



the South River EMC *communicator*

May 2017

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A 'Two-Pronged' Approach to Home Electrical Safety

Consumers can depend on a pair of important safety devices to protect them from electrical hazards at home: ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). Each protects against different dangers: GFCIs address shock hazards while AFCIs fight fire hazards.

FIGHTING FIRE

AFCIs, a relatively recent technology, help prevent home fires caused by arcing faults in damaged or deteriorated wires and cords. Home wiring problems, like sparking, are associated with more than 40,000 home fires each year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These fires kill more than 350 and injure 1,400 victims annually.

GET GROUNDED!

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), GFCIs have cut the number of home electrocutions by half. By detecting ground faults — an unintentional electric path between a source of current and a grounded surface; essentially, current leaking to the ground — a GFCI protects you from severe or fatal electric shocks. It can also prevent some electrical fires.

If you've ever experienced an electric shock, it probably happened because part of your body contacted an electrical current and provided a path for the current to go to ground. If your body provides the path, you could be seriously injured.

GFCIs constantly monitor electricity moving through a circuit. If the current flow differs from that returning, the device quickly switches off power.

Nominal arcs may happen in the brushes of a vacuum sweeper or light switch; dangerous arcs can occur in frayed cords. When arcing occurs, it generates high temperatures that can ignite nearby combustibles such as wood, paper, and carpets.

Conventional circuit breakers only respond to overloads and short circuits. By the time a fuse or circuit cuts power to defuse these conditions, a fire may have already started. AFCIs use unique circuitry to distinguish between normal and unwanted arcing conditions. In

the event of an arcing fault, the AFCI shuts off electricity flowing through a circuit.

For more information on where to install GFCIs and AFCIs, visit cpsc.gov.



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Schedule Your Capital Credits Appointment Today

We are constantly striving to improve your experience with our cooperative. We have recently made a change in the way we handle members who need to conduct business on behalf of a deceased member's estate.

If you need to conduct business on behalf of a loved one's estate, please just call the office at 910-892-8071 and a member service

representative will tell you all documents that are needed and schedule an appointment for you



at that time.

This process will help to reduce the amount of wait time for members and eliminate the need for a second trip, while enabling you to better plan your schedule. The capital credit specialist will schedule appointments at either the Dunn or Fayetteville office for your convenience.

When It's Time To Get Efficient

The energy efficiency bug is circling, if it hasn't bit you yet, it soon will, and what will you do?

South River EMC offers several tools to help keep you informed about energy use, as well as tools to help you save energy. Let's get started.

If the Cooperative has your e-mail address and you have had service with us for at least 12 months, you should be receiving a SmartEnergy Profile, a report designed to help you better manage your energy use. The report can answer typical questions about how energy is used in your home, and helps to identify major drivers in energy use, like the secondary refrigerator in the garage. It also has charts which allow you

to compare your energy use over the last year. If you have gone in and updated your profile, you will receive a more detailed account of your monthly energy use and more meaningful recommendations for energy savings. For example, perhaps you have a pool and you've added information on that, you might receive a tip about how you could run your pump differently to save energy.

The SmartProfile allows you to take control of managing your energy use; though if you tell it nothing particular, it will give tips less tailored to your home.

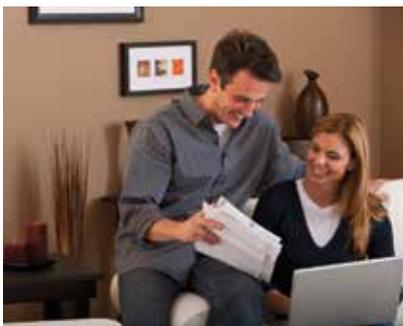
Perhaps you'd like to keep up with the energy use yourself, then you can, by using our SmartView program. SmartView gives you a look at your energy use each day, but you'd be checking up on items which could save you money. Perhaps you see a spike in energy use and the spike is ongoing, your water heater might have a leak and need repair or replacement. However, it does help you spot problems sooner, rather than at the end of your billing cycle when it has added up.

Our energy service advisors are also looking out for you, by getting reports of extended high energy use out of line with members' regular patterns. By looking at temperatures and comparing this information with previous readings, the advisor will reach out to you, to ask if you're experiencing any issues with appliances, like your heating and cooling system or your water heater.

You can also set up Smart Alert Notifications, which can warn you of weather events, special messages from the Cooperative, and even high energy use. You select the notifications you want to receive and how you want to receive them. Log into your South River EMC account on our web site, sremc.com to get started.

