



the South River EMC **Communicator**

November 2017

what's inside

- Freedom Continued B
- Energy-Efficiency Loans C
- Don't Wait To Donate D
- SmartView Yields Savings E
- The Sights You'll See F
- TogetherWeSave G-H



**South River EMC
 offices will be closed
 in observance of
 Veteran's Day
 November 11, and
 in celebration of
 Thanksgiving
 November 23 & 24.**

Fort Bragg – Local Economic Engine and Defender of Freedom

This month as we celebrate Veteran's Day and recognize the contributions of the U.S. military in our area, we want to focus attention on the impact that Fort Bragg has on our community. North Carolina has the third largest military population in the United States, largely thanks to Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg has the largest population of any military installation in the nation with roughly 53,000 military personnel and 14,660 civilian workers. Additionally, the post provides support for about 202,000 people including military families, contractors and retirees. Fort Bragg is homebase to five major commands.

The post is large in terms of land mass. Fort Bragg covers 254

square miles, or nearly 163,000 acres over six counties. Because Fort Bragg is home to rapid-deployment forces, the airborne and special operations, 146,000 acres are dedicated to essential, continuous training.

As of 2015, the total direct and indirect economic impact on the 11 county area around Fort Bragg equaled \$5,788,019,431. Statistics show that each 100 active duty military jobs in the region support as many as 60 other jobs (including civilians at Fort Bragg); each active duty military job can support an average of as much as \$90,000 in labor income—representing soldier income plus income for support positions.

Continued on page B

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FREEDOM cont. from page A

The military is the key economic driver for the Sandhills region. Fort Bragg is a magnet for military veterans that contribute to the area. Of the 179,999 civilians 25 years and over living in Cumberland County, 22% are veterans. Among this veteran population, 77% have some college or associate degrees and higher, and 27% have a bachelor's degree or higher—representing significantly higher educational attainment than the average non-veteran population. Annually, an average of 6,000 service personnel normally separate from the U.S. Army from Fort Bragg. As many as one-third of these veterans remain in the area.

Originally known as Camp Bragg, the installation was established in 1918 as an artillery training post. The post was named for General Braxton Bragg who led the confederacy during the Civil War. After World War I, Camp Bragg was almost closed, but following a visit by the Secretary of War, it was renamed Fort Bragg and became a vitally important base of operations.

Fort Bragg is home to the XVIII Airborne Corps, which was activated as the Armored Corps in 1936. The Corps is head of rapid deployment and it is the Army's largest war-fighting organization. It played a prominent role in many of the battles of World War II such as the crossing of the Rhine River, which was a defining moment in that war.

An important unit within the XVIII Airborne Corps is the 82nd Airborne Division. The division was established in 1917, and its paratroopers played key roles in both world wars. Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne were among



the first to fight during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.

Today, Fort Bragg is home to Forces Command (FORSCOM), which trains, mobilizes, deploys, sustains and transforms assigned conventional forces, providing relevant and ready land power to combatant commanders in defense of our nation. The United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) is also headquartered at Fort Bragg. USARC commands all reserve units and is responsible for the staffing, training, management and deployment of all Army reserve units to ensure readiness for Army missions.

U. S. Army Special Operations Command and the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, which provides personnel for worldwide no-notice special operations missions are found at Fort Bragg.

Fort Bragg is home to the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) that is tasked with studying and executing special operations requirements and techniques to

ensure standardization across the services.

The following units are also on Fort Bragg: 1st Theatre Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command with the 1st CAPO Training Brigade, 440th Airlift Wing, 43rd Airlift Group, 18th Air Support Operations Group, Womack Army Medical Center, U.S. Army Dental Activity, 4th ROTC Brigade, U. S. Army Security Assistant Training Management Organization, 139th Infantry Regiment and the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights.

This year, as we recognize the contributions of our veterans to the preservation of peace and the defense of our freedom, we need to also pay homage to Fort Bragg and its role in providing safety and security on the world stage and boosting the local economy.

Sources: bragg.army.mil; Creative Economic Development Consulting and Fayetteville State University; The City of Fayetteville; and U.S. Census.

