

# Watts Working

## Randolph EMC and North Carolina Zoo Partner to Bring Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to Randolph County



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, the North Carolina Zoo and ChargePoint held a ribbon-cutting ceremony the morning of Monday, July 23, to celebrate four newly installed electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Zoo. Secretary of the NC Department of Environmental Quality Michael S. Regan, state legislators,

Asheboro city councilmen, Randolph County commissioners and representatives from North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives were in attendance to show support for this joint effort in providing access to EV technologies for both locals and tourists.

Randolph EMC partnered with ChargePoint to provide two

charging stations at the Zoo's Solar Pointe location and two at the North America entrance. Each Energy Star®-rated Level 2 station features dual charging ports with standard connectors that are capable of charging any electric vehicle. Each port supplies up to 7.2 kW to charge at a maximum rate of 25 miles of Range Per Hour (RPH), which will fully charge most vehicles in less than four hours.

These stations are among the first in a statewide network of electric vehicle charging stations being developed by the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina. "With the world's largest and most open EV charging network, ChargePoint is a natural partner for helping to manage the growing demand for this technology," said Dale Lambert, CEO of Randolph EMC. "And

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because the cooperative has enjoyed a long-standing, positive relationship with the North Carolina Zoo that includes mutual success with other 'green' initiatives, we knew that they would be supportive of implementing this technology as well." he added.

"The EV chargers highlight the North Carolina Zoo's commitment to the environment and sustainable practices," said Mary Joan Pugh, deputy director for the North Carolina Zoo, who spearheaded the collaboration with REMC on behalf of the Zoo. The Zoo serves as a leader in local and global efforts to protect wildlife and places heavy emphasis on incorporating alternative and clean energies whenever possible.

"We're very proud of our conservation efforts over the years, which has earned us recognition as one of just 29 Environmental Stewards with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality," she added. This high honor is awarded to organizations who use innovative approaches to meet and go beyond regulatory requirements for reducing their impact on the environment.

"This is also an exciting project because these chargers are among the first in North Carolina located at a major paid attraction that is served by an electric cooperative," said Pugh. Even with major interstates across the state, it's impossible for vacationers to reach North Carolina's mountains and beaches without passing through rural communities, and the Zoo's location in rural Randolph County is directly in the path of many travelers.

Because they serve predominantly rural areas, NC electric co-ops are taking the initiative to create a network of charging stations across the state that will not only support tourism by accommodating the charging needs of travelers, but also facilitate access to electric vehicle technologies in rural communities. "For more than a decade ChargePoint has remained focused on supporting the mass adoption of electric vehicles," said Whitney Schmidt, sales director for ChargePoint. "ChargePoint's mission is to help everyone get behind the wheel of an EV by deploying charging solutions everywhere drivers charge. We are excited to partner with the North Carolina Zoo and Randolph Electric to make charging more accessible for all EV drivers."

The Zoo is providing the electricity for charging vehicles free of charge, but does give visitors the opportunity to give a donation to the NC Zoo Society in return. Since their installation in late April, more than 140 EVs from as far west as Nashville, Tennessee, and as far east as Greenville, North Carolina, have utilized the stations, using more than 1,500 kWhs of electricity.



One of four new Level 2 EV charging stations at the NC Zoo provided by Randolph EMC and ChargePoint

## Drive Electric Week

Randolph Electric and the N.C. Zoo are dedicated partners in establishing policies and programs that conserve energy and promote sustainability. The week of September 8-16 has been designated as National Drive Electric Week throughout the country, to promote the cost-savings, clean air benefits, and fun of plug-ins.

National Drive Electric Week is based on the idea that to convert gasoline-powered car owners to electric vehicles owners, nothing beats learning from existing owners and taking test drives in clean, quiet and powerful plug-in electric vehicles. Several events have been planned in North Carolina during this week. Join us at the N.C. Zoo on Saturday, September 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon to celebrate National Drive Electric Week. Free giveaways to the first 100 visitors! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more details.





## Want to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card?

Visit one of Randolph EMC's offices and pick up our Co-ops Vote materials!

Contest rules are simple:

Take a picture with one or more Co-ops Vote items with the logo prominently displayed and post it to social media using the #coopsvote and #nccoopsvote hashtags and mention Randolph EMC. Be sure your social media post is public and posted by last day of the month!

*\*Duplicate postings will not be counted. Odds of receiving \$100 Visa Gift Card depend upon number of entries received.*

*Co-ops Vote is non-partisan and was designed to inform you on the key issues facing electric cooperatives and encourage you to vote to support co-ops when you go to the polls.*

HAPPY  
LABOR DAY

Randolph EMC's offices will be closed Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.

# 6

## SIMPLE STEPS FOR **SAFE GRILLING**



### **NEVER LEAVE YOUR GRILL UNATTENDED.**

Always supervise a gas or charcoal grill while in use. Ensure that you remain alert, especially if you are tired or have been drinking.



