



# South River EMC Communicator

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Mark Your Calendars

*South River EMC Annual Meeting of Members*

*Thursday, April 11*

*Crown Theatre and Arena, Fayetteville*

*Doors open at 6 p.m.*



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## NOMINATIONS MADE BY COMMITTEE

The South River EMC nominating committee met on January 3 to make nominations for the election of directors to be held during the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members on April 11 at the Crown Center in Fayetteville.

*The following members have been nominated:*

**District 4:** Jeffery Martin

**District 6:** Dr. E. Sue Godwin-Baker

**District 8:** Clifton McNeill Jr.

Terms of office for directors are staggered so only three expire each year. The ways which directors may be elected:

1. By petition. Any 150 members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make nominations

in writing, listing the nominees separately with respect to the particular term and the particular directorate district from which they are nominated, not less than 40 business days prior to the meeting.

2. From nominations by a committee on nominations.

**2018 Nominating Committee Members:**

District 1 - Glenda Taylor

District 2 - Raylon Wood

District 3 - Iris Lucas

District 4 - Johnnie Baggett

District 5 - Anthony "Tony" Warren

Warren

District 6 - Carol Hudson

District 7 - Warren Paul Jones

District 8 - Walter Clark

At Large - Alexander Eastman



Left to right: Glenda Taylor, Walter Clark, Carol Hudson, Alexander Eastman, Iris Lucas, Johnnie Baggett, Warren Paul Jones, Raylon Wood and Tony Warren.

## AN AWESOME BASKETBALL OPPORTUNITY

**S**outh River EMC is offering local middle school students an awesome opportunity.

Current fifth, sixth and seventh graders who love basketball can apply for the Touchstone Energy Basketball camps offered at NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill.

This opportunity gives boys and girls a unique experience to attend basketball camp on one of two of the state's largest college campuses.

Cooperatives across the state encourage students statewide to apply for 50 all-expenses-paid scholarships to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill (June 22-26)

and the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Academy at NC State (June 9-12).

The overnight camps are held over summer break, and campers work with coaches and players to develop fundamental skills, helping them perform and excel both on and off the court.

Campers must:

- Be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grader.
- Attend a school in the South River EMC service area.
- Have permission from a parent or guardian to attend.

- Have their own transportation to and from camp.

Winners will attend the camps courtesy of South River EMC. The Cooperative funds one scholarship to each camp.

Applications are scored on academics, extracurricular activities and an essay that must accompany the application. The application period closes March 31.

Eligible students interested in this opportunity can call 910-892-8071, or download an application from [sremc.com/content/basketball-camps](http://sremc.com/content/basketball-camps).



## LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT THOSE A'S!

South River EMC will be holding their "Give Us An A" drawing **February 5**.

So grab your child's most recent report card containing at least one 'A' on it and submit it to:

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

Or: [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).

You must include the member's name, address South River EMC account number and daytime



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

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. Don't miss an opportunity to celebrate good grades, send that report card to us.

## Local Teachers And Their Bright Ideas

Educators across South River EMC's service area saw some of their bright ideas become a reality.

A total of 40 Bright Ideas applications were chosen for funding in the 2018-2019 school year, totaling \$59,935. These grants will affect the lives of about 9,692 students in our communities this year alone!

Since the program's 1994 inception, South River EMC has awarded \$1,107,545 in Bright Ideas grant funding. Statewide, the program has funded over \$11.5 million.

"The Bright Ideas Grant program is an investment that will pay dividends to our community for years to come," said Catherine O'Dell. "The funds provided to teachers through this program keep educators from having to dip into their own pockets to

provide exceptional educational opportunities for students."

Funding decisions are never easy, 176 grant applications were submitted for 2018-2019.

Grant requests range from technology to sewing equipment, math manipulatives to books, encompassing all subject matters. The selected teachers represent 24 schools from four counties.

Winning applications were chosen based on the innovative presentation of their idea and a well-written application.

Teachers receiving grants were featured on South River EMC's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Funding is typically around \$50,000, but the Cooperative's Operation Round Up program awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Bright Ideas program. This provides an even greater opportunity for educators to bring new learning experiences to their classrooms.

