

# South River EMC Communicator

November 2025

## Wawa Travel Center Now Open In Hope Mills

By Faith Hatton

*This article was originally published by the Greater Fayetteville Business Journal.* On Thursday, Aug. 28, Wawa, Inc., announced a significant milestone in its history: the grand opening of its first travel center. Located in Cumberland County at 630 Chicken Foot Road in Hope Mills, North Carolina, the store is the first of its kind chainwide designed to serve professional drivers, family travelers and local friends and neighbors.

To mark the milestone, Wawa was joined by hundreds of customers, local officials and community partners for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, parade of fuel and electric vehicle milestones and a “Hoagies for Heroes” hoagie-building competition honoring first responders.

“We’re thrilled to premier the new travel center format in Hope Mills and bring Wawa’s fresh food, beverages and convenience to local customers while serving a need to the community, travelers and professional drivers! This historic milestone kicks off the next chapter of our growth as we debut a new store format and prepare to bring it to additional locations in Ohio and Indiana in the coming months,” said Brian Schaller, president of Wawa in a press release.

Featuring over 8,000 square feet of space, the travel center offers Wawa’s signature fresh food menu, fuel for passenger vehicles and a high-speed diesel fuel court for the needs of professional tractor trailer drivers.

*continued on page B*



### Reminder:

South River EMC offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in recognition of Veterans Day and Nov. 27 & 28 in celebration of Thanksgiving.



South River EMC earns this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2024. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with South River EMC in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit [theacsi.org/](http://theacsi.org/) badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

Excitement for the new fuel offerings the day before at the Taste of Wawa sneak peek event. To highlight the features of this new facility, the Wawa team invited truckers and their families from across the country along with YouTubers Alex and Jena Mai AKA Mutha Trucker and Tommy, Brannon and Brian from the YouTube channel SEMI Casual to have the honors of being the first to fuel up their trucks during a "First Fuel" ceremony and also have the "First Honk" in the fuel bay.

Alex Mai, an experienced truck driver with over 10 years as an owner operator in the industry, shared his excitement for this new resource for other drivers.

"All these drivers are owner operators, family based, started from nothing, and they built incredible lives for themselves, and for me to be able to have the opportunity to invite them to be here and have that first honk. It was really amazing. I'm appreciative," shared Alex. "The fact that Wawa

provides free truck parking for them as well, it's such a big need right now in the trucking industry. When my drivers and my friends walked in here, and they're greeting everybody and make them feel special. It makes it feel like a second home, and that's what's important, because as drivers, we're away from our families, so we need a second home."

Dedicated to being at the grand opening, the SEMI Casual crew, who also build their custom trucks, worked their way through an unexpected travel delay, damage to their truck and two breakdowns just to be there.

"It was supposed to be an eight-hour drive, but it ended up being a 12-hour drive. It was an eventful trip down here, but we wanted to be here. We got the first ceremonial honk and put a horn in our truck that actually sounded like a goose," shared SEMI Casual Founder Tommy Fitzgerald. "It feels like this particular truck stop was built with owner operators and small fleets in mind. If you're not wanting to go

with a huge truck stop that's got hundreds and hundreds of trucks in it, then this is definitely the place for you. I mean this, it's very clean, the restrooms, the facilities, the inside, it's very spacious, it's not going to be elbows to elbows."

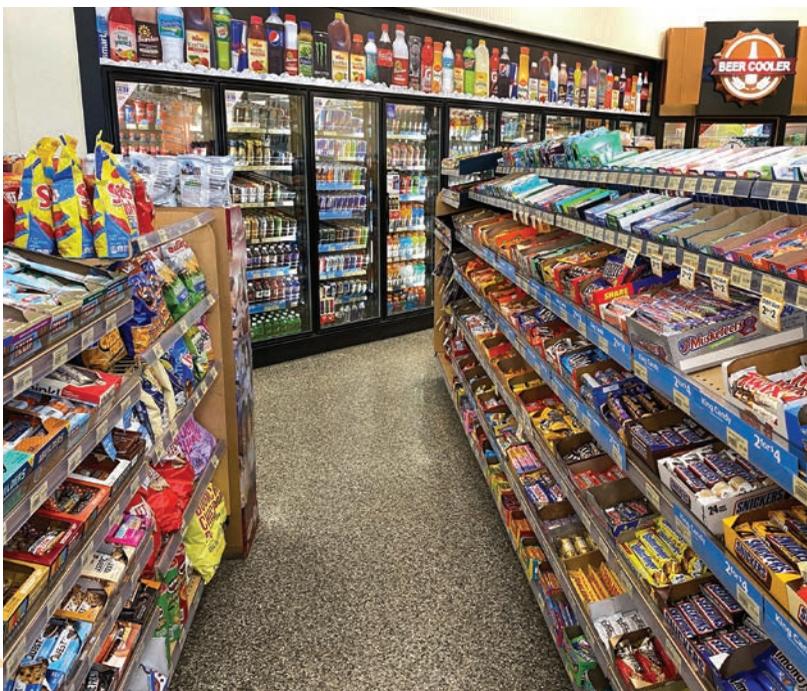
As part of the Taste of Wawa event, Wawa Inc. announced the launch of their Lending a Helping Hoagie program. During their first week, Wawa gave back with a portion of proceeds from every hoagie sold, up to \$2,500, to Second Harvest Food Bank in Fayetteville.

The grand opening also saw the return of another fundraising event, Hoagies for Heroes, where both the Hope Mills Police Department and Hope Mills Fire Department went head to head to win a donation towards a charity of their choice. The Hope Mills Police Department took home the title and \$1,000 for the Hope Mills Police Foundation.

The Hope Mills Fire Department also took home \$1,000 for local nonprofit the Alms House in Hope Mills.

The Wawa Travel Center is open 24 hours seven days a week. To learn more about the location's offerings you can go online to [wawa.com/travel-center](https://wawa.com/travel-center).

**NOTE:** "South River EMC is thrilled to power the new Wawa Travel Center and Tesla charging site," said Catherine O'Dell, vice president of public relations and member services. "This is more than just a stop — it's a meaningful addition to the community. We know this new destination will bring convenience, innovation, and energy to everyone it serves."



# 2026 Youth Tour Application Period Open

- ▶ The Youth Tour is a week-long trip to Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Scheduled for June 14-20
- ▶ For rising high school juniors and seniors
- ▶ Free to students who attend
- ▶ Take money for souvenirs
- ▶ Three students selected
- ▶ Applications due Dec. 30

## Events include:

- ▶ Youth Day
- ▶ Visiting Capitol Hill
- ▶ Meeting with NC Senators and Congressmen
- ▶ Visiting the sights of Washington, D.C., including monuments
- ▶ Visiting the Smithsonian museums
- ▶ Taking a boat trip down the Potomac River
- ▶ Seeing a show at the Kennedy Center, or taking in a Washington Nationals game
- ▶ Visiting the Newseum
- ▶ Attending an All States Dance.



Visit [sremc.com/electric-cooperative-youth-tour](https://sremc.com/electric-cooperative-youth-tour).



# Nominating Committee Appointed

South River EMC is planning for the 2026 Annual Meeting of Members. At a meeting of the Cooperative board of directors, the nominating committee was appointed in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws.

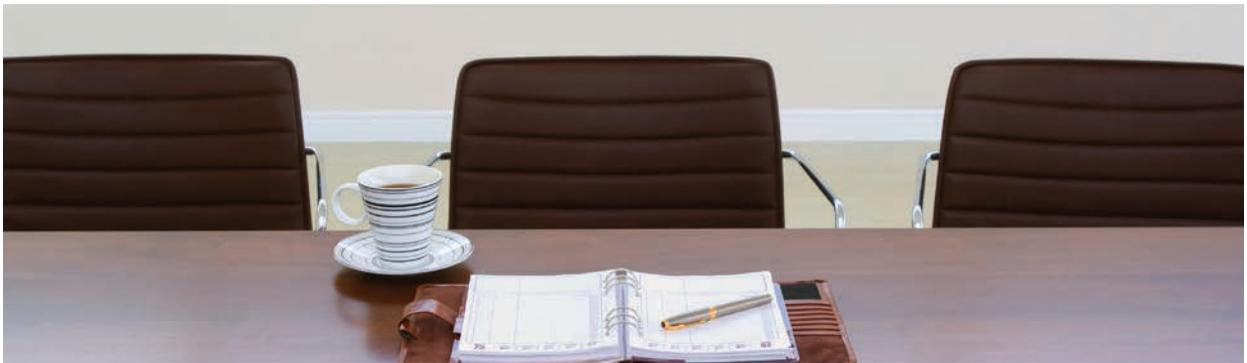
This committee, made up of a representative from each of the directorate districts, will make recommendations for directors from districts 1, 2 and at large.

Anyone interested in running for a seat in any of the districts up for election in 2026 can contact any member of the committee by Dec. 31 or send an email to [nominations@sremc.com](mailto:nominations@sremc.com). A member must have their primary residence in the district,

which they plan to represent. You can find your district by visiting the "My Cooperative" section of [sremc.com](http://sremc.com).

Members can also be placed on the ballot by submitting an authorized petition form 40 business days prior to the 2026 annual meeting. The petition must include the full name of the member and the district they wish to represent. The petition must also contain the printed names, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of at least 100 official South River EMC members.

Anyone interested in obtaining an authorized petition form should contact Pam Carter at 910-230-2998 or online at [sremc.com/annual-meeting](http://sremc.com/annual-meeting).



**District 1** - Glenda Taylor, 10081 Mcdougald Rd., Broadway; represents South River EMC service area west of Highway 401 in Harnett County.

**District 2** - Raylon Wood, 71 Unity Church Rd., Four Oaks; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 421 and north of Highway 13 in Sampson and Johnston counties.

**District 3** - Joseph R. Anders, 2055 Carr Church Rd., Clinton; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 242 and south of Highway 13 in Sampson County.

**District 4** - Johnnie Baggett, 1108 Fayetteville Hwy., Dunn; represents South River EMC service area in Sampson County southwest of Highway 421 and west of Highway 242, east of Dunn

Road and Carroll Store Road to Maxwell Rd., east of South River School Rd. and Bluman Rd. to the Harnett- Sampson- Cumberland county lines and north to Highway 421.

**District 5** - Anthony "Tony" Warren, 2392 Andrews Chapel Church Rd., Roseboro; represents South River EMC service area south of Maxwell Rd., west of Carroll Store Rd. and Dunn Rd., west of Highway 242 and Highway 411 to Highway 701, northeast of Old Fayetteville Rd. and Turnbull Rd. to the Sampson-Cumberland county line and north to Maxwell Rd.

**District 6** - Carol Hudson, 3661 Murphy Rd., Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, east of the Cape

Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line and west of the Cumberland- Sampson county line.

**District 7** - Warren Paul Jones, 5280 Loop Rd., Linden; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, west of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line, and all of Harnett County east of Highway 401.

**District 8** - Glenn Riddle, 3175 Odom Rd., Hope Mills; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland and Bladen counties, south of Highway 53.

**At Large** - Robert Earl Butler Jr., 3036 Odom Rd., Clinton; may nominate from any South River EMC district.

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## Attention Students With A's!

South River EMC is celebrating students with A's on their report cards!

That's right, it's time to submit those report cards for "Give Us An A".

"Give Us An A" recognizes students receiving at least one A on their most recent report card.

Make a copy of the report card and send it to:

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

Email it to:  
[connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com)



Report cards 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.

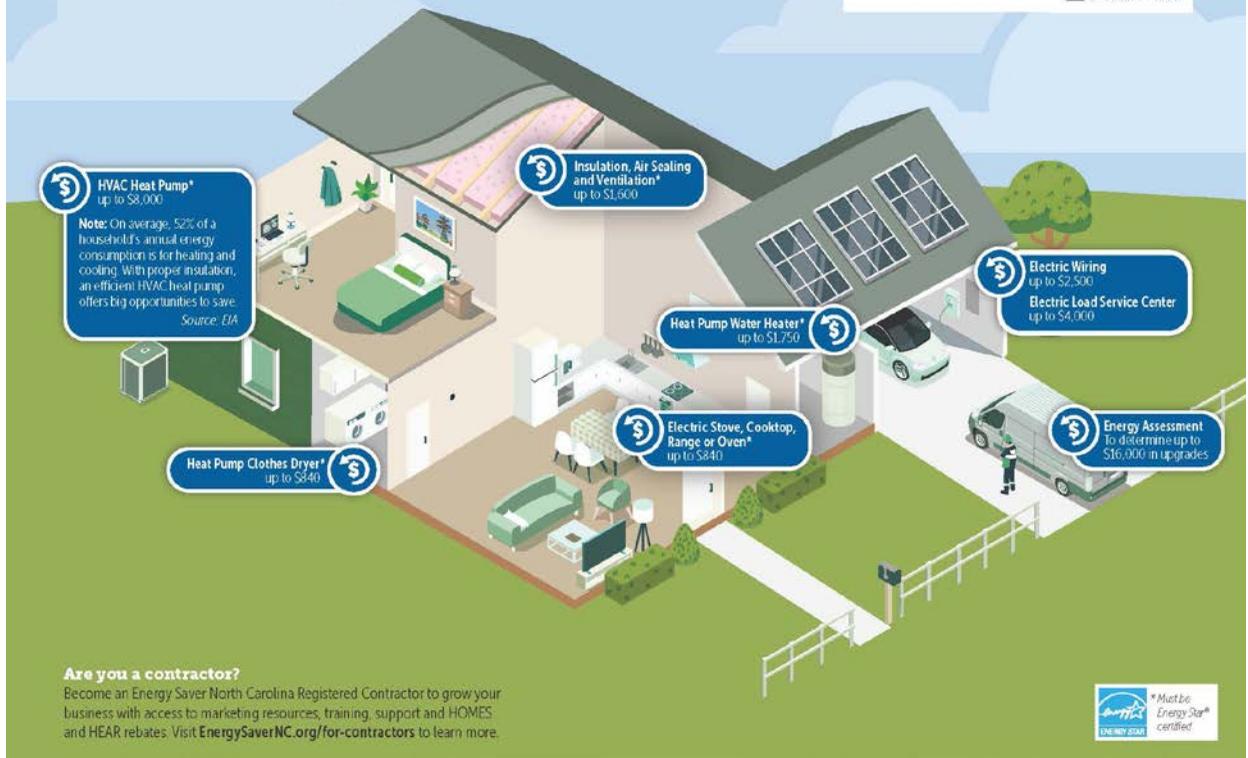
The drawing selects 15 students from those entered to receive a \$25 gift card.

This program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC.

The report card drawing will take place in February.

# ENERGY SAVER NC REBATES

Scan here for  
complete  
details



## Pick A Pump Now, Save Another Day

It might not be the right time for your pool, but that doesn't mean it's not the right time to consider savings opportunities.

If your pool has a pump, that's the best place to start, with a defi-

nite energy user, particularly if it's single-speed. That's one speed for all pump actions. Replacing with a variable or two-speed pump, allows for energy use more closely tailored to task.

Just consider it when pool season rolls back around.

Details can be found by scanning the QR code and selecting "Pool Pump."

