



the South River EMC *communicator*

June 2017

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Make Room For Roadside Crews

When the power goes out, as long as it's safe, so do South River EMC's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures safety and keeps drivers on the right side of the law.

In January 2002, North Carolina's Move Over law took effect requiring motorists, if they can safely do so, to move one lane away from any law enforcement

or other emergency vehicle that's on the side of the highway. This law includes utility vehicles working on the side of the road. The utility vehicles are required to have a flashing amber-colored light to warn motorists.

The law requires motorists slow down and approach cautiously when an emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder of the road with its lights flashing. Motorists are required

to move over to another lane away from the emergency vehicle on a multi-lane highway or slow down on a two-lane highway. Motorists must slow down while maintaining a safe speed. G.S. 20-157 (f).

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.



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Light Up Your Classroom With A Bright Idea

As you prepare for summer vacation, don't forget all those ideas you've been saving, because it's time for 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 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.



Boots To Buckets Applications Due This Month

The common commitment shared by members of the military and cooperative employees makes for good relationships.

It is for this reason that South River EMC is offering the opportunity for a newly separated veteran to attend Nash Community College's Electric Line Academy, with the cost paid by South River EMC.

The Cooperative will sponsor the recipient, to include the cost of tuition, books, boots and safety glasses. The class runs August 15 through December 13, and upon



completion, the participant will receive a third class lineman certificate.

Completion does not guarantee a job with South River EMC, but it places the graduate in a more desirable 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, with the expectation 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 an associate of Applied Science degree, as well as possessing the necessary skills for employment in the dynamic electrical utility field.

The nation's network of over 900 electric cooperatives are committed to hiring military veterans. If you are a veteran or will soon be separating from the military, visit servevets.coop to see what positions are currently available at cooperatives across the nation. 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.

For more information, contact Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2982 or sremc@sremc.com. Download an application at sremc.com/content/boots-buckets.

Co-ops For Community Patch

South River EMC is working with the Cooperative Council of North Carolina to teach our future leaders about cooperatives.

By inviting Girl Scout troops to our Cooperative, we can teach them not just about the cooperative principles, but also the cooperative way. In doing so, it encourages the troop to apply for the Co-ops For Community badge being offered.

If you're a Girl Scout troop leader who feels this would be a badge for your troop to work

toward, begin by visiting ccnc.coop/scouting-patch.html, for information on the program as well as the opportunity to sign up.

When you agree to participate, you will be matched with a participating cooperative local to you. South River EMC would typically work with troops in parts of Harnett, Sampson, Johnston and Cumberland counties.

If this is a badge your troop might be interested in, check out the information and sign-up today.



Why Do I Receive This Magazine?

Once a month, you receive Carolina Country, and sometimes as you look through it, you might wonder why or how you're receiving this magazine. It's almost like those e-mails you get in your inbox...or is it?

Carolina Country is a magazine for members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. You get it because you're a member and the magazine you receive has content specific to your cooperative, as well as general interest content. South River EMC uses this magazine as our main communication to 43,000 members every month through our section, The Communicator.

Sure, each year we tell you important information at our

Annual Meeting of Members, but that's once a year. Using The Communicator newsletter in Carolina Country allows us to tell you about items in a timelier manner.

Because The Communicator is bundled into Carolina Country, you receive information not just specifically related to your area, but to other areas of the state, like events, festivals and trip ideas. The magazine also helps to inform members of all 26 electric cooperatives of matters affecting everyone, nationwide, particularly energy matters.

The electric cooperatives formed before e-mail and texts were on anyone's radar, and honestly, at the time what would be a better way

to disseminate information? When you receive The Communicator, you receive information about what's going on at your electric cooperative. That includes programs, like sports camps or the 'Give Us An A' program, to items like rebates, see pages G-H of this issue. We also

offer stories on programs at work, such as Bright Ideas or Operation Round Up. When we have upcoming events, like workshops or meetings, we put them in the newsletter. Our Annual Meeting of Members has a cover wrap every April.

You receive this magazine because you are not a customer, you are a member, and being a member, we want you to know what the Cooperative offers you.

We know many readers now live in areas with wi-fi and high internet speeds, but that is not all readers.

Take a look through the next magazine you receive and see what it offers you, maybe a trip idea, or a recipe to try. Do you have a child interested in basketball or baseball, maybe even one headed off to college? There's something for everyone!

You receive Carolina Country each month as a member of the electric cooperatives of North Carolina, and more specifically a member of South River EMC. Your co-op is communicating, are you reading?



