



the South River EMC *Communicator*

April 2017

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**South River EMC
offices will be closed
Friday, April 14, in
observance of
Good Friday.**

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Classroom Economy Adds Up

For the 2016-2017 school year, Melissa Nies wrote a Bright Ideas grant proposal entitled "Classroom Economy" for her fifth grade class at South Harnett Elementary.

She submitted her grant proposal, and as she waited to hear the results, she began introducing students to the idea. If she didn't receive the grant, which would allow her to purchase several school-approved laptops for students to work on their record keeping, it would be done with pencil and paper.

"Over the summer, I saw this 'classroom economy' program while searching for economic lesson plans," said Nies. "I read about it and thought, 'I can do this because the students have to earn the money, and it is not just given to them.'"

Students use Google classroom, Google docs and a website called

mykidsbank.org to create and maintain a classroom economy.

Students select jobs, perform tasks and then receive payment. They pay rent for their desks, fines if they fail to follow rules or complete certain tasks, and any additional money is used at auctions. The program spans the class day, and isn't something students can ignore, because Nies makes sure it goes hand in hand with the school behavior plan.

"It gives students a natural consequence for not following directions, or not being responsible," she said. "It also helps me reinforce to students that when they have a fine, it is based on behavior, not the students."

When school began, the class spent about a month talking about how communities and societies work at various times throughout the day.

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Students pose with their auction paddles.

You Asked: What Is The Grid Access Charge On My Bill?

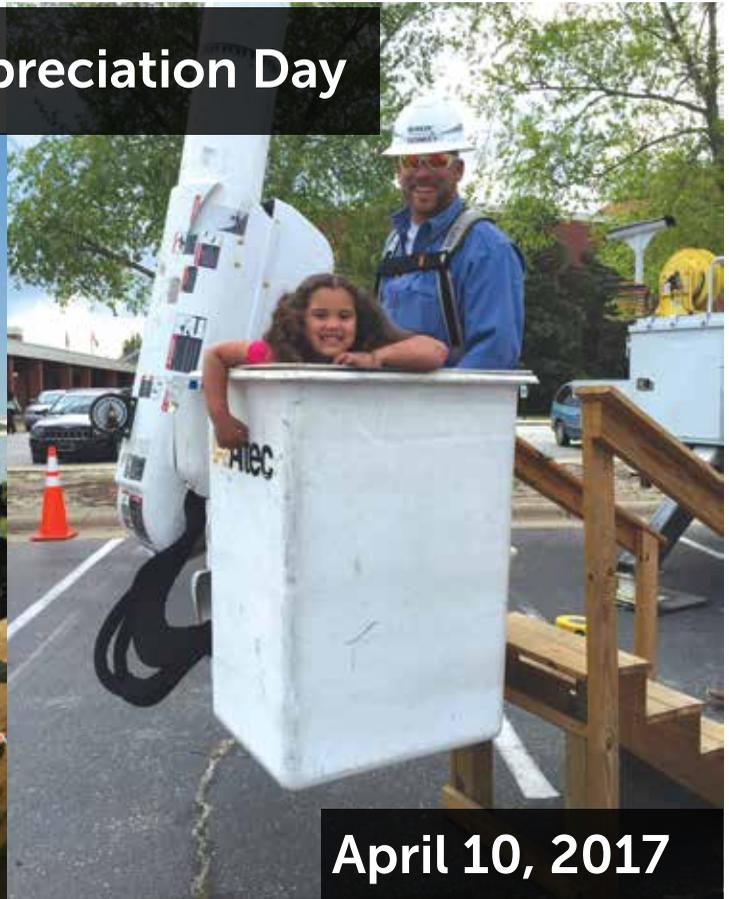
The Grid Access charge is a monthly fee that helps cover the cost to maintain our electric utility system in order to provide access to the electric grid. This includes the cost of transformers, power lines, poles, substations, loans, insurance, buildings, trucks, preparing and mailing bills, etc.

The cost to operate and maintain our system exists even if NO ELECTRICITY IS USED — we must keep our system updated and energy available whenever it's needed.

South River EMC has always charged this fee (formerly Facilities Charge). However, it was formerly rolled into the total amount of the bill. Beginning this month, the charge now appears as a separate line item on bills.



National Lineman Appreciation Day



April 10, 2017

Director Receives Prestigious Award

South River EMC Secretary William "Bill" E. Tew Jr. was recently honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine during the 54th annual meeting of the Cumberland County Livestock Association. The award was presented to Tew by state Senator Wesley Meredith and former state Senator Tony Rand.