Energy-Efficiency Loans To Upgrade and Save

Thinking of making energy efficiency upgrades to your home, but don't have the cash? Consider a loan through ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union (CFCU) and make payments through your electric bill.

ElecTel CFCU offers a vast array of services, including an energy-efficiency loan program starting at 3.9 percent interest. Maximum loan amounts for manufactured homes is \$5,000 and \$35,000 for site-built homes. Repayment terms are up to 120 months.

The Energy Efficient Loan helps with the cost to purchase and install a new heat pump, solar panels, insulation, weatherization, a new water heater and much more.

How does it work?

Determine the energy-efficient improvements you want to make, get estimates for the purchase and installation and then complete a simple application. Applications are usually processed within



24 hours of the time they are received. If you receive an approval, you get the money and the credit union will notify South River EMC with the appropriate information. Finally, you make the

home improvements, start saving energy and money and make monthly payments along with your electric bill.

To learn more about ElecTel CFCU's Energy Efficient Loan, visit electelccu.org/loans_energy.aspx or call 800-849-5600 to speak to a loan officer.

ElecTel CFCU is a credit union open to any member of one of North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives. Membership is also open to the employees, directors, and officers of the electric and telephone cooperatives in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

If you are interested in joining the credit union, all you need to do is complete a brief membership application and submit it with a minimum deposit of \$1. This opens your regular share (savings) account, which makes you eligible for all other services. Learn more at electelccu.org.



Don't Wait To Donate

When you run into the grocery store, what are you thinking about?

Where's your list? What did your family want? Those chips cost how much?

As you consider what you want versus what you need, someone else is considering what's more important, heating and cooling their home or feeding their family.

It's a tough decision that you hope no one ever has to make, but sadly, in any given week approximately 160,000 different people are receiving emergency food assistance across the state.

Food pantries provide for those in need as much as they can and there's always an upswing in donations with the holidays, but what about the rest of the year?

"The summer is always a time when donations seem to slow down," said Patricia Jackson, food sourcing coordinator at Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina. "Specifically the months of June through August."

So you donate now, and say you'll remember to donate later; but you're busy and you forget over time.

Why not set up a schedule? Once a month you and your family give a donation, whether monetary or physical, it helps the community and it teaches children and grandchildren a lesson.

Donations can be made on



site at 406 Deep Creek Road in Fayetteville, or by calling 910-485-4516, five days a week from 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

But you know there's a food pantry close to your home, why not donate there?

"A food bank is a large warehouse that supplies the food to pantries at non-profit and religious organizations," said Jackson. "These organizations then distribute the food within their respective communities by utilizing internal processes to identify the needs of an individual or family."

So you can donate to either your local pantry, or you can contribute to a bank where the money and food adds up for distribution.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of North Carolina works with more than 260 pantries across six counties. The food

bank doesn't typically do direct food distribution to the public, except for the monthly "produce Saturday." During this distribution, fresh produce is given out between 9- 11 a.m. from Second Harvest's location in Fayetteville.

Local agencies can pick up food five days a week from the Second Harvest of Southeast North Carolina food bank, but there's also a retail pick-up program where agencies are assigned a specific day to pick up food from a retail donor.

This gives agencies fresher food and the ability to get food faster to those who need it most.

Recent hurricanes have impacted the food bank, affecting transportation costs, making getting food from point A to point B difficult.

"We still have people in our service area recovering from Hurricane Matthew," said Jackson. "These natural disasters affect so many, and we are always doing our best to reach as many people as we can with the resources to help them get back on their feet."

WONDERING WHAT TO DONATE?

- Beef Stew, Corned Beef Hash, Chili
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soups
- Canned Fish (Tuna, Salmon)
- Dried Beans
- Rice
- Cereals
- Pastas and Sauces
- Diapers and Attend/Depends
- Elderly Nutrition Drinks ("Ensure")
- Hygiene Items

Are you currently in the **military** (or recently separated) and considering a job as an **electric lineman** when you separate? If so, we have a program for you!

