



the South River EMC **Communicator**

February 2018

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Actions Taken For Granted

Without even realizing it, you read hundreds of thousands of words every day. From the time you wake up, to the time you go to bed, you are constantly reading labels, articles, signs, and more.

Sadly, 32 million adults in America can't read, which is why literacy organizations like Triangle South Literacy Works (TSLW) exist.

Since the beginning, the organization has worked with adults who are in need of additional education. They partner with Central Carolina Community College, as well as NC Workforce Career Centers, to help adults in need of assistance to better themselves in the career field.

"It began with the Little River Baptist Association located in Lillington, but when it was established as Harnett County

Literacy in 1985, the religious aspects were removed," said Sharon Syck, executive director of Triangle South Literacy Works. "We work with the organizations we do because this is a way to reach those people that might need help," said Syck. "We also use fliers, brochures and e-mail blasts, but word of mouth and publicity from events helps greatly."

Syck became associated with Harnett County Literacy while teaching GED classes at the Triangle South Enterprise Center in Dunn. Because of how closely the GED program worked with the literacy program, it seemed a good fit for Syck when the executive director stepped down.

Continued page B

SAVE THE DATE

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF MEMBERS:
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, AT
THE CROWN THEATRE AND
ARENA IN FAYETTEVILLE.**

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LITERACY from page A

She has been working part-time with literacy for six years.

How did Harnett County Literacy become Triangle South Literacy Works? Quite simply because the need is so great, that the reach needed to grow as well. In the 2016-17 year there were 140 adults receiving education assistance at TSLW.

When a prospective student comes in, they must complete an application and reading assessment to match them to a group or tutor. The student and the tutor set up sessions, and if a student misses three sessions, they are removed from the program.

"We work with adults in any of these classes, to increase educational function levels," she said. "We recognize those participants for the successes they achieve, and it can be something small, like a certificate, but those little things count."

Recently, TSLW received an Operation Round Up grant for \$4,958 to purchase materials which will help adult learners, including efforts with basic skills and English for speakers of other

languages, as well as technology pieces for their satellite offices in Johnston and Sampson counties.

The organization will purchase Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) sets, as well as Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) products.

The CASAS 27 and 28 books are the base education level. If a student applying comes in and cannot complete the initial sign-up unaided, these would be the materials they would receive.

Part of the grant also helps with math life skills booklets, books for citizenship testing, as well as worksheets to assess reading, writing, math, computer and communication skills.

Student growth is typically considered after at least 12 hours of tutoring; however, retesting occurs between 30 and 40 hours of tutoring to check improvement levels. If the student shows improvement, they'll receive a certificate as well as be moved to the next curriculum book.

For many people, these classes help them to move up in the job market and become more financially independent. And there are even a few students who have returned to step into the tutoring role.

Tutors are always welcome at TSLW, because as more adults



Sharon Syck, TSLW executive director, and Claudia Farr, president

come in for help, tutors can work with them and help them meet the goals they need to succeed.

"We have about 40 volunteers currently," said Syck. "We are looking for volunteers in Harnett, Sampson and Johnston counties."

As people are typically matched with tutors local to them, it is helpful to have a surplus of tutors who are dedicated to helping someone succeed.

With the expansion into Sampson and Johnston counties, technology was also requested to work with the intake of students at these satellite sites.

If you're interested in volunteering as a tutor, contact Triangle South Literacy Works at 910-891-4111. Do you know someone that would benefit from this service? Call or visit the office at 600 South Magnolia Street, Dunn.



Johnson Tenny proudly shows his literacy certificate earned through the Triangle South Literacy Works program.

Five Precautions For Winter Weather

1. Prevent your pipes from freezing by allowing faucets to drip during extreme cold.

2. Place space heaters on a solid surface at least three feet away from anything flammable. Always turn off space heaters before leaving the room or going to sleep.



3. Never leave a fireplace unless its embers are completely extinguished, and use a fire screen to catch sparks and rolling logs.



4. Generators should be placed in an open and ventilated area. They should never be operated inside a home—including in

spaces like the basement and garage—due to the danger of inhaling carbon monoxide fumes.

