



South River EMC Communicator

BRIGHT IDEAS BENEFIT ALL

Since its 1994 inception, the Bright Ideas grant program has awarded \$11.5 million through the 26 electric cooperatives across the state. The program gives educators at K-12 public schools the opportunity to submit innovative, classroom-based ideas for funding.



South River EMC receives over 150 Bright Ideas applications each year and is able to award around 50 grants between the 88 schools served by the program. In 2017, one school received nine Bright Ideas grants.

It's thanks to administrations who want teachers to succeed, teachers who encourage and support coworkers, and students

who need these resources to prepare for a bright future.

"I wanted to be a principal so that I could interact more with staff and students," said Dawn Wilkes, principal at Hobpton Elementary. "I wanted to be able to go into classrooms and help teachers and students be successful."

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South River EMC offices will be closed Friday, March 30, in observance of Good Friday.

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YOUR CANDIDATES' BIOS

Francis Clifton - District 3

After graduating from Piney Grove School,



Francis Clifton began a farming career. He worked as farm manager for Cates Pickles for 11 years. Clifton started his own business and is vice president of the Clifton Construction Company, Inc.

Clifton has been involved in many civic

and church organizations, including Faison Jaycees, Ruritans and Gideons. He is a life-long member of Piney Grove Baptist Church, where he has served as a Sunday school teacher and chairman of the Deacon body.

Currently, Clifton shares his time as

director of the South River EMC Board of Directors, recently celebrating 45 years of service, and his construction business, with his favorite pastime — being with his family, including wife, Eloise, daughters Sandra, Renee and Barbie and three grandchildren.

Dorcas Fisher - District 5

Dorcas is a lifelong resident of the Autryville area. She graduated from Clement High School and Hardbarger Junior College.

She has worked in industries including, banking, insurance, health, retail, real estate, federal and state government, two years with Cumberland County schools and 14 years

with Sampson County schools. She is co-owner of the family farm operation, and a lifelong member of Mt. Carmel Church of God of Prophecy in Autryville.

Having heard stories from her family and neighbors over the years of how proud they were to get "power" back in the

1940s, she has an ever-growing interest to see South River EMC continue to grow and serve its members. She has attended annual meetings with her family and has missed very few in the past 50 years. Dorcas has served as a director from District 5 for six years.

She has three children:

Derek and Daryl Fisher, and the late Julie Fisher. She also proudly brags about her seven grandchildren.



C. Wayne Collier, Jr. - District 7

Rural living has been a mainstay in Collier's life. He grew up on a family farm and received a bachelor's degree in



Animal Science from NC State University; he worked for his family farm raising hogs as well as tending row crops and Bermuda hay all the while working full-time for the U.S. Postal Service.

Collier is a lifelong member of the Cooperative; he also served on the nominating committee for several years before assuming

the unexpired term of director from district seven in June 2017.

Collier has deep roots in his community, serving in many capacities over the years with the following organizations: as a deacon and elder of Sardis Presbyterian Church; the Westarea Fire Department; Cumberland County Farm Bureau Board of Directors;

Cumberland County Soil and Water Supervisor; N.C. Soil and Water Commission; Cumberland County Board of Elections (as judge and chief judge); Linden Christian Men's Fellowship; Cumberland County Livestock Association; Cumberland County 4-H; Cub Scouts; Boy Scouts; and the U.S. Pony Club.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Thursday, April 19: Crown Theatre and Arena, Fayetteville

6:00-7:25 p.m.

The Erica Jones Band
Vendor Bazaar

Make food donations
at the Second Harvest
booth

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Kids Korner entertain-
ment provided by 4-H.

7:30 p.m. - close

Business meeting and
prize giveaway.

IDEAS Continued

Wilkes had 12 teachers submit 21 grants for funding in the 2017-2018 school year, half of those teachers were recipients.

"I feel that by teachers participating in the grant process, it allows them to offer students more opportunities to be successful," she said. "It gives them more ways and strategies to teach concepts to students."

That's something her educators have taken to heart.

"I get grant ideas by listening and observing my students," said Elizabeth Todd, Hobpton kindergarten teacher. "When I overhear them discussing a game, toy, or activity they enjoy, I start to think about how I can bring something similar into the classroom."

With teachers in this mind set,

there are grants written compellingly each year for needed items.

