



South River EMC Communicator

SERVED WITH BLUEGRASS



Are you a bluegrass fan? If so, you should check out this hot spot once featured on WRAL's Tar Heel Traveler.

Pittman's Corner Grill sits on Williams St. (Old Hwy. 24) in Autryville. Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 8 p.m.; on certain evenings, you'll find a show and a crowd.

Local bluegrass group, "The Grandpas," presents a show for anyone who wants to stop in and listen.

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PAYMENTS: SPEED, ACCURACY & SECURITY

If you pay your electric bill through the U.S. Mail, changes are coming.

Starting with the October electric bills, payments will be sent to a facility in Atlanta for processing. Converting to an off-site payment processing facility will ensure payments are processed quicker, increase accuracy and provide greater security of member information. For most people nothing will change. As long as you use the envelope provided with your bill, enclose the stub and a check you won't even notice the change.

Streamlining this process will result in a change for some members. If you send your payment in an envelope other than the one we provide, you must ensure you are using the new address. Because

much of the process is automated, notes on the bills will not be spotted. If you need to communicate with us, please send a separate note, e-mail or call us.

Also, all payments must include the stub and

either a check, cashier's check or money order only. Please ensure the payment is made to South River EMC.

Credit card and cash payments cannot be processed through the mail. However, we accept cash at either office and at the kiosks at each location. Credit card payments can be made in the offices, over the phone at 910.892.8071 or online at sremc.com.

We continue to look for ways to streamline our operations and improve our service to you.



New Address:
South River EMC
PO Box 744757
Atlanta, GA 30374-4757

Bluegrass continued from page 1

"We play bluegrass the first and third Thursdays of the month," said Charles Carlisle, mandolin player. "If there is a fifth Thursday, we play Gospel."

Danny Cashwell, who plays banjo, describes those evenings as standing room only.

The group, who has been playing at Pittman's for several years, has its roots in this community, even if it has undergone some changes.

The year was 1974, when the local men got their instruments and gathered to pick and play. Ultimately, each went their separate way, but somehow it always involved music.

"I picked up the bass in the late '70s and early '80s," said Frankie Bolton, bass player. "I started with a guitar, but it seemed like a lot of folks played it, so I found someone to teach me about the bass."

Bolton played for 15-16 years, but took a few

breaks, he said. All musicians seem to need a break, it helps them love the craft even more.

"I started playing in my late 20s," said Elbert Edge, guitar player. "I do it for fun, and because I enjoy it."

Which is what brings us to Pittman's Corner Grill and four men who got together again to make some music.

"I was always messing with an instrument," said Cashwell. "And I have always loved music."

There's no set list, The

Grandpas just play what they feel.

"It's not just music," said Carlisle. "There's a show to it as well."

The first and third Thursday, join The Grandpas at Pittman's Corner Grill, 105 East Williams St. in Autryville, from 5-7 p.m. for bluegrass. And the fifth Thursday for gospel.

If you would like to have The Grandpas at an event, contact Charles Carlisle at 910.990.1772.



OPERATING A GENERATOR SAFELY

A portable generator is a great way to supply electricity during a power outage. But, if used improperly, it can damage connected appliances, and even worse, kill you and the people who are restoring power to your home or business.

Here are a few tips to run your generator safely:

Do not attempt to connect a generator directly to the electric system of a home or business.

This should be avoided to prevent the electricity generated from backfeeding through the building's electric system to outside utility lines. If Cooperative personnel are restoring service while a generator is directly connected to the electric system, it can result in electrocution of the personnel. It could also start a fire or seriously damage your property. A qualified, licensed electrician must install a transfer switch, with the connection meeting local ordinances, to connect the generator to a building's electric system.

Ground the generator's electric system adequately. If not done, the entire generator could become electrically charged, potentially causing electrocution. Make sure the unit is grounded in accordance with the National Electrical Code. Follow instructions supplied with the generator.

Do not attempt to operate a generator in rain, wet, icy or flooded conditions. Water conducts electricity and if it comes in contact with the generator's frame and other services, it will cause an electric shock to anyone touching them. Operate generators in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Make sure your hands are dry.

Dispose of worn, damaged, undersized or ungrounded extension cords. Contact with worn or damaged extension cords can cause electrocution.