Boots To Buckets

South River EMC offers a scholarship to attend Nash Community College's Electric Line Academy. Visit sremc.com for details or call 910.230.2982.

Applications due November 17.



SmartView Helps Yield Savings

Don't spend your holidays worrying about costs. Sure, there will be a change in costs due to changes in energy use around the home, but what does that mean?

Simple, family and friends, good meals, cooler temperatures, decorations and most of all—comfort.

Worry less by keeping up with energy costs through SmartView.

SmartView is South River EMC's energy use monitoring program, which shows the energy used at home, as well as the daily temperature. If you look at a week's worth of data, you might see that you used more energy that day you cooked

a lot, or that by setting your programmable thermostat, you actually saved energy and money.

The program doesn't show how energy was used, that's up to you. However, SmartView updates daily to show your current energy use and daily temperature highs and lows. What better time to start tracking your energy use then now?

That way you know what a

normal day looks like versus a day of visitors, cooking and lighting.

By enrolling in SmartView, you become more aware of your energy use patterns. Surveys find that when people monitor energy use daily, they tend to adjust their energy use patterns to reduce use on an average of 5-15 percent.

Using our bill pay portal, you're able to track your energy use daily and see how this correlates with temperature fluctuations. You'll need to sign-up for our online portal to view your usage information if you don't already have one.

If you could help prevent fluctuations which cost you money, wouldn't you?





Youth Tourists in 2017 L-R: Kayla Matthews, South River EMC; Ethan Cannady, Four County EMC; Molly Johnson, Four County EMC; Representative David Rouzer; Anna Blount, South River EMC; Ty Meyer, South River EMC; Joshua Lebron, Tri-County EMC.

Oh, The Sights You'll See!

It's hard to think about summer plans, but if you think your student would enjoy a travel experience this summer, tell them about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

South River EMC offers three current high school sophomores or juniors a unique opportunity, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Taking place June 9-15, 2018, this week-long trip to Washington, D.C., is offered by the electric cooperatives of North Carolina, including South River EMC.

The Youth Tour offers a taste of Washington, D.C. where around 40 North Carolina students will join over 1,500 from across the country.

They'll visit monuments, museums, attend an all-states dance, take a boat ride down the

Potomac, participate in youth day, meet with members of Congress, and weather permitting may take in a game or show.

In many cases these interactions begin a student's interest in government and procedure.

Students learn about cooperatives by forming their own, the Soda Pop Co-op, which offers members discounted drinks and snacks. The cost of the trip is covered by your sponsoring electric cooperative.

South River EMC will select up to three students to attend this memory-making trip. Applications are due December 1.

In 2017, Ty Meyer, Anna Blount and Kayla Matthews were selected to attend.

Students who attend the Youth Tour as part of the South River

EMC contingent will also receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. Payment will be mailed directly to the college/university once the student has notified the Cooperative as to their school choice.

For more information on the Youth Tour, or the scholarship, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071.

GLAD I PACKED:

"My sunglasses"

—Ty Meyer

"Comfortable shoes"

—Anna Blount

"A portable cell phone charger"

—Kayla Matthews

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

The 'So Many Activities Require Traveling' Thermostat

Entering the holiday season, it might be time to consider a smart thermostat.

If you want a comfortable home and a way to save money, these thermostats are just the ticket.

You can make heating or cooling changes during the week easily and with a smart

thermostat, see how those changes affect costs.

Are you traveling this season? You can adjust a smart thermostat via smart phone or tablet using Wi-Fi.

Smart thermostats are great for helping control costs and allowing you to spend time, comfortably with your guests.

South River EMC offers a \$20 rebate on the purchase of a smart thermostat. So don't spend the holidays wondering, purchase a smart thermostat and get comfortable.

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

Energy Star Appliances Save You Daily, Monthly, Yearly

Everyone might not rush to buy an Energy Star certified appliance, but we offer a \$10 rebate to those members who buy certain ones.

Appliances undergo rigorous testing to earn the blue Energy Star logo, showing that they save energy, money and at times, water.

