



# the South River EMC **communicator**

November 2016

## what's inside

Veteran (continued)

Who's Responsible?

Get Out And Vote

Dial Before You Dig

TogetherWeSave

## A Life Dedicated To God, Country And Veterans

**I**n 1965, after President Lyndon B. Johnson made the decision to send combat forces into the battle in Vietnam, John Finger Jr. received his draft notice to report for duty in the United States Army; and was sent to the escalating war zone in the jungles of Vietnam. At that time, this young African-American soldier from China Grove could never have imagined that he would make history for his dedication to others and receive North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Finger served three tours in Vietnam, which took him to most points between Saigon and the demilitarized zone (the dividing line between North and South Vietnam).

During his wartime service, he was injured and contracted malaria.

Finger quickly realized that he couldn't make ends meet on the \$69 per month military pay so he looked for ways to increase his income, which included airborne school and Special Forces training. Although his 24-year military career took him to 29 foreign countries, Fort Bragg was his only U.S. duty station.

When looking back, Finger, a soft-spoken, humble man, said his greatest accomplishment in the military was being able to retire in 1989. "After all I'd been through, I think it was quite an



accomplishment to be able to retire from the Army," said Finger.

His wife Doris Jean (D.J.), a witty, vivacious woman from the Harnett County town of Bunnlevel, used her powers of persuasion to convince her husband that they needed to settle down at her family's home place.

John decided to attend a few meetings of the Disable American Veterans (DAV) organization and really embraced what the DAV was doing for veterans.

"I saw working with the DAV as a way to help others," said Finger. He knew firsthand how complicated the government red tape can be. It took him 10 years to get 100 percent disability for his service-related injuries.

*Continued on page B*



PO Box 931  
17494 US 421 S  
Dunn, NC 28335  
(910) 892-8071/  
800-338-5530  
www.sremc.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Follow Us! [southriveremc](http://southriveremc.com)

*VETERAN from page A*

He knew that he could help other veterans to navigate the system more easily.

Finger has served in many capacities in the DAV, including commander of DAV William M. Stone Chapter 74. In 2010, he was the first African-American to be named as commander of the NC DAV. In 2011 he served as the National DAV Membership Chairman.

During his time with the DAV, Finger was credited with uniting 62 chapters that consisted of 35,000 members to better serve the state's veteran population. He was instrumental in getting the Veterans' Memorial Park built in front of the Harnett County courthouse. He has spent countless hours lobbying legislative officials to provide better health benefits and assistance for veterans.

Finger has been able to provide such incredible support for veterans in North Carolina because he has had the total support of his wife. "He might be my husband, but he's married to [the veterans]," said D.J. with a proud smile.

After 24 years of total commitment, Finger recently decided to take a less prominent role in the DAV. He says he will still attend meetings and help when needed, but he will no longer serve in a leadership



*Finger and his wife, D.J., at their home.*

position. "I will help the chapter where I can and help the new commander get acclimated," he said.

"John Finger continues to be an instrumental part of DAV Chapter 74's accomplishments," said Joanne Creswell, adjutant, DAV Chapter 74. "Through his excellent leadership, selfless dedication, inspirational devotion and genuine love of his country and comrade's welfare he has served the Chapter in many positions including commander for four years thereby ensuring the Chapter's success.

"It is my professional and personal honor to serve alongside Commander

Finger in the Chapter and community. He exemplifies the word 'servant' in all his accomplishments as he remains humble and devoted to God, his family, country and veteran comrades. He is a true American hero."

After a quarter of a century of distinguished service helping veterans, the members of the DAV Chapter 74, along with Harnett County Director of Veterans Services Eric Truesdale, were going to ensure Finger was appropriately recognized for his commitment to veterans. On August 9, Finger was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest civilian honor. Finger has the Order of the Longleaf Pine proudly displayed in his living room along with the Living Legend Award from the official Harnett County Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Committee; NC Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year; and many other prestigious awards.

Although he is reducing his activities with the DAV, this 75-year-old disabled veteran doesn't plan to just sit at home all day. He plays lead guitar in four bands and sings in three choirs at McLean Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. No matter what he does, D.J. will be at his side.

Finger is proud of his accomplishments and most importantly his wife, two children and four grandchildren.

The DAV is a non-profit charity committed to supporting disabled veterans of all generations and their families. They help more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways annually. The organization provides more than 700,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than 300,000 benefit claims annually. In 2015, the DAV helped attain more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits to care for veterans, their families and survivors.

DAV is also a leader in connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their sacrifices have made possible.

With almost 1,300 chapters and 1.3 million members across the country, DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keep the promises made to them.

