

# CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO H. WAYNE WILKINS



## INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The past few months have underscored how important it is for people and communities to have a strong network of support and access to resources that will help build a brighter future for all. As a local business, we are here to support you—our members and customers—and the community we share.

We constantly strive to give back throughout this period of unprecedented need. Our ongoing investments in the local community are the foundation of the brighter future we envision. From education grants and workforce development initiatives to innovative energy solutions and new technologies, everything we do is aimed at strengthening our community.

Our economic development initiatives lead to new opportunities for our members and new success for local businesses. One such way we're doing this is by offering zero-interest loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. This helps us create and retain jobs, promote development and enhance community facilities and public services like police protection and fire and rescue.

In recent years, we've ushered in companies like Borealis in Taylorsville; Kurz, Daumar and Oerlikon in Huntersville; Yokohama in Cornelius; Eggers in Davidson County; and the Davie Industrial Center in Davie County. We are proud to welcome new companies to our area and even prouder to serve as their reliable energy services provider.

Serving as the local connection to large industries is a tremendous asset to all our members; it ensures that our local communities grow, leads to greater opportunities and provides meaningful and substantial employment for our members. We're thrilled to contribute, power, and promote a brighter future for all.

H. Wayne Wilkins

*On the cover: Sir Purr and two Carolina Panthers players joined our EnergyUnited linemen for the Bright Ideas Award ceremony back in November 2019. Pictured on the front are Sir Purr and Jon Upright. Though it may look different this year, we look forward to awarding our hardworking educators this fall as well.*

# A VISION THAT **SERVES YOU**

Our goal has always been to provide our member-customers with reliable and affordable energy. And as we have grown, the services, products and technologies we offer have too. This vision map is a depiction of all the places we're found in your home—from outdoor entertainment to solar panels, we're always here to empower your every day.

**[LEARN MORE AT ENERGYUNITED.COM/VISION-MAP](https://www.energyunited.com/vision-map)**



*Congrats to our June e-billing  
winner, James Henderson of  
Mooresville, N.C.!*

*Sign up for e-billing under  
My Account at [EnergyUnited.com](https://www.energyunited.com).*



# YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

## CONGRATS, RILEY AND CALEB!

Riley Elliott, a rising seventh-grader at Central Davidson Middle School, will represent EnergyUnited next year at the 2021 Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University. Riley, who is the daughter of Chris and Shannon Elliott, enjoys playing basketball, singing and playing her guitar.

Caleb Brown, a rising seventh-grader at Alexander Graham Middle School, will attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in 2021 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Caleb, the son of David and Jackie Brown, enjoys playing basketball and baseball, and drawing.

Due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 these players will participate in the 2021 sports camps instead, as situations allow.

**WAY TO GO, YOU TWO!**

**RILEY**



**CALEB**

## TEACHERS! APPLY!

Since 1994, EnergyUnited and the Bright Ideas program have funded over 12,000 projects for local teachers across 19 counties in North Carolina, impacting over 2.5 million students. To apply, teachers must explain their goals, creative elements, implementation and the budget of the project. Teachers can apply for grants ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 individually or as a team.

**EARLY BIRD APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 15!**  
**APPLY AT [NCBRIGHTIDEAS.COM](https://ncbrightideas.com).**



# SPIRITUAL RETREAT CENTER RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR **RESPIRE PROGRAM**



How you cope with stress and anxiety can ultimately have a significant impact on your health. If you hadn't taken a serious look at your techniques for managing stress prior to the start of 2020, chances are that you have given the subject much more consideration since our world dramatically changed in March.

One recent EnergyUnited Foundation donation recipient offers a safe, tranquil space for individuals and groups to observe silent time in prayer or meditation. In fact, the **St. Francis Springs Prayer Center** also recently established a respite program, which will be partially funded through a donation from the EnergyUnited Foundation, so that frontline medical workers can have access to this space for free.

"The St. Francis Springs Center recognizes the severe impact of this pandemic on our economy, on our physical health and our mental health and we want to do what we can to help," said Steve Swayne, executive director of St. Francis Springs Center. "Thanks to this donation from the EnergyUnited Foundation, we will be able to provide free rooms for frontline medical workers to stay for up to two nights while they work tirelessly to help save lives."

The funding will help the five-star retreat center defray operational costs, such as food, utilities and staffing to serve medical workers. Their plan is to serve 15 medical workers from the Piedmont Triad area each week by working closely with Wake Forest Baptist Health, UNC and Moses Cone hospitals.

"These workers put their lives on the line each day to serve us in our greatest times of need, but they also have essential needs that our communities must meet during this crisis," said Debra Citta, EnergyUnited Foundation administrator. "We're proud to support this program."

