



South River EMC Communicator

KEEPING FOOD FRESH

Food banks and pantries have always been important, but in the last year, they've become even more so for communities. According to Feeding America, in 2020, food banks distributed six billion meals to families and individuals in need nationwide.

One of those, is Five N Two food pantry, which serves Harnett County. The organization received an Operation Round Up grant for \$3,752 to replace a three-door cooler with two two-door coolers.



Tim Johnson, board chair of Five N Two food pantry, accepted the grant.

"Almost all cold storage used by Five N Two food pantry includes old, donated units, which are not highly efficient," said Tim Johnson, board chair. "We have three deep freezers, five stand-up freezers, three regular refrigerator with freezers, one three-door cooler and two two-door coolers."

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The three-door cooler had become a problem, dripping water inside. Not just that, but Five N Two had to have a repair man come out a couple of times because the unit was no longer cooling efficiently. To keep the food safe, and costs down, it had to be replaced.

"The cost of cold storage for our fresh food is a constant needed expense," said Johnson. "Five N Two food pantry works with Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina to pick up daily donations of meat, produce, dairy, bread, and deli items from local grocery stores."

The idea came to replace the leaky three-door cooler with two two-door coolers, the only question was how.

"The prior grant writer had South River EMC listed as a possible organization to seek out if we needed funding for an important project," said Johnson.

The new two-door coolers give Five N Two several additional cubic feet of space for cold storage, a blessing in a hectic year for food.

"We served 3,663 unduplicated individuals in 2020," he said. "Many of our clients visit us on a weekly basis and the total number of visits for 2020 was 8,842, with household members totaling 30,684 people."

How clients received their food has also changed. Originally, Five N Two operated much like a small grocery store. Patrons would check in and receive a voucher with their family size, based on previously submitted information. They could wind their way through the store picking a number of items from each section. Items were then packed up in boxes by volunteers, and the shoppers took their box home.

Now, with restrictions, customers are greeted outside of the building, observing proper social distancing, where infor-

mation is obtained about their family size and a box of food is set out for the family.

"The meat and fresh produce donated by grocery stores, are something that our customers are very interested in," said Johnson. "Second Harvest Food Bank is a unit of the Feