



South River EMC Communicator

TECH NEEDS BEING MET

Hobbton Middle School is located on Highway 701, also called Hobbton Highway. This stretch of road houses not just the middle school, but the high school and elementary school as well.

Recently, Hobbton Middle School received a \$10,000 Operation Round Up grant.



“The grant was requested in order to purchase a set of HP Stream laptops,” said Jeff Bradshaw, principal. “We had some Streams, which had been purchased by my predecessor, but as happens with technology over the years, some had to be taken out of service.”

The HP Streams purchased will fill out existing sets at the school, so that students in each grade hallway will have access to the devices.

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Congratulations to Timothy Jenkins of Hope Mills. He is the grand prize winner of the annual meeting truck.

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We're all in this together

There's nothing like a cooperative annual meeting to remind us all about the unique nature of cooperatives. I was humbled to see so many engaged members at our meeting on April 19 as we hosted 742 members and their families at the Crown Center in Fayetteville. Cooperatives are unique since each customer is actually a part owner of the company. As member-owners we are all in this together.

As we are aware, North Carolina's economy is booming. We are seeing a steady influx of new residents moving to the state for employment opportunities and our mild climate. Just as technology is providing many career opportunities, it is changing our industry.

Technology has provided people with more information at their fingertips than they have ever had at any point in history.

Let's take our cooperative for example. We installed automated metering in 2009. Since that time, we haven't had to send meter readers into the field to determine each member's energy use. Instead, the meters communicate with our computers several times daily.

This change has also enabled us to empower members with information. You can get alerts daily with information about your energy use. We can also analyze a member's daily energy use to help find problems with heating and cooling systems, water heaters or other energy hogs in the home. Additionally, technology has enabled manufacturers to create more energy-efficient lighting options and appliances that can communicate through a Wi-Fi connection.

However, all of these energy savings come at a cost. Electric utilities have fixed costs. Those expenses that are the same no matter how much or how little energy is sold. When there's a large reduction in energy use, the

cost can actually be driven upward to cover those "fixed costs" that aren't recovered in the sale of energy.

We are beginning to see this trend play out across the country. There's a reduction in the use of energy so few new power plants are being constructed. This means that we are really using the units that are in existence. Although overall consumption has declined, demand for energy at peak times of the day is increasing. Utilities pay more for energy during these peak times – late afternoon in the summer months and early morning in the winter. Therefore, it's important to keep the peak energy use as low as possible. Technology can help with this too!

There are programs we offer that help you save energy and helps the cooperative save as well. One of these programs is our time-of-use rate. This rate offers a significantly lower rate for using energy in "off peak" times of the day and a much higher rate to discourage energy use during "peak" times. Time of use is a rate

that is great for families with two working adults and those who like the challenge of looking for ways to save energy.

Last year we launched a water-heater demand response pilot program. We are gathering valuable information about the impact of having water heaters turned off during peak times.

Additionally, we have found that smart thermostats can play a part. If you have a Nest or ecobee smart thermostat that's been installed in your home for less than 24 months, you might qualify for our SmartStat program. Visit sremc.com and click SmartStat under quicklinks for information about incentives, rebates and program requirements.

As you can see, our industry is changing rapidly. But, we are staying ahead of the changes. We are also offering programs that enable you to help, too. Working hand-in-hand with our members is a priority because we are all in this together.

TECH cont. from A

"Most people think that everyone has a smart phone or a tablet," said Bradshaw. "But there are many students who don't have access to the devices at home for school work."

So how do teachers help fill the tech void?

"We allow for student devices in school, but that comes with strict guidelines," he said. "Teachers will notify students they can bring their device and it must stay in their locker until the teacher releases the students to retrieve them."

The Streams will help in those cases where a student does not have their own device.

But, why is technology so important?

The state legislature has been reducing textbook and instructional supply funding, as they move to more digital resources, however that money has not been placed into making sure the technology is available to all students.

"We are in pretty good shape," said Bradshaw. "We receive funding from the county technology department, Operation Round Up,

Bright Ideas, and Donors Choose."

The school has many programs in which technology is used: MobyMax, Imagine Learning, Go Math, and the Jump Start program are just a few.

Of course, they'll also be used for regular class lessons, and enrichments.

