Teachers: Deadline this month for Bright Ideas grant applications

Time is running out for teachers to apply for Bright Ideas education grants of up to $1,500 from CHEC’s Bright Ideas education grant program! Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects are encouraged to fill out and submit an application by the September 18 deadline. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips, and more information on the Bright Ideas website at www.ncbrightideas.com.

“Since 1994, well over 1.8 million students statewide have benefitted from $9.6 million in grant funding for 9,200 projects,” said Laura Ertle, director of public relations and marketing at CHEC. “As a cooperative, supporting our local communities is at the heart of what we do. We believe there’s no better way to give back than by investing in the education of our youth.”

Grants for the 2015-2016 school year will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and all disciplines, including math, science, language, art, English and history. Last year, CHEC awarded more than $3,000 to local teachers to fund two different projects.

The Bright Ideas grant application requires an outline of the proposed project, a detailed budget and a description of the benefit to students. Applicants are encouraged to highlight the innovative, creative elements of the project and to proofread carefully.
Cape Hatteras Highlights  Carolina Country  SEPTEMBER 2015  23

In July, CHEC made a pledge to help fund the Carolina College Advising Corps program coming to Dare County schools beginning in the 2015-16 school year. The new program will place a recent UNC graduate as a college advisor rotating between the three Dare County high schools. This advisor will help guide students through the process of finding colleges and areas of studies where they will thrive. They will assist students with admission, financial aid and scholarship applications.

The Carolina College Advising Corp’s “Near-Peer” model has proven successful in 59 other North Carolina high schools and has helped thousands of seniors apply to college. According to UNC’s research, less than 50% of low-income students admitted to a post-secondary institution end up enrolling and less than 1 in 12 graduate. Advisors focus on fostering a college-going culture at their school to boost enrollment and retention rates.

Concern for community is a long-standing cooperative principle. CHEC is happy to support this worthy cause and is excited about the opportunities that will be made available to Hatteras Island students beginning this school year.

For more information on the Carolina College Advising Corp, visit carolinacollegeadvisingcorps.unc.edu.

Landscaping is one of the best and most affordable ways to give your home’s exterior a fresh look, but there’s one thing many people don’t consider before they start their landscaping projects — power lines. Before you grab your gardening gear, familiarize yourself with this list of power line safety tips:

▼ Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. CHEC has an extensive right-of-way clearing program that ensures trees aren’t too close to power lines, but if you happen to see any that may look too close, call CHEC to send out the experts.

▼ If you have plans to build a tree house for your kids, be extremely cautious. Steer clear of all power lines to keep yourself and your children out of danger.

▼ Remember, ladders are conductors of electricity. It’s best to carry a ladder horizontally so that it doesn’t inadvertently touch a power line, and always pay attention to where you set up the ladder.

▼ Call 811 before you dig, even if it’s just to plant a tree or shrub, to identify where underground utility lines are buried. Digging around lines can cause serious injury or even death, as well as electrical outages. For more information regarding N.C. 811, please visit www.nc811.org.

▼ The Electrical Safety Foundation International reminds you to “Look up! Look Down! Look Out!” This motto is especially important if your work requires you to be in the vicinity of power lines because contact with power lines can be deadly.

Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path to ground. If you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path. Those consequences could be deadly, so please exercise caution when you’re around power lines. Call our office if you have any questions about power line safety.

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative
PO Box 9, 47109 Light Plant Road, Buxton, NC 27920
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Phone: 252-995-5616
Toll Free: 800-454-5616
Outage Report: 888-511-9862
Fax: 252-995-4088
www.chec.coop

Board of Directors:
Richard A. (Richie) Midgett, president;
C.A. Duke, vice president;
K. Norman (Norm) Campbell, secretary-treasurer;
Elvin L. Hooper; John R. Hooper;
Dan G. Oden, Jr.; Tami J. Thompson
Susan E. Flythe, executive vice president & general manager
Laura Ertle, editor