

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

# CONNECT

**ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER**

DRIVE  
ELECTRIC  
WEEK



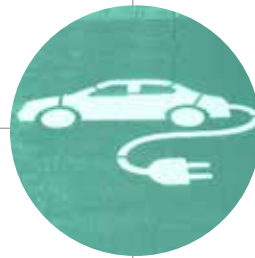
## IN THIS ISSUE

ANNUAL MEETING  
REMINDER

LAST CHANCE FOR  
BRIGHT IDEAS

NEW MEMBER  
COLUMN

# THOMAS GOLDEN



- + DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK
- + EU CHARGING STATIONS
- + EV EVENT

September often marks the beginning of the school year, the excitement for cooler weather and the reminder that change is taking shape all around us. Change, of course, can be a scary word to many because it often implies discomfort and newness. But it doesn't have to be. There are several shifts that we see taking shape in the world around us, and it's our responsibility to make sure we make these changes for the better to positively impact our communities.

One such initiative is a push for growing our electric vehicle (EV) footprint and the infrastructure that supports it. After a historically high-heat summer across the globe and inflated prices, simple changes like the one to drive electric can add up to significant results for both the planet and your wallet.

EnergyUnited is a member of Plug-In NC, a statewide advocacy group that supports plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) adoption and raises awareness of the environmental benefits of driving an electric vehicle. Within the past year, we've grown our EV infrastructure base to better support electric vehicles. In 2021 we expanded our electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to include two more DC fast chargers within our service area. This means you can charge up your electric car in no time and carry on with your busy lives.

Currently, there are almost 20,000 electric vehicles registered in North Carolina and nearly 1,000 charging station outlets.\* And these numbers will only increase in the years ahead as price options and additional vehicle options become available. The North Carolina Drive Electric Week is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about why going electric might be right for you, weigh the cost benefits and even take an EV out for a test drive. If this is something you would like to learn more about then I urge you to come out for our **Driving Change** EV event on **September 24** at the Career Academy and Technical School in Troutman, NC. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about the energy and cost savings that an EV could make in your life, and hey, you might even have a little fun.

If nothing else, I hope this serves as a reminder of all the amazing progress we've made to bring in some positive change for our service area and communities.

Sincerely,



**Thomas Golden, CEO**



# THERE'S **STILL TIME**

**CAST YOUR  
BALLOTS IN THIS  
YEAR'S ELECTION!**



Part of being a member-owned electric services provider means that you have a voice in the leadership of our cooperative. This year we have two candidates running for a Board of Directors seat for both District 1 and District 3.

Cast your vote on or before 5 p.m. EST, September 10, 2022.

***Vote in our upcoming Board of Directors election  
and you could win one of three \$100 Visa® gift cards.***



## **SAVE THE DATE**

FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING!

EnergyUnited's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, at 5 p.m. EST and again on Friday, September 16, at 7:30 a.m.

This meeting will include the CEO's State of the Cooperative address, the Board President's Report and the results of the Board election.

**WHEN:** September 15 at 5:00 p.m. EST  
and September 16 at 7:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Facebook Live & WSIC Radio.

In case you missed the Annual Meeting,  
election results can be found at  
[EnergyUnited.com/director-elections/](https://EnergyUnited.com/director-elections/)



SEPT  
**15**

**@5:00 P.M.**

&

SEPT  
**16**

**@7:30 A.M.**

# ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

## SWIRL MINISTRIES



SWIRL (Spiritual Women Inspired, Redeemed and Loved) Ministries is a faith-based organization in Davidson County that helps meet short-term crisis needs. The organization was founded in 2017 to help meet the needs of the community and officially received its nonprofit status in December 2019.

SWIRL offers a variety of programs that focus on long-term change and solutions that enable individuals to succeed and to move forward independently. One such program is its community food pantry, which received support from the EnergyUnited Foundation earlier this year.

“We were thankful to receive a grant from the EnergyUnited Foundation,” said Cecy Morcom, co-director of SWIRL Ministries. “It was incredibly timely, as inflation continues to impact our community.”

Inflation is only the latest challenge that the organization has faced in the past year, but the challenge has not affected the philosophy of its leaders and volunteers. The ladies of SWIRL believe it is important to mobilize service efforts to effectively meet the needs that exist in their community. So, they have not confined their outreach efforts to their pantry space. They have visited churches and nursing homes and have also prepared meals for those who are sick and recovering from surgery.

Although they are widely known for their work to help reduce food insecurity, the organization has served people within its community in many different ways.

SWIRL has provided transportation for medical appointments, funded funerals for low-income families who have lost loved ones, helped organize wedding ceremonies for low-income clients and much more.

When asked how citizens can show their support for SWIRL, Co-director Cecy Morcom said that there are many ways to support their ministry.

“The best way to support SWIRL is by praying for the ministry and by providing financial support,” Morcom said. “We rely on the financial support of generous individuals, churches and also foundations.”

**To make a tax-deductible donation to SWIRL Ministries, visit [swirlministries.weebly.com](https://swirlministries.weebly.com).**



## HOW WE RESTORE

# POWER



The top priority at EnergyUnited is to provide reliable energy to our members but even we can't control certain outages. Learn how outages get restored safely and effectively by scanning the QR code!