The EnergyUnited Foundation is a voluntary, member-funded nonprofit organization supported by EnergyUnited's Operation Round-Up program. Over 70,000 EnergyUnited members choose to participate in the program by rounding up their electric bills each month. The donation to the St. Francis Springs Center represents just one request approved by the EnergyUnited Foundation in response to COVID-19. Since March, the Foundation has donated \$35,000 to four nonprofits to assist community recovery and response efforts.

**To learn how you sign up for Operation Round-Up and donate to the EnergyUnited Foundation, simply call 1-800-522-3793.**



# GET TO KNOW OUR NEW PROGRAMS!

**We're expanding our capabilities to help reduce the overall cost of power for all members! Our new programs help show you how:**

## BEAT THE PEAK

This free and voluntary program notifies members via text and/or email when there are forecasts for extreme temperatures (aka, peak times). Peaks occur when the demand and costs for electricity are highest. When you receive an alert, you'll be encouraged to adjust your thermostat and lighting, and to shift the time you use large appliances in an effort to hold down the demand for power.

## PEAK TIME PERKS

Do you have or are you looking to purchase a Google Nest or Honeywell smart thermostat? If so, then we encourage you to enroll in **Peak Time Perks**, a program for EnergyUnited residential members that rewards you for allowing us to adjust your thermostat during peak periods. When you sign up, you'll be credited \$50 on your electric bill and \$20 for each year after that.

**TO LEARN MORE AND ENROLL IN EITHER OF THESE PROGRAMS, VISIT [ENERGYUNITED.COM/DEMAND-RESPONSE](http://ENERGYUNITED.COM/DEMAND-RESPONSE).**

## CALL **BEFORE** YOU DIG

NC 811 day is August 11, and as a community leader, it's our responsibility to remind our members of how important it is to call 811 prior to your digging project (say, putting in a fence or a pool). By doing so you can avoid hitting a public utility line, which can in turn cause outages, delays, damage and even harm to you and your neighborhood.

So please, call before you dig—the number is 811!







# A GOOD TIME FOR A GENERATOR

Hurricane season is quickly approaching, and with it, the looming threat of disrupted power. Though we do our best to restore electricity in a timely and safe manner, a generator is a fantastic option for those who medically require access to power, for families with young ones or for those who just don't like the inconvenience of an outage.

**IF YOU WANT TO SECURE YOUR HOME AGAINST POWER LOSS, CONTACT A PROPANE SPECIALIST AND FIND THE GENERATOR THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU. 1-800-522-3793**



## HOW CAPITAL CREDITS ARE **WORKING FOR YOU**

We're doing something different with the way we distribute capital credits this year. Typically, we pay these via check to our members during the month of December, but since this year has placed a financial strain on many, we've decided to change that. We've applied these earnings directly to your electric account during the month of August to speed up the process so you can feel the relief immediately.

**Questions? Call 800-522-3793 or visit [EnergyUnited.com](https://www.energyunited.com).**



# DEADLINE TO VOTE!

Our Board of Directors Election is coming around again, and as a co-op member now's your chance to let your voice be heard! Ballots are due on or before 5 p.m. on

**September 10, 2020.** You can cast your vote via email or by U.S. Mail.



## TO VOTE BY EMAIL:

If we have your email address, we will email you a ballot on August 10.



## TO VOTE BY U.S. MAIL

We will send a paper ballot to your registered address on August 10.

# VOTE AND WIN

## ONE OF THREE \$100 VISA GIFT CARDS

Voting doesn't just ensure that you're participating in the democratic process of your electric cooperative. It will also give you the chance to win one of three Visa gift cards—each one valued at \$100! It's just another way we're helping you remember that you're a valued member of EnergyUnited!

Results of the BOD Election will be announced at this year's Virtual Annual Meeting, which will be held on **Thursday, September 17.** Details coming soon!

## ENSURING A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE

As we approach the peak of hurricane season, we've already seen above-average storm activity during a year that is unusually challenging for our members.

While this hurricane season may seem especially daunting, as always EnergyUnited is ready for any storms that come our way. And our ongoing efforts to make the electric grid more flexible, efficient and resilient will also help ensure your power is as reliable as possible, no matter the weather.

We can't completely prevent outages, but advances in technology are making our systems more resilient and enabling us to respond to storm damage and

restore power more quickly. **Advanced Metering Infrastructure**, commonly known as smart meters, provides two-way communication between your home or business and our cooperative and lets us know if your power is out. These meters can help you monitor and manage your energy use, and they help us better control demand for electricity across the grid, resulting in more reliable and affordable power for everyone.

**To learn more about how EnergyUnited is building a brighter, more resilient future, visit [EnergyUnited.com/restoring-power](https://www.energyunited.com/restoring-power).**



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