Undersized extension cords can overheat wires or attached items, resulting in fire. Use of ungrounded cords can prevent operation of circuit breakers and result in electric shock. Inspect extension cords before use and replace with new if required. Use proper size (wire gauge) cord for application.

Don't attempt to fill the fuel tank while the engine is running. Gasoline and its vapors can ignite if they make contact with hot components such as the muffler, engine exhaust gases or from an electric spark. Turn off the engine and allow it to cool before adding fuel. Make sure there's a fire extinguisher certified to handle gasoline or fuel fires in the immediate area.

Make sure to ventilate the generator. Obstructing ventilation causes overheating and possible ignition of materials. The engine will produce toxic carbon monoxide exhaust fumes, which if inhaled, will cause serious injury or death. Operate generator in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Keep objects away from unit during operation. Do not operate unit in a confined area, or in a location occupied by humans or animals. Keep children, pets and others away from where it's operating.

Do not tamper with factory set engine speed settings. Tampering with the engine speed could result in overheating of attachments and could cause a fire. Never attempt to "speed-up" the engine as both the output voltage and the frequency will be thrown out of standard by this practice, endangering you and the attachments.

Using a generator can make a big difference during an outage. Using a generator safely can save a life.

WHAT RIGHT-OF-WAY MEANS FOR YOU

South River EMC's right-of-way, or ROW, program helps the Cooperative deliver reliable electric service.

ROW is a strip of land owned by another party on which South River EMC and other utilities place their facilities. The utilities must have access to this land and are responsible for ensuring the facilities are clear of vegetation such as limbs, branches and general foliage found growing on and into power lines.

Power lines deliver electricity from substations to your home. When lights blink, this

may be due to a branch or limb bumping the wire. There are also trees that grow so close to energized electric lines, that it burns the leaves. This could cause a fire, so these branches and limbs need to be trimmed by a professional.

When it comes to clean up, the Cooperative is responsible for cleaning maintained lawn areas, which means, if a tree is cut in your front yard, where you obviously have flowers planted, it will be picked up.

However, if it is a wooded area, with no discernible clearing, the Cooperative might leave the cuttings there.

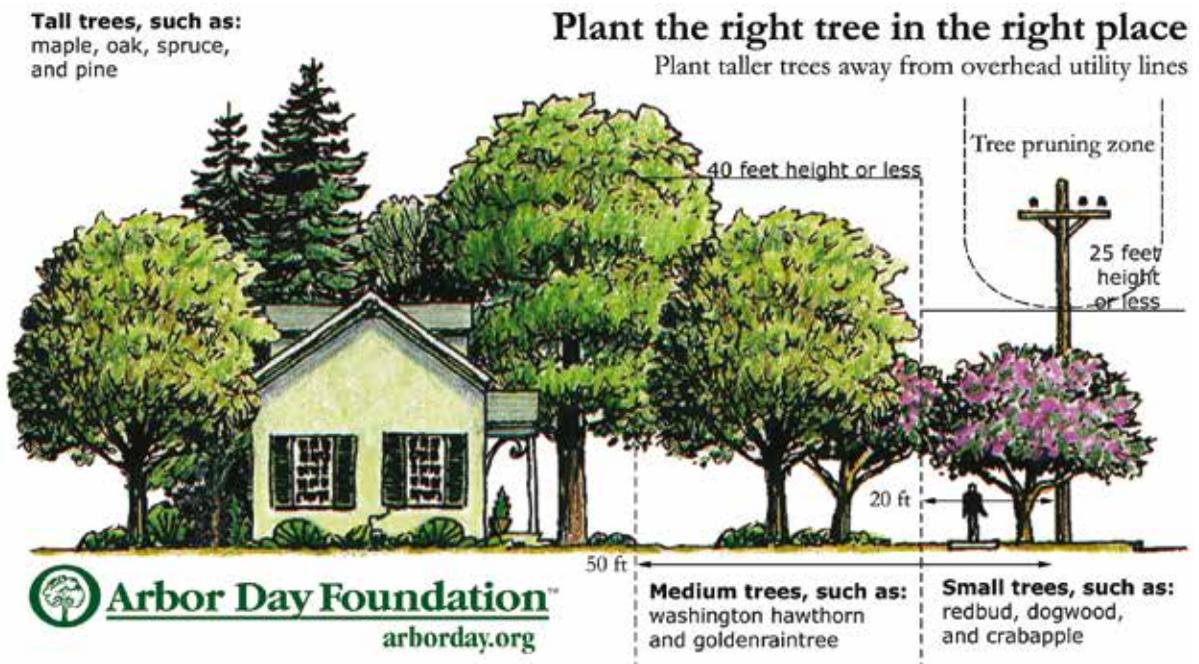
While ensuring our lines stay clear, South River EMC takes very seriously our goal of being good environmental stewards, which is why we have a strategically planned Integrated Vegetation Program.