"Our principal encourages us to write grants for ideas we would like to implement," said third grade teacher, Jennifer King. "I'm also encouraged knowing that Bright Ideas has funded myself, as well as many of my colleagues, previously."

In 2017, grants were written and received for books, robots, classroom seating, a writing center, light boards, and literary magazines. A range of items meant to help students excel.

"I'm very appreciative of the Bright Ideas grants I've received over my career. Bright Ideas has provided whiteboards, manipulatives, a reading and writing center and much more for my students," said Elouise Phipps, a first grade teacher. "My latest grant was for LED light boards. We use these for building words, shape designs, using tens and ones blocks and more."

It's success like Phipps has had, which prompts other teachers to apply.

"I speak with them and make them realize that our budget is tight and

if they can find ways to help their students, then grants are the way to go," said Wilkes. "The fact that several of our teachers have received grants through the years helps as well."

Help the Bright Ideas program flourish at your school. Teachers at certified K-12 schools can apply online with their sponsoring cooperative at ncbrightideas.com from April 1 through September 19. If you have an application in before August 15, you will be entered to receive a \$100 Visa gift card.



(l-r): Carnelia Oates, 5th grade; Nancy Sullivan, 2nd grade; Dana Allen, 4th grade; Jennifer King, 3rd grade; Elouise Phipps, 1st grade; Elizabeth Todd, kindergarten.

DONATE FOOD THIS APRIL

South River EMC is partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina for an April food drive.

You can drop items off at either office from April 1-19. You can also bring items to the annual meeting on April 19. Second Harvest will be collecting donations

at their booth.

Good items for donation include: canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat, canned beans and soup, cereal, whole grain pasta and rice, peanut butter, household items, paper products, diapers, wipes, formula, infant cereal, fruit cups, granola bars, popcorn,

crackers, juice boxes, nutritional shakes and drinks, and adult hygiene products.

Second Harvest works to eliminate the cycle of hunger through a wide range of programs and services in a seven-county service area.

You can also make a monetary donation at actionpathways.ngo/hunger.



IN THE EVENT OF A POWER OUTAGE

Cooperatives work to provide members with affordable and reliable electric service. However, storm season can make that unpredictable. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that South River EMC is ready.

A major cause of power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. South River EMC works year round – through right-of-way spraying and clearing – to ensure power lines stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, damage can occur. When it does, our first priority is to safely restore power to

as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Remain calm, report your outage and listen to weather reports on a radio. Consider these tips as well:

- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics.
- Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment or electronics you were using when the power went out.
- Use flashlights, not candles, if necessary.
- If going out, traffic lights might be down, proceed with caution.
- If you come across a downed

power line, do not cross it, call and report it to South River EMC.

- Leave one light turned on at your home, so you'll know when the power comes back on.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. An un-

opened refrigerator will keep foods cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours if the door remains closed.

- When storms are forecasted, make sure your emergency kit is ready.





THANK A LINEMAN ON APRIL 9

It's Lineman Appreciation Day!

Electric cooperatives across North Carolina and the nation will recognize the many contributions of our linemen by celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day on Monday, April 9.

Join us in thanking the hardworking men and women whose diligent efforts and skilled expertise keep the lights on for members. You can do so using the hashtag #ThankALineman.

"We couldn't carry out our mission without the daily dedication of

our linemen," said Chris Spears, CEO of South River EMC. "Line work requires dedication and commitment to ensuring that the job is done right the first time and to ensuring that safety is always the top priority."

Electricity travels along a network of wires and poles to power our homes and businesses. Most of the time this is a seamless journey, but occasionally the path of electricity is disrupted by obstacles like tree branches, animals or an equipment malfunc-

tion—and linemen are charged with restoring that connection no matter the weather or time of day.

"Our linemen are committed to keeping our members energized every day, but when outages do occur, they work diligently to restore service as quickly as possible," said Spears. "They are also quick to volunteer to travel to other cooperatives to help restore service when Mother Nature sweeps through an area."



Pull The Plug On This Drain

A pool pump could be the second-largest energy user in your home, costing you nearly \$500 a year. Conventional pool pumps use the same high pump speed, regardless of the task to be completed. In fact, filtration, the No. 1 task of a pool pump, uses one-eighth the power of pool vacuuming. Don't waste

energy and money on what could be a low use job.

