



South River EMC Communicator

A DAY AT THE PARK

Have you ever visited Raven Rock State Park in Lillington?

Over the years, water and wind have eroded the land, creating Raven Rock, an immense crystalline structure that rises to 150 feet and stretches for more than a mile along the Cape Fear River.

Originally called Patterson's Rock, its name changed in 1854 to Raven Rock, inspired by the sight of ravens that formerly roosted on the rock ledges.

This Harnett County gem sits along the fall zone, a place where the hard, resistant rocks of the foothills give way to the softer rocks and sediment of the coastal plains.

It brings visitors from all over to enjoy the recreation and beauty of nature.



The Raven Rock

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MESSAGE FROM CEO CHRIS M. SPEARS

A TIME TO CELEBRATE CO-OPS

will be refunding over \$4 million to members who received electric service in 1999 or 2017. Additionally, since South River EMC's revenues are running above projections, a power cost adjustment CREDIT will appear on bills until the end of the year. South River EMC will give about \$2 million in bill credits to current members.

Cooperatives such as South River EMC are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their members. A board of directors, each of whom is an electric co-op member elected by their fellow members, governs South River EMC.

One very special aspect of cooperatives

is our involvement in the communities that we serve. Because we are locally owned and governed, we have a stake in the well-being of our communities and our members. Through programs like Operation Round Up and the Bright Ideas Grant programs, we are making an investment in the future of our communities.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of our members. This is the driving force behind South River EMC's current effort to perform a feasibility study to determine if there is an unmet need in our communities

for broadband Internet access. The National Rural Telecommunication Cooperative, NRTC, is performing this study.

The cooperative business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Cooperatives strive to be a trusted voice in the communities. We have earned that trust because, while not perfect, we always have our members' best interest at heart and we are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the five communities where we provide electric service. This is why we take great pride in being a part of the cooperative movement.

The energy industry is undergoing dramatic changes. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high and consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The popularity of smart-phone apps and smart technology for the home is increasing and consumers are beginning to show interest in electric vehicles.

Without a doubt, electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Rest assured South River EMC is ready to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are non-profit so they return money to their members. In November, South River EMC





The Overlook, located off the Raven Rock Loop Trail.

PARK continued from A

“We see around 250,000 visitors at the park each year,” said John Privette, superintendent of Raven Rock State Park. “And that number continues to grow.”

A large amount of those visitors come during the summer to spend time with family or work out.

Currently the park boasts 4,684 acres on either side of the Cape Fear River. This is considerable growth since its 1969 inception with just 220 acres. However, it has grown as land was purchased and donated to the park.

“This area is like you took a scoop of the foothills,” said Privette. “And then dropped it right here, that’s what you have.”

The acreage features six walking trails, two bridle or horse trails, and one biking trail, as well as the information center. This also leaves room for another activity at Raven Rock, camping.

Sites are for backpack camping, meaning that supplies, like water, must be carried in on your back. There is no car access. Each site has a fire ring with a grill as well as a vault toilet.

There are five family wilderness camp sites, each campsite sleeps six just off the Campbell Loop Trail; and there are six canoe camp sites, which can accommodate six campers per site, accessible off the Cape Fear River Canoe Trail. For larger groups,

there are five sites that can accommodate 26 people per site, each with a fire pit and grill. Remember, your supplies must be packed to the sites.

Raven Rock is considering adding to the existing activities.

“We’re looking at adding a drive up camping area,” said Privette. “As well as adding to our trails.”

That’s not all the park has to offer, or plans to offer.

“We were short staffed for a bit,” said Privette. “But now we have personnel in place to offer more programming at the information center.”

This includes safety or educational classes with sensory items

for kids to learn more about the outdoors.

School field trips are also welcome for nature hikes, learning about and experiencing nature.

Bird watching is another popular activity with visitors, and many of those bird lovers can identify the birds by their calls.

With most outdoor activities, weather is key. Before heading out to Raven Rock, be sure to visit their web site, ncparks.gov/raven-rock-state-park, to see if there are any trail closings.

With the right staff in place to teach, lead and welcome you to Rock State Park, it’s a great place to visit.



Campbell Creek Loop Trail

Do You Use Your Bank Bill Payment Service?

In keeping with our commitment to control costs, South River EMC has a new banking partner to provide the best service for our needs. This change will enable us to gain better pricing, a greater selection of products to enhance our business and improved processes to enrich our workflow. One of the changes is the addition of a lockbox for payment processing.