Why not consider an Energy Star certified appliance? You might say the cost, but consider the investment. If you purchase a refrigerator, you want it running to keep food cool. Wouldn't it be more beneficial to pay less to run this appliance monthly?

Yes, you could buy a cheaper

appliance, but it'll cost you more than an Energy Star certified appliance to run.

South River EMC offers the rebate on Energy Star certified clothes washers, clothes dryers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers.

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

Kiss Water Heater Worries Goodbye

If your water heater has a 12-year-warranty and is 15 years old, it's time to start looking. There are many choices, so research, and don't be afraid to spend more up front to save money over time.

Water heating is nearly 20 percent of a home's energy costs with water heaters typically sold on the basis of how many gallons they hold.

Depending on how much hot water you use and how you heat the water, your choices could include:

Storage - The most common type of water heater consists of an insulated tank in which water is heated and stored until

needed. When cooled it has to be reheated.

Tankless - Using heating coils to heat water as you need it, they're more efficient than a storage tank. However, they provide a limited flow of hot water per minute, and electric models might require an expensive upgrade of the home's electrical capacity.

Heat pump - Systems use heat from the air, transferring it to the water, using less energy than a standard electric water heater. Payback time can be short. Units should be placed in areas that stay in the 40 to 90 degree range with 1,000 cubic feet of space.

Solar - Absorbing the sun's heat and transferring it to a fluid in a system that runs to the water tank, solar systems are attractive for warm, sunny regions. Most models employ a backup for cool, cloudy days. Payback on this unit depends largely on use.

When looking at units, remember that South River EMC offers a \$150 rebate on solar water heaters and a \$200 rebate on heat pump water heaters. For information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Heating And Cooling Shouldn't Break The Bank

Whether newly installing or replacing a heating and cooling system, selecting the best one can be daunting. It's important to make the right decision though, since heating and cooling is key to temperature control and comfort in your home. Consider these tips:

Determine your needs prior to shopping to help ensure overall satisfaction. Make sure you know the square footage of your home before speaking with heating and cooling contractors, it helps them determine the appropriately sized system.

As budget undoubtedly plays a role in your decisions, base them on "pay-out." Compare

the cost of the unit to how much energy it'll use and its life expectancy to see which system is most economical. Remember, energy-efficient systems are typically more expensive to purchase, but make it up in energy savings.

Summer and the value of air conditioning make a high efficiency system a high priority and valuable resale asset in your home. Systems with a high seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER rating, are more efficient in cooling your home, saving you energy and money.

The most economical system is one that fits your home. Too big a system cycles on and off frequently, creating excess wear

and tear on components. Too small a system has it running constantly to meet demand using more energy. A system has to be appropriately sized to achieve peak operation, no matter the type.

You often hear, "you get what you pay for." A high SEER rating, 17 and greater, keeps your home comfortable while using less energy. You'll pay for efficiency, but it's recouped in savings.

For information on the heating and cooling rebates ranging from \$200-\$500, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

What Supplies Do You Need For Comfort?

Insulating and weatherizing a home has two benefits, improved comfort and improved costs. Even the most efficient homes can do with improvement from time to time.

Does your home feel drafty, or is there a particular area where the temperature is noticeably different? Weather stripping and caulking cuts down on air infiltration. Once areas are found you have to choose supplies.

Caulk can be made of latex, acrylic or silicone; each with its strong points. If you're new to caulking, use a squeezable tube, it's easier to handle than a caulking gun.

Weather stripping comes in strips of foam, or thin V-shaped metal. Items include rubber or

vinyl door sweeps and adjustable vinyl thresholds; outlet gaskets; and outlet safety caps.

Insulation plays a role in comfort by keeping heat where it belongs. Needing more or replacing what you have can be confusing, but a contractor can help you with those decisions.

There are several types of insulation: fiberglass, rock wool, cellulose, synthetic and spray foam. Fiberglass is the most common type of insulation. Spray foam expands to form a continuous insulating barrier and is one of the most efficient insulation types. Select the kind that best fits your needs, as well as your budget.

South River EMC offers rebates to members who make



insulation and weatherization improvements to their homes. Rebate amounts vary, so for more information, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.