

September 2007

# C What's CURRENT



## Customers to Elect Directors at Annual Meeting

At NOVEC's annual meeting on Wednesday, September 26, customers will cast their votes for a District 2 director and a director at-large. Customers unable to attend the annual meeting may sign a proxy card and assign their vote to a current board member or to another customer who will be attending the meeting.

Seven candidates completed the official nominating process by the July deadline, as listed below. Brief biographical sketches of each candidate appear in the September issue of NOVEC's customer magazine, *Cooperative Living*, or online at [www.novec.com](http://www.novec.com). Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak during the annual meeting, prior to the ballot closing.

### District 2 Candidates

Michael Carothers, Aldie  
Harry Harris, Purcellville  
Tony Howard, Leesburg  
Aaron Kahn, Lovettsville

### At-large Candidates

Malcolm Ames, Gainesville (incumbent)  
Larry Watson, Centreville  
William Zilliott, South Riding

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
6 P.M. DINNER  
7:30 P.M. MEETING AND ELECTIONS  
**BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**  
15000 GRADUATION DRIVE  
HAYMARKET, VA 20169

## NOVEC Bylaws Change: *Annual Meeting Order of Business*

On August 2, 2007, the NOVEC Board of Directors by unanimous vote amended the NOVEC Bylaws (Article III, Section 7) to change the order of business for the NOVEC annual membership meeting. The election of directors will now precede the presentation and consideration of the reports of officers, directors and committees with the exception of the NOVEC Board of Directors Evaluation Committee, which shall report to the membership prior to the election of directors. This change is intended to facilitate the election process and provide more time for the tellers to sort and count the ballots cast at the meeting.

## ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday

In an effort to help state residents save energy and money, the Commonwealth of Virginia has decreed Friday, October 5 through Monday, October 8 as ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday.

During the sales tax holiday, consumers who purchase new ENERGY STAR-qualified light bulbs and household appliances that cost \$2,500 or less, will save both state and local sales taxes (5 percent). Products with the ENERGY STAR label meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Eligible products include ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, dishwashers, programmable thermostats and refrigerators. ENERGY STAR-qualified products use 30 percent less energy than conventional models without sacrificing features, style or comfort.

For more information, visit [www.dmme.virginia.gov](http://www.dmme.virginia.gov)

## Another CASH→BACK Return This Month

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, NOVEC is making a regular CashBack distribution this month. A total of \$12.25 million is being returned. This regular CashBack return goes to both current and former customers who were on the NOVEC system anytime between 1988 and 2006. The CashBack will appear as a credit on current customers' September bills and former customers will receive a check.

**\$33.5 million in CashBack has been distributed in 2007.**

### What is CashBack?

CashBack is a unique benefit for Cooperative customers. As a not-for-profit business, NOVEC allocates to customers any revenue (referred to as margins) that is received over and above the cost of doing business. These margins are proportionately allocated to a CashBack account for each customer.

NOVEC retains these margins to fund operational activities and build infrastructure. Margins are distributed as CashBack when financial conditions permit, as approved by the NOVEC Board of Directors.

Virginia  
**Sales Tax Holiday**  
October 5-8, 2007





# Keep Dorm Rooms Safe From Electrical Fires

*College students used to pack their trunks with sheets, towels, school supplies and clothes. Today, students and their parents also haul computers, televisions, CD and DVD players, small refrigerators and microwave ovens. It's important to ensure that dorms can safely handle all this electric equipment.*

According to Underwriters Laboratory, 1,800 fires occur on average in dormitories and campus housing each year in the United States. Overloaded extension cords and power outlets are the most common culprits. Therefore, students should follow university rules about power usage and have fire escape plans.

## ***DORM ROOM ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS***

- ✓ Look for the UL mark on electric appliances and devices.
- ✓ Make sure electrical wires and cords are not worn or frayed.
- ✓ Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- ✓ Do not connect multiple extension cords together; extension cords are for temporary use only.
- ✓ Do not route extension cords under carpets or doors, or staple or puncture them.
- ✓ Adaptors should be used in dorms with old-fashioned, two-prong outlets. Follow adaptor directions carefully.
- ✓ Use a power strip with an over-current protector. It will shut off power automatically if too much load occurs.

- ✓ Never bunch cords up behind a hot appliance.
- ✓ Unplug appliances immediately if an outlet is hot to the touch and notify the resident assistant.
- ✓ Follow wattage instructions. Some appliances may indicate amps rather than watts. Amps x volts = wattage. If using an extension cord to connect two or more appliances, add their wattage to determine if the cord is sufficient.
- ✓ Use light bulbs with the correct wattage. The wattage maximum should be indicated near the bulb socket.
- ✓ Use halogen lamps only with a mesh guard to prevent contact with the bulb, and only if they have an automatic tip-over switch. Some college campuses have outlawed halogen lamps.
- ✓ Keep a working fire extinguisher in the room or know where one is nearby.

*For more information, visit the Underwriters Laboratories Web site, [www.ul.com/consumers/college.html](http://www.ul.com/consumers/college.html), or the Electrical Safety Foundation International Web site, [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)*

## **Call Before Digging**



**MISS UTILITY OF VIRGINIA**, which helps protect underground utility lines from accidental damage, is part of the national Call-Before-You-Dig system. A free call to 811 ensures that underground utility lines are marked.

Customers often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked. However, every digging job requires a call to Miss Utility — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. If an underground utility line is hit while digging, customers can harm themselves or those nearby, disrupt electric service and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

The existing Miss Utility of Virginia phone number, 1-800-552-7001, will continue to work. However, the 811 number is easier to remember and Virginia residents should begin using this number.

*For more information, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)*

## Value, Reliability and CASH → BACK

Customers driving east on I-66 between Gainesville and Manassas may recognize this new message from NOVEC, which will be displayed for about a year.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIE LINTON OF LEESBURG**

She was the winner of NOVEC's quarterly new customer survey drawing and won a \$25 gift certificate for Lowe's.

*What's Current* is produced by the NOVEC Public Relations Department for Cooperative customers. If you would like additional information or if you have suggestions for future articles, please contact: NOVEC PR, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108 or send e-mail to: [ssmarrelli@novec.com](mailto:ssmarrelli@novec.com)

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