Energy Star certified pool pumps offer two- and variable-speed pumps that deliver the right speed for different tasks, using much less energy.

By replacing a conventional pool pump with an Energy Star

certified two- or variable-speed pump, you can save, often delivering payback in less than two years. South River EMC also offers a \$50 rebate on the purchase of a two- or variable-speed pump. For details on the rebate, as well as eligible pumps, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

If You Like It Hot, Don't Panic When It Gets Cold

Some like long hot showers, others like short warm showers, there are the few that like that cool soak or shower as well. But, water heating is what you need to think of when looking at water heater options. Getting cold water isn't usually a problem, but getting warm or hot water? Certain water heaters might be more cost effective in providing hot water, so find one that fits your home.

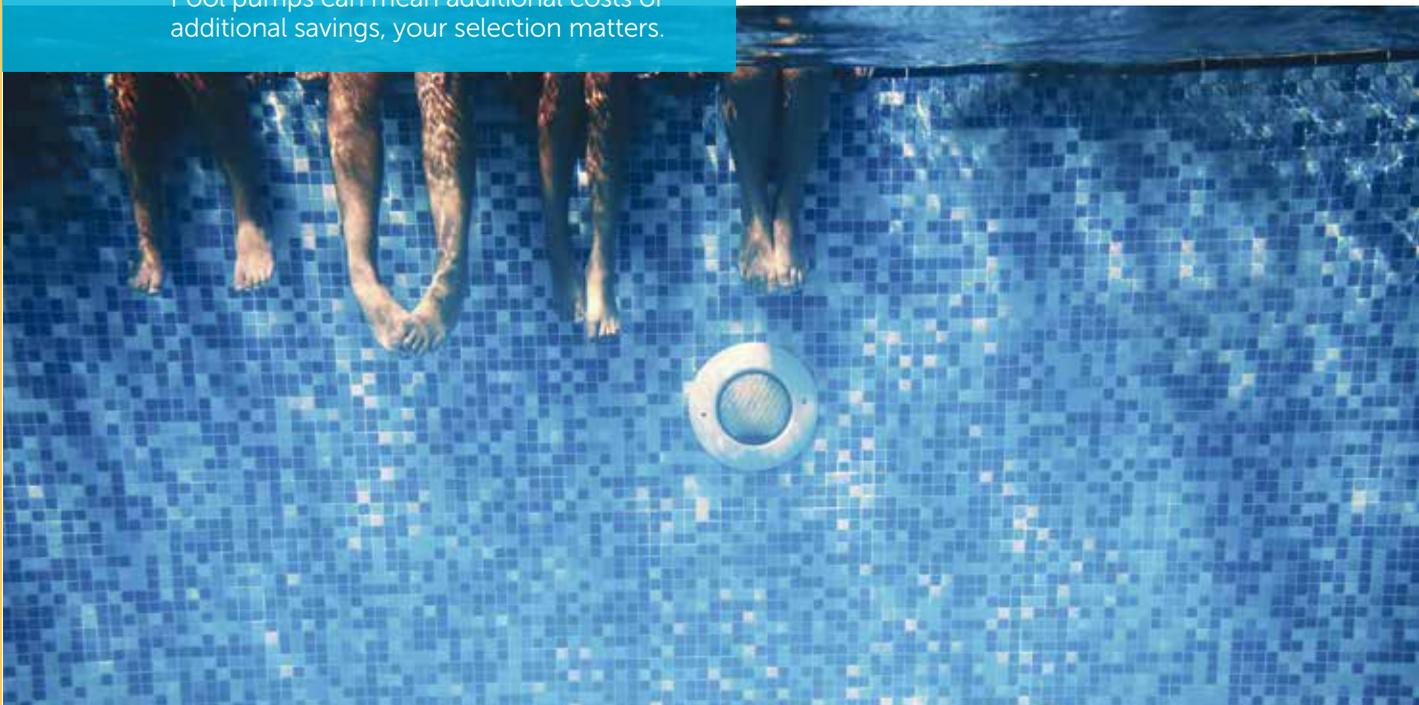
South River EMC offers rebates on two systems, \$150 on

solar water heaters. Solar water heaters are best in homes that have a good solar resource, as well as homes that use a lot of hot water. They're very efficient since they use the sun to heat the water used.

