

South River EMC Communicator



17494 US 421 S • Dunn, NC 28334 • (910)892-8071/800-338-5530 • www.sremc.com

South River EMC
invites you to the
**Annual Meeting of
Members**
Thursday, April 15
Crown Arena & Theatre
Fayetteville
Entertainment and Registration
begin at 6 p.m.
Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

A Powerful Gift Idea

Have you been wondering what to surprise your mother with on her special day?


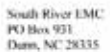
Let South River EMC supply your gift.

Do you have a parent, sibling, child or friend who receives electric service from South River EMC? If you are trying to find the perfect gift, what better than one of power.

Purchase a gift certificate from South River EMC to cover part or all of a member's bill. You specify the amount and we apply it to the account.

Gift certificates can be purchased at either South River EMC office or over the phone at 910-892-8071.

You do not have to be a South River EMC member to purchase a gift certificate.

A Gift To Brighten Your Home	
Account Holder:	Date:
Address:	
Amount Applied To Account:	From:
	

Bright Ideas About Going Green

"When learning involves hands-on activities, students are so much more engaged and their understanding is much deeper," said Charla Trogdon, principal at Alderman Road Elementary School in the Gray's Creek Community of Cumberland County.

Alderman Road students will have the opportunity for hands-on learning with the help of a few Bright Ideas. Of the four Bright Ideas Grants the school received in November 2009, two will teach students about the environment, specifically composting and renewable energy.

Nathan Stack, a fifth grade science teacher at Alderman Road, wrote a grant for 32 buckets and an 180-gallon composter.

In his grant application, Stack wrote that

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Members Continue To Save

In the months of January and February, members saved \$12,420.98 on 669 prescriptions by using their Co-op Connections card.

Since the Co-op Connections program kicked off in November 2009, members have saved nearly \$27,000 during trips to the pharmacy.

All members received a set of cards in the November issue of Carolina Country magazine and new members receive their cards when signing up for service at South River EMC.

For more information or a list of participating pharmacies visit www.sremc.com, or if you would like to know if a specific pharmacy accepts the Co-op Connections card, contact South River EMC at 910-892-8071.



Stand Up And Be Counted

Can decisions be made if you don't complete and mail your 2010 census? Yes, but the decisions made will not be based on all members of the community.

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly return it. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community, such as better infrastructure and more services. In fact, the information the Census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels, highways and other projects
- Emergency services

Now that makes for a brighter future.

You may have received your Census forms and thrown them aside saying, "I'll do this later." Do it now and make sure you are counted. The information obtained through the Census is protected under law and will not be shared. For more information visit 2010.census.gov.



Fight North Carolina Foreclosures

Last year, there were more than 60,000 foreclosure filings in North Carolina. The N.C. Office of the Commissioner of Banks expects this number to increase at least 20 percent this year.

When a foreclosure happens, it affects the whole community. Foreclosures bring down surrounding property values, and because so many homes are left vacant, there is potential for increased crime and loss of business revenue.

The State Home Foreclosure Prevention Project (SHFPP) is a state-led program that offers free foreclosure assistance to any N.C. homeowner who is struggling with his or her mortgage. The program encourages homeowners to reach out for help before they face foreclosure.

"We are thrilled our program has given so many homeowners the tools they need to avoid foreclosure," said Mark Pearce, chief deputy commissioner of banks. "At the same time, the current economy has led many



homeowners to struggle for the first time to pay their mortgage and other bills. We urge these homeowners to call our State hotline to get help from experienced counselors."

For free foreclosure assistance, call toll free 1-866-234-4857 (8 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.). You will be connected with a HUD-approved counseling agency that can help you over the phone or provide face-to-face counseling. A full list of these counselors and additional information can be found at www.fightncforeclosure.org.

Beware of foreclosure rescue scams. It is illegal to charge upfront fees for foreclosure assistance in N.C. Foreclosure scams can be reported to the Attorney General's office by calling 1-877-5-NOSCAM (1-877-566-7226) or filing a complaint online at www.ncdoj.gov.

Fight N.C. Foreclosure involves a network of state agencies, HUD-approved counseling agencies, legal service providers and non-profit organizations working together to help homeowners avoid foreclosure.

Fight N.C. Foreclosure is a FREE service provided by the State of North Carolina.