### **PLACE GRILLS AWAY FROM OBJECTS.**

Use your grill a safe distance from your home, deck railings, low-hanging branches and other objects. Also, avoid placing flammable materials near the grill.



### **ONLY GRILL OUTDOORS.**

Never grill in the house, garage, tents or other indoor or enclosed areas.



### **KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS AWAY FROM GRILLS.**

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill space.



### **PROPERLY CLEAN YOUR GRILL.**

Clean your grill by removing grease and fat buildup from the grates and trays below.



### **CHECK FOOD TEMPERATURES.**

Use a meat thermometer to make sure meats are fully cooked. Improperly cooked meat could cause food poisoning.



# Breaking Out

By Roman Ferrer-Diaz



Can you imagine a teenage boy who never left home before getting a chance to visit Washington, D.C., with 42 other students from across North Carolina? That is exactly what happened to me. Word of the mouth is how this story began. A neighbor told my grandmother about the Rural Electric Youth Tour and the opportunities it provided for teens like me. I applied and to my surprise, I was chosen to proudly represent Randolph Electric Membership Corporation and the counties they serve. What a thrill, I was going to our nation's capital! This opportunity was a life-changing experience with fun-filled memories that will never be forgotten and I was nervous!

During my excursion through the Capital, we went to multiple tourist attractions such as the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Newseum, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Arlington National Cemetery. At the Vietnam Memorial, we saw tens of thousands of names of soldiers who fought, died, or who were missing in action in the Vietnam War. My favorite memorial was the Korean War Veterans Memorial, a war that my great-grandfather was in. At this memorial, there are statues of soldiers holding their guns tightly in their hands as they walked through a forest. You can see the wariness on their faces. There is also a wall that goes



around the memorial. Engraved on the wall is the phrase "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE." Seeing that phrase made me stop and think of all the military personnel that gave their lives so we can have all the freedom and privileges we have today. Freedom is not free. It comes with a price of bloodshed and war. So often we take that for granted. I walked away from that memorial with a deeper admiration and gratitude towards the soldiers who fought for our freedom and for the ones who are still fighting for it. To all the men and women who are serving this wonderful country, thank you for your service!

In the middle of the week, we spent a whole day at Capitol Hill touring the Senate and the House



of Representatives. Later that day, some of the N.C. representatives and Senator Thom Tillis came and talked to us. The heart of Senator Tillis' message was that America can accomplish anything if our people would come together and meet in the middle by finding a compromise. Any solution could be found to any problem, regardless of which side of the poll you stand on. I also learned from Senator Tillis that you don't need a long drawn-out process to find a solution. Sometimes, playing a simple board game can help you find your solutions faster and better than arguing for hours. I enjoyed listening to Senator Tillis' speech and other representatives from North Carolina.



The trip to Washington was more than sightseeing. In those seven days, I saw complete strangers becoming best friends, self-confidence being built, and trust created. These interactions taught me a great deal of communication and people skills. I now have a greater respect for people who speak publicly. Public speaking is hard to do no matter how well you know the information. It takes practice and time. I was once a shy guy, but now I know how to walk up to someone and strike up a conversation with them. We stayed in a hotel with more than 1,500 teenagers from all over the

United States. I had North Carolina pins, lighthouse stickers, and scratch-n-sniff pickles stickers. The other teenagers from other states had pins and stickers from their states as well. We would introduce ourselves to each other and then swap pins or stickers. For some weird reason, everyone wanted the scratch-n-sniff pickle stickers. I became really good friends with my roommates. We plan to stay in touch with each other. We even decided to plan a trip to the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro, along with other friends that we made while on the Youth Tour.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour was a fun-filled week where I made new friends and obtained reliable skills I will be able to use in the workforce and in my everyday life. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been chosen from REMC. This opportunity has opened many doors for me and I plan on taking advantage of it as much as possible. This memory is a chapter in my book that will forever be a highlight in my teen years, thanks to Dale Lambert, Kathleen Duckworth, Larry Routh, and all of the Randolph Electric members!

## Member Michelle White is REMC's iPad Giveaway Winner!

Congratulations to REMC's member-owner, Michelle White, on being selected as our People Helping People iPad giveaway winner! Michelle signed up to contribute to the PHP program, which helps other members throughout the REMC community who are struggling financially due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you would like to join Michelle in rounding up your bill to the nearest dollar each month or learn more about this program, visit our website or submit the below form to your local office.

**Yes, I want to join People Helping People!**

By filling out this form, I agree to round up my REMC electric bill to the nearest dollar each month for a minimum of 24 months.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as it appears on your bill)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature





# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

## SERVICE, COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Dear Members,

Randolph EMC recently held a dedication for the new Asheboro Substation. We routinely upgrade and construct new substations throughout our service area when needed to meet load growth and to increase reliability for our members, but this one is special.

