



# South River EMC Communicator

## ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

**H**ave you ever thought about what art can teach you? Or have you ever thought about how art affects you? Art impacts life daily, personally, professionally and academically.

“In an increasingly competitive society, the future belongs to those who can effectively process information,” said Darlene Williford, executive director of the Johnston County Arts Council, or JCAC. “The arts provide a way for children to develop the critical thinking skills they will need to compete in real-world situations.”

That’s why Artists in the Schools, a JCAC program, received a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant. This program brings artists into schools in Johnston County, for fun and informative learning.

“If we did not have resources such as Operation Round Up, these programs would not be as helpful to the schools,” said Williford. “When I found the information online, I realized how it could help members’ children.”

So, how does the program work?

Each school in the county is encouraged to have a cultural representative, often selected by the principal. The cultural representative selects and books artists appropriate for their school.

They begin by looking through the artist directory, produced by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

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"The schools decide, along with the cultural representative, which types of programs will best meet their needs and the needs of their students," Williford said. "The funding received from Operation Round Up will help cover the expense of the artists in schools in the South River EMC service area."

Representatives are invited to attend a booking fair each August. This fair allows them to meet different artists in person, as well as see some of their show.

Some representatives have even taken their children to gauge their reactions to the artists and their messaging.

Once decisions are made on who to bring to a school, the real work begins. Typically, the school and PTA will put funding toward the program as well as asking for additional help through the JCAC.

The Council receives funding through multiple sources to include: the Johnston County government, the North Carolina Community Foundation; the Frank Holding Foundation; the Triangle Community Foundation; the Town of Benson; school PTA donations; and the annual art and food festival held each year.

"This year, the event will be held March 14 at the Johnston County Agriculture Center," said Williford. "Local restaurants graciously make their signature dishes, and we have an art show, as well as a silent auction."

All proceeds benefit the Artists in the Schools program. Program artists aren't just street performers, they are vetted before being considered.

"Artists involved in this program undergo a rigorous application process that includes proof of educational and artistic expertise," she said. "There has to be documentation of the planned arts education program—which includes study guides, recommendations from school administrators, as well as defined goals for the outcome of the artists' programs."

Children can see performances related to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, one month and a Spanish dance program, to explore a different culture, another month.

Working with around 43 schools in the county, artists are in demand. They can come to a school for a day, or do a residency, where they work with the school for a few days. For educators, this is like a field trip for their students.

"Most students cannot afford to pay the cost of a field trip, so the artist brings the experience to the classroom," Williford said. "If a school is having problems with poor math scores, they might choose 'Number Drummer' as presented by Troy Kryzalka."

Reports due at the conclusion of the lesson show excitement from educators and an appreciation for yet another way to teach today's learners.



Didgeridoo Down Under is a unique fusion of Australian music, science, literacy development, comedy, character building, and more.

# COME ONE, COME ALL

## 2019 Annual Meeting of Members

### When & Where

Thursday, April 11- Crown Theatre and Arena, Fayetteville

### ENTERTAINMENT 6-7:25 P.M.

Musical entertainment will be provided in the arena.

### BAZAAR 6-7:30 P.M.

We will have a variety of vendors with information and products.

### KIDS' KORNER 6-9 P.M.

The Kids' Korner will feature fun activities to include:

Magic by David; face painting; balloon twisting; inflatable obstacle course and bounce house; and a smokehouse

**\*\*Please Note: Anyone registering on behalf of a church or similar institution at the annual meeting must present formal notice as the**



**designated representative on appropriate organizational letterhead.\*\***

## LAST CALL FOR PHOTOS

**D**on't forget photographers! South River EMC is hosting an amateur photo contest and we want to see your work.

All photos must be taken in the five counties served by South River EMC and feature items, places, anything you think defines our communities.

As long as there are sufficient entries, we will have adult, high (grades 9-12), middle (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 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 South River EMC offices March 25-April 5, and at the South River EMC Annual Meeting of Members on April 11. Members can view the photos and cast their vote for their favorite 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". They 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 8 ½ 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. Submission deadline is March 22.

Visit [sremc.com/content/annual-meeting](http://sremc.com/content/annual-meeting) for complete details and contest rules.

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

# YOU MADE THE A'S

## We're recognizing you.

The following 15 students received at least one A on his or her most report card and submitted the report card for the "Give Us An A" drawing. Each student selected will receive a \$25 gift card.

Brielle Barnes  
Overhills High

Skyler Nyutu  
Pine Forest Middle

J'Lynn Williamson  
Roseboro Elementary

Lauren Jackson  
Lakewood High

Sydney Maples  
Pine Forest High

Aedan Maynard  
Midway High

Ava Strickland  
Meadow School

Dhakhir Haskins  
Al-Ameen Academy

Joy Johnston  
Cornerstone Christian  
Academy

Soraya Hernandez  
Sampson Early College

Garrett Hoyt  
Grays Creek High

Mia Baca  
Overhills High

Anthony Madison  
Gray's Creek High

Palmer Bullard  
Village Christian  
Academy

Makayla Harris  
Howard Hall  
Elementary

Congratulations to our lucky students! If you'd like to share your thoughts on what the program means to you, please send them to [connectons@sremc.com](mailto:connectons@sremc.com)

Keep up the hard work, we will have another drawing for all those students who receive A's in July.

Look for the due date in future newsletters!

# BASKETBALL CAMP DEADLINE LOOMS

The chance to apply for a basketball scholarship will expire soon.

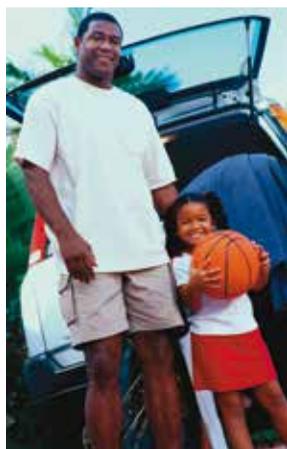
This opportunity gives current fifth, sixth and seventh graders who love basketball, a unique experience.

Students can attend basketball camp at NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill through the Touchstone Energy Basketball camps.

Cooperatives across the state encourage students statewide to apply for 50 all-expenses-paid scholarships to at-

tend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill (June 22-26) and the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Academy at N.C. 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, extra-curricular activities and an essay that must accompany the application. The application period closes March 31.

Eligible students interested in this opportunity can contact South River EMC at 910.892.8071, or download an application from [sremc.com/content/basketball-camps](http://sremc.com/content/basketball-camps).

# Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

**C**old weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. With spring just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home, and you don't have to be an energy expert!

There are several easy ways to save energy, especially if you're willing to take a hands-on approach.

## Make the most of your electric water heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch (it's lacking insulation) can save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. **Note:** If your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated.

Purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20 and get a friend or family member to help. Turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, mark the areas where

the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. Electric water heaters should not be set above 120 degrees.

## Seal air leaks with caulk.

The average family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, much of which is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulk available, but the most popular choice is silicone. It's water-proof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, brush or solvent. Ensure the area is dry before applying new caulk.

Apply caulk in a continuous stream, making sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Next, use a putty knife to smooth it out, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

## Weather strip exterior doors.

Seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather-stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather-stripping materials, make sure they can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location. Keep in mind, you will need separate

materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying new weather stripping, clean the moulding, letting the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home.





Make the most of your home heating and cooling by installing a smart thermostat today.

## If You Want Efficiency, Build A HERO

A high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is 30 percent more efficient than a home built to standard build-

ing code. There are two ways to achieve certification. If you want efficiency in your home, build a HERO home. Infor-

mation on requirements and rebates can be found at [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2153.

## Saving With Efficiency

Nobody likes buying something only to have an improved model come out shortly afterward.