Tew, a fourth-generation farmer, was inducted into the Cumberland County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his significant contributions to agriculture in 2001. He has served on the Cumberland County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for 45 years and has also served the Farm Bureau at the state and national levels. Because of this passion for agricultural advocacy, Tew has served in an advisory capacity for many political figures to include: Governor Mike Easley's Agriculture Advisory Committee, Governor Beverly Perdue's Agriculture and Forestry Awareness and Study Commission and Agriculture Advisory Committee member for Congressmen Mike McIntyre and Charlie Rose.

In 1984, Tew served on the committee to explore the feasibility of building a livestock arena in Cumberland County. The committee not only found it viable, but made the arena a reality by securing funds to build the 60,000-square-foot Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center. The Expo Center not only houses all county agriculture offices, but continues to hold many agricultural events. Tew served on the Cumberland County Civic Center Commission for 14 years.

The variety of other organizations with which Tew has been involved over the years include: the Cumberland County joint Planning Board, Linden precinct Democratic Registrar, Linden Community Development Club, Fayetteville Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Westarea Fire Department Board of Directors, Cumberland County Extension Advisory Council, 4-H Foundation, Cumberland County Livestock Assoc., Tobacco Marketing Quota Review



*Back row: Patty Cimaglia and Marion Tew
Seated: William "Bill" E. Tew Jr.*

Committee and the Southeastern NC Agricultural Society.

He is also a life-long member of Sardis Presbyterian Church where he serves as a deacon and a ruling elder. He worked for the Cumberland County Tax Administration for 42 years as a part-time tax lister and a tax research specialist.

Tew has served the members of South River EMC for 19 years as a director, and before that, for 20 years as a member of the nominating committee.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is awarded to persons for exemplary service to the state of North Carolina and their communities, which has had significant impact and strengthened the state.



Left to right: State Senator Wesley Meredith, N.C. Farm Bureau President Larry B. Wooten, South River EMC Secretary William "Bill" E. Tew Jr. and former state Senator Tony Rand.

Offices Closing Early April 20

South River EMC offices will close at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, to prepare for our Annual Meeting of Members.

We hope to see you at the Crown Theatre and Arena; and don't forget, we will be accepting food donations for Second Harvest Food Bank at the meeting!

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Boots to Buckets

The values of electric cooperatives closely align with those who have chosen to serve their country in the armed forces. That common commitment to serving our community is what has endeared electric cooperatives to their members for over 75 years.

We want to make it easier for veterans to find employment within the cooperative network. South River EMC is kicking off a program called Boots to Buckets, which provides the opportunity for one newly separated veteran to attend Nash Community College's Electric Line Academy and the cost will be paid by South River EMC.

South River EMC will sponsor the recipient to attend the Electric Line Academy at Nash Community College. Sponsorship will cover the cost of tuition, books, boots and safety glasses. The academy runs August 15 through December 13, 2017. Upon completion, the recipient will receive a Third Class Lineman certificate.

Although completion doesn't guarantee a job with South River EMC, it would certainly place the graduate in a much more valuable position to secure a position as an electric lineman.



The Electric Line Construction Technology curriculum prepares participants to work as electric linemen. Students will combine electrical theory with laboratory and practical applications in the course of study. Students will be expected to master competencies such as those included in elements of electricity, overhead pole and electrical line construction, safety codes and applications, electric power system, transformer and meter installations, and exploration of underground electrical distribution.

Upon successful completion of the program, individuals will receive the Associate of Applied Science degree and will possess the necessary skills

for employment in the dynamic electric utility field.

For more information, contact Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2992 or sremc@sremc.com. Download an application at sremc.com/content/boots-buckets.

The nation's network of over 900 electric cooperatives are committed to hiring military veterans. Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country is a program that empowers veterans and military spouses with opportunities for a successful, rewarding career beyond the armed forces. If you are a veteran or will soon be separating from the military, visit www.servevets.coop to see what positions are currently available at cooperatives across the nation.

It's Time To Think Baseball

South River EMC is partnering with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to sponsor baseball camps for students ages 5-12.

If you have a child between those ages who loves baseball, this is a great opportunity for him or her!

It's time to enter to win a scholarship for a day at the Fayetteville SwampDogs Day Camp, being held June 16, July 14 and July 26 at J.P. Riddle Stadium in Fayetteville.

South River EMC is offering four scholarships for each camp day. To apply for a scholarship, please mail or e-mail the following information to our office: student's name, address, age and daytime phone number.

Mail to:

South River EMC
Camp Scholarship
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

E-mail: connections@sremc.com

Please put "camp scholarship" on the subject line. Be sure to include a note for which camp the child should be entered; it is unnecessary to send multiple submissions for each camp day, this holds true for e-mail submission as well.