GREEN continued from page A

one to two students a week from each classroom will become the “green students.” They will collect the excess food from their classmates and compost it. Younger students will receive help until everyone learned to use the composter.

“A compost bin will show students how we can use the trash we would have thrown out, to make a difference in our world,” said Stack. “They will notice how much trash is being thrown out on a daily basis, which will help them make better choices when it comes to taking only enough food that they can eat.”

Stack’s students will keep a log of how much food is being placed in the bin each day or weekly using their math skills to measure the food line in the bin. They will be keeping these observations, including composting drawings in “green journals.”

“We are always teaching our students about conservation, but rarely do they get to actually participate in what we teach,” he said.



Composting is stinky business! Stack’s class is about ready to start learning about decomposition with the composter.

The students at Alderman Road are excited about learning ways to help the environment, including using that composter. Stack hopes that they will take this knowledge home and think about making their own composter, or encourage their family to start composting instead of taking up room in landfills.

“I think they will gain an additional satisfaction from knowing that what they are doing, even as small as it may seem, makes a difference,” said Stack.

Meanwhile, Phyllis Correll, a teacher who works with special needs children, wrote a grant to help students better understand and get excited about solar energy.

Correll will teach students about solar thermal, water heated by the sun, energy and photovoltaics, or PV.



Students learn about solar thermal energy with a solar balloon.

“When we wrote our Bright Ideas grants, we wanted to expand our environmental studies and look at best practice solutions that would spur the students’ imaginations,” said Correll.

For her grant, Correll asked for a 20-watt solar energy collector, trash bags, graph paper, aluminum foil, timers, calculators, and mini solar car kits.

With these components students will build and fly solar balloons, cook with solar ovens, and build and race solar cars. Their last task will be to build a solar collector panel allowing them to collect solar thermal energy, convert it into electricity and store the electricity, which will be used to run classroom lamps and computers.

Children participating in both of these grant projects have been very excited at the inception.

“They are really excited about using the composter, we’ve had about 80 percent of the classes participate,” said Stack. “We’ll talk about decomposition soon and this will really help.”

So far, solar energy is proving to be tasty, classes have made brownies and s’mores with their ovens, as well as discussing the use of solar ovens in the world.

“Our teachers have worked very hard to find resources in an ever tightening (economic) environment,” said Trogon. “We’d love to see teachers continue to develop

hands-on projects for students to experiment with alternative energy and recycling.”



S’mores time? Students discuss where solar ovens can be used.

Time For Bright Ideas To Shine

South River EMC will begin accepting Bright Ideas applications online, April 20.

This allows more time for teachers to apply because the Cooperative will accept applications until midnight, September 20.

If you have an idea for a class project visit www.ncbrightideas.com and complete an application. It's that easy!

The Bright Ideas Grant program offers an early bird incentive encouraging teachers to apply early

as well! If you apply before midnight on August 16, you are eligible to win a \$500 Visa card.

For more information, visit www.ncbrightideas.com, sremc.com or contact Catherine O'Dell or Julie Wahl at 910-892-8071. Visit us on Facebook as well by searching Bright Ideas Education.



Yard Safety Starts With You

While our backyards and gardens are usually peaceful havens from the world's hustle and bustle, their upkeep can lead to injury when proper safety precautions are not followed. Whether you're a master gardener or a budding amateur, keep these safety tips in mind.

Dress to Protect:

- Wear protective eyewear (glasses, goggles, face shield) while operating all gardening equipment to protect yourself from any flying objects.
- Wear earplugs while operating machinery to prevent hearing damage.
- Wear protective clothing such as close-fitting clothes, gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirts and sturdy shoes.
- Gloves help protect you from allergic reactions to plants and pests like Poison Oak and Ivy and the occasional bee.
- Apply insect repellent and sun-screen with an SPF of 15 or higher.

A power lawn mower is one of the most dangerous tools around the home. Before mowing, remove all debris from your yard, such as rocks, toys, metal and branches. Always wear sturdy, close-toe shoes, never sandals. Children and pets should not be in the yard while you're mowing and do not allow anyone near the mower while it is running.



Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed. Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and cool. Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute or crossing over gravel.