"Students need the technology to access the curriculum," he said. "Many of our resources, like WebQuest, and Rosetta Stone are online."

The MobyMax program is a digital content enrichment program that provides assistance in areas where a student has shown deficiency. Imagine Learning is an online program, which helps moderately at-risk students. Overall, the program has shown

75 percent growth in students who participate.

"In March, we celebrate Imagination Month, and it's a competition between over 9,000 schools, which includes over 1 million students," he said. "The goal is to get participating students to pass the most Imagine Learning lessons on grade level."

In 2017, Hobbton Middle came in as runner up in the competition. Results released in 2018 name them national champions! All for students meeting their goals in school.

The Go Math program is an online program that pairs with a consumable textbook. If you need practice in a certain area, the Go Math online program could give you that practice. Yet another

use for the Streams is the Jump Start program, which helps at-risk eighth graders get to high school. The program, which involves an online history course, promotes students who meet the eligibility requirements to high school mid-year.

"The move to using more technology is necessary," said Bradshaw. "We just have to make sure it doesn't leave some students and families behind."

Homework becomes additional schoolwork for those students who don't have the technology.

"We open the computer lab after school in order for students to use these resources to do their work," he said. "We just want to thank the members of South River EMC for their support."



(l-r): Principal Jeff Bradshaw, Christy Brock, Ashley Britt, Christine Brewington and Alicia Leach

CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

WWW.VOTE.COOP

Rural issues matter, so make your voice heard during the mid-term elections.

As a member of the rural community, you deserve to be heard, learn and vote for representatives with your best interests at heart.

By voting in November, and joining your voice with others in your community, you can make a difference. Don't sit back and let someone else make those decisions, go vote!

Money Monthly For Your Smart Thermostat

South River EMC wants to reward you for saving energy by giving you \$48 annually for enrolling your ecobee or Nest smart thermostat into the SmartStat program. You will receive a \$4 bill credit monthly by allowing adjustments to your thermostat during peak days. In the meantime, you save money by using your thermostat to run your heating

and cooling system more efficiently.

On days when the demand for energy is highest, South River EMC will send a signal to your thermostat to adjust it by three degrees for no more than four hours at a time.

You're in control. If you get too hot or cold (depending on the season), you can just reset the thermostat.

If in any 12-month period, you opt out of more than 50 percent of the events, you will be removed from the program.

A smart thermostat is a Wi-Fi enabled device that adjusts heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance automatically.

Many smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that automatically adjusts to energy-saving temperatures when you are asleep or away. Because they are Wi-Fi enabled, smart thermostats allow you to control, your home's

heating and cooling remotely through your smartphone. Additionally, smart thermostats provide equipment use and temperature data you can track and manage. Periodic software updates ensure your smart thermostat is using the latest algorithms and energy-saving features available.

Interested in enrolling your ecobee or Nest thermostat? Learn complete details at sremc.com/node/165 and submit a participation form.

**Due to software constraints, ecobee and Nest units are the only brands eligible for the program.*





Director Receives Distinction

District three director, Francis Clifton, received an award for 45 years of service to South River EMC at the NCEMC Annual Meeting on April 19.

Clifton served as the president of South River EMC's board of directors for many years during his tenure.

DON'T WAIT FOR AN OUTAGE, TEXT NOW!

Summer means many things – hot temperatures, a break for students, and storms.

Summer storms can be both surprising and disruptive and it is during this time when South River EMC's outage texting service can benefit you.

By signing up for outage texting you can report an outage easily on your digital device.

Don't wait for an outage to sign up, it takes up to 24 hours to activate.

All you need to sign up is to text SREMCTEXT to 888-338-5530 and follow the prompts

for a short registration process. (See photos.)

You will need your South River EMC account number to sign-up. The cell phone number used for outage reporting must be one of the numbers on the electric account.

The registration process matches your mobile number with your account service location. You can opt-in to receive outage information for up to four locations.


Interested members can also opt-in with the assistance of a member service representative in the office or over the phone.

Once enrolled, you will be able to use key words to report an outage, check the status of an outage and be notified once an outage has been restored.


A member can opt-out at any time. Simply text STOP to 888-338-5530.

Data and messaging fees may apply depending on the terms of your cell service.

SREMCTEXT

Which address: (a)  NC Hwy 242 N?
Reply a or other.

