

NOVEMBER 2022

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

171 WALMART BAGS

Sydney Loflin's
dress to fight waste

IN THIS ISSUE

HONORING OUR
VETERANS

ELECTION
RESULTS

THOMAS GOLDEN

I want to share with you something the military taught me, called BLUF, or “Bottom Line Up Front,” which is a way of saying get the big topic out on the table to talk about first, rather than sugar coating, or burying it in the fine print. The bottom line is that come January 2023 we will be forced to raise our rates and our Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) in response to current economic inflation.

We are not doing this as a benefit to us and certainly not to you, but rather to keep in line with the energy covenants in place and to maintain our strong business practices. In fact, many of you may remember that rates actually decreased by about 7% in January of 2022. Sequentially, the conflict in Russia and Ukraine began in February, causing the price of natural gas to skyrocket and supply chain issues, the impacts of which we are still feeling now.

Many of you may be feeling these financial pressures more acutely. And to that, I would like to remind you all that our EnergyUnited Foundation can be a resource to you, as well as the LIHEAP and CIP programs. I invite you to visit EnergyUnited.com/assistance to learn more about these for either you or a neighbor in need.

Even with this upcoming increase, however, we still have much to be grateful for. Firstly, I want to give a special thanks to all of our military men and women who have served our great nation. As a Navy veteran myself, I understand firsthand the sacrifices that these men, women and their families make to keep our country safe. I thank you all for your service. Secondly, I want to share my gratitude to our members who show up with understanding and optimism within the financial realities we currently face. The purse strings may feel tight now, but they won't always feel this way.

After all, we have weathered many storms before and we will weather this one together as well.

Sincerely,

Thomas Golden, CEO



Scan to view
a video message
from Thomas

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



HONORING OUR VETERANS

NOV
11

Thank you to all who help preserve the freedom within this country we get to call home. We are forever grateful to you for all your sacrifices and are using this occasion to highlight our members and family who have served our great country.

CPT KEN ROBERTSON III



U.S. Military Academy at West Point,
Civil Engineering

Served in Afghanistan

Brigade Combat Team Senior
Operations Officer

101st Airborne, Ft. Campbell, KY

CLIFFORD KINCHEN JR.



Security Forces, Security
Forces Instructor, Recruiter
and Leadership School
Superintendent

Desert Storm Combat Veteran

U.S. Air Force, 20 years of service

CPT ALLEN ROBERTSON



Clemson University, Accounting

Served in Iraq

E Battery Commander

**1st Regiment 40th Field
Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, OK**

DICK BECK



Active Duty + Reserves

USCGC Ingham WPG-35 out
of Berkley Base, Norfolk, VA,
on ocean station duty, North
Atlantic

U.S. Coast Guard, 6 years of service

LTC KEN ROBERTSON JR.



Clemson University, Chemical
Engineering

Retired

Battalion Commander

**1st Battalion, 485th Regiment,
108th Division**

HAROLD WILSON



U.S. Air Force, 1969

FOREVER GRATEFUL

November presents an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on what, and who we are thankful for. With the news of a rate increase on the horizon, it can become difficult to think on the bright side; and yet there is still space for immense gratitude. For our health, for the ones we love and who love us back, for members of the military who fight for our freedoms, for the cooler weather and the beauty of our great state; and of course for our neighbors. Thank you, members, for sticking by us and remaining loyal to our co-op as we adjust during this time. We are so grateful to you.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT CLEMMONS

A stone's throw from Winston-Salem and a gentle drive from the Yadkin Valley Wine Country. A village filled with a rich culture: old and new churches, fine and friendly restaurants, unique shopping, distinctive artists and full-service medical care facilities. The Village of Clemmons truly embraces modern amenities mixed with the comforts of Southern charm.

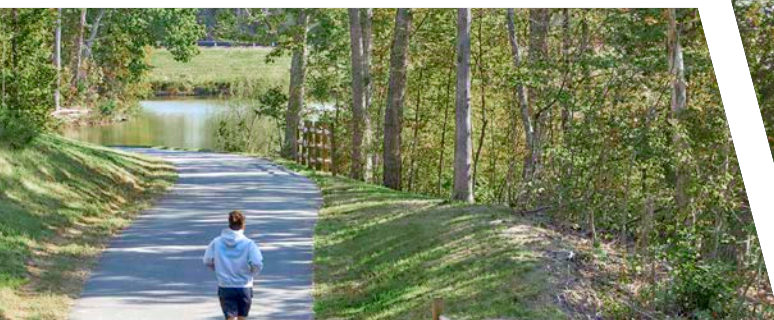
Plan your getaway to experience:

- On any given weekend, you will find a long list of events ranging from live music, triathlons and outdoor movies, or you can enjoy a leisurely walk around Village Point Greenway or fishing the Village Point Lake. The Village of Clemmons provides a number of annual events including a holiday tree-lighting ceremony, a Monster Dash and Goblin Hop around the greenway for kids dressed in costume to interact with local businesses and organizations, and our annual Harvest Fest.
- Clemmons is an outdoor oasis providing hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing and more. Tanglewood Park is a great place to get outdoors, unwind and relax. There's something for just about everyone, with playgrounds, hiking trails, a dog park, horseback riding, golf and bicycle motocross racing.