If you pay your electric bill through your bank's

online bill payment service, we ask that you verify some information with your bank to ensure the quick and efficient delivery of your payment to South River EMC that you have come to expect.

Please visit your bank's online bill payment site. When there, pull

up the information you provided to begin payments to South River EMC. Please verify that your electric account number is the same number on your bill.

Additionally, make sure the billing address for South River EMC is changed to P.O. Box 744757, Atlanta, GA

30374-4757. Although we are an electronic payee, this update is important in the event the bank needs to mail the payment.

If you have multiple electric accounts with South River EMC, please set up a separate payment account with your bank for each electric account. This will eliminate any confusion when we receive your payment.

South River EMC is committed to delivering value daily.



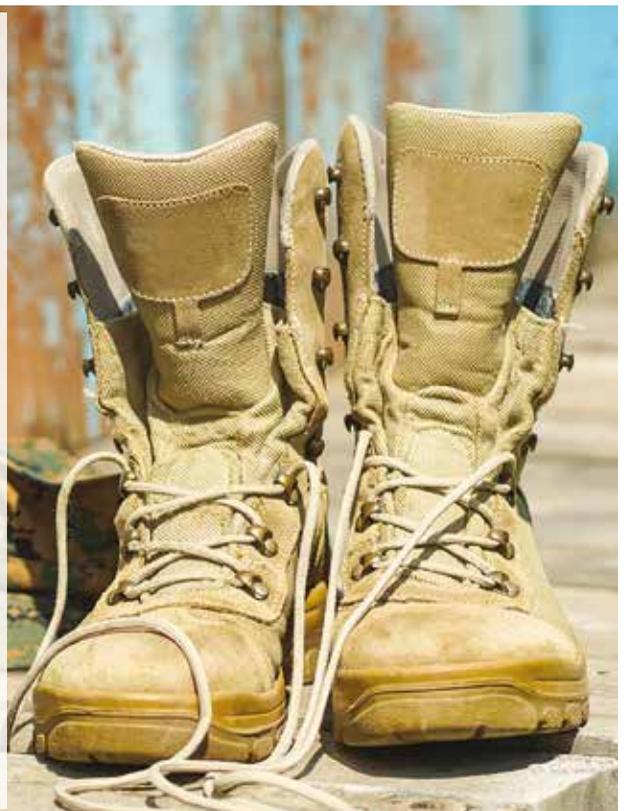
Are you currently in the **military** (or recently separated) and considering a job as an **electric lineman** when you separate? If so, we have a program for you!

Boots To Buckets

South River EMC offers a scholarship to attend Nash Community College's Electric Line Academy.

Visit sremc.com for details or call 910-230-2982.

Applications due November 30.



SHARING THE ROAD WITH FARM EQUIPMENT

The agricultural industry is one of North Carolina's largest employers. In order for farmers to do their job, they must move their equipment from field to field on public roads, which they're legally entitled to travel.

During harvest season, you're sure to find yourself sharing the road with large, slow-moving farm equipment. Be cautious, 51 percent of all crashes involving farm equipment result in injury or death.

Since most farm equipment moves less than 25 miles per hour, you must be alert when sharing the road with it. Unlike automobiles, agricultural equipment isn't designed for high speeds, as they can make equipment unstable and lead to an overturn, especially in sharp turns. When driving fast, the operator has less time to react and rough ground may cause him or her to be thrown from the machine.

Under state law, farm tractors are required to have one front white light as well as a rear red light visible

for up to 500 feet. Two red reflectors at least four inches in diameter can replace the rear red light. You might also notice a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) sign on the rear end of machinery. An SMV sign is not required, although it is encouraged.

Proceed with caution. Even with attachments pulled tight to the body of a tractor, many are over 15 feet wide and moving off to a narrow shoulder does not give much space for cars to pass. Most crashes involving farm equipment occur on a clear day, during daylight hours, and/or on a dry, paved, surface.

Typically, crashes include sideswipes and angle crashes. This occurs when equipment is turning left and a motorist tries to pass.



In some cases, a farmer uses a left hand signal, and drivers mistake this as a sign for them to pass. Many farmers will use hand signals to warn drivers when they are turning or stopping.

The key is to be patient. If farm equipment is causing a delay in traffic, the farmer will typically move off the road at the nearest practical location to allow the traffic to pass. Due to the high cost of equipment and repairs, the farmer is looking for the safest location to pull over, not the soonest.