This approach, which is evaluated for safety and environmental impact, includes both mechanical equipment (such as tractors, bush hogs and chain saws) as well as the spraying of chemical herbicides that have been tested and approved by the EPA. Spraying of ROW is done in strict accordance with prescribed regulations.

The Cooperative's ROW program covers 3,133 miles of overhead line, which includes 116 miles of high-powered transmission lines, giving our 44,000 members electricity.

As a member of the Cooperative, you are typically notified of either type of right-of-way clearing, as long as you have your contact information on your account.

South River EMC reminds you to be careful where you plant, and to call 811 before you dig.



CONGRATS TO 'GIVE US AN A' RECIPIENTS!

The following students received a \$25 gift card as part of the Give Us An A program:

Ty'Lek Blackledge
Reid Ross Classical Middle

Claire Joyce
St. Ann Catholic School

Ian Kersh
Mac Williams Middle

Jay'Veonte Byron
Overhills Middle

Adam Miller
Meadow School

Tyler Randolph
Western Harnett Middle

Jaime Brunson
Village Christian Academy

Alicia Stewart
Overhills Middle

Makenzi Hudson
Midway High

Kaitlynn Davis
Cape Fear High

Britney Watson
Pine Forest High

Andrea Lewis
Western Harnett Middle

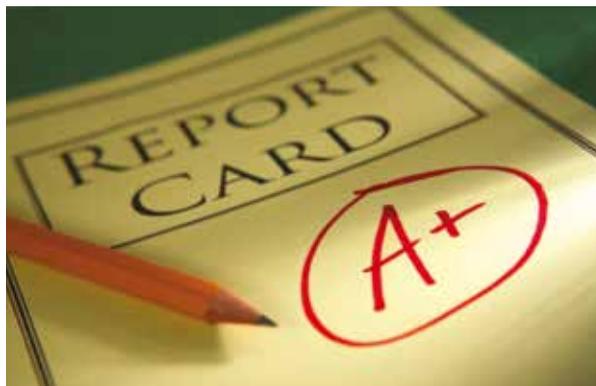
John Paroli
Jack Britt High

Harmoney Brewington
Clement Elementary

Thomas Bullard
Mac Williams Middle

This program selects 15 students who have received at least one A on their most recent report card.

Names are selected in July and February. Details can be found at sremc.com.



LAST CALL FOR YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS

Are you an educator with a budget that doesn't cover all your great ideas to help your students?

The Bright Ideas grant program might be perfect.

This program offers grants for up to \$2,500 for innovative, classroom-based ideas.

The best part? There's no limit to how many grants you can write or receive.

Bright Ideas originated in 1994, to help teachers who spend hundreds of dollars of their

own money on materials for their students.

With budget cuts always on everyone's mind, Bright Ideas is more important than ever.

Grants can be written for any subject, and by any educator at the school, as long as the grant is not for professional development.

Applications are due by September 19 at ncbrightideas.com.

This is the only way South River EMC, your sponsoring electric cooperative, accepts grants.

If you have questions in regards to Bright Ideas grants, you can visit sremc.com/content/bright-ideas, ncbrightideas.com or you can e-mail sremc@sremc.com.