For more information on Bright Ideas visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or [nc-brightideas.com](http://nc-brightideas.com).



# ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.



## Switches And Outlets

### Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?

Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.

Yes No

### Are any switches or outlets discolored?

Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.

Yes No

### Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?

Loose fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

Yes No

## Cords

### Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?

Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shocks or fire hazard.

Yes No

### Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?

Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.

Yes No

### Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?

Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

Yes No

## Electric Panel

### Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?

If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.

Yes No

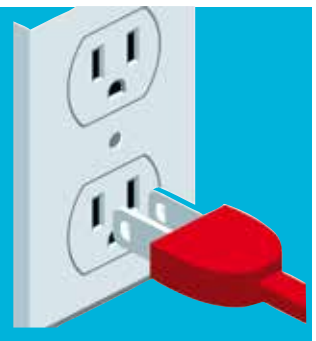
### Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?

AFCI provide greater fire protection.

Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.

Yes No

*Please note this is not a comprehensive safety checklist.  
Visit [ESFI.org](http://ESFI.org) for more information,*



## LOOKING FOR SOUTH RIVER SCENES

**D**o you enjoy taking photos? If so, we have just the activity for you. South River EMC is hosting an amateur photo contest and we want to see your handy work.

All photos must be taken somewhere in the five counties served by South River EMC and feature landscape, buildings, landmark or anything you think defines our communities.

As long as there are sufficient entries, we will have adult, high school (grades 9-12), middle school (grades 6-8) and elementary school (1-5) categories. The adult division will have a first, second and third place winner. A single winner will be selected from each of the

high school, middle school and elementary school categories. There must be a minimum of entries by three different photographers for each category in order for that category to be considered for judging.

Photos will be on display at each South River EMC office March 25-April 5 and at the South River EMC Annual Meeting of Members on April 11 at the Crown Center. Members can view the photos and cast their vote for their favorite photo from each category. The photo that receives the most votes from each category will be declared the winner.

Photographs must be a minimum of



3" x 5" and a maximum of 8"x 10". All photos must be mounted on a flat rigid cardboard or mat board. Each photo should have an accompanying description of the photo including the significance of the subject and where it was photographed (including

city/community and county). This description must be printed on an 8½ x 11' sheet of white paper. Photographer's name, address and phone number must be on the back of the mounted image. All submissions must be submitted along with a signed copy of the contest rules. The deadline for submissions is March 22, 2019.

Visit [sremc.com/content/annual-meeting](http://sremc.com/content/annual-meeting) for complete details and contest rules. We look forward to seeing all of the beautiful photos from across the area.

For details please contact South River EMC at 910-230-2982 or [sremc@sremc.com](mailto:sremc@sremc.com)







Don't worry, smart shopping can help you save.

## On The Go And In Control

Be on the go and in control of your heating and cooling costs with a smart thermostat.

With a smart thermostat, you could also be eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. For

complete details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

## Oh, That's Not Important... Or Is It?

Heating your water is important, which is why you don't take cold showers for three weeks while you select a new water heater.

er, ahead of time, you can be ready. Check the system's efficiency, space requirements, the cost to purchase and install, and consider the payback period.

best deal for you. Read up on these systems, and see which one is your best deal. Maybe you can cut down on water heating costs as well. For details on the rebates South River EMC offers, call 910.892.8071 x 2152 or visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com).

However, by selecting a heat pump or solar water heat-

Just because it sounds like a great deal, doesn't mean it's the

## Pick The Pump That Suits You

Are you considering a new heating and cooling system? Depending on the age, that's not a bad idea.

Most homeowners have an air source unit, while mini-splits are used for areas unconnected to the existing heating and cooling system. Meanwhile, the most efficient geothermal unit, can usually be found in new construction, since it involves digging to install.

efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating to narrow down choices. SEER measures the cooling efficiency of a system, which is important for humid summers.

Heat pumps transfer heat energy from a heat source (i.e. the earth, or air) into the home. For climates with moderate heating and cooling needs, heat pumps offer an energy-efficient alternative to furnaces and air conditioners.