- The Village of Clemmons provides everything you could want for an amazing shopping and dining experience. Enjoy a quality meal at one of many restaurants and stumble across that hard-to-find specialty item at one of our merchants. Visit the seasonal Clemmons Farmers Market on Saturday mornings to find some of the most talented makers, bakers and growers in the state. There are plenty of choices for everyone. The Village of Clemmons has a vibrant business community with over 1,000 registered businesses.

Whether you're looking for a place to visit, live or build a business, know that you are welcome in the Village. Utilize our hospitality and take in all the wonderful amenities that Clemmons has to offer. Please visit **DiscoverClemmons.com** to find out more!



FOOD, FAMILY AND FRIENDS RESTAURANT SPOTLIGHT ON 2520 TAVERN



Fourty years ago, a family vision began with the concept to provide good-quality, wholesome food, delivered with caring service to friends and neighbors in Clemmons, NC. The restaurant was known as Dockside Seafood for 30 years before transitioning to 2520 Tavern in 2012. The Gallins family have a proud heritage in the restaurant industry in our community, with a combined 100+ years of experience, and continue to pass the torch as brother and sister Paul and Maria continue the legacy today.

"We're so grateful to our community," says co-owner Paul Gallins, "We aim to serve high-quality food to the people of Clemmons and our surrounding communities, and so far so good. We really wouldn't be here without them."

The menu consists of old Dockside favorites: fried fish baskets with signature slaw and hush puppies; high-quality meats to order (the ribeye is a fan favorite) and lighter fare and fusion options as well. Stop by 2520 Tavern and experience it for yourself.



Learn more
about 2520 Tavern
in this video!

SUSTAINABILITY WITH SYDNEY LOFLIN

Readers may remember Sydney Loflin as a former participant in the Youth Tour Program, where she later competed in and won the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) Scholarship. Since then, she's taken on a role in sustainability initiatives in ways both big and small. She's now a freshman at NC State, and we caught up with her to see how her vision for the future has evolved.



WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTERESTED IN SUSTAINABILITY?

My mom is an environmental and natural resources teacher, so you could say that I come by this interest honestly, but I got even more invested in this movement by learning about it from a legislative perspective during Youth Tour as well as my involvement in my local FFA chapter. I'm unique in the sense that I don't come from a huge farming background but I see and understand the intricacies of our ecosystem in a different way. We have a growing number of urban students involved in FFA and I think that's a really neat, different perspective.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU DO TO LIVE A MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE?

Sewing in general is definitely an eco-movement. And one that I think a lot of folks would be empowered by. It can be really daunting to take sustainability onto your shoulders, so it's important to keep a mindset that "doing what you can" is a great place to start. Recycling gets a lot of attention, which is still important, but we're finding it harder and harder to sell our materials to other industries and so I'm really passionate about the reduce and reuse part of the three-R movement (reduce, reuse, recycle). I like the idea of giving older materials a new life and find it really empowering. I like to use my social media presence as a platform to help educate and inspire people on how to be more sustainable in their clothing choices.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST "VIRAL" POST ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA SO FAR.

Definitely my Walmart dress. I'm always the person to try new things and have always been in 4H and "fashion review" with the 4H club and just started sewing and figuring it out. I was so liberated in not using a pattern and helped use that to open up my creativity when repurposing thrifted clothing. One day I was chatting with my brother-in-law, Mike, and was trying to figure out what my next project would be and he semi-jokingly said, "Why don't you use old Walmart bags?" And that was it! I went around and collected used bags from neighbors and ultimately repurposed 171 Walmart bags and thread to complete the project. It honestly wasn't as hard as I thought it would be!

WOW, THAT IS SUPER IMPRESSIVE! HOW LONG DID IT TAKE?

I did several test pieces to see how that material behaved with plastic, but all in all it took me about a week or two to sew it. I would work a few hours every night to complete it. I never took it to the actual prom because it was still COVID, but I posted on social media about it. And received a lot of positive response to it!

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOU?