Always follow manufacturer's recommendations for care, use and maintenance of all power tools and equipment. Unplug electric tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts. Never work with electric power tools in wet or damp conditions. For protection against electrocution, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). GFCIs are designed to prevent serious injury or death from electrical shock by detecting ground faults at very low levels. Be sure extension cords are for outdoor use and in good condition.

Know your limits. If you take medication that may make you drowsy or impair your judgment or reaction time, don't operate machinery or climb ladders. Monitor your level of fatigue, heart rate and physical discomfort. Drink plenty of water when taking breaks from yard work.

The grass is often greener, and more appealing, when you take safety precautions before working in the garden.



Strengthen Cooperative Support As A Member

The Co-op Owners for Political Action, or COPA, program is an exciting new opportunity for cooperative member-owners to strengthen their voice in the political process.

For over 30 years, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, or ACRE, has been working to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives who understand and support electric cooperatives and their members.



Now, through the special new program, ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, you as an owner, have the ability to strengthen this support and join the over 25,000 members of ACRE.

We hope that you will consider this program. Together we will continue to fight for a viable environment for electric cooperatives and the quality of life of the people and communities' cooperatives serve.

Contributions can be in the form of cash or check. For more information contact copa@sremc.com or call Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2982. Visit our booth at the South River EMC Annual Meeting of Members.

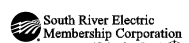


- Easy-to-use online services
- Savings
- CDs and IRAs
- Free checking (no minimum balance)
- Money market accounts
- Visa credit and free debit card
- Christmas clubs
- Free online banking, bill pay and e-statements
- Visa gift cards
- New and pre-owned auto loans
- Secured and unsecured loans
- 2nd mortgage loans
- Car buying service
- Financial fitness program
- Your savings federally insured up to at least \$250,000

We've been serving the employees of South River EMC for many years, now it's time to serve you, the consumers. Join now at www.electelccu.org. It's easy and you'll be glad you did. We look forward to helping you meet your financial needs.



www.electelccu.org/800-849-5600





South River EMC's Touchstone Energy Savers

Smart Purchases Earn Money



Did you know homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings?

Are you in the market to purchase a major appliance? South River EMC offers a \$25 rebate on the purchase of Energy Star certified dishwashers, clothes washer, refrigerators, freezers and programmable thermostats. Save money with a product that uses less energy and get rewarded!

For more information visit www.sremc.com, or call our office at 910-892-8071, your appliance will need to have been purchased within the last 90 days.

If you purchase certain Energy Star appliances between April 22 and 25, you could receive a 15 percent point-of-purchase rebate from the State Energy Office!

Heat Pump Highlights

Unlike standard compressors that can only operate at full capacity, variable speed compressors allow heat pumps to operate close to the heating or cooling capacity that is needed at any particular moment. This saves energy and reduces compressor wear. Variable speed heat pumps also work well with zone control systems. Zone control systems, often found in larger homes, use automatic dampers to allow the heat pump to keep different rooms at different temperatures.

Some high-efficiency heat pumps are equipped with a desuperheater, a small, auxiliary heat exchanger that uses superheated gases from the heat pump's com-



pressor to heat water. This hot water then circulates through a pipe to the home's storage water heater tank, which recovers waste heat from the heat pump's cooling mode and uses it to heat water. A desuperheater-equipped heat pump can heat water two to three times more efficiently than an ordinary electric water heater.

South River EMC offers a rebate from \$200 to \$300 to members who install high efficiency heat pumps. Heat pumps must be 15 SEER and above or be geothermal units.

For more information visit www.sremc.com or contact Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2982.

Can The Sun Save You Money?

One of the most cost-effective ways to include renewable technologies into a building is by incorporating solar water heating.

A typical residential solar water-heating system reduces the need for conventional water heating by about two-thirds. It minimizes the expense of electricity or fossil fuel to heat the water and reduces the associated environmental impacts.

South River EMC offers a \$1,000 rebate to members that install a solar water heater with an electric back-up. For more information visit www.sremc.com, or call 910-230-2982.

Installing a solar water heating system may make you eligible for state and federal tax credits. Visit www.dsireusa.org.





Agricultural Lighting Pays Off



South River EMC offers a 25% rebate for the cost incurred by farmers to fully convert the lighting in hog, turkey and chicken houses from incandescent lighting to cold cathode or compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Rebate is based solely material costs.

