. And of course we encourage all members to sign up for a high energy use alert. Levelized billing is another option for members not challenged in meeting payment due dates.

### Give TREES a Chance

**Trees planted too close to power lines grow into a BIG problem.** To prevent power outages and safety hazards, these trees need to be trimmed and sometimes removed. Do your part to keep trees healthy and prevent power outages.

**Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines.** [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

# Message to members

## Harvest and hurricane seasons peaking in Tideland territory

PAUL SPRUILL  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we transition to cooler, shorter days, it's important to remember that the statistical peak of the Atlantic hurricane season is Sept. 10. That largely coincides with some of the busiest agricultural harvest periods in Tideland territory.

And what we know from past experience is that an approaching hurricane or tropical system can put tremendous pressure on our farming members to harvest as much as they can before trouble arrives. That can mean long hours and little rest for those who feed America.

Unfortunately, accidents are more prone to happen under those conditions so let's remember to put safety ahead of speed.

For our farming friends we offer the following tips:

- Know your surroundings by identifying the location of power lines and poles before you enter a new field.
- Ensure all equipment is properly maintained and that you are aware of its height, including any extensions, antennas or GPS receivers.
- Maintain a minimum clearance of 10 feet between your equipment and power lines
- Use a spotter when raising equipment like augers or truck beds.
- Establish clear communication protocols especially for reporting an emergency.
- Always lower grain augers before moving them.
- Be mindful of your turn

radius and ensure that equipment and towed loads can't swing into poles or power lines including guy wires.

- Reach out to Tideland if you need our crews to safely lift an energized line to avoid questionable clearances.

If farm equipment or any vehicle comes in direct contact with a power line take these steps:

- Stay inside the cab and call 911 for help.
- Make sure bystanders do not approach since the exterior of the vehicle as well as the surrounding ground may now be electrified.
- If the vehicle is on fire and you need to exit, you must jump clear of the vehicle with your feet together and hop away to safety. Under no circumstances should you touch the vehicle exterior and the ground at the same time.

Our non-farming members can do their part by giving tractors and other farm equipment wide berth as they appear more frequently on public roads during harvest season.

While our wish is for high crop yields and no named storms, those are things out of our control. What we can influence is both public and personal safety. That takes each of us doing our part.

Take care.

## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way.

During September, Gunnison Tree will continue trimming the Pantego circuit. The work area includes Yeatesville, Highway 264, Free Union, Pungo Creek and all side roads in those areas.

In the Grantsboro district, Lee Electric, our construction contractor, will continue targeted pole replacements. These replacements are the result of our proactive pole inspection program. The inspections were undertaken by our contractor Osmose.



As we were winding down this summer's Lineman Larry contest, we reflected on how the vast majority of photos submitted were from grandparents. And wouldn't you know it, Grandparents Day is Sunday, Sept. 7.

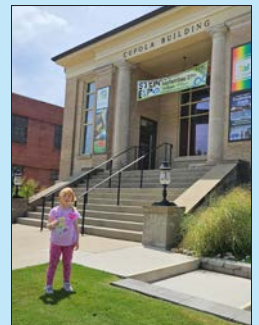
So we just wanted to say thank you to all the grandparents out there who are taking time to engage, explore, educate and participate in some good old fashioned playtime. We could tell from all those smiles on young happy faces that it means the world to some very lucky grandchildren.

# Lineman Larry's extraordinary

Here are more of our "Lunch with a Lineman" contest entries. Next month we'll reveal our contest winners. Just because the contest has ended, doesn't mean the photos have to stop. Send them to [linemanlarry@tidelandmc.com](mailto:linemanlarry@tidelandmc.com).



Jack and Claire, the grandchildren of members Dan and Jeanne Weiss of Belhaven, started summer with frozen yogurt at Sweet Frog and ended with gelato in Rome. Lucky Larry!



Chloe Dillehay, the granddaughter of Alex and Sharon Sosangelis of Belhaven, has run up the miles on Lineman Larry this summer. No problem. He's ready to plug in and recharge!



Larry's adventures continued with Addy Kate, the daughter of Brett and Kimberly Smith of Belhaven.



These cousins, the great grandchildren of William Morrison of Pamlico Beach, enjoyed a day on the water with Lineman Larry.

# inary adventures continue



Sunny hit the beach with Lineman Larry while vacationing at the Ocracoke home of her grandmother Patience Harvey. Larry loves a good hushpuppy!



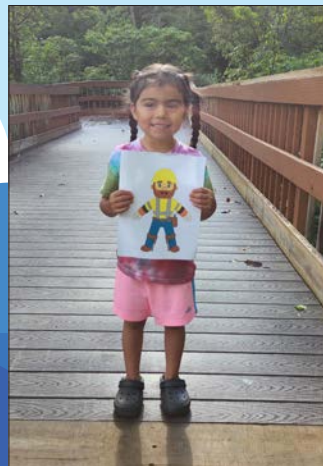
Gerea Hotkin of New Bern submitted this photo of her daughter Serenity with Larry.



Staten can have lunch with a lineman anytime he wants. His daddy, Austin Roscoe, is a Tideland lineman.



Waylon and Westin, the grandsons of Gary and Linda Davis of New Bern, with Larry at the Kinston Bird Dawgs.