Another option is the heat pump water heater, eligible for a \$200 rebate. This system uses the outside air to heat water, using energy to move heat rather than make it saves energy and money. So, when you're in the market for a new water

heater, think efficiency, do your research and select the best unit for you and your family. If it's eligible for a rebate, even better! For more information, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Pool pumps can mean additional costs or additional savings, your selection matters.





Make sure attic insulation is distributed evenly and without gaps, which allows heat transfer.

Don't Let Weather Effect Comfort

Do you ever wonder how they predict the weather? One day it's abundantly warm, the next colder than you'd expect. Don't let this be more noticeable indoors rather than outdoors.

That's right, if your home is not properly insulated and weatherized, you could experience big weather changes inside as well.

Insulation prevents heat transfer, or heat movement from

indoors to outdoors in cooler weather, outdoors to indoors in warmer weather. You don't want heat when it's hot out, you want to keep it in when it's cold, insulation helps.

Weather stripping and caulking prevents air infiltration, or air movement from indoors-out and vice versa. A little infiltration isn't bad, but too much causes discomfort, which can lead to

higher electric costs as you try to correct the temperature.

Check your insulation, look for air leaks and make sure your weatherstripping is complete and attached where needed.

South River EMC offers rebates for improvements, and also has information on areas to check. Visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2222 to learn more.

Don't Let Heating And Cooling Catch You Unaware

During extreme weather, heating and cooling costs can add up. How you heat and cool, the age, size and efficiency of your system and how you use your thermostat, all play a part.

There might be several fuel sources you use to heat and cool your home. Of course, with that being said, certain systems work best with certain fuels; we recommend a heat pump for electric homes.

Your system's age is important, because as it ages, it might cost more to keep up, and can become inefficient so be sure to change filters and have the system serviced regularly.

Shop systems and installers, too big or small a system affects how it heats and cools your home, as well as the life of your system.

The efficiency, measured by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio,

or SEER, rating, measures the cooling efficiency of a system. Purchasing a high efficiency system could cost you less to run, especially if you program your thermostat. Consider high efficiency air source, mini-split or even a geothermal system to be eligible for a rebate form South River EMC.

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

Find Your Smart Thermostat Fit

Has the smart thermostat craze got you excited, or confused?

Some might say no, others might casually shrug and some won't answer. It's okay, just because smart thermostats are becoming more common, doesn't mean everyone is on board. There are plenty of web sites out there that tout the five best smart thermostats.

However, to find your best fit, might require a little more hands on use. Talk with friends and family who have smart thermostats, ask to try it out if at their home. People are usually willing to talk about where they've had trouble with an appliance and a thermostat will prove no different. Check out the different smart

thermostats, read up on what they offer and be sure to check compatibility with your heating and cooling system, unless it's up for replacement as well. South River EMC offers a \$20 rebate on the installation of a smart thermostat. For complete details, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Say Hello To Energy Savings

Do you have an appliance that needs replaced? If so, consider Energy Star certified appliances. Although they carry a slightly higher price tag, certified appliances can make up that cost in energy savings.

Depending on the appliance depends on the amount of energy, and money, saved. For example,

an Energy Star certified clothes washer uses about 25 percent less energy and 45 percent less water than a regular washer. However, an Energy Star certified refrigerator only has about 9 percent energy savings, but that's 9 percent a day, every day.

Consider Energy Star appliances when a replace-

ment is necessary and welcome savings.

South River EMC rebates on Energy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washers, clothes dryers, and dehumidifiers. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-98071.

The Perks Of A HERO Home

Being a homeowner can be enjoyable, but costly. You finance the house, you purchase the appliances and furniture, and things are going great. But your appliances age, as does your home. Temperatures change and your bill fluctuates.

There are a lot of contributions to your monthly electric costs. Don't let your home's efficiency be one of them. A

high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is found to be some 30 percent more efficient than homes built to code.

It is because HERO homes require slightly better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages. Of course, this does not come easily, there are two paths to choose from, the prescriptive

and the performance. Both have requirements, so visit energycodes.gov to be sure to select the option that best meets your needs.

South River EMC offers rebates ranging from \$200 to \$600 on HERO homes, depending on where you are in the process. For complete information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2153.

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