Don't delay as the deadline approaches, if you have an idea, start

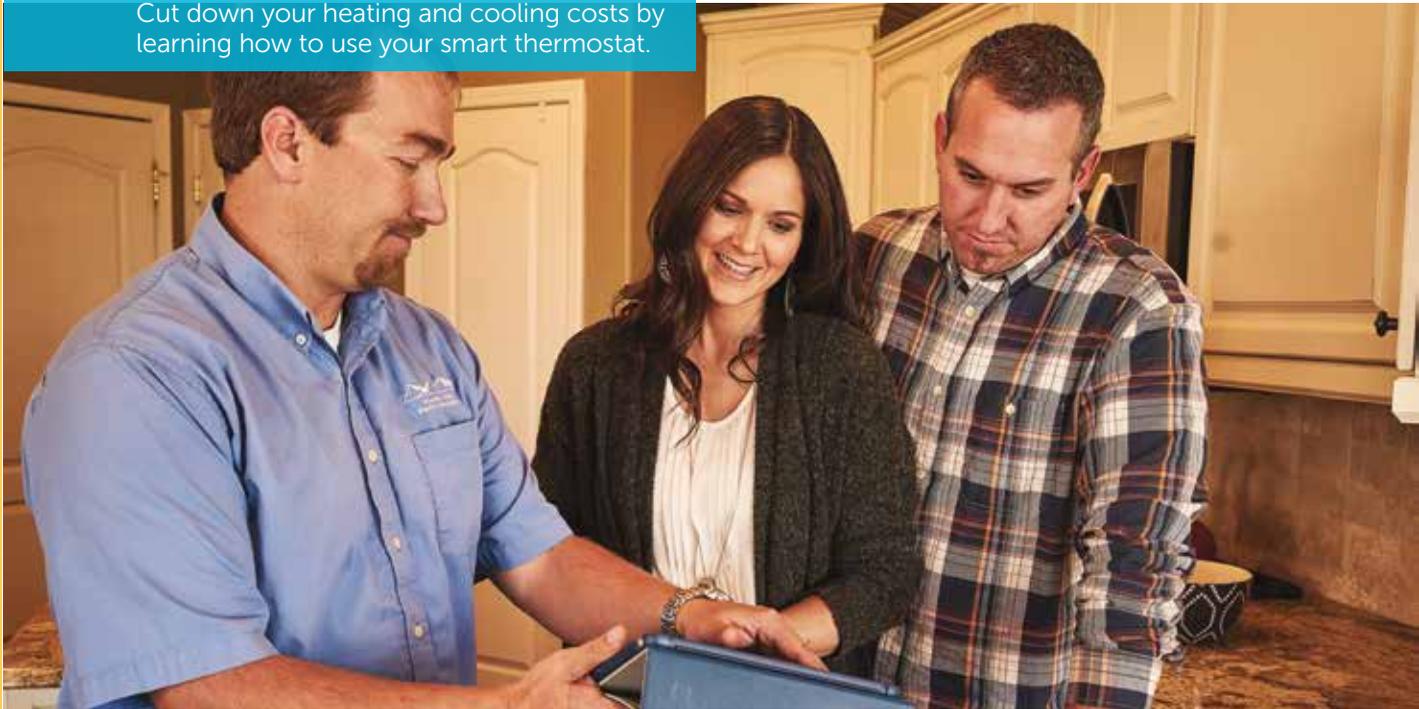
today! You can start a grant application, save it and come back to it, as long as it is submitted by September 19.

Make sure to have your principal's approval before you submit.

Visit ncbrightideas.com.



Cut down your heating and cooling costs by learning how to use your smart thermostat.



A Smart Thermostat Is Smarter With You

A smart thermostat can help you save, but you have to get involved. Installing a smart thermostat is just the beginning.

Program it, because if you don't, it won't help you save. Adjusting the settings will alter your

savings, but the ability to access your smart thermostat via Wi-Fi, means you can change the settings from your mobile device.

Buy a smart thermostat if you want to save energy and money, it can teach you a lot about

how you use energy when it comes to heating and cooling your home. Learn more about smart thermostats and the rebate offered by South River EMC at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Does Your Heating And Cooling System Need Help?

When the time comes, don't rush to replace your heating and cooling unit with a similar one, find a more efficient system to help save energy and money.

There are several types of heating and cooling systems to choose from, and if you're going to invest, you want it to be a good purchase.

First is an air source heat pump, if you have a heat pump, this is more than likely your current system. Pulling heat or cold from the air, it heats and cools your home. With a higher sea-

sonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating of 17 or higher, this is a good replacement

Next is the mini-split system, which has two main components: an outdoor compressor/condenser, and an indoor air-handling unit. A conduit links the units. These systems are great for additions or outbuildings not linked to the home heating and cooling system.