(Left to right) Moises, Cataleya and Dalia, the grandchildren of members Robert and Wendy Jones of Aurora, took Larry on their family vacation to Cherokee, NC.



Chase with Coach Hubert Davis

## *Chasing his dreams*

Chase Carey loves basketball. Whether it's in his driveway at home or on the court with his friends, it always puts a smile on his face.

A seventh grader at Pamlico County Middle School, Chase was selected to represent Tideland EMC at the Carolina Basketball Camp on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this summer. Campers stayed overnight in dorms, learned fundamental skills to help them excel on and off the court and received individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team-building abilities.

When he's not shooting hoops, Chase is a well-rounded student-athlete participating in his school's track, cross-country and soccer teams. He is the son of Tideland members Timothy and Crystal Carey of Fairfield Harbour.



# Pack power

Vivian Marshall has got skills. Both on and off the court. Among them are frog gigging, shucking oysters, shooting skeet, archery, surfing, gardening, fishing, hunting and skateboarding ... “to name a few” she wrote in her Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp scholarship application.

A seventh grader at Pungo Christian Academy, Vivian is the daughter of Brian and Abigail Marshall of Engelhard. She drilled daily with NC State coaches and staff as well as current and former players. Campers competed in both team games and individual competitions.

Soon she’ll be back on the court with her team at PCA and while they are the Raiders, don’t be surprised if you hear a howl every now and then from Vivian.



Vivian with Coach Wes Moore



The more you know

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## How power gets to you

In years past we've printed a map of our many substation locations to help members visualize the path power takes to reach their home. As we enter peak hurricane season we thought it might be additionally useful to share this "cheat sheet" many Tideland employees have posted at their desks (and even at home) as a quick reference guide. Under every substation heading are the individual circuits that feed from that location and how many meters are served.

Are you able to identify your home's substation and circuit? Maps of each can also be found on our website [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).

## Tideland Topics

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

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### 24 Hour Member Service

252.943.3046

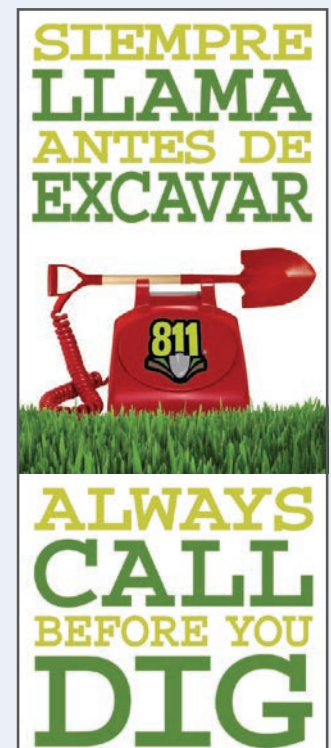
### 24 Hour Outage Reporting

& Automated Services

252.944.2400

Text OUT to short code 85700

Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



### Pantego District

#### **Pantego Sub 1702 (6599)**

Hyde Cir 81  
Pantego Cir 818  
Pungo Cir 355  
Sydney Cir 448

#### **Sidney Sub 1431**

Gaylord Bay Cir 635  
Pamlico Beach Cir 796

#### **Ponzer Sub 1313**

Dowry Creek Cir 628  
Rose Acre Cir 55  
Rose Bay Cir 630

#### **Five Points Sub 1682 (3336)**

Braddy Road Cir 278  
Duck Creek Cir 993  
Howell's Mill Cir 411

#### **Washington Sub 1654**

Country Club Cir 612  
Pamlico Village Cir 532  
Plantation Cir 510

#### **Plymouth Sub 939**

Hwy 32 Cir 338  
Liverman Heights Cir 268  
Long Ridge Cir 333

### Ocracoke District

Hatteras Sub 8 (1445)

#### **Ocracoke Sub 1437**

North East Cir 648  
North West Cir 504  
South Cir 279

**TOTAL ACCOUNTS:**  
**24,446**

Updated 6/11/2025

### Grantsboro District

#### **Edward Sub 3535**

Blounts Creek Cir 1281  
Bonnerton Cir 834  
Craven County Cir 364  
Lowland Cir 1052  
PCS Sub/ Butt Rd 4

#### **Silver Hill Sub 4635**

Arapahoe Cir 2367  
*Minnesott Beach Rec 471*  
*Dawson Creek Rec 1131*  
Merritt Cir 2221  
Keystown Rd I: 11  
Keystown Rd 2: 26  
Office Cir 10

#### **Fairfield Harbour Sub 3177**

Fairfield Harbour Cir I 1084  
Fairfield Harbour Cir II 1773  
Cayton Rd Cir 320

### Engelhard District

#### **Mattamuskeet Sub 79 (2153)**

Fairfield/Eng Cir 64  
Swindell Fork Cir 15

#### **Swindell Fork Sub 751**

Lake Comfort Cir 343  
Swan Quarter Cir 408

#### **Fairfield Sub 392**

Fairfield Cir 270  
Prison Cir 122

#### **Engelhard Sub 931**

Engelhard Cir 252  
Lake Landing Cir 464  
Ridge Road Cir 215

#### **Manns Harbor Sub 780**

Manns Harbor Cir 375  
Stumpy Pt/East Lake Cir 405