At the dedication, I shared the founding history of Randolph EMC and why this substation's location is so important within the pages of our past. This month, I want to share with you why it is so significant.

In 1905, something life-changing came to the residents of Asheboro. A private electric utility, The Asheboro Company, built a power plant and began running lines in town to provide electric current.

In 1911, the city's Board of Commissioners, as they were called at that time, purchased the company's assets and operated the electrical system until it was sold to Carolina Power and Light in 1924.

But kerosene lanterns, wood cook stoves, water buckets and outhouses were the only options for people living just on the outskirts of town and throughout

the adjoining counties. They were not able to take advantage of these new innovations. But they wanted the same conveniences as their neighbors living in the city.

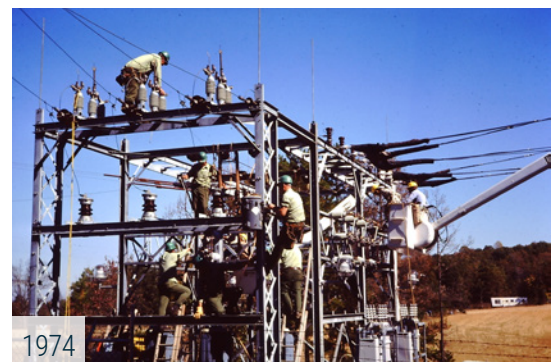
In the late 1930s, community leaders from Randolph and adjoining counties began holding meetings to investigate how they could bring electric current to the rural areas. The founders often referred to these areas in their discussions as "unserved or inadequately served." They had a vision and were on a mission to improve the quality of life for people living in rural areas of central North Carolina.

These meetings led to an application to the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority (NCREA) on January 6, 1939, to form an electric cooperative for this region. On January 24, 1939, NCREA granted permission. Two days later, on January 26, 1939, the Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State and Randolph Electric Membership Corporation was formed.

At the first Board of Directors meeting on January 30, 1939, Bylaws to guide the organization were adopted. A

resolution to obtain insurance, forms for application for membership and membership certificates were approved.

The next day, on January 31, the board approved bidding a construction contract to install the initial power lines and to apply to the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) for a loan of \$300,000 to help pay for it. That initial loan was to purchase the poles, wire, transformers, meters and hardware that would run



approximately 300 miles of line to serve 1,040 members.

Just two weeks later, on February 14, several important events took place:

- The first employee of the company was hired, a bookkeeper by the name of Mrs. Alice Wright Ward.
- The first office equipment was approved for purchase, a typewriter for \$75.
- A contract with Perkins-Barnes Construction Company was approved to build the first power lines.
- The board also approved the purchase of the first company vehicle, a 1939 Chevrolet ½-ton pickup. It came complete with rear and front bumpers and an extra tire and tube for \$575.

On March 6, with the assistance of a search committee of the board, a superintendent (as the first managers were called), Mr. Johnny Mason. was hired.

On May 11, 1939, two major milestones occurred. First, a contract was approved with Carolina Power and Light (CP&L) for wholesale delivery of power, but the cooperative needed a location to make the tap to CP&L's line. On that same day, Mr. T.G. and Mrs. Kathryn Bonkemeyer sold Randolph EMC a lot that was 50 feet square for \$150 to place the first substation. It was located on "the old road from Asheboro to Franklinville." In 1939, this road's number was Highway 90, which would later be changed to Highway 64. Today, the road is Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Randolph EMC's first power

line, creatively called 1 Line, as it still is today, left the original substation and headed east.

What makes the new Asheboro Substation's location special is that the original property for Randolph EMC's first substation is located at its driveway entrance.

That original small substation that served the first energized members was replaced in the 1950s. It has served its purpose and was retired when the new Asheboro substation came on-line.

The new Asheboro Substation was a \$2 million project constructed to meet future growth on the east and south side of Asheboro. It combines today's highest safety standards with the latest technology to ensure safe and reliable electric service for many decades to come.

Even though it's been almost 80 years since community leaders gathered around flickering kerosene lanterns with a vision to light the rural countryside, some things have not changed. The flame of service, commitment and innovation burns as bright today at your local electric cooperative as it did in 1939.