Finally, the geothermal heat pump, which uses the relatively constant ground temperature to heat and cool your home. This system needs ground-

space, but is highly efficient in heating and cooling your home. With a higher SEER rating than the other systems, it helps save energy and money.

Why is the SEER rating so important? Because it measures the cooling efficiency of the system. The higher the SEER rating, the more efficient a job it does, which helps on costs.

Plus, South River EMC offers several rebates on high-efficiency heat pumps. For complete details, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Look For The Star, And Savings

Appliance costs can add up. Do yourself a favor, purchase Energy Star certified appliances because they can save you energy, money and water.

Energy Star appliances undergo rigorous testing to make sure they're efficient enough to carry the Energy Star.

South River EMC offers a rebate

on Energy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washers, dryers and dehumidifiers. Information can be found at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Improving Comfort And Costs

Installing insulation and weatherizing your home might not seem like a big deal, but it is, because it helps you save and improves your comfort.

By making a few improvements, you might alter your habits; when that happens, you can begin saving energy.

South River EMC rebates on these improvements, information can be found at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Why Your Water Heater Choice Is Important

Picking the right water heater can help you save since water heating is the second highest energy cost in homes. Don't settle for replacing your current water heater with another storage water heater.

Consider a heat pump water heater, a system that uses electricity to move heat from one place to another instead of

generating it. In doing this, they can be two to three times more efficient than a standard water heater.

A solar water heater would help you save as well, but you've got some research to do. Do you have enough sun? Do you use enough hot water? Are there building codes to prevent this type of system? You have to

make sure the system makes sense for your family, both physically and monetarily.

South River EMC offers rebates on energy efficient water heaters, \$200 for a heat pump water heater and \$150 for solar water heater. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.



Weatherizing and insulating helps heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort.

Do Your Homework Before Buying That Solar Array

You might find yourself asking, “Is solar right for me?” Whether investing in solar at your home, or if you’re considering installing solar, knowing the facts is imperative.

Placement of solar panels depends on many factors including sun exposure. A south-facing roof is optimal. Also, a roof that is not shaded from trees is critical. Finally, the age of the roof needs to be considered, since the panels will need to be removed for re-roofing. If your roof isn’t ideal, you might consider a freestanding array, which is built on the ground and has more flexibility for placement. To get an idea of potential solar production at your location, go to pvwatts.com and enter your address. This site provides potential energy output based on location and generator size.

The next step is to decide which type of interconnection is right for you. South River EMC currently offers net metering and “buy all, sell all.”

If you choose net metering, a bi-directional meter is used to read forward and reverse flow. With net metering, the priority for the solar-produced energy is in the home, but when the system is producing more power than the home consumes, the excess power flows back through the meter and onto the grid (i.e. reverse flow). This reverse flow results in an energy credit on your electric bill. Sizing appropriately is very important since there are no cash payouts, only credits. You should consider any energy efficiency upgrades before sizing. For example, replacing an old electric furnace with a high-efficiency heat pump and adding insulation will significantly cut energy use, thus lowering the size of the solar system needed. It is important to note that the reverse flow and the total solar production will not correlate since some, or all, of the solar energy is used in the home and not metered.

The other type of interconnection is “buy all, sell all.” With this type interconnection, a new meter is added for the solar panels. This new meter records solar energy that is generated and the member is paid for the power produced at the Cooperative’s current avoided cost. The original home electric meter is not changed.



Advise Guy Robby Talton

For many, the most critical point to consider before making a decision to go solar is economics. The easiest way to figure the economic value is to complete a simple payback calculation. You can go online to energysage.com to get competing quotes on residential solar. Once you have quotes or total cost of the solar system, divide total cost by the yearly amount of solar produced to get payback in years, potential monthly and yearly solar production can be obtained at pvwatts.com website. Remember that there is currently a 30% federal tax credit that expires in 2019, that can be deducted from the total cost. Your insurance company needs to be informed of the solar array to insure coverage, so don’t forget to add any increased insurance premium to your total cost. South River EMC currently requires interconnected members to pay a \$5 month interconnection fee to help cover administrative processes born with these accounts. Now that you have all the details, you can make an informed decision on solar power.

For more information or questions, please contact Robby Talton at 910.892.8071 ext. 2152.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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