If you're considering a new system, no matter the type, make sure to use the seasonal energy

South River EMC offers several rebates on high efficiency (17 SEER or greater) systems. For full details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

## HERO, The Home That Helps Save

Homes cost money to buy and money to run. If you're looking for savings, consider a high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home, which is 30 per-

cent more efficient than homes built to code.

For information on the HERO home code you can visit

[energycodes.gov](http://energycodes.gov). Visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) to see rebate options available for HERO homes. For questions, call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

## Pool Pumps, Now? Yeah, Right!

Is it really time to think about pools? No, but it will be before you know it! If you want to save, begin by looking at variable or

two speed pumps, which use less energy and water.

So, no, you don't have to think about pools. But if you do, think

about the pumps and which can save you the most. Visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152 for details on rebates.

## How Improvements Can Help You

Increase comfort with home improvements. That's right, by weather stripping around doors and windows, caulking around plumbing and electrical penetrations, and replacing

insulation, you could solve two problems – comfort and cost.

With warmth lost through infiltration and heat transfer, these small improvements can also improve

comfort and cost as well.

South River EMC offers insulation and weatherization rebates, for details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

## Pay Attention To Those Labels

When appliance shopping, consider labels and features to help you purchase appliances with low operating costs.

ances that have undergone rigorous testing to prove their efficiency.

If you purchase an Energy Star certified refrigerator, clothes washer, dryer, or dehumidifier,

you could be eligible for a rebate.

For complete details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.



Make sure you have enough insulation at the right depth to maintain comfortable temperatures.

### Smart Thermostats Can Help You Save

Did you know that 48 percent of the average monthly residential energy bill is heating and cooling costs? Decreasing the runtime of your heating, cooling, and ventilation system (HVAC) is the key to lower energy bills.

The amount of time your HVAC system runs during the month depends on the weather. To lower your energy use, it's important to address insulation and weatherization issues in your home. However, did you know that your thermostat plays a big role? The thermostat is the brain of the HVAC system. The type of thermostat you have, and how you operate it, makes all the difference when it comes to energy savings. Advances in technology have made it easier than ever to customize your heating and cooling schedule, thereby limiting the amount of time your HVAC system operates when you're away from home.

There are four types of thermostats on the market: mechanical, electronic, connected, and smart. Mechanical thermostats operate with bimetal coils and either mercury bulbs or magnets. These are found on older systems and, over time, can become inaccurate. For the last 15 years, the majority of thermostats installed have been electronic. These thermostats are highly accurate and often have a programmable feature that allows the user to build a five- or

seven-day schedule. This programmability allows the homeowner to automatically increase or decrease temperature during times when they are normally away. This limits HVAC runtime and saves money. A connected thermostat offers the same features, with the added bonus of being Wi-Fi connected. Wi-Fi connectivity allows the user to adjust the temperature setting remotely. A smart thermostat is electronic, programmable, Wi-Fi connected, and has the ability to "learn" or alter its operation based on the activity of the homeowner.

There are many smart thermostat brands, but Nest and Ecobee are the most recognizable. Both have the goal of saving the customer money on heating and cooling costs, but each brand does it in a different way. The Nest is primarily a "learning" thermostat. For the first two weeks, the homeowner sets the device to whatever comfort level they desire during the day. After this initial period, the thermostat uses that temperature information, and information from motion sensors, to determine when the home is occupied or unoccupied. The thermostat then adjusts the temperature accordingly. The Ecobee on the other hand, allows the user to build a seven-day schedule and uses the provided motion and temperature sensors to detect occu-



Advise Guy Aaron Jackson

pancy in the home. If someone happens to come home during a part of the day when the thermostat is scheduled to be in "Away" mode, it switches to the "Home" mode temperature setting. Both brands are controllable via a smartphone app or website and both offer the customer information on how their HVAC system is operating. The Ecobee for example, records HVAC system activity including the time the unit starts, the duration of the run, the temperature inside the home, and the outdoor temperature. Information like this allows a homeowner to really "dial in" their HVAC settings for maximum comfort and maximum energy savings.

South River EMC offers a \$20 one-time rebate for the purchase and installation of a smart thermostat, and I'll be happy to help you take advantage of that offer.

## South River EMC Communicator



Follow Us! [southriveremc](http://southriveremc.com)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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