A

You are signed up for texting re:  NC Hwy 242 N.

Start Saving The Smart Way

There's no question as to whether a smart thermostat can save you money— it can.

However, you need to find the best one for you. There are many models available and each has it's own special features. Be sure to do homework

to decide which would best meet your needs.

Smart thermostats can be controlled over Wi-fi and are usually pretty easy to use. If you forget to set it, no problem, you can set it from your phone or tablet.

Smart thermostats can help you save energy and money, as long as they are installed correctly. South River EMC offers a \$10 rebate on the installation of a smart thermostat. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071x 2152.

When You're Looking To Cut Costs

Heating and cooling is the source of at least half your monthly energy costs. Many people use more energy than needed seeking the ideal comfortable temperature.

However, adjusting the thermostat is one of the leading causes of increased energy use. If your thermostat is set to 68 degrees during the summer, on days when it's 80 degrees, your cooling system will be running constantly to keep your home a chill 68 degrees. Consider keeping the thermostat at 78 degrees and cooling off with the use of fans.

Cost could be attributed to the age and efficiency of your system. If you have an older system, the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating, might be lower. The SEER rating measures the cooling efficiency of a heating and cooling system. The higher the SEER, the more efficient the system. A system with a higher SEER will be more expensive, but that is made up for in energy savings.

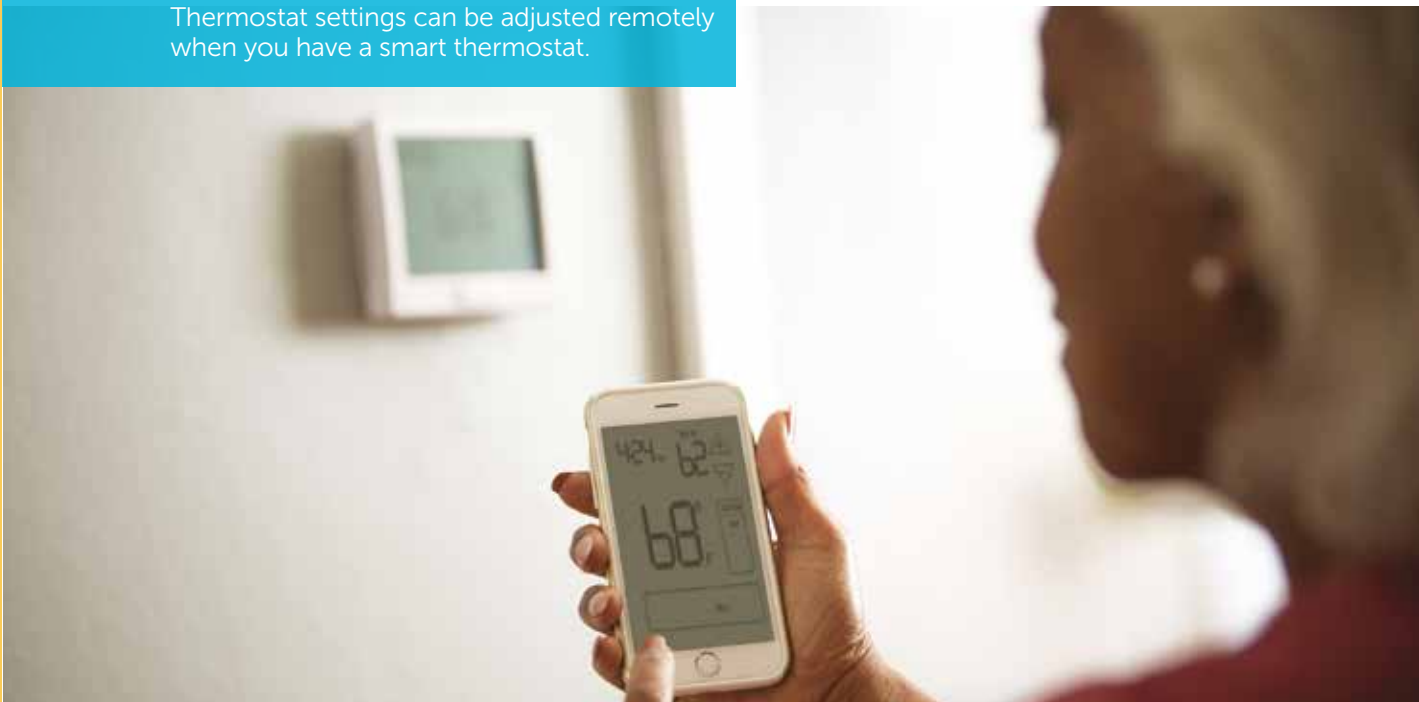
If you're looking into systems, you probably have several heat pump options: the air source, the mini-split and the geothermal system. Research each op-

tion and make a list of pros and cons, an air source might seem like the best and cheapest buy, but is it the most efficient?