Submission deadlines are June 9, July 7 and July 22. Scholarships only cover the cost of the camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to and from the stadium the day of



camp, which runs from about 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and a snack will be provided. Campers are allowed to bring their own equipment, although they are not required to do so. Interested in attending camp? Register at goswampdogs.com. If not selected, your child can attend the camp one day for \$50, two days for \$90, or all three days for \$120.

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"We discussed what they'd need to do to earn money for the items they were interested in buying," said Nies.

This was her first attempt at a Bright Ideas grant, and Nies wasn't sure she'd receive it because of the tough competition.

"I didn't really have a full idea of how I would implement everything until I had to complete the application," she said. "It really made me think it through and for that I am very grateful!"

Imagine her surprise when, just a short time after Hurricane Matthew came through town, she received a Bright Ideas grant. It cheered up everyone.

"I personally was struggling to stay afloat after Hurricane Matthew," Nies said. "So I worked with students a little differently than originally planned, for example, charging a discounted amount for their desk rent for a few months, there was no way I was going to take their desks from them. We called it flood relief."

When students came back in the new year they were ready, and the lessons came hard.

"Some students have lost desks from not having rent money," said Nies. "I speak with these students about how to earn their money back, and I work with them because I don't want them discouraged. Plus, who hasn't hit a rough spot?"

The class has five bankers. The bankers' job is to handle their section's deposits and withdrawals. The individual going to the bank is also responsible for their transactions and students keep logs on them.

Bankers discuss how if a student in their section has an issue with a deposit or withdrawal, the banker compares the bank records with the student's log to find the problem.

Each student has something positive to say about the project, it might have to do with their job, a fine, or even a piece they bought at the auction, like a black skull cup, for which one student paid \$250.

The class has had three auctions and a recent one had students paying \$500 for three pencils.

"I figured the art stuff would go and they were paying for items like pencils," said Nies. "We typically have our auctions after rent and fines are paid and they love it."

The Bright Ideas applications period opens April 1, to get started, visit sremc.com or ncbrightideas.com.



Students participate in a classroom auction.

TOGETHERWE SAVE.COM

This Is The Thermostat For You

Did you know that many programmable thermostats aren't actually running any program? That's right, many of you have programmable thermostats that you've never programmed.

Those of you that have programmed them, haven't programmed them much differently than homes with manual thermostats. So why are we talking about this? Because the newest thermostat on the market might just be the perfect fit for you and your family.

How many times do you pack up and go somewhere with-

out touching your thermostat? Maybe your cooling system is set to come on at 68 degrees, and it's going to be 78 degrees, which runs your system for longer periods of time with little rest. You might not have noticed a change in your energy costs, because this is how it has always been.

But you could be saving, so why don't you? Installing a smart thermostat might be your best option because when you take off on a trip, if you forget to alter your thermostat settings, you can do it from your phone or tablet,



and you know you brought one of those on your trip.

Embrace savings on the go with a smart thermostat, as well as receiving a \$20 bill credit for installing one. You can download an application at sremc.com or receive one by calling 910-892-8071 x 2152 and requesting one.

Consider All Water Heating Options

How do you heat the water in your home? It's an important question, because water heating is the second highest contributor to your electric costs each month.

A heat pump water heater, or HPWH, uses electricity to move heat from one place to another instead of generating it directly. Therefore, they can be two to three times more efficient than conventional electric water heaters.

HPWHs should be located in areas which remain in the 40 to 90 degree range, because while they pull heat to warm water, they expel cool air. Also, space, 1,000 cu. feet is required to install a HPWH.

A solar water heater uses an element free to you, the sun, to heat water for use in your home. Solar water heaters require some serious

thought though, because they are more expensive than a standard water heater.

For example, does your home have enough sun? If your house doesn't have enough of a solar resource, you shouldn't install solar water heating, because it will take even longer to recover the cost of installation.

Next, are there any building covenants preventing the addition of solar water heating? Some neighborhoods will not allow you to place a solar water

heating system on your roof, typically the best place to catch the sun. In that case, you don't want to be halfway through the process, only to not have the expected outcome.

Of course, always be sure to speak with reputable installers, and ask for references. If you're spending the money, you want the job done right.

Why mention these two options? South River EMC offers a \$150 rebate on the installation of a solar water heater and a \$200 rebate for HPWHs. Please remember only HPWHs less than 50 gallons are eligible for a rebate. A HPWH is the standard for units over 50 gallons.

For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Good Buys Don't Always Save Money

Just because it's a good buy, doesn't mean it's right for you. In this case we're talking about pool pumps. Single speed pumps are the cheapest, however they are the most expensive to run.

Installing a variable or two speed pump will offer you savings a single speed pump could never imagine.

Single speed pumps run at that single speed for all tasks it performs, using the most water and energy for all jobs, when sometimes, less is more.

If you're in the market for a new pump for your pool, or would like to save some energy, purchase a variable or two speed pool pump, which change levels to meet the demand for certain jobs.

Variable and two speed pool pumps are eligible for a \$50 rebate. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



How Being Comfortable Can Cost You

When you're at home you want to be comfortable, but achieving that comfort can get expensive.

If your heating and cooling system is nearing or over the 10-year mark, it's time to consider replacements.

Heating and cooling already accounts for almost 50 percent of your electric costs each month, and you want to be sure to get what you're paying for, right? Older systems often times have to work harder to provide those enjoyable temperatures, and sometimes older equipment, like ductwork, can leak.

Even an efficient system gets old and becomes inefficient, but starting with one can save you money before that occurs. Look for systems that have a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating because that means they are more efficient cooling systems. During the summer you will be happier with a properly installed, high-efficiency system.

There are times when bigger is better, but not with your heating and cooling system. A system that is too large or even too small for your home, will cost you more to run. When bigger *is* better is when it comes to the SEER rating, for example, a unit that is 13 SEER is less efficient for your home than a unit that is 17 SEER or greater.

So if you're in the market for a new heating and cooling system, consider purchasing a high efficiency system. Then, be sure to have it serviced yearly to prevent wear and tear from costing you more than necessary. When

repairs become more costly, it's time to replace again.

South River EMC rebates on air source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps, and ductless mini-split heat pumps of 17 SEER or greater.

Visit our heat pump calculator to see what kind of savings you could see with a higher SEER unit in your home.

Air source HP replacing an HP: \$200

Air source HP replacing an electric furnace: \$400

Geothermal HP 17.1 EER (replacement or new): \$250

Geothermal HP replacing electric furnace (17.1 EER or greater): \$500

Ductless mini-split HP replacing a HP: \$200

Ductless mini-split HP replacing electric furnace: \$400

For more information or to receive an application, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



Managing Costs With Energy Star

If you are interested in managing your energy costs, you should look for the Energy Star whenever you purchase an appliance for your home including: clothes washers, dryers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers.

The Energy Star label is the easiest way for consumers to recognize the most efficient heating systems, cooling systems, appliances and electronics.

An Energy Star label means that the product is in the top

15 percent of efficiency compared to similar products. Energy Star appliances have been identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy as being the most energy efficient.

That means energy and water savings for the member, who doesn't love that? If you're in the market for a new appliance, even though there are a lot of options to consider, make sure



you look closely at those with an Energy Star label.

South River EMC offers a \$10 bill credit to members who purchase an Energy Star certified clothes washer, clothes dryer, refrigerator or dehumidifier.

For more information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Try This Before Adjusting The Thermostat

Heating and cooling is important, but you might only realize how important when you get your electric bill.

This happens because in many cases, you adjust the thermostat to make up for that cooler feeling in the winter or warmer feeling in the summer in your home. However, most of the time that thermostat adjustment does little to help your comfort and only increases your costs.

Why? Because your heating and cooling system is working fine, and with your adjustments it might be working harder and longer than necessary.

Start with checking the insulation in your home. Although it might be to code, as homes age, insulation settles. You might see where insulation isn't completely covering areas, or it might even be that the insulation you have isn't the right fit for your home, always look for the R-value on insulation. Insulation prevents heat transfer, or

the entrance of heat into your home during the summer, or the exit of heat, during winter.

So you checked your insulation and everything looks good, the R-value is appropriate, you have it spread evenly, but still your home isn't comfortable.

Air infiltration exists in even the most efficient homes; the introduction of outside air inside, and vice versa, isn't a problem in small quantities, but large quantities can create discomfort. At which time, you begin adjusting the thermostat. By weather stripping moving parts, like doors and windows, as well as caulking non-moving parts like baseboard moldings, plumbing penetrations and more, you can improve comfort and cut costs.

Don't pay more to heat and cool your home. By doing a few checks, making a few changes, and doing some upgrading you can save energy and money. South River EMC offers several rebates if you make insulation and weatherization upgrades.

Single family homes are eligible for the following rebates:

- Air sealing \$75
- Attic/roof insulation \$75

Manufactured homes are eligible for the following rebates:

- Air sealing (HP) \$100
- Air sealing (EF) \$200
- Duct sealing (HP) \$100
- Duct sealing (EF) \$200
- Roof insulation (HP) \$100
- Roof insulation (EF) \$200
- Floor insulation (HP) \$100
- Floor insulation (EF) \$200

If you receive a weatherization package performed by an agency such as Community Action you could be eligible for a \$200 bill credit.

For complete details, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.

- *HP= heat pump
- **EF= electric furnace