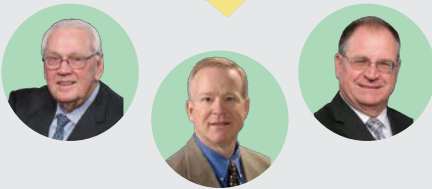
I will always be into the sustainability of sewing, but it taught me that I really liked teaching and demonstrating a project on social media. So even though I'm an NC State freshman studying Agricultural Education Studies, I could definitely see myself in the industry teaching large corporations or students about the importance of slow and sustainable living.

ANY OTHER THINGS THAT INTEREST YOU THAT WE SHOULD BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA?

I would love to travel more and experience the foods and cultures of other areas. My family and I will often hold theme nights based on a different culture, so I would definitely like to experience that firsthand. I really love music and grew up playing violin, but I think it would be pretty cool to DJ on the side of my professional career. But the biggest thing on my wishlist is just for people to be joyful and grateful for all that they have. After all, even just pausing and recognizing that you have what you already need is a form of sustainability.

CHECK OUT SYDNEY ON INSTAGRAM @SYDNEY_LOFLIN

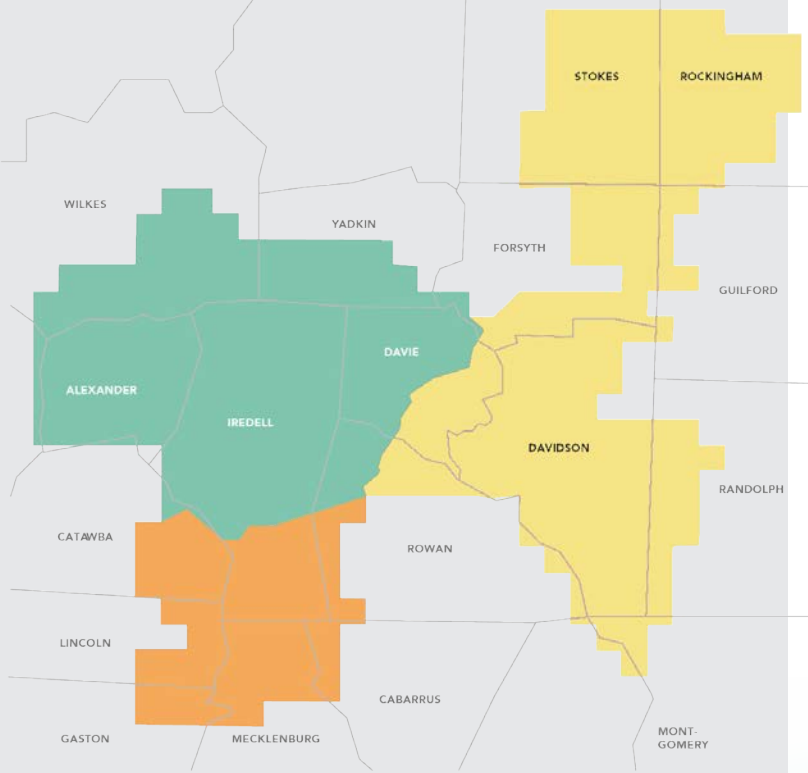
ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Thank you to Jerry Anderson, Robert Herman, Craig Black and Martin Oakes for running for each respective district seat.

The members have reelected Jerry Anderson for District 1, Ronnie Harrison for District 2 and Craig Black for District 3.

We appreciate those who chose to run for these important seats and to all the members who voted in this year's Board of Directors election. Your participation helps make this all possible!



DISTRICT 1



DISTRICT 2



DISTRICT 3



THERE'S STILL **TIME!**

APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH TOUR

Each year, EnergyUnited seeks high school applicants to participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The program is open to sophomores and juniors and will take students on a historic journey to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the United States government while visiting the remarkable sites of the nation's capital.

Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2022, to participate in June 2023.

To apply, visit: EnergyUnited.com/Youth-Tour



VOTE & WIN **WINNERS**

- **TRESIA LITTLE**
WOODLEAF
- **LARRY F. LIVENGOOD**
LEXINGTON
- **JOSEPHINE PATTERSON**
HIGH POINT

CONGRATULATIONS!



EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

Partnering with
 **HomeServe**

Important Announcement
for **EnergyUnited Members**

At EnergyUnited, we value our members and are committed to providing you with safe and reliable electricity.

Many homeowners aren't aware the costs associated with the damage or breakdown of certain assets including your exterior electrical lines are your responsibility. Unexpected repairs can cost hundreds of dollars, and homeowners insurance typically does not cover repairs due to normal wear and tear. If a breakdown occurs, it is up to you to find a qualified contractor and pay the repair costs.

That is why EnergyUnited has selected HomeServe an independent administrator of protection plans, to offer *optional* protection plans to eligible EnergyUnited members. Look for more information in the mail about these plans in the coming weeks.

2208_EnergyUnited_Newsletter_Ad