Interested in seeing what's available? Look through our rebates, or explore the Home Energy Suite at sremc.com. Try savings calculators for appliances or lighting, or other changes to your home, like getting rid of an older refrigerator. Be ready when the efficiency bug bits.

South River EMC-- Looking out for you.



Farewell To A Friend



William "Bill" E. Tew, Jr., 77, died at his home on April 1, 2017.

Tew served on the South River EMC Board of Directors representing the members from District 7 for 19 years and held the position of secretary for the past several years. Prior to his time on the board, Bill was on the nominating committee.

"Bill was a member of our

cooperative family and we were blessed by his leadership, dedication and support," said South River EMC CEO Chris Spears. "Bill knew how to give good advice and I personally benefited from his counsel. He was a man with a strong faith in God and it was a privilege to serve with him."

He was recognized for his dedication to farming and has been the recipient of multiple local and state awards, including The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest distinction a North Carolina resident can receive.

Tew was a fourth-generation farmer. Because of his love for farming, Tew dedicated much of his time to promoting agriculture across the state.

According to Former U.S. Congressman Mike McIntyre, "Cumberland County has been

very blessed to have a man of his [Tew's] abilities, stature, dedication, devotion and integrity to represent it in so many different ways...It has been my distinct honor to have Mr. Tew serve as a charter member of the Seventh Congressional District Agriculture Advisory Committee during the years of my service in the United States Congress. Mr. Tew was always a ready and willing participant, eager to advance the cause of agriculture both substantively and procedurally."

He was a lifelong member of Sardis Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon and a ruling elder.

He is survived by his wife, Marion, daughter Susan DeAngelis Tew, son William E. Tew, III, and daughter-in-law Kelly Norton Tew, all of Linden, NC.

Boots To Buckets Applications Available

South River EMC is accepting applications for the Boots to Buckets program, 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.

Sponsorship will cover the cost of tuition, books, boots and safety glasses. The academy runs August 15-December 13, 2017. 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.



Give Us The A's!

Hey Members! Do you have a child that has received at least one A on a recent report card? Are you a student yourself with at least one A on your report card? In either case, send us a copy!

South River EMC is once again accepting report cards for a "Give Us An A" drawing. This program encourages students with at least

one A on their report card to submit a copy for a \$25 gift card. A random 15 students will be drawn. Report cards are due to the Cooperative by 5 p.m. Thursday, July 6.

Send your report card containing at least one A to:

South River EMC
Give Us An A
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

The report card must contain, the member's name, South River EMC account number, daytime telephone number and mailing address.

If the information is not included, the report card will not be entered in the drawing. Best of luck!

Power Source Volunteers Award Scholarships

This year, the Power Source Volunteers, or PSV, a volunteer organization of the Cooperative, has awarded five college scholarships.

After meeting with each applicant, the committee awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to the following students:

Ashley Darroch, daughter of Hank and Kristey Darroch of Bunnlevel, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend Campbell University and study biology.

The following recipients received scholarships in the amount of \$500:

Taylor Blausner, daughter of Jay and Lisa Blausner of Autryville, plans to attend NC State University to study environmental science.

Lauren Colonair, daughter of Mark and Grace Colonair of Fayetteville, will pursue a degree in environmental communication from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Janna Sims, daughter of John Sims and Julia McPhail of Autryville, will attend Fayetteville State University to pursue a degree in psychology.



Darroch



Blausner



Colonair

Cody Vazquez, son of Juan and Danna Vazquez of Spring Lake, will study in the pre-med program at Liberty University.

Factors considered in the selection process include: character, moral standards, citizenship, past and present academic performance, letters of recommendation, statements of career goals and qualifications; extracurricular activities; and a personal interview with an interview panel.

The PSV is a volunteer committee comprised of members of South River EMC. The committee is dedicated to



Sims



Vazquez

servicing the Cooperative through community activities and goodwill. Funds are raised primarily through the annual Oyster Roast and Shrimparoo held in cooperation with the United Way of Harnett County in March.

SwampDogs Camp Scholarships Available

Do you have a student between the ages of 5-12 who loves baseball? If so, South River EMC is partnering with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to sponsor baseball camps for students in that age range this summer.

The Cooperative is offering a chance to win a scholarship for a day at one of the Fayetteville SwampDogs Day Camps 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

Put "camp scholarship" on the subject line. Be sure to include a note for which camp date(s) the child should be entered, it is unnecessary to send multiple

submissions for each camp day, this holds true for e-mail submissions as well. Deadline submissions 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.