Just think of the savings if lighting within each of eight turkey houses is typically with 60-watt incandescent lamps. There are usually 52 lamps per house. CFL's would be \$497.43 per year, per house. At \$7.50 per lamp, the cost to purchase 52 CFL lamps would be \$390.

Meanwhile, the energy cost savings for switching to cold cathode lamps is \$550.35 per year, per house. At \$7.95 per lamp, the cost to purchase 52 cold cathode lamps would be \$413.40. The payback on either lamp is about 9 months but with the 25% rebate, the payback period would be reduced to about 6 1/2 months.

For more information contact our office at 910-892-8071.

Recycle And Save



Are you trying to cut costs around your home this year?

First, don't let anyone stand at the refrigerator with the doors wide open.

Second, get rid of the 20-year old refrigerator in your garage!

Recycling your old refrigerator or freezer can save you money as well as making you eligible for a rebate.

South River EMC offers a \$50 rebate to members recycling that second freezer or refrigerator in their home. For more information visit www.sremc.com or call 910-230-2982.

Ways To Cut Water Heating Costs

South River EMC offers members a way to save with this \$12 water heater efficiency kit. For an additional \$10, a South River EMC employee will install the kit for you.

For more information, or to place an order, contact our offices at 910-892-8071, or e-mail us at sremc@sremc.com. If you're in the office you can also purchase one as well!



Earth Massage showerheads can save you up to 7,300 gallons of water a year.



With aerators you can save up to 18,615 gallons of water per year.



Insulate the first six feet of hot and cold water pipes to reduce heat loss and raise water temperature 2° F to 4° F hotter than uninsulated pipes can deliver, allowing for a lower water temperature setting.



Adding insulation to your water heater can reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent. This will save you around 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs.



Buy A Bulb, Save A Buck

Purchase energy-saving CFL bulbs and South River EMC will send you a \$1 rebate per bulb.

On the original receipt write: your name, South River EMC account number, mailing address and daytime telephone number. Mail it to:

South River EMC
CFL Rebate
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

*If not indicated on the receipt, please list how many bulbs were purchased.



Efficient Duct Systems Save Energy And Money

To create a comfortable home, an efficient duct system is a must. Ducts—known collectively as the air distribution system—carry air from the heat

pump or central heater or air conditioner to each part of the home and back again. In a typical house about 20 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks, holes, and poor connection. That's why duct systems found in Energy Star qualified homes are third-party tested for tightness and verified to be properly insulated.

Benefits of efficient duct systems:

- *Improved comfort.* When ducts are properly sealed and insulated, they deliver conditioned air more effectively to all rooms, helping to ensure a more constant temperature throughout the home.
- *Lower utility bills.* The average homeowner spends more than \$600 on space heating and cooling each year. Tightly sealed and well insulated ducts can reduce annual utility bills by \$120 or more.
- *Improved indoor air quality.* Leaky ducts in attics, unfinished basements, crawl spaces, and garages can allow dirt, dust, moisture, pollen, pests, and fumes to enter the home. Sealing these ducts helps improve indoor air quality.
- *Lower equipment costs.* When ducts are leaky, heating and cooling systems work harder to condition the home. Duct sealing, along with proper insulation, allows the installation of a smaller, less costly heating and cooling system.

Building efficient duct systems

Techniques and practices that provide an efficient and effective duct system include:

- *Ducts in conditioned spaces.* Ducts operate more efficiently in conditioned air, at room temperature. They do not work as well in excessively hot or cold attics and crawl spaces.
- *Sealed ducts.* The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, promotes the use of mastic and/or Underwriters Laboratory (UL) 181 approved tapes, such as metal-backed tape, to seal ducts. These materials seal leaks around duct joints and seams more effectively than standard "duct tape."
- *Insulated ducts.* Leaky ducts and poorly sealed connections waste the air that you pay to heat and cool. To minimize energy loss, EPA first recommends installing ducts in conditioned spaces. Where not possible, ducts should be insulated as recommended by the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).
- *Right-sized ducts.* Ducts in Energy Star qualified homes are sized based on the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, or ACCA, calculations. This helps to ensure that ducts accommodate the air flow requirements of the heating and cooling system for efficient distribution of air.

South River EMC members who build or purchase a new Energy Star certified home, qualify for a rebate of \$350-\$750. For more information visit www.sremc.com or call 910-230-2982.