



# South River EMC Communicator

## PRACTICE ELECTRIC SAFETY

**W**hile ensuring the safety of our members and employees is a top priority year round, during the month of May, South River EMC joins other electric utilities across the country in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month. It's important to promote awareness of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.



This is an electric safety hazard.

Electricity is an essential and dependable resource, but we must all be aware of the serious—and sometimes deadly—consequences of using electricity unsafely, and then we must take steps to prevent the misuse of electricity.

Many electrical accidents and tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. The good news is that these accidents can be avoided with a few simple precautions.

*Continued on page B*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



South River EMC offices will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day.

Year-Round Savings	<b>B</b>
Smart Forecaster	<b>D</b>
Grades & Grants	<b>E</b>
Energy Smarts	<b>G</b>

SAFETY continued from A

South River EMC is dedicated to educating members of all ages about electric safety, and we encourage you to make sure that you and your family know about the dangers of electricity and

how to use it safely. We offer safety information and tips on our website at [sremc.com](http://sremc.com), and you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Here are several basic tips to keep in mind when using electricity:

**Unplug it.**

simply turning it off is not enough.



**Cover it.**

use plug covers in outlets to protect small children.



**Toss it.**

throw away worn electrical cords.



**Avoid it.**

never go near a power line.



## SAVINGS ARE A YEAR-ROUND PURSUIT

**S**ummer is on the way, but that doesn't mean a lot needs to change in your energy-saving goals.

Even when temperatures reach new heights, there are still ways to save:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees; if you can set it higher, even better!
- Set your thermostat temperature and forget it.



- To be comfortable, make sure your home is well insulated and weatherized.
- Only use a fan if someone is in the room to enjoy it.
- Check air filters once a month, change when dirty.
- Cook using the grill, or the microwave.
- Use daylighting when possible.
- Use curtains to block the sun and prevent heat gain.
- Ensure floor registers are not blocked by rugs, drapes or furniture.
- Use energy-efficient lighting like LEDs.
- Turn off pool pumps and heaters when not needed.
- If you have a window A/C unit, make sure it is weather stripped.
- Use the dishwasher's air-dry cycle instead of heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.
- Don't close off unused rooms that are conditioned by a forced-air system.
- If heating water, use hot tap water instead of cold.
- Rinse dishes with cold water when loading into the dishwasher.
- Whether heating or cooling, keep windows shut and locked.



- Hang clothes out to dry instead of using the dryer.

Practicing these tips will help you save a little money during the warm months.

## College Scholarships Available

Every year, South River EMC offers a \$500 scholarship to each of these community colleges: Johnston Community College, Sampson Community College, Central Carolina Community College

and Fayetteville Technical Community College.

To find out more about the scholarship, you will need to speak with someone in the foundation office at any of these schools

about the South River EMC scholarship. The scholarship is available to students taking a full-course load. These scholarships can be used for new or continuing education students.



## PSV SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**F**our students were selected to receive a Power Source Volunteers Scholarship in 2018.

After meeting with each applicant, the committee awarded \$2,500 in scholarships to the following students who live in the South River EMC service area:

Receiving a \$1,000 scholarship is **Jacylyn Tuggle**, daughter of John and Dana Tuggle of Newton Grove. Tuggle's plans to attend Campbell University to pursue a degree in

chemical engineering to go into the pharmaceutical research and development field.

**Ty Meyer**, son of Tracey and Sandy Meyer of Faison, receives a \$500 scholarship to attend N.C. State to pursue a degree in agriculture business, ultimately wanting to practice agricultural law.

**Dawson McLamb**, son of Derek and Misty McLamb of Roseboro, will finish an associates degree at Fayetteville Technical Community College, then, due to career and college promise courses offered, and

transfer to Fayetteville State University to major in Fire and Emergency Services, with the goal of becoming a firefighter/ EMT.

**Andrew Esterly** was the final recipient of a \$500 scholarship. The son of Bryan and Tracy Esterly of Hope Mills, Esterly plans to pursue a degree in engineering from N.C. State to go into a mechanical engineering career.

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 dedicated to serving the Cooperative through community activities and goodwill.

The committee has this scholarship opportunity, as well as Easter and Thanksgiving basket raffles at each South River EMC office.



Jacylyn Tuggle,  
South Johnston  
High School



Ty Meyer,  
Hobbs  
High School



Dawson McLamb,  
Midway  
High School



Andrew Esterly,  
Gray's Creek  
High School

## WEEKLY FORECAST



Thu, Apr 5  
63°/43°

Electric Cost: \$5



Fri, Apr 6  
75°/56°

Electric Cost: \$3



Sat, Apr 7  
74°/35°

Electric Cost: \$4



Sun, Apr 8  
56°/38°

Electric Cost: \$5



Mon, Apr 9  
59°/49°

Electric Cost: \$5



Tue, Apr 10  
65°/41°

Electric Cost: \$3

## THE SMART ENERGY FORECASTER

**T**he South River EMC website has a new tool to help calculate your energy use. If you've visited our web site recently, you might have seen the weather app at the bottom of the page.