Bright Ideas Grant Max Is \$2,500 This Year

Teachers, as the end of another school year approaches, take time to remember some of those ideas about projects you wanted to try with your students.

You might question why, as testing looms and everyone anticipates a summer hiatus, but those project ideas could result in bright ideas.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including South River EMC, are once again accepting applications for Bright Ideas educational grants. Educators in public K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$2,500. Teachers, guidance counselors, even principals can apply.

Since the program's inception in 1994, educators statewide

have received \$10.9 million used to fund 10.4 thousand projects affecting 2.1 million students.

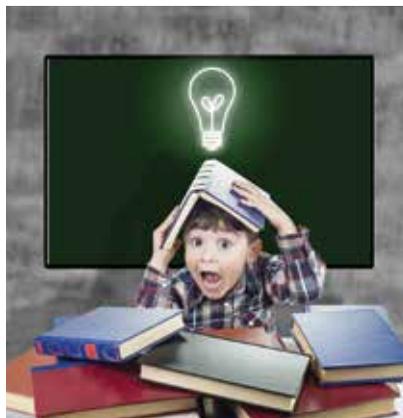
This year, South River EMC will top the \$1 million dollar mark for grants awarded through Bright Ideas.

The application period opened April 1, but there is plenty of time

to apply. Educators at public K-12 schools who have applications in by the early bird deadline of August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The application deadline is September 18.

South River EMC only accepts applications submitted online at ncbrightideas.com. If you're interested in learning a little bit more about this program, visit sremc.com to familiarize yourself with it.

To apply, or for more information, visit ncbrightideas.com or email connections@sremc.com.



TOGETHERWE SAVE.COM

Make A Smart Play For Your Pool

With more than five million in-ground pools installed across America and over 150,000 new pools built annually, homeowners are enjoying sun and using energy.

A key component of pools is the pool pump, which recirculates water through a filter to maintain water clarity and hygiene. All swimming pools have at



least one recirculation pump, but many have multiple pumps. As a pool owner you might not realize how much energy your pool pump can waste.

Pool pump speeds vary based on the pool's operation. Filtration, for example, only requires half the flow rate of running a pool cleaner. Conventional pool pumps, with only one speed, are set to run at the highest speed required of the pool cleaner and waste energy during filtration operation by running faster than necessary.

By purchasing and installing a variable or two speed pool pump you can cut down on wasted energy. With a multi speed pump you can tailor speed for certain practices, that way the pump isn't constantly running full power. Save energy, save money.

South River EMC offers a \$50 rebate on a variable or two speed pool pump. For more information, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Will You Be Ready When You Need A Water Heater?

How old is your water heater? The average lifespan of a standard electric water heater is 10 years. It's the unknown of appliances if it will last that long, or longer.

You should always be prepared to replace the appliances you have, because at some point they will go out. By keeping an eye on what's available you are better prepared when a purchase is necessary.

Often times, water heaters are simply replaced with the same type of system, because it's a matter of convenience. Don't go that route, do research now and be prepared for when it does happen.

For example, a heat pump water heater, or HPWH, uses electricity to move heat from one place to another instead of generating it directly. That makes it two to three times more efficient than a standard

water heater. And efficiency means energy savings, which means cost savings. HPWHs must be located in a 1,000 cubic foot space that remains in the 40 to 90 degree range year round.

Some might be considering solar water heating, and solar water heating is an option, but there are several considerations. The first is how much sun you receive, if you don't receive a lot of sun it might not be a worthwhile purchase. Then there's placement, if you want to place the system on your roof to collect the most sun, is that allowed? Some building codes prohibit it, so make sure it isn't a problem before you get started. If you have both these things, and feel you would benefit from such a system, great! But always remember, if it isn't the system for you, don't force it.

South River EMC offers a \$200 rebate on the installation of a HPWH, only units less than 50 gallons are eligible for a rebate. Solar water heaters are eligible for a \$150 rebate.

For complete details or to receive an application for either rebate, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Let Efficiency Trump Everything For Appliances

Inefficient appliances are a pain. They might not cost much, but they cost more to run and don't always last long. Now, this isn't true in all cases, but in some cases, the cheapest appliance is not the best.

If you're looking for ways to cut energy costs you can change your habits, but if you're changing your habits, why not change a few of your appliances as well? After all, it's not just how you use it, but how much it uses.