Is that why you don't have a smart thermostat? If you've been putting it off, here's why you need one:

1. The smart thermostat hardware update cycle is getting longer between major releases, with no substantial difference.
2. Smart thermostats belong to families of integrated products and are part of a robust product family. Nest is an example, having added to its product line with cameras, doorbells, alarm

systems and more. Meanwhile, ecobee is building products integrated with Alexa.

3. Budget versions are here and great. "Budget" versions of the most popular smart thermostats offer (almost all of) what you know and love about the premiere models.
4. Apps have continued to improve and stabilize, adding new features like voice control using your Amazon Echo or Google Home device. Smart thermostats receive updates automatically, and owners don't have to buy new hardware for this functionality.

5. If you've held off on a smart thermostat because the installation process is daunting, it might comfort you to know that many HVAC companies are quite familiar with a variety of units and can tell pretty quickly whether your wiring is compatible, make recommendations, etc.

6. Many utility companies are offering rebates! South River EMC offers an incentive for upgrading to an Energy Star smart thermostat.

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

## Upgrade And Save

If experiencing issues with comfort, don't just adjust the thermostat when a few improvements can have you sitting comfortably for less.

Air enters and exits through the smallest places and by weather stripping and caulking, you could improve comfort and cost.

Installing insulation prevents heat loss and gain, so make sure your insulation is thick, and that there are no bare spots. If insulation has thin or bare spots, you're losing precious heat when you need it, or gaining it when you least want it.

Doing home improvements like

this can improve costs, as well as earning you a little money back.

South River EMC offers several rebates on improvements and for details you can visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

## Think Energy Star, Not EnergyGuide

Energy-efficient appliance savings depend on several items, like age, size and energy use, as well as your expectations.

If you replace a relatively young appliance and it doesn't use a lot of energy, you might not notice much change. However, replacing a 15-year-old heat pump will show savings. Older models don't meet today's stringent federal energy standards, and use more energy.

Shop for appliances with the Energy Star label in mind.

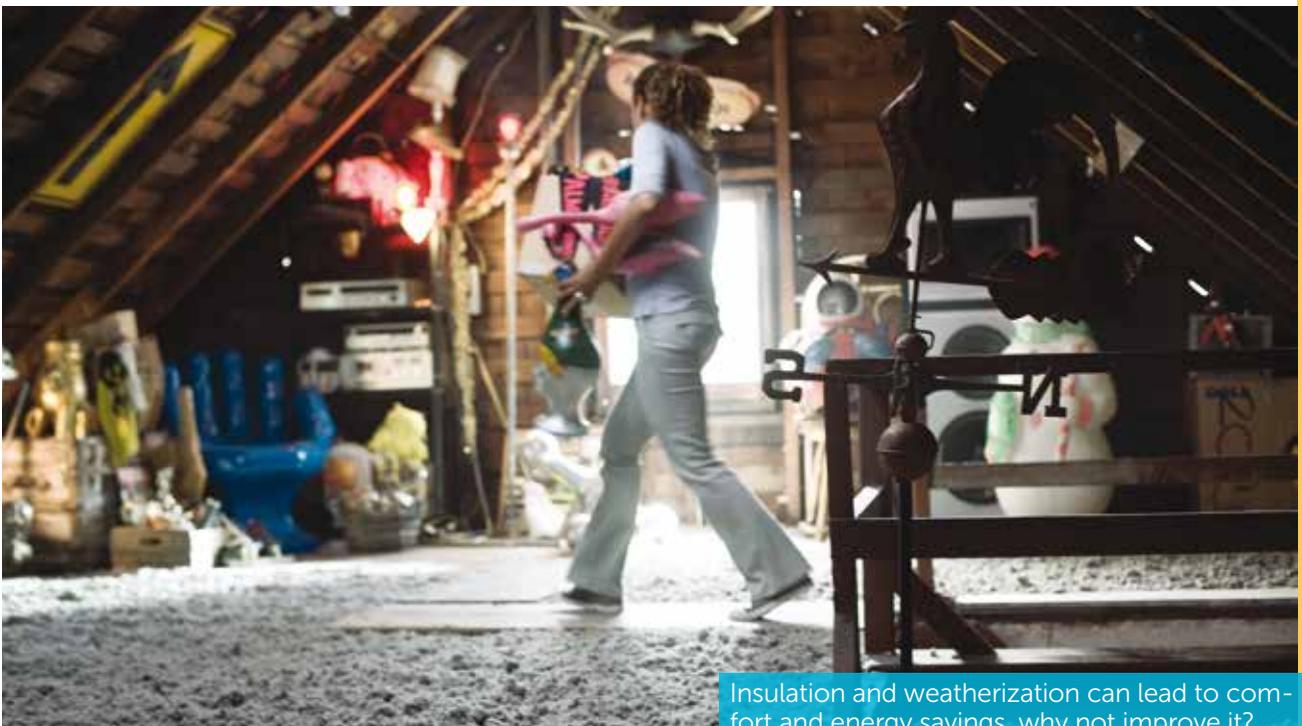
Energy Star appliances exceed federally established energy efficiency minimums. Don't confuse Energy Star with EnergyGuide, which measures the typical yearly energy use and operating cost of a single appliance.

Buy appliances that suit your needs – no bigger or smaller. Oversized heat pumps, water heaters and refrigerators waste both energy and money. Know the square footage of the space you're trying to heat and cool, and the number of bathrooms

and bedrooms to size water heaters. Refrigerator size is determined by family size and how much cooking or entertaining you do.

While most energy-efficient appliances cost more than their less-efficient counterparts, the amount they'll save you monthly in lower utility bills adds up. Not only that, but the rebate from South River EMC will also help you save a little more.

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



Insulation and weatherization can lead to comfort and energy savings, why not improve it?

## Heating Water Can Add Up- Don't Let It

Heating your water efficiently is easier said than done, isn't it?

In truth, there is one big change and several small changes to help trim water heating costs, which accounts for roughly 15 percent of energy costs each month.

The big change is the type of water heater in your home. Most homes have a storage water heater, which means stored water is kept at a certain temperature, and when it falls below, gets reheated. Your cost goes to heating water at all

times of the day, whether you're home to use it or not.

Now, you could trim costs by replacing your water heater; for instance, a solar or heat pump water heater. The solar water heater uses a natural resource to heat your water. A heat pump water heater uses energy to move heat rather than create it, making it 2-3 times more efficient than a storage water heater. Both of these systems have the ability to save you money if you have the proper resources.

Then there's the water temperature setting, no more than 120 degrees can help you save. Try installing a water heater timer so water isn't being heated continuously. Wrap your water heater and pipes to prevent heat loss. Of course, choose showers over baths, showers use less water.

First and foremost though, start with an efficient water heater.

For information on the rebates offered by South River EMC visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

## Purchase Efficiently

Want to save money heating and cooling your home? Begin by purchasing a high-efficiency unit. That means looking at the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER rating, which measures the cooling efficiency of all heating and cooling units.

Heat pumps are usually for homes in warmer climates, and use the ambient temperature of the air or earth, depending on the system, to heat and cool your home.

There are three types of heat pumps to consider for your home, air source, mini split, and geothermal. Most homeowners have an air source heat pump,

which pulls heat from the surrounding air and sends it to your home. As with many items, the older a heat pump gets, the less efficient it becomes. And if it wasn't efficient to begin with, it hasn't become so over time. Replace it a 17 SEER or greater system.

Mini splits, connect an indoor air handling unit with an outdoor compressor, typically pulling heat from the air.

Geothermal heat pumps, more expensive and requiring underground installation, pull heat from the relatively constant ground temperature and use it to heat your home.

Every system you'll have to learn a little bit about, to know how to use it efficiently. However, by purchasing an energy efficient heating and cooling system, using some energy saving practices, and installing a smart thermostat, you can be more in control of your heating and cooling costs than ever before.

Interested in taking control? South River EMC offers rebates for energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

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

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PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335  
910.892.8071  
800.338.5530  
[www.sremc.com](http://www.sremc.com)