## Who's Responsible For This?

South River EMC employees field a lot of questions regarding where the utility's responsibility ends and where the homeowner's obligation begins in homes.

In a nutshell, South River EMC is responsible for all of the poles, lines and transformers that lead from our system to your meter. If your service comes from the pole to the home overhead, then the Cooperative is responsible for the wire extended to the home, but the member is responsible for the wire from the weather head to the meter (see diagram). If your service to the home from the transformer is underground, South River EMC is responsible for the underground wire up to the top of the meter. The meter is also the responsibility of the Cooperative.

However, that is where things change. The meter base, which

holds the meter, is installed and owned by the member. Everything inside the home (electric wiring, plumbing and gas lines are member owned).

If you have a workshop or water pump on your property that has electricity, but it is all connected through a single meter on the home, the electric wiring running from the meter to these facilities is the responsibility of the homeowner.

If a storm comes through and knocks down the power lines running to your meter from our pole, call South River EMC and we will be out to make repairs immediately.

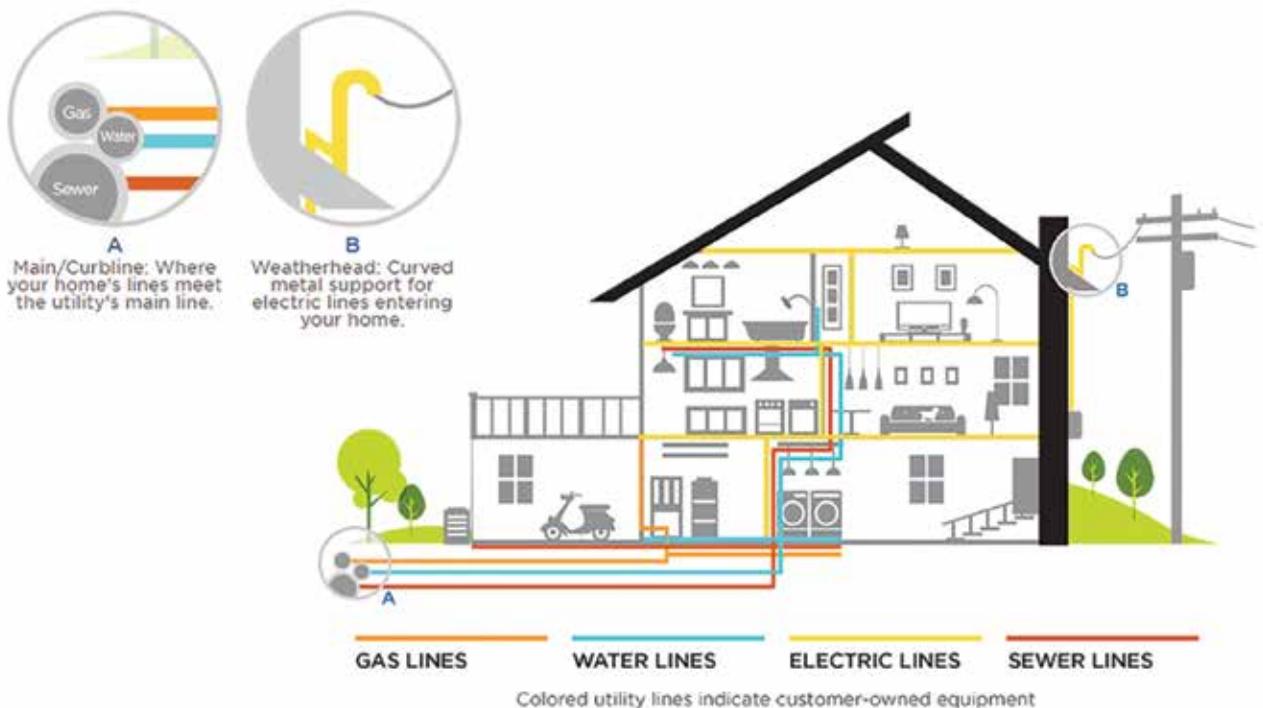
If the underground line from your meter to your workshop fails, call an electrician.

In the past couple months, members have been receiving information in the mail from IGS

Energy for a product called Utility Shield.

We partnered with this company to offer a voluntary program to members who might want to purchase a protection package to help alleviate the high cost of unexpected failures of home wiring, plumbing, sewer lines, gas lines or HVAC and water heating. This program allows you to purchase different levels of protection and helps pay repair costs resulting from normal wear and tear. There is also a package that will help pay for the cost of appliances damaged from an external surge such as lightning.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit [www.utilityshield.com/southeremc](http://www.utilityshield.com/southeremc) or call 888-974-0112. This product isn't being sold by South River EMC so all questions and sales must be directed to IGS Energy.