Empowering Opportunities

We understand the impact that excellence in education can have on a community. We're owned and directed by those we serve, and we take pride in supporting programs that make a difference for our students and future leaders. As the school year winds down, we thank the educators and students who work with us to create educational opportunities in our community – like these!

Each year, South River EMC offers at least \$50,000 in Bright Ideas grants to local educators. Read the story on page B, or visit ncbrightideas.com!

Calling all high-school students! Participating in the NC Youth Tour to Washington D.C., is an exciting way to interact with North Carolina's congressional delegation, build leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives and our nation's history, and make friendships that will last a lifetime. Learn about this opportunity for high-school juniors and seniors at sremc.com/content/electric-cooperative-youth-tour.

This month, two exceptional local middle-school students are seizing an opportunity to

learn about teamwork from some of the top basketball players in the state via the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program. Our all-expenses-paid basketball camps each summer are an experience that builds foundational skills applicable on the court and in the classroom. Join us next summer! Learn more at sremc.com/content/basketball-camps.

Each summer, your Cooperative partners with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to provide a camp for students ages 5-12. Keep reading to get full information on page E, or visit sremc.com/content/swampdogs.

South River EMC's volunteer organization, the Power Source Volunteers, or PSV, award at least three college scholarships to high school seniors. That's not all in the way of scholarships though. the Cooperative offers the \$1,000 Kesler Butler Scholarship at NC State University for college freshman. As well as offering a \$500 scholarship at Central Carolina, Johnston, Fayetteville Technical



2016 Youth Tourists

and Sampson Community College, these scholarships can be used by freshmen, or students in continuing education, as long as they are a member. Information on these scholarships can be found at sremc.com/content/scholarships, for information the community college scholarships, you are also able to contact the school.

We also offer classroom presentations regarding electric safety, as well as energy efficiency. Meant for about kindergarten to fifth grade, employees explain the benefits of both, with help from classes. Information can be found at sremc.com/content/school-programs.

Supporting local educational opportunities is part of our commitment to you, our members. We are proud to not only power, and but also empower, the people and communities we serve.



2016-2017 Bright Ideas winners from Cumberland County

Your Report Cards Could Get You Recognized

As we wrap up another school year and final report cards are given out, has one of your students earned an A?

South River EMC is accepting report cards for the July "Give Us An A" drawing.

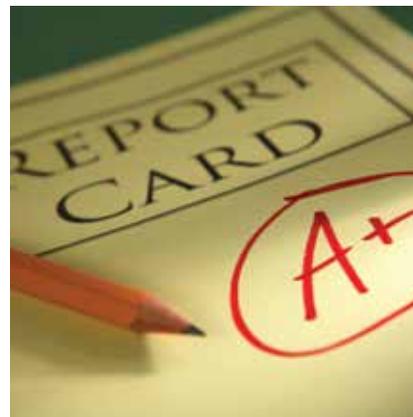
This program encourages students with at least one A on their report card to submit a copy for a \$25 gift card. A random 15 students will be drawn. Report cards are due to the Cooperative by Thursday, July 6, at 5 p.m.

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!



Play Ball This Summer

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 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.

You Can Help Us Become More Efficient

Want to save money while helping your cooperative gain valuable information to help hold down costs? South River EMC will be taking part in a water heater pilot program along with several other cooperatives across the state.

South River EMC is recruiting 25 members to participate in the water heater program. What does it entail? Participation requires you to have a home that receives electric service from South River EMC, to have operational Wi-Fi in the home, have an electric water heater (at least 40 gallons) and a willingness to cooperate with our pilot program guidelines. The ideal candidate home will be working families with a water heater that is easily accessible. The home with small children at home all day or a stay-at-home adult are not ideal candidates due to the event times and the goal to avoid inconvenience to the member household.

Participants will agree to have a Smart Water Switch installed on or

near the primary water heater. The switch will enable us to turn on and off your water heater elements during an event and monitor water temperature throughout events. During an event, a signal is sent to the switch via Wi-Fi or 4G cellular signal to turn off the water heater. During the summer months (June and July), this will occur twice a day on days we anticipate hitting peak use. The times are generally between 6-9 a.m. and 3-9 p.m. This will occur four or five times each month. For the remaining months, we will operate the switches to turn off water heaters twice daily at the same hours described for summertime. Because newer water heaters are so well insulated, you shouldn't experience a significant loss of heat from the water, but just to make sure, we will constantly maintain water temperatures and if they drop to 110 degrees, the switch will enable the elements to run long enough to heat the water back to 114 degrees before shutting off the heating elements



again until the end of the event.