This weather forecaster syncs with your SmartEnergy Profile to help calculate daily energy use based on local

forecasted temperatures as well as your profile settings.

Completing your SmartEnergy Profile means you receive a more tailored explanation of your energy use and more precise information for planning with the SmartEnergy Forecaster.

With the SmartEnergy Forecaster you'll see

the difference between energy use on an 80-degree day versus a 68-degree day, based on your settings.

The best thing is when you log into your profile on your device it's saved, so you'll see your estimated costs when looking at the forecaster.

The SmartEnergy Forecaster is visible at the

bottom of [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) on computers or tablets. On a smartphone, you'll need to select the Smart Energy Profile tab.

Click on the drop down list at top right and select "Energy Forecast." Watch how the weather and your energy choices can affect your bill.

## PLAY BALL!

**D**o you have a student between the ages of 5-12 who loves baseball?

South River EMC is partnering with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to sponsor baseball camps for students 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 20, July 18 and August 1 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](mailto:connections@sremc.com)

Put "camp scholarship" as the subject line. Be sure to include a note for which camp date(s) the child should be entered, limit one submission per student to each camp date. Submission deadlines are June 13, July 11 and July 25.

Scholarships only cover the cost of camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to and from the stadium the day of camp, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lunch and a snack will be provided. Campers may bring their own equipment, but are not required to do so.

Interested in attending camp? Register at [goswampdogs.com](http://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.



## GIVE US AN A DRAWING SET FOR JULY

Can you believe how close we are to the end of the school year?

That being said, we are swiftly approaching our last chance for a 2018 Give Us An A drawing!

South River EMC will hold a "Give Us An A" drawing July 3. The drawing is held for students achieving at least one A on their report card.

Each of the 15 students whose names are drawn will receive a \$25 gift card.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC. Just make a copy of the most recent report card with at least one A and send it to the Cooperative.

You must include the member's name, South River EMC account

number and a daytime telephone number, report cards will not be accepted without this information.

Report cards should be sent to:

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

Or scan and e-mail to: [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).



## THE BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT PROGRAM

**A** bright idea can come from anywhere, including television, the internet, students and colleagues.

However, many of those ideas cost money, much of which the school budget cannot cover.

That's where the Bright Ideas grant program can help. This program awards grants to teachers in certified public K-12 schools, who have innovative classroom-based ideas.

Each year, South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grant funding to teachers in parts of Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties.

Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500 for any subject. However, grant applications will not be accepted for professional development.

Since the program's inception in 1994, educators statewide have received \$11.5 million used to fund 11,000 projects affecting 2.2 million students.

The application period opened in April, but there is plenty of time to apply. Educators with applications in by the early bird deadline of August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is September 19.

South River EMC only accepts applications online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com). If you're interested in learning more about this program,

visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or e-mail [sremc@sremc.com](mailto:sremc@sremc.com).

To apply, visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).



Teachers from Salemburg Elementary celebrate a grant received in 2017.

## The Smart Thermostat

Smart thermostats (ex. EcoBee or Nest) are eligible for a \$20 rebate. For details visit

[sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## The Three Electric Heat Pumps

Heating and cooling accounts for around 50 percent of your electric costs each month, and the type of system you have plays a role. The most popular electric systems are the air source heat pump, the ductless mini-split heat pump, and the geothermal heat pump. These systems can help you save energy and money.

Before making a decision, look at the costs, the cost to purchase and install the unit, and potential energy savings.

In order to make an informed decision, it's important to pay attention to the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER rating. Measuring the cooling efficiency of a system, a higher SEER rating means a higher price tag. But many times the difference in purchase cost can be made

up over the lifetime of the high efficiency system through energy savings.

An air source heat pump, the most common system, pulls heat/cool from the outside air, and brings it into your home through ductwork.

A ductless mini-split system has two main components — an outdoor compressor/condenser and an indoor air-handling unit. Typically seen as efficient because you don't run into damaged ductwork over the system lifespan.

Geothermal heat pumps are the most efficient choice, using the earth's relatively constant ground temperature to heat and cool your home. Although the most costly system, savings recovery can be faster due to

### Tax Credit On Geothermal

A renewable energy tax credit is available with a step down in credit value for geothermal heat pump systems.