5. Never touch a downed power line or try to remove trees or limbs from lines. Call 911 or alert your electric cooperative.



Making Sure Your Payment Is Made On Time

South River EMC offers many ways for you to pay your electric bill(s).

However, sometimes it's necessary to point out the benefit of one option over another. Using an authorized pay station over an unauthorized one can be the difference between a regular payment and a late payment.

Authorized pay stations have been vetted by the Cooperative and work directly with our personnel, so when you make a payment it is typically received the next business day. With an unauthorized pay station, the daily interaction does not exist and we don't have any system integration. It can often take two to three days to receive a payment from these vendors.

In order to ensure prompt payment, please see the payment options available to you. If you have questions about where you're considering making a payment, please reach out to us at 910-892-8071.

Ways to pay:

In office: using cash, check, or credit card, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. excluding holidays.

Kiosk: you can make a payment 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, including holidays. Located in the drive thru at our office in Dunn or Fayetteville, you can use cash,

check or credit card. Payments are immediately applied to your account, kiosks do not make change.

Over the phone: using credit card or e-check with our automated system.

Online: using e-check or credit card.

U.S. Mail: using check or money order.

MoneyGram Express: using the code "9736" you can make payments using cash.

Draft: set up recurring payments on a credit card or check. You can sign up online or by calling the office to have your payment automatically deducted each month.

Authorized pay sites: J.E. Womble in Lillington or Carroll's IGA in Stedman, both are authorized payment locations for members.

Don't incur late fees when it's unnecessary to do so, select an option that will make sure payment is made quickly, if not immediately. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 910-892-8071.



Report Cards Can Earn Gift Cards

There's a short time left to send in report cards for the Give Us An A drawing. This program awards 15 students with at least one A on their most recent report card with a \$25 gift card.

The report card must include the member's name, South River EMC account number, mailing address and daytime phone number in order to be entered.



Report cards can be e-mailed to connections@sremc.com or faxed to 910-230-2995, make sure to make it to the attention of "Give Us An A". If mailing it, please send it to:

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

Drawing will be held February 6.

Nominations Made By Committee

The South River EMC nominating committee met on January 2 to make nominations for the election of directors to be held during the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members on April 19 at the Crown Center in Fayetteville.

The following members have been nominated:

District 3: Francis Clifton

District 5: Dorcas Fisher

District 7: C. Wayne Collier, Jr.

Terms of office for directors are

staggered so only three expire each year.

The ways which directors may be elected:

1. By petition. Any 150 members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make nominations in writing, listing the nominees separately with respect to the particular term and the particular directorate district from which they are nominated, not less than 40 business days prior to the meeting.

2. From nominations by a committee on nominations.

2018 Nominating Committee Members:

District 1 - Van Buie
District 2 - Raylon Wood
District 3 - Iris Lucas
District 4 - Johnnie Baggett
District 5 - Anthony "Tony" Warren
District 6 - Carol Hudson
District 7 - Warren Paul Jones
District 8 - Walter Clark
At Large - Alexander Eastman



2018 Nominating Committee (l-r): Walter Clark, Anthony "Tony" Warren, Alexander Eastman, Raylon Wood, Van Buie, Iris Lucas, Johnnie Baggett, Carol Hudson and Warren Paul Jones.

Electric Vehicles On The Go And On The Rise

Have you considered an electric vehicle? There are more choices than ever before from multiple manufacturers.

While there are vehicles available from most, if not all, manufacturers, the decision between: hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles is up to you.

Hybrid electric vehicles, or HEVs, have a gasoline engine with electric motor and battery, the most recognizable being the original Toyota Prius. They can't be plugged in to recharge, but instead, batteries are charged from capturing energy when you brake. This is done using regenerative braking that converts kinetic energy into electricity. This electricity is stored in a battery until needed by the electric motor. The electric motor provides additional power to assist the engine in accelerating, passing, or climbing hills. This allows a smaller, more efficient engine to be used.