The smart switch is also constantly monitoring the water heater to identify any irregular activity, which would generally result from a water heater leak or thermostat problems. If this is detected, the member will be contacted. Participating members will receive a \$2 monthly credit for the year they are enrolled in this pilot program.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us at sremc@sremc.com, place WH Pilot in the subject line, and provide your name, account number and address. Someone will contact you about your interest and we will make an appointment to install the switch.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Smart Thermostats Could Mean Home Savings

Install a smart thermostat and you could be eligible for a \$20 bill credit. Smart thermostats let you control your home's temperature settings via a tablet, smart phone or desktop computer. This gives you more

opportunity to save energy, because if you forget to adjust the thermostat at home, you can do it from anywhere you have an internet connection. If you are interested, research to find a smart thermostat that

fits your home, making sure it's compatible with your heating and cooling system. For more information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

When The Goal Is To Cool

The house is cool and that's the goal, right? In short, yes, but make it an ongoing goal to cut down on heating and cooling costs. How can you save?

Look at your system's age, if it's nearing or over 10 years, it's time to start shopping. Systems are not set to quit at a specific time, but you need to be ready when it happens.

Efficiency counts. Consider a high efficiency heat pump for your home, 17 SEER or greater. SEER, or seasonal energy efficiency ratio, measures the cooling efficiency of systems,

the higher, the better.

The system choice is up to you, with options including air source, ductless, and geothermal. When you find the right system, a 17 SEER or greater model is a good way to save. South River EMC offers several rebates on high efficiency heat pump systems.

Rebates Available:

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.

When You Use All This Water...

The average household uses 64 gallons of water each day. And that's why water heating is the second highest energy cost each month.

It's time to make a change. Heat pump water heaters, or HPWHs, are a more efficient option to the standard electric water heater, with lower operating costs. Using electricity to move heat instead of generating it directly, makes them two to three times more efficient than a standard unit. If considering one, you need 1,000 cu.

ft. of space and an area that remains in to 40 to 90 degree range.

What about solar water heating? Although these systems have higher set up costs, your energy source is free. First, make sure you have enough sun to sustain a system. Second, make sure you can install a solar water heating system, some building covenants prevent it. If you have the resource and the availability, decide if it's a valid option. A family of two typically would not see as

much benefit, as a larger family would, as well as having a longer rate of return.

Whatever the case, if you're going to be using 64 gallons of water a day, make sure you're doing it with an efficient system.

South River EMC offers a \$200 rebate on HPWHs and a \$150 rebate on solar water heating. For more information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071.

Appliance Shopping For The Future

When you look for an appliance, it's always good to consider efficiency. Appliances come with two costs, the cost to purchase and the cost to run. That being the case, you can see why having an efficient appliance is important.

Energy Star is proven efficient, as the blue star label is earned by meeting high standards for energy savings. So, when you're looking at appliances, even to see what's new, keep that in mind. Energy Star means energy savings.

If you purchase an Energy Star certified refrigerator, clothes washer, clothes dryer, or dehumidifier, you could be eligible for a \$10 bill credit. For more information or an application visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Enjoy Your Pool At A Lower Cost

Pool openings means a change in energy costs, because of a change in energy use.

Pool pumps come in a variety of sizes and are classified based on the number of speeds at which it can operate. Pump speed has an impact on the amount of energy it consumes, as well as your monthly electric costs.

There are three types of pumps: A single speed pump

operates at one speed. Available in a range of designs and sizes, it runs at one speed, usually the highest, for all tasks.

A two speed pump operates at either full or half speed, saving on energy costs. With the ability to set different speeds, it would cost less to run.

Variable speed pumps operate over a range of speeds and can be set to the specific

speeds needed for different tasks. These pumps deliver the ultimate in efficiency because they offer such a range in speed choices. Consider a change.

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

Why Insulate And Weatherize? It's Efficient

Insulating and weatherizing your home can help improve costs and comfort.

Caulking non-moving parts, like plumbing penetrations or dropped ceilings, and weather stripping around moving parts, like doors and windows, can cut air infiltration.

Air infiltration is the introduction of outside air into your home and the loss of heated or cooled air to the outside.

Insulation plays a part in comfort as well, preventing heat transfer. Insulation's resistance, or R-value, shows the insulation's ability to resist heat; the higher the R-value, the better the resistance. Heat moves from

a warmer to a cooler space to create an overall ambient temperature, making it uncomfortable in your home.

Checking and performing necessary repairs affects comfort as well as costs, and South River EMC offers rebates, so read up if you're planning to make improvements.

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