#### Tax Credit:

- 30% for systems placed in service by 12/31/2019.
- 26% for systems placed in service after 12/31/2019 and before 01/01/2021.
- 22% for systems placed in service after 12/31/2020 and before 01/01/2022.

efficiency. If seriously considering a geothermal system, you must look at factors like the composition and properties of your soil and rock, the amount of soil available, as well as land availability.

South River EMC offers several rebates on high-efficiency heat pumps, for information visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Split systems, such as this one, are great for additions that might not be connected to the home.





Do your research on installers if you're considering spray foam insulation.

## Pool Pump Rebate

Install a variable or two speed pool pump and receive a \$50

rebate. For details, or a list of eligible pumps, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com)

or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## Choose Efficient Water Heating

Solar water heaters are eligible for a \$150 rebate and heat

pump water heaters are eligible for a \$200 rebate. For infor-

mation visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## Insulation And Weatherization: They Matter

Insulating and weatherizing your home is important, because it helps make your home more comfortable and efficient.

How? Air that leaks through your home's envelope – the outer walls, windows, doors, and other openings – wastes energy and increases utility costs due to discomfort.

However, a well-sealed home, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can make a difference on your utility bills by improving the overall comfort of your home and giving you fewer drafts and better humidity control.

There are many options for insulation, selections should be

based on the project you have in mind, as well as your skill level.

For basic skill sets, there are blanket batts and rolls of insulation, typically used in unfinished walls, including foundation, basement and crawlspaces, as well as floors and ceilings.

Intermediate skill sets have more options. Rigid foam insulation can be used for unfinished walls, including foundation, basement and crawlspaces, floors and ceilings, unvented low-slope roofs, exterior continuous insulation, and exterior below grade foundation walls. Loose fill and blown-in insulation is used for enclosed

existing wall or open new wall cavities, unfinished attic floors, or other hard-to-reach places. Rigid fibrous or fiber insulation is for ducts in unconditioned spaces and places requiring insulation that can withstand high temperatures.

Requiring a certified installer is spray foam and foamed-in-place insulation, which is good for enclosed existing walls, open new wall cavities, and unfinished attic floors, attic ceilings.

Visit [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) and search insulation for details on the different types of insulation. For rebates, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.

### Air Sealing For Greater Efficiency

When a home has many air leaks, it becomes uncomfortable and costly. Air sealing your home is an easy and cost effective way for you to increase comfort and save money on monthly utility bills.

The Department of Energy estimates 20 percent in energy savings from heating and cooling when a drafty house is air sealed properly. Hidden air leaks cause some of the largest heating and cooling losses; common sites include plumbing penetrations through insulated floors and ceilings, baseboard moldings, dropped ceilings above bathtubs and cabinets, attic access hatches and doors.

Saving money and energy are just two of the benefits from air sealing. Other benefits include noise reduction from outside, fewer ways for pests and insects to enter and an overall increased level of comfort. One way of detecting air leaks is a simple visual inspection. Look and feel for air leaks inside the home. Common areas to look are around doors, window frames, electrical outlets, baseboards, attic hatches, wall/window air conditioners, vents and fans. Other places to look include any plumbing, electrical or gas penetrations that may be entering the home from the attic, crawlspace or outside. If you can

close the door to your home and see light entering between the door frame and the door, it needs to be sealed.

The type of material used to stop air leakage depends on where in the home the leaks are occurring. Foam weather stripping with an adhesive backing can be used to seal around doors. This quick, easy and inexpensive task will help reduce energy costs. Simply remove and clean any old material that is still around the door so the new stripping will stick. Make sure the surface is dry before applying the new weather stripping. Once you have done this, you can apply the new weather stripping around the door.

When outdoors, take a close look at your windows to ensure the caulking is still intact and not cracked, dried or missing. Check to see if the caulking is pliable. If the caulk does not meet these criteria, it is a good idea to replace it. Before caulking the window, clean and remove any old material from the surface. To ensure that you do not seal in moisture, make sure the surface is dry. Once this is done you can seal around the window using a latex waterproof caulk. South River EMC currently offers a rebate for air sealing.



Energy Services Advisor Eric Gainey

For cold air escaping through outlets or light switches on exterior walls, you can purchase foam socket insulators that fit behind your outlet or switch covers and prevent air infiltration. Spray foam is a good insulator to use for gaps and cracks around chimneys and some external penetrations. If you have can lights in your attic, make sure the insulation is around the edges, but not over the unit to prevent heat buildup. Another easy way to prevent air leaks is with door sweeps.

Reducing air leaks in your home is one of the most cost-effective measures you can take to yield big savings. South River EMC has several rebates for taking energy efficiency measures. Visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) to learn about all of these incentives and to download an application.

South River EMC  
**Communicator**



Follow Us! [southriveremc](http://southriveremc.com) A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335  
(910) 892-8071  
800-338-5530  
[www.sremc.com](http://www.sremc.com)