South River EMC offers a bill credit on the purchase of several Energy Star certified appliances: clothes washers, clothes dryers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers.

Energy Star certified appliances go through rigorous testing to show they contribute significant energy savings nationwide; deliver the features and performance demanded by consumers, in addition to increased energy efficiency; and that energy efficiency can be

achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies.

If you're in the market for energy savings, consider Energy Star. South River EMC offers a \$10 bill credit on the purchase of an Energy Star certified refrigerator, clothes washer, clothes dryer or dehumidifier.

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

Turn It To Cool And Leave It There

The time for cooling your home doesn't seem to be approaching, does it? It seems like it's been hanging around awhile.

While that's true, many homeowners like yourself, have been flipping from the heat to cool setting on the thermostat. As you undoubtedly have heard, heating and cooling your home accounts for 50 percent of your energy costs each month.

You pay for comfort, don't you? However, you could cut down on those costs by performing a few actions and always replacing existing equipment with better, not just the same.



Checking and changing your air filters is an easy step. Air filters work to deliver the air you need, while keep-

ing the dust and dirt out of your home. Obviously, that debris has to end up somewhere and that's your air filter. When you neglect the air filter that debris builds and makes it harder for air to get into your home.

When you're uncomfortable the first thing you typically turn to is the thermostat. You adjust it maybe a little at first, then a little more and even a little more? All that changing keeps your heating and cooling system running longer. Prevent that by changing your air filters to make sure air is free flowing.

The efficiency of your system also has an effect on your electric costs. The higher the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER rating, the better for homes like yours. SEER measures the cooling efficiency of a heating and cooling system. When in the market for a new system, don't replace laterally, i.e. a 13 SEER with a 13 SEER,

go for a higher SEER for energy savings.

South River EMC offers several rebates on the installation or replacement of air source, dual fuel hybrid or geothermal heat pumps, remember, SEER counts here. It can help to improve energy and cost savings.

Rebates Available:

Air source HP replacing a 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.

TOGETHER WESAVE.COM

A Home, A Home, A HERO Home

A high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is a great consideration if you're in the market to purchase a home.

HERO homes are 30 percent more efficient than homes built to code. Homes can be certified by one of two ways:

The *prescriptive path* involves complying fully with a list of specific requirements for things like insulation, lighting, whole house tightness and duct leakage testing, among other things.

The *performance path* re-

quires an energy cost analysis as proof that the home being built will have energy costs less than or equal to that same home built to prescriptive requirements.

Make sure your home meets HERO requirements by reading the NC Energy Conservation Code, at energycodes.gov.

South River EMC rebates on the build or purchase of a new HERO home once it has been checked for compliance by a licensed HERS rater and all appropriate paperwork is submitted.

Contractors who build a HERO certified home that receives electricity from South River EMC are eligible to receive a \$400 rebate.

If you move into a new HERO certified home, you're eligible to receive a \$200 rebate; if you have a HERO home custom built, you're eligible to receive a \$600 rebate.

For more information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2153.

Keep Cool Without Adjusting The Thermostat

Making a few small improvements, like weather stripping and caulking, can help you keep cool this summer. Another project, inspecting insulation, could also yield some improvement.

Homes have air infiltration, even the tightest built homes, and a little isn't bad. But what is air infiltration? It's the introduction of outside air inside and vice versa. Meaning the conditioned air in your home is being warmed by outside air, or you're losing cool air to the outside through cracks and crevices.

What can you do to prevent this? Caulk non-moving parts, i.e. around plumbing penetrations and outlets, and weather strip moving parts, like doors and windows. This prevents air from leaking out and unwanted air from coming in, helping to improve your comfort and costs.

For insulation, inspect first, then act. Don't go and buy insulation before you know

what you need; begin by visiting sremc.com, you can see the requirements for insulation in your home by R-value. The R-value measures the amount of resistance to heat flow, the higher the R-value, the higher the resistance.

Heat will move to cooler spaces to create a more ambient temperature overall, but in the summer that means heat would be coming into your home, making it uncomfortable.

Check how insulation lays in your attic and under your home, looking for areas that are bare or sparsely covered. This affects temperatures and might require replacement or rearrangement.

Performing tasks like those previously mentioned, can have comfort and energy savings. South River EMC offers rebates to make that comfort even more enjoyable.

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

A weatherization package completed by an agency such as Community Action could make you 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