The information can be overwhelming, Need help? Contact one of our energy advisors (the Advise Guys) at 910.892.8071 for information and assistance.

South River EMC offers several rebates on the purchase of high efficiency heating and cooling systems, which can be found at sremc.com or by calling 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Thermostat settings can be adjusted remotely when you have a smart thermostat.





Picking the right pool pump can make everyone carefree.

The Areas Of Pool Pump Consideration

There are three items to consider about pool pumps, the type, size and use.

The larger the pump, the greater your pumping and maintenance costs. Therefore, you want to use the smallest size pump possible for your pool.

When selecting a pump, also consider the type of system. Do you want a single, variable or two speed pump? If you've never replaced your pool's pump, it is more than likely a single speed, which uses one speed to perform functions.

Most pool functions don't require speed and an excess of water to perform them. A variable or two speed pool pump allows you to set levels to match the tasks your pool performs, which cuts down on energy use, and allows for a break in pump use.

Cut back on use. As long as the water circulates while salt or chemicals are added, they should remain mixed, so don't run the pump for hours following.

Cut down filtration time, reduce pump time as low as you can

and still be happy with water quality.

Install a timer to control the pump's cycling. Several short cycles keep the pool cleaner all day.

If it's time to replace your pump consider a variable or two speed pump for energy savings.

South River EMC offers a rebate on variable and two speed pool pumps, for details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Take A Chance On An Efficient Water Heater

When considering water heaters, don't just go with what you know, take a chance.

Heat pump water heaters are two to three times more efficient than a standard water heater. They are slightly more expensive, but that expense is made up over the life of the appliance. Heat pump water

heaters use energy to move heat, rather than make it, which saves energy and money.

Maybe you think solar water heating might work for you? It could, but you've got to make sure it is the most cost effective system for your household. Speak with installers, check local housing code, and do the

math to see if it makes sense for your household.

For details on either system visit energy.gov. Don't forget to visit sremc.com to see what rebates are available for each system. You can also call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

HERO Homes Save All Day, Every Day

A high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home can save you energy and money because these homes are built tighter from the ground up. Being 30 percent more efficient than

homes built to standard building code helps.

A tighter home means higher comfort, which means less change to the thermostat and

this comfort helps you save. For details on HERO homes, visit energycodes.gov. For rebates offered through South River EMC, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2153.

Read The Energy Guide For Energy Star

When shopping for appliances, consider the purchase price and the price to use the appliance over its lifetime. You'll pay that second price every month in your utility bill for the next 10 years or so, depending on the appliance.

chase appliances with a low operating cost, an example being the Energy Star label. Energy Star products must exceed minimum federal standards to be certified and often exceed those standards by a substantial amount.

money and energy. South River EMC also offers a \$10 rebate on certain Energy Star certified appliances, which include clothes washers, dryers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Look for labels and features that can help ensure that you pur-

Purchasing appliances with an Energy Star logo can save you

Efficiency Affects Everyone

Insulating and weatherizing your home can help you cut costs, all while making you more comfortable.

you cut down on air infiltration, or the introduction of outdoor air inside and the loss of indoor air outside. All in all, this makes your home uncomfortable, or drafty.

Insulation prevents heat transfer, which means heat loss during the winter and heat gain during the summer, the exact opposite of what you want.

Don't let discomfort leave you adjusting the thermostat, therefore affecting your energy costs. Weatherization can fix many of those problems, South River EMC also offers rebates for making some home improvements which help you! For complete details on rebates, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.

Meanwhile, weatherizing your home, which includes weather stripping moving pieces, like doors and windows, and caulking non-moving pieces like around window sills and plumbing penetrations among other things, also helps improve comfort. With weatherization,



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