Avoid potentially dangerous encounters with farm equipment by following these tips:

- Recognize and respect the slow-moving vehicle and slow down as if approaching a

stoplight if you come up on one.

- Watch for hand signals. Don't assume that a vehicle pulling to the side of the road is going to turn or is letting you pass. Make sure the driver sees you before you try to pass.

- Obey the rules of the road. It is illegal and dangerous to pass farm equipment in a no passing zone.

- Keep your distance and slow down when you see a slow-moving vehicle's flashing turn signal.

- Be patient. It's not easy for the farmer to move aside to let you pass, especially when road shoulders are questionable.

- Always make sure the road ahead and behind is clear before you pass. Don't depend on the driver to wave you around.

- Remember, farm equipment cannot stop or slow down as quickly as an automobile.

Keep your family safe by being patient and watching out for farm equipment.

Make plans to be more efficient by building a tighter home with energy-saving appliances.



HERO Homes: More Efficient, More Comfortable

If you want a home that will save you money, purchase a home that will save you energy. A high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is 30 percent more energy efficient than homes built to North Carolina's current code.

A HERO home requires slightly better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages to deliver greater savings. If you're interested in saving money, start with the structure itself.

to builders and home buyers in the South River EMC area for building or purchasing a new HERO certified home.

For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

South River EMC offers rebates

Choose The Energy Star Distinction For Savings

The Energy Star label was established to make it easy to identify and purchase energy-efficient products that offer energy savings without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort.

Products earn this distinction by meeting the energy efficiency requirements set forth in Energy Star product specifications, by the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA.

The products must:

- Contribute significant energy savings nationwide
- Deliver the features and performance demanded by consumers, in addition to increased efficiency
- Have the ability to recover the investment in a higher product cost through utility bill savings in a reasonable amount of time
- Have energy efficiency that can be achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies
- Have product energy consumption and performance that can be measured and verified
- Shows that labeling would effectively differentiate products and be visible for purchasers

Why do you want to know this? So you can seriously consider Energy Star certified products when replacing appliances. South River EMC offers a \$20 rebate on the purchase of an Energy Star certified refrigerator, clothes washer, dryer and dehumidifier.

For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Insulate And Weatherize To Save This Season

When you're uncomfortable, you probably don't think much about costs. If it's too hot, you adjust the thermostat. Too cold, adjust the thermostat.

However, all that adjusting adds up, when with just a few improvements, you could be saving energy and money without sacrificing comfort. Weatherizing and insulating are the ways

to make it happen.

By weather stripping and caulking around the house, you prevent air infiltration or the exchange of air from indoors to outdoors; that's air that you pay to heat and cool. With insulation, you prevent heat transfer, or heat moving from outside your house in, or vice versa. That means hot house in the

summer and cold house in the winter, and you're adjusting the thermostat to fix it!

So weather strip, caulk and check, replace, or fix your insulation. You could be eligible for a rebate.

For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Making Every Dollar Count

Heating and cooling your home is important for you, your family, and guests. What would you say if you could save money on heating and cooling?

It might mean spending a little more money upfront, but if you can save money over the lifespan of the system, isn't that the best buy? When looking at heating and cooling systems, consider the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating.