## Tuesday, November 8 Is Election Day. Get Out The Vote!



### Washington, D.C., Memories On Us

**A**re you encouraging your children to participate in activities for their college application?

South River EMC has a great opportunity to add to college applications called the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

This is a fun and informative week-long trip to Washington, D.C., free to students.

Sponsored by the North Carolina electric cooperatives, South River EMC, offers three students the opportunity to attend the Youth Tour June 10-16, 2017. Students will be part of a North Carolina delegation of students to join with 1,500 students from across the country to experience a sample of Washington, D.C., sights.

During this trip students will

have an opportunity to:

- Participate in Youth Day and learn about cooperatives.
- Visit Capitol Hill and meet with our representatives in Congress.
- Visit the sites and museums of Washington, D.C.
- Take a boat trip down the Potomac.
- See a show at the Kennedy Center.

• Attend an All-States Dance. North Carolina students also establish a Soda Pop Co-op to provide a supply of affordable drinks while in Washington, D.C. Each student pays a small amount to become a member. At the end of the trip, the cooperative is dissolved and each student is refunded their membership fee and capital credits.



*Nick Loscalzo, 2016 youth tourist (center), with friends made on his trip.*

Students return with new friendships, new ideas and more confidence, and also lots of pictures of what they experience on the trip.

For more information, call 910-892-8071, or e-mail, [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).

Application deadline is December 2.

## Directors Receive Gold Credential



**F**ive South River EMC board members received the Director Gold credential, which recognizes directors who have earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) or Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) credentials and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board.

Those directors receiving their gold credential include, from left: William E. Tew Jr., board secretary; Kelly Harrington, board vice president; Sue Flowers; Dr. E. Sue Godwin-Baker, board president; and Clifton McNeill Jr.

## Know What's Below: Dial 811 Before You Dig

**S**pring is an optimal time to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging—such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts—remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate

location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority doesn't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage



utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

## Nominating Committee Appointed

**S**outh River EMC is preparing for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Members. At a meeting of the Cooperative board of directors, the nominating committee was appointed in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws.

This committee, made up of a representative from each of the directorate districts, will make recommendations for directors from districts 1, 2 and At-Large.

Anyone interested in running for a seat in any of the districts up for election in 2017 can contact any member of the committee by January 2.

Members can also be placed on

the ballot by submitting an authorized petition form 45 business days prior to the annual meeting. The petition must include the full name of the member and the district they wish to represent.

The petition must also contain the printed names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least 150 South River EMC members.

Anyone interested in obtaining an authorized petition form should contact Barbara West-Lee at 910-230-2966.

**District 1 - Van Buie**, 1680 Buie Rd., Broadway; represents South River EMC service area west of Highway 401 in Harnett County.

**District 2 - Raylon Wood**, 71 Unity Church Rd., Four Oaks; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 421 and north of Highway 13 in Sampson and Johnston counties.

**District 3 - Iris Lucas**, 887 Junious Lucas Rd., Faison; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 242 and south of Highway 13 in Sampson County.

**District 4 - Johnnie Baggett**, 1108 Fayetteville Hwy, Dunn; represents South River EMC service area in Sampson County southwest of Highway 421 and west of Highway 242, east of Dunn Road and Carroll Store Road to Maxwell Rd., east of South River School Rd. and Bluman Rd. to the Harnett- Sampson- Cumberland county lines and north to Highway 421.



**District 5 - Anthony "Tony" Warren**, 2392 Andrews Chapel Church Rd., Roseboro; represents South River EMC service area south of Maxwell Rd., west of Carroll Store Rd. and Dunn Rd., west of Highway 242 and Highway 411 to Highway 701, northeast of Old Fayetteville Rd. and Turnbull Rd. to the Sampson Cumberland county line and north to Maxwell Rd.

**District 6 - Carol Hudson**, 3661 Murphy Rd., Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, east of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line and west of the Cumberland- Sampson county line.

**District 7 - Wayne Collier Jr.**, 5489 Indian Ridge Rd., Linden; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, west of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line, and all of Harnett County east of Highway 401.

**District 8 - Walter Clark**, 1124 Pony Dr., Hope Mills; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland and Bladen counties, south of Highway 53.

**At Large - Alexander Eastman**, 995 Butler Rd., Salemburg; may nominate from any South River EMC district.

# TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

## 2016 Tax Credits

You could be eligible for tax credits or rebates by purchasing certain types of appliances, making certain upgrades, or installing renewable energy systems.