## Water Heating Must-Have: Efficiency

We use hot water for many things, washing clothes, dishes, showers and more.

A water heater is the second highest energy user in most homes, and that's due largely to how a standard electric water heater works.

Water enters the tank and is heated periodically, to reach the temperature set by the homeowner. Depending on where your water heater is located, this periodic

heating might occur more often.

This happens even if you're not using the water. There are more efficient options, though.

Efficient options for electric water heating could include: heat pump water heaters and, with the right circumstances, solar water heaters.

South River EMC offers rebates on both. By doing the research you can find a water heater that works for you, and saves you

some energy and money.

Scan the QR code for details, select "Energy-Efficient Water Heating."



## What To Consider With Windows

Have you ever considered replacing your windows?

While it might not have been a consideration, now might be the time to think about it.

Windows give us a view of the outside from the comfort of home, however different things can happen which impact the integrity of windows.

Was someone cutting the lawn

and a thrown rock cracked a window?

Are you seeing some condensation between the panes of glass, which impacts viewing?

Even if neither of these have happened, over time, windows become less efficient.

While they are meant to keep out weather and sound, air infiltration occurs and sound might

become louder.

Then it's time to replace, and you know what? South River EMC can help you.

The Cooperative offers a rebate on window installations, but the rebate is one rebate per home, per 20 year period.

Scan the QR code for rebate details and select "Energy-Efficient Windows."

## High Efficiency Home Savings

A high efficiency residential option, or HERO home is one that is 30 percent more efficient than a home built to code.

The HERO home can be achieved in one of two ways:

The Prescriptive Path, which is straightforward but inflexible: it involves full compliance with a list of specific requirements.

The Performance Path is more flexible; it requires an energy cost analysis as proof that the home you are building will have energy costs that are less than or equal to that same home built to the HERO Code's prescriptive requirements.

Higher efficiency equipment will not help you in this case,

because the HERO Code is focused almost solely on improvements in the thermal enclosure.

If you're in the market for a new home, consider a HERO-certified one, as it will help you save and is eligible for a rebate.

For details, scan the QR code, and select "Hero Program."



## Considerations Regarding Heating and Cooling

South River EMC offers several rebates, one of which is the heating and cooling rebate.

With heating and cooling accounting for roughly half your electric costs each month, when your unit is older, or experiencing problems, it can add up even faster.

That's why knowing what you want to replace a unit with ahead of time, is helpful.

There are a few things to consider when it comes to selecting a new heating and cooling unit.

**Size:** make sure the size unit you have is appropriate to heat and cool your home effectively. Too big and it will cycle on and off excessively, while too small a unit means it runs longer than necessary.

**Efficiency:** The efficiency of a system is measured by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio 2, or SEER2 rating, which measures the cooling efficiency. The higher the SEER2 rating, the more efficient the system.

**System type:** there are several types of heating and cooling systems to consider, including air source heat pumps, and geothermal heat pumps, as well as central A/C.

When it does come time to consider heating and cooling re-



placements, you should consider all these items, and there may be more, however, efficiency is key.

For details on the rebates offered by South River EMC, scan the QR code and select "Energy Star Heating & Cooling."

## Weatherization Helps Home Comfort and Cost

You want your home to be comfortable, but how do you make it comfortable?

By making improvements, weatherizing, upgrading a thermostat, maybe even replacing a heating and cooling unit. While some of these items are affordable endeavors, some are not. Also, some might be outside of your ability.

With approximately 50 percent of your electric bill attributed to

heating and cooling your home, lack of insulation and weatherization can affect those costs as well.

In having work completed by a Community Action program, you could be eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. In order to qualify for the rebate the entire package must be completed.

The weatherization package for single family or manufactured low-income homes includes: air/

duct sealing, improved insulation, an HVAC tune-up or replacement, and a programmable thermostat in a home with a heat pump or an electric furnace/central AC.

Details on the rebate can be found by scanning the QR code and selecting "Weatherization."



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