Plug-in electric hybrids, or PHEVs, are like a hybrid in that they have an electric motor and internal combustion engine, with the exception that the batteries

in the car can be charged by plugging the car into an outlet. Unlike conventional hybrids, plug-ins substitute electricity from the grid for gasoline. In order to charge your car, you'll need to install a specific outlet to provide the electricity you need.

PHEVs will typically begin by running off the battery, and then cutting over the gasoline when certain speeds are reached, depending on the vehicle.

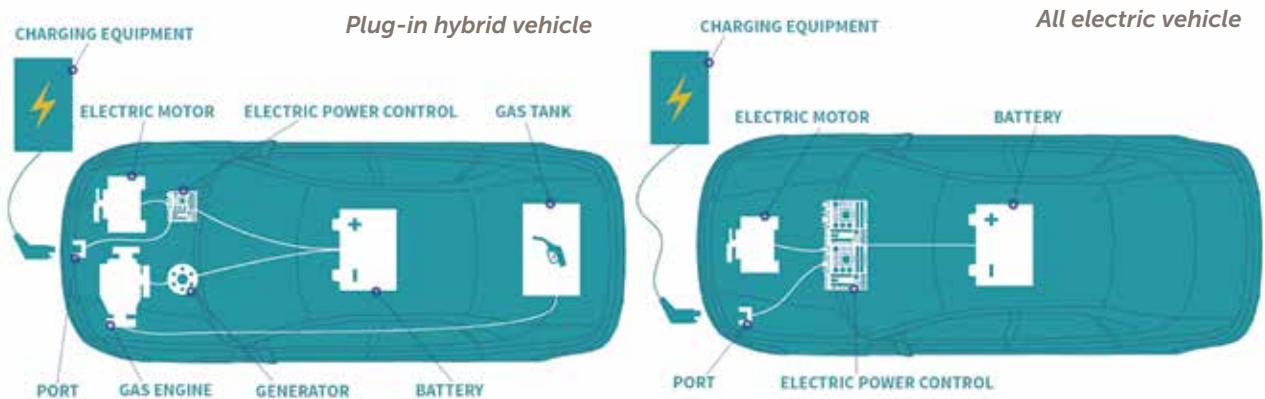
Lastly, but the most green of the current offerings in the United States, is the battery electric vehicle, or BEV. These vehicles run exclusively off on-board batteries, which are charged by plugging into an outlet or charging station. BEVs are touted for having no gasoline engine, longer electric driving ranges compared to PHEVs, and never producing tailpipe emissions. Electric motors convert 75 percent of the chemical energy from the batteries to power the wheels, and provide quiet, smooth operation and stronger acceleration while requiring less maintenance than internal combustion engines.

If you're interested in an electric vehicle, you'll also want to investigate how you'll charge

it when necessary. While true that overall maintenance costs are lower with electric vehicles than standard vehicles, charging opportunities play a part. Making sure you have that resource is part of the upfront cost.

There are three types of charging stations, they are the AC Level 1, the AC Level 2, and the DC Fast Charge. AC refers to alternating current, which pushes out electric voltage, and then periodically reverses itself. DC refers to direct current which is just electricity delivery to a device, in this case, a battery. If you had an electric vehicle, you could just plug it in at home to charge it, because you're receiving the same amount of electricity (120 volts) to your home. However, you will need to make sure you have an outlet dedicated circuit, which ensures enough power is available so that appliances can operate safely, without overloading the system. Unlike gas stations, there are not charging stations on every block, but it doesn't mean there aren't any to be found. However, they will continue to sprout up as electric vehicles gain in popularity.