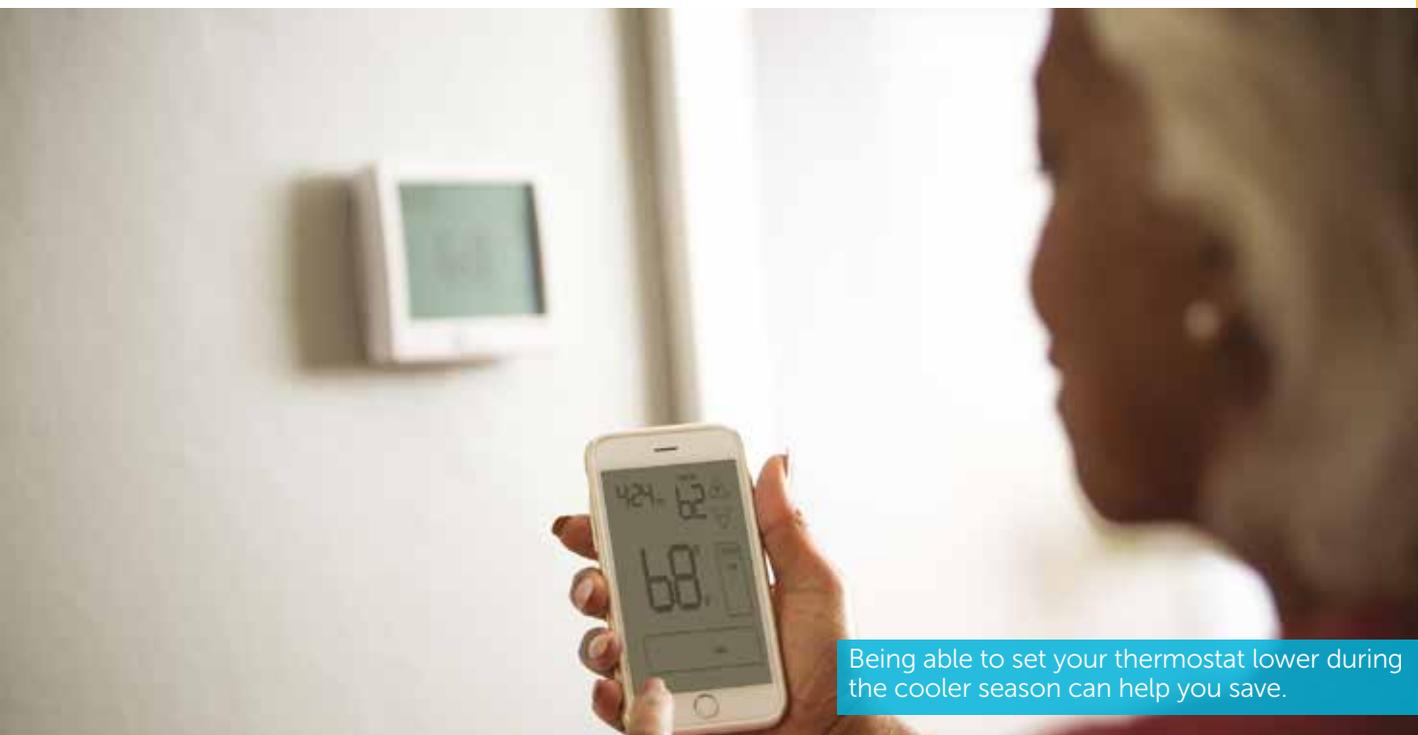
The SEER rating measures the cooling efficiency of heating and cooling equipment. The higher the SEER, the more efficient the system is at cooling, which is important for North Carolina heat.

If you look at heat pumps, your best choice for electric heating and cooling systems, there are several options, which include air source, mini split and geothermal heat pumps. Take time

to find the unit that fits your home and family best.

South River EMC offers several rebates to homeowners who purchase high efficiency systems, for complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Prepare today so you're ready tomorrow.



Being able to set your thermostat lower during the cooler season can help you save.

Smart Day, Smart Thermostat

Do you ever wonder about your home energy costs?

You have, if it's not a shock that heating and cooling makes up half your electric bill.

You understand there are ways to change that, be it purchasing a high efficiency unit, through home improvements, or installing a smart thermostat.

Smart thermostats are great, and can help you save, but you must help them to help you. Just buying a thermostat and installing it does nothing.

Read about programming it,

and use it!

A smart thermostat can be accessed from anywhere you have Wi-Fi, be that work, or just sitting on your couch.

Did you change the setting because it was so hot when you were home yesterday and forgot to change it back? Not a problem.

They're easy to use, even more



so if you read the manual, and they can teach you a lot as well.

For details on the rebate offered on smart thermostats, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Do You Know What Your Water Heater Costs?

Take a minute to consider your water heater, periodically warming your water, do you realize what it costs you?

Water heating is the second highest electric cost in your home, and there are several things you can do about that. Foremost, make sure you have an efficient water heater. Sure, the conventional storage unit is the cheapest to buy, but is it the best energy user?

A heat pump water heater uses energy to move heat, rather than produce it. More efficient than a standard system, it can help you save, although it does

have to be located in a 40-90 degree area.

Maybe you've been looking into solar water heating? It can help you save but you have to make sure it's right for you and your family.

Solar water heaters use a natural resource, the sun, to heat water, so you need to make sure you receive enough sun to sustain it.

Once you pick a system that best meets your needs, you use it. Set your water heater at 120 degrees at the highest. Also, wrap your water heater pipes,

so you don't lose the heat as water travels to you. Consider showers over baths to cut down on water use.

You're well on your way to savings if you start with the right water heater and practice energy saving tips.

South River EMC offers a \$200 rebate on heat pump water heaters and a \$150 rebate on solar water heaters, for more information visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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