Just like the original founders and employees, your current Board of Directors and employee team have a vision to provide you with safe and exceptional service. Things have come full circle.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 32,000 member accounts in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Electric Service

Asheboro .....(336) 625-5177  
 ..... (800) 672-8212

Robbins: .....(910) 948-3401  
 ..... (800) 868-7014

Report Outage ..... (877) REMC-OFF  
 ..... (877) 736-2633

Account Info  
 & Bill Payments: ..... (877) 534-2319

Business Hours: .....8 am – 5 pm, M-F

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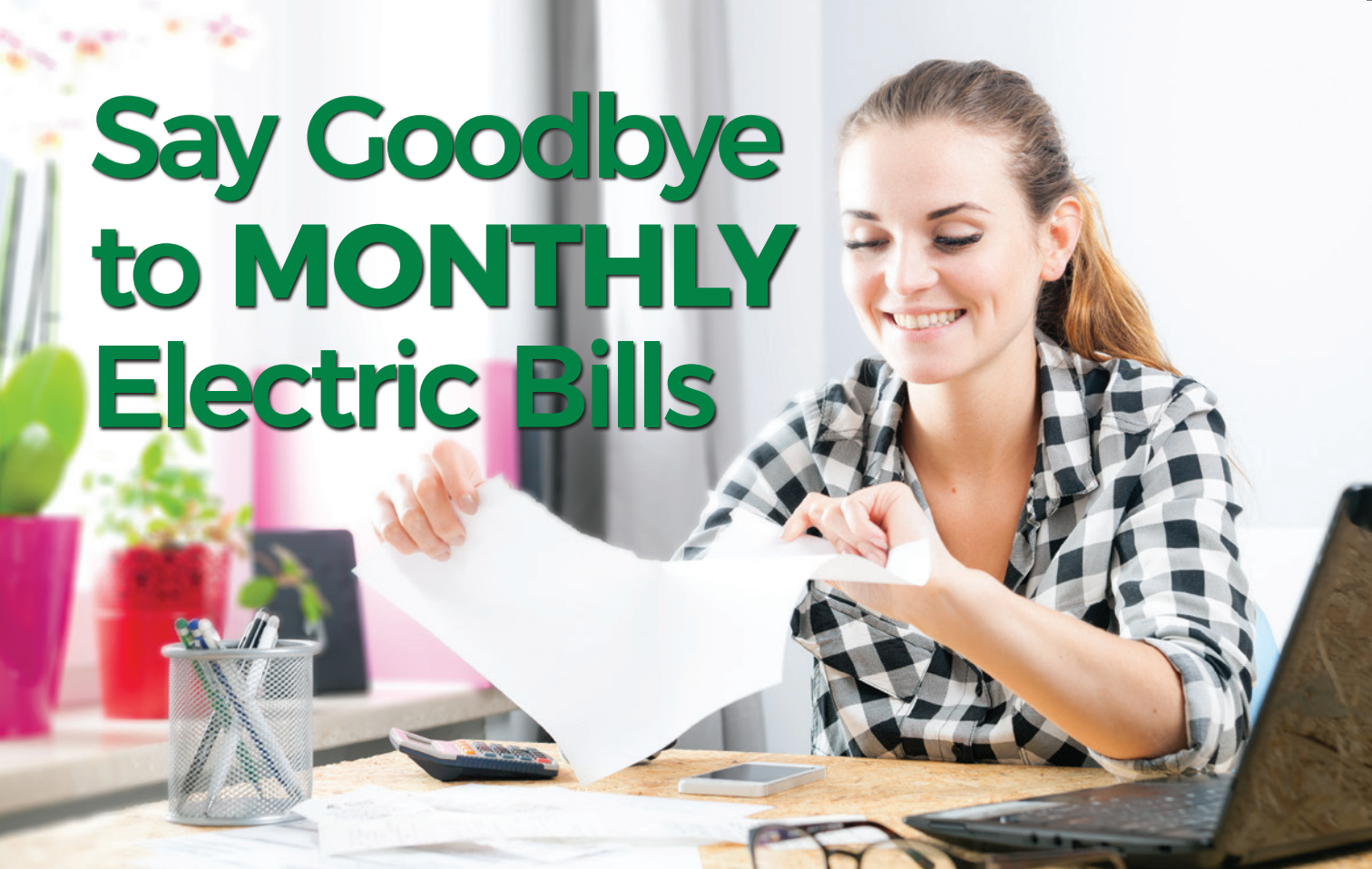
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Visit Randolph EMC Online  
[RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com)



# Say Goodbye to MONTHLY Electric Bills



**FLEXPAY**  
A PREPAID ENERGY SOLUTION FROM  Randolph EMC

FlexPay is the prepaid energy service that lets you better plan around your lifestyle, schedule and budget.

With FlexPay's pay-as-you-go service, there are no due dates, no late or reconnect fees, and you decide how much or how little pay to maintain a positive balance in your account.

With daily alerts, it's easy to know your current account balance and how much electricity was used. And as an added bonus, you might even save money each month because you're more aware of your energy consumption!

FlexPay members can purchase electricity as needed and in the amount they choose using these convenient payment options:



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**1-855-4FLEXPAY**

An account service phone line specifically for FlexPay members



**Randolph EMC Mobile App\***

Available in the App Store or Google Play

\*Requires online member service portal username & password

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