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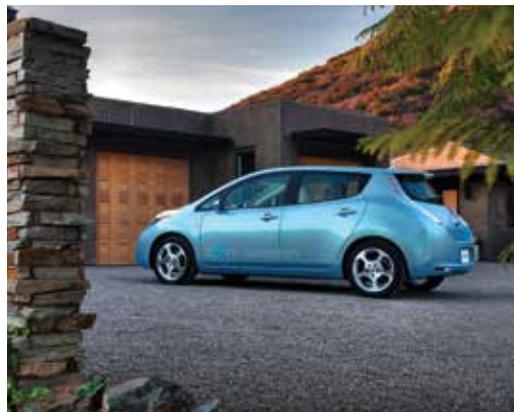


VEHICLES from page E

Right now there are 17,129 electric charging stations across the U.S. with 46,884 charging outlets. Those numbers are expected to climb though, especially as electric vehicles grow in market share. However, a recharge is not the same as a fill up at the gas station. Where it might take only a few minutes to fill up your tank, it could take

hours to get your battery charged.

Don't let that stop you, learn all you can about electric vehicles, which type best fits your needs and budget. After all, if you drive 12,000 miles in a year, an all-electric vehicle could save you over \$1,300 a year in fuel savings alone!



Basketball Scholarship Applications Available

Are you and your family enjoying the basketball season? If you have a student who loves to play basketball, we have a great opportunity for him or her! South River EMC is offering the unique experience of attending a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp to students currently in the fifth, sixth or seventh grade.

These scholarships give students the ability to attend basketball camps on two of the state's largest college campuses. South River EMC offers one all-expenses-paid scholarship to each the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (June 16-20) and the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Academy at North Carolina State University in Raleigh (June 10-13).

During the camp, students work closely with coaches and players

to develop fundamental skills, helping them perform and excel both on and off the court.

Campers must:

- Be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grader. This means the student should currently be in fifth, sixth or seventh grade.
- Attend a school in the Cooperative service area.
- Have permission from a parent or guardian to attend. An information sheet must be signed.
- Provide their own transportation to and from camp.

Applications are scored on academics, extracurricular activities and an essay that must accompany the application.

Applications are available now and are due to the Cooperative by close of business March 30. Eligible students interested in the scholarship can contact Julie McLeod at 910-892-8071, ext. 2151, or download an application from sremc.com/content/basketball-camps.



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**Sports Camp
Scholarships**

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Water Heating Can Cost Less

South River EMC offers two rebates for efficient water heaters, \$150 for solar water heaters and \$200 for heat pump water heaters. Each system has its requirements, but depending on water use could help you save energy and money. Visit sremc.com for more information or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



Comfortable Improvement Rebates?

By making improvements to insulation and weatherizing areas of your home, you could save energy and money. You'll improve comfort and could be eligible for several rebates the Cooperative offers. See rebate information on our web site at sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.

High Efficiency Systems Help You Save

Replacing your current heating and cooling system with a 17 SEER or greater air source, geothermal or mini split heat pump means you might be eligible for a rebate ranging from \$200 to \$500 depending on the system being replaced and the replacement. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



Choosing Cost Effective Appliances

With all the electric appliances in a typical home, the cost to run them can add up. However, by purchasing Energy Star certified appliances you can cut down on energy use and add up on savings. Refrigerators, clothes washers, clothes dryers and dehumidifiers are eligible for a \$10 rebate. More information is available at sremc.com or by calling 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Pool Considerations

It might not be pool season, but when the time comes, you should be ready for it. The highest electric cost associated with having a pool is the pool pump. You can save energy and money by installing a two speed or variable speed pool pump. South River EMC offers a \$50 rebate. If you purchase a two speed or variable speed pool pump you can obtain an application at sremc.com or by calling 910-892-8071 x 2152.



Why Not A Smart Thermostat?

If you're interested in saving energy you should consider a smart thermostat. Smart thermostats can be controlled from your phone or a tablet, as long as there is Wi-Fi, and they're easy to use. Smart thermostats can even help you see if your settings are really as helpful as they could be for your home energy savings. Find the best smart thermostat for you and make sure it is compatible with your heating and cooling system. For information on the \$20 rebate, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



Is A HERO Home For Your Family?

High Efficiency Residential Option, or HERO, homes are beneficial to any homeowner because they are found to be 30 percent more efficient than homes built to standard building code. They are comfortable structures using less energy that if you're building a home you could have yourself. For information on these homes, as well as the rebates offered by South River EMC, you can visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2153.