# LAST CHANCE FOR **BRIGHT IDEAS!**

**THE FINAL DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SEPT. 15.**

EnergyUnited and the Bright Ideas program have funded more than 13,500 projects for local teachers across 19 counties in North Carolina, impacting over 2.8 million students.

**APPLY FOR A GRANT UP TO \$2,000**  
at [EnergyUnited.com/Bright-Ideas/](https://EnergyUnited.com/Bright-Ideas/)



## THE BEST **EVENT** IS **COMING UP!**

Curious to learn more about driving an electric vehicle (EV)? Join EnergyUnited on September 24 for a chance to ask questions, ride in an EV and learn about the cost savings!

**WHAT:** This event will feature electric vehicles on display, ride and drives, vendors, food and more!

**WHEN:** September 24, 2022, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Rain date: October 1, 2022)

**WHERE:** Career Academy & Technical School  
(Troutman, NC)



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

# HARMONY & UNION GROVE



To those familiar with Iredell County you may know the towns of Harmony and Union Grove well. But to those less familiar, these two neighboring communities have a rich and varied history.

Harmony was incorporated in 1927 and was named for the Harmony Hill Camp Meetings that took place for two weeks each year on the current site of the Harmony elementary school. The focus of the meetings was a religious revival with extensive social gatherings between the Methodist and Baptist faiths. The first meeting occurred in 1846 and meetings continue to be held on the second weekend of October. While the area around Harmony is mostly rural, the town includes a library, the Tomlinson-Moore family park, Harmony Volunteer Fire Department, community center, elementary school, doctors' offices, a manufacturing plant (Associated Metal Works) and other businesses.



Sources: JohnsonCityPress.com, TownofHarmony.org

Just a few miles northwest of Harmony is Union Grove Township. The town has several bodies of water flowing through it, including Hunting Creek, Rocky Creek, Owens Branch, Camel Branch and Brushy Creek, and is also situated with a fabulous view of the Blue Ridge and Brushy Mountains, and the pinnacle of Pilot Mountain some 60 miles away.

In the later half of the 20th century, Union Grove was famous for a Fiddler's Convention, which was held in Union Grove from the 1920s to the 1970s. The Fiddler's Convention was originally established to

benefit the Union Grove School. Two conventions, one in 1974 and the other in 1979, impressively drew 75,000 and 130,000 old-time fiddle fans respectively, with folks from across the South eagerly attending the event.

Though the Fiddler's Convention no longer takes place, these two towns still offer a lot to those who live there: rich history, beautiful landscape and friendly neighbors who love their town.



EnergyUnited was proud to support

**MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES**

in Harmony  
with a grant of

**\$8,000**



# FOOD, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## **SHARPE'S CAFE**

Our Food, Family and Friends feature story this month focuses on one café that is very popular with the local residents of Harmony: Sharpe's Café. Sharpe's Café has been in business for more than three years and has been at its current location for a little over two years. Before the café was opened by Amanda Sharpe, she owned and operated her own catering business.

While Sharpe's catering service continues to thrive, her café has also become a favorite dining location for many people within the community. In addition to offering great food, Sharpe has a strong connection to the community. She has helped support fundraising efforts for local schools and has provided food for those who are ill — most notably, she organized "Feed the Community" event during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community is proud to show its support for Sharpe's Café as well, as the establishment is now a favorite dining spot for the local fire department. Sharpe's also receives support daily from local businesses.

There are many great items on the menu at Sharpe's Café, but the most popular are their country-style steak and their Philly sandwiches. There are also many other great options on their menu, so be sure to stop by their location the next time you visit Harmony!



**Scan the QR code to watch an interview  
with Amanda Sharpe.**



# NEW MEMBER COLUMN

## LAUREN LIGHT



**BY KEVIN COX**  
EnergyUnited Member

**EnergyUnited members likely will be surprised to learn that some popular TV show music was made by a Davidson County singer-songwriter, Lauren Light.**

Lauren Light's voice is familiar to audiences who have heard her live shows for years, but her voice and music have travelled far beyond those performances through her extensive musical contributions to advertising, television shows, movies and more. Just a few examples include commercials for such companies as Nike, Hyundai and TJ Maxx, as well as TV series *Abbott Elementary* on ABC and *Law & Order: SVU* on NBC.

Since 2019, Light and two partners, Alex Helton and Chelsey Coy, have owned and operated twoOHSix Music.



"It's a full-service, one-stop music licensing agency," said the 31-year-old Light, who earned a master's degree in music business and songwriting from Berklee College of Music after graduating from North Davidson High School. Ad agencies, TV and film production companies and others reach out to twoOHSix for the music they need and the license to use it.

Light, who works from her home in northern Davidson County, and her LA-based partners are singers, songwriters, producers and musicians who create half of the music they license for use. The remainder comes from a sizable list of musical artists around the country who make their music available to twoOHSix for licensing.

"About half of my professional time is spent composing music," Light said.

Often, twoOHSix provides music made exclusively for a client, as it did for 24 different commercials for Adidas' recent "Support Is Everything" ad campaign for its sports bras. Custom music has also been provided for such TV series as *All American*, *Batwoman* and *4400* on The CW television network.

While Light enjoys travelling around the country as an artist and music business entrepreneur, she looks forward to many more years of creating music and growing her company from her family's Davidson County home built long ago by her great-grandparents.

To learn more about Lauren, visit her website [LaurenLight.com](http://LaurenLight.com) or follow her on Instagram @Lauren\_Light.



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