



Community Electric Cooperative News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Kids + Bikes + Achievement = A Hit!

The tension mounted at Carrsville Elementary School and Principal Clint Walters milked it for all it was worth.

As 250 students watched breathlessly, Walters announced the winners of a bicycle giveaway for outstanding achievement, sponsored by Community Electric Cooperative (CEC).

“It’s a first grader ...” Walters said, digging deep into a bucket of names to pull the winner. Anticipation built. “... in Mrs. Jones’ class.” More anticipation and then silence.

“Brenna Burden!” Walters announced as the gleeful winner walked to the stage amid cheers to claim her new bicycle.

That happy scene was repeated several times on June 7 as Community Electric held its annual bike (and matching safety helmet) giveaway at Carrsville Elementary and Windsor Elementary School for students who achieved reading and other academic successes.

“We always say that Community Electric Cooperative is much more than just a power provider,” said President and CEO Steve Harmon. “We work every day to bolster our communities and the members we serve, and there are few better ways of doing that than to reach out



to school children and encourage their reading and their studies.”

The June 7 events were two of four bicycle rewards in the co-op’s annual program. Daryl Walls, Community Electric’s vice president of business development and special projects, and Cindy O’Reilly, administrative assistant, oversaw the rewards.

Nottoway Elementary School and Pioneer Elementary School in Suffolk also participated in the program.

Students in grades K through 2nd at Carrsville got an entry slip for completing 30 minutes of reading outside of school every day, while students in grades 3 to 5 got entries for each Standards of Learning test that they passed. Consistency in the reading program was the determining factor for entries in all grades at Windsor Elementary, so students had multiple chances to win.

“This is such a wonderful program,” said Ellen Couch, principal at 570-student Windsor Elementary, who drew out the suspense much like Walters. “We usually keep the bikes up front on the stage so when they come to the cafeteria, they see them. A lot of the students will come up and say, ‘I read for my bike. I read for my bike.’”

Bicycle winners Lucas Nystrom (front left) and Alyssa Walters show off their prizes with (back row, from left) Daryl Watts and Cindy O’Reilly of Community Electric and Ellen Couch, Windsor Elementary School principal.

The shiny bikes were purchased by Tidewater Energy Services, a subsidiary of Community Electric. Four were given away at each school — a boy’s and girl’s model for grades K-2 and again for grades 3-5.

Kristy Vaughn, a kindergarten teacher at Carrsville, said the bikes represent “a bonus” above and beyond the medal that students get every nine weeks for successful reading. “It’s something to get very excited about,” she said.

The Carrsville winners were Aiden Martin and Brenna Burden in the younger group, and Christopher Mohrmann and Jocelyn Busch in the older group.

Windsor winners were Lucas Nystrom, a second grader; first-grader Trinity Hall; third-grader Ethan Allison; and fifth-grader Alyssa Walters.

But given the amount of pages that kids turned in the quest for a new bike, it’s safe to say everyone was a winner.

COMMUNITY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

52 W. Windsor Boulevard
P.O. Box 267
Windsor, VA 23487-0267
757-242-6181

After-Hours Outages: 1-855-700-2667

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

comelec.coop

President/CEO

Steven A. Harmon

Local Pages Editor

Jessica Parr

*Community Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.*

D.C. Youth Tour Opens Eyes

If you need a guide next time you go to Washington, D.C., three youths from Community Electric Cooperative's (CEC) territory have the knowhow to take you through the city.

Rachel Butler, Ethan Willette and Kendall Pulley represented CEC this year on the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. They were among the 1,800 youths from 43 states who converged on Washington for a firsthand look at government, culture and activities in the nation's capital.

"I love meeting new people, seeing where they come from and hearing their accents — just knowing about how they live in different states," said Kendall, a student at Windsor High School. "It's an amazing experience."

Brenda Mansfield, manager of member services at Community Electric, accompanied the trio as a chaperone. She too was amazed at how much ground the tour covered during its run from Sunday, June 16, to Thursday, June 20.

"It's an opportunity that not many kids get to experience," she said. "They really can take this with them for the rest of their lives."

The students were eligible for consideration because their parents are members of Community Electric. While they knew each other — Rachel and Ethan attend Isle of Wight Academy, while Kendall and Rachel are in the same 4-H Club — they weren't totally sure what to expect.

"I didn't think it was going to be as organized as it was. I was very impressed with that," Rachel said. "I like traveling so



I was excited to see all the sites because I've only been one other time and that was just to the Smithsonian."

As it was, they hit the Jefferson Memorial and a Potomac River cruise on the very first day. Monday brought a trek up and down the National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial and other monuments, a visit to the African American History Museum, and a stop at Nationals Park, though the ballgame between Washington and Philadelphia was rained out.

The tour followed that up with stops at Arlington National Cemetery, the White House gates, the National Zoo, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Capitol Hill and the Pentagon. No wonder the feet got a little weary by the end.

Ethan said he was struck by the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. "You see it on TV but it's different seeing it in real life," he said.

The trip to the zoo also was a big hit. Kendall wants to be a veterinarian, so she took an interest in the animals. Rachel is looking into something with agriculture,

maybe with her family's cattle business, but she likes horses and could see an equine-oriented future.

From left, Kendall Pulley, Rachel Butler, Brenda Mansfield of CEC and Ethan Willette take a break in front of the U.S. Capitol during the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

"I definitely liked seeing the Lincoln Memorial because I've always wanted to see it," Rachel said. "You see all these things in movies but you never think to go to the actual place."

Beside the sites and sounds, the youths said they learned something important about themselves as a part of Youth Tour. Counting on her fingers, Rachel estimated that she'd met about 10 new friends.

"It definitely has taught me to open up to more people and I've made new friends and found I have a lot in common with people I don't know," Kendall added.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) oversees the tour in the belief that co-op youths should experience the nation's capital up close and learn about the political process.

"We are honored supporters of the Youth Tour. We believe by investing in our students, we are investing in our future. These outstanding young men and women, without a doubt, will one day become outstanding leaders within the communities we serve. It is a privilege to sponsor them!" said Steve Harmon, president and CEO of Community Electric Cooperative.

Rising seniors who are interested in attending the 2020 Youth Tour may submit their applications beginning Oct. 1, 2019. Candidates will be selected and announced in February 2020. For more information on Youth Tour, visit comelec.coop/YOUTHTOUR.

A colorful promotional graphic for the 81st Annual Meeting of members. The central focus is a pair of black-rimmed glasses. The left lens contains the text "81ST" in large, colorful, block letters. The right lens contains the text "ANNUAL MEETING of members" in a similar style. Above the glasses, the word "celebrating" is written in a cursive font. Below the glasses, the text "LOW PERFORMANCE BY THE FABULOUS EQUINOX" is visible. To the right of the glasses, there is a green box with the text "GRAND PRIZE! \$500 BILL CREDIT". Below that is the Community Electric Cooperative logo and name. At the bottom, there is a green box with the text "AUGUST 6, 2019 @ 7PM DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM". Below that is a purple box with the text "GEORGIE TYLER MIDDLE SCHOOL 23320 N COURT STREET WINDSOR, VA 23487". At the very bottom, there is an orange box with the text "CALL 757-242-6181 OR VISIT WWW.COMELEC.COOP". The background is white with colorful confetti.