The following tax credits expire December 31, 2016:

**Tax Credit:** 10 percent of cost up to \$500 or a specific amount from \$50-\$300. Includes: bio-mass stoves; air source heat pumps; central air conditioning; gas, propane, or oil hot water boiler; gas, propane or oil furnaces and fans; insulation; roofs; water heaters (non-so-

lar); windows, doors & skylights.

**Tax Credit:** 30 percent of cost on: geothermal heat pumps; residential wind turbines; solar energy systems.

More information can be found at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

## Save Money With Appliances, Energy Star Appliances

Have you ever wondered how much your appliances cost you each year? You probably don't unless there's a change in electric costs.

However, by using the appliance calculator on South River EMC's web site, you can see what each of your appliances

cost you, and you might see it's time to replace a few.

Replacing with Energy Star certified appliances is a little more costly, but that's made up for in energy savings. So when you need a new appliance, think Energy Star.

South River EMC offers a \$25

rebate on the purchase of Energy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washers and dehumidifiers. And with the money saved on those, who knows what you could purchase next!

For more information or an application, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## Be Comfortable This Holiday Season

Keeping your home a comfortable temperature with varying opinions can get tiring and costly. However, with sealing, insulation and an efficient heating and cooling system, you can at least cut costs.

When you start looking, make sure you have the right sized system for your home. A system that's too large, or too small struggles to maintain a comfortable temperature because it is under or overworked.

An energy-efficient unit will have higher upfront costs, but will save energy over its lifetime. High efficiency heat pumps have a higher seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER) and heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) than

standard models. We look at the SEER rating because it tells us the cooling efficiency, and during a North Carolina summer, you know that's important. These higher standards make them about 8 percent more efficient than standard new models and 20 percent more efficient than what you might currently have in your home.

So, if you're in the market to replace your heating and cooling system, look for one that's appropriately sized and efficient, 15 SEER or greater. There's the air source heat pump, which pulls heat from the outside air and uses it in your home. Then there's the dual fuel system, which pulls the heat from the air, but in

colder temperatures, has a back-up heat source, to combat lower temperatures. Lastly, there's the geothermal heat pump, which uses the relatively constant ground temperature to heat or cool your home. A geothermal heat pump is one of the most efficient, but expensive options. It would be great for new construction, since the system sits underground.

The Cooperative rebates on air source (\$200), dual fuel hybrid (\$200) and geothermal (\$500) heat pumps 15 SEER or greater.

For more information visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## Light Your Home For Less

An average household dedicates about 5 percent of its energy costs to lighting.

Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest and easiest ways to cut energy costs. Start by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixture bulbs with energy efficient models like LEDs.

We recognize that you have many choices in energy-efficient lighting, including halogen incandescents, CFLs, cold cathodes and LEDs. Although LEDs initially cost more than incandescent bulbs, during their lifetime they save you money,

because they use less energy.

Controls such as timers and photocells save electricity by turning lights off when not in use. Dimmers save electricity when used to lower light levels. Be sure to select products compatible with the energy-ef-



ficient bulbs you want to use.

So begin by changing out five frequently used bulbs with more efficient ones, and then try using them a little more efficiently for energy and cost savings.

If you purchase LEDs or cold cathodes, simply send the receipt with your name, mailing address, South River EMC account number and daytime telephone number to:

South River EMC  
Energy-efficient lighting  
PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335

## Comfort At A Cost You Can Afford

Are you looking forward to the holiday season? Great food, fun times with family and friends, but before you get too comfortable, make sure you'll be comfortable at costs you can afford.

That means it's time to check the insulation and make sure it's thick enough and evenly covering the space it needs to cover. Not only that, but weatherize your home as well.

Insulation and weatherization prevent heat transfer and air infiltration, respectively. Heat transfer happens when heat moves from a warmer space to a cooler space, to even out the temperature. In the summer, that means heat comes inside your home, and in the winter that means heat leaves your home. Having the proper amount and distribution of insulation, along with an effective

resistance value, can improve comfort and help you save. The more comfortable you find your home, the less tempted you are to fiddle with your thermostat.

Now, air infiltration is the introduction of outside air inside and vice versa. So how does this affect you? All homes have a bit of air infiltration, but an excessive amount causes discomfort, which you would try to fix by adjusting your thermostat. And what does that affect? Your costs. So don't adjust the thermostat, do a little weatherization work.

By weather stripping moveable components, such as doors and windows, and caulking non-moving pieces like around recessed lighting and attic hatches, you can increase comfort and maybe even trim costs.

South River EMC offers



rebates for these kind of improvements around your home, which include:

### Sealing Rebate

- Duct Sealing \$100
- Air Sealing \$100

### Insulation Rebate

- Attic/roof \$100
- Floor/crawl \$100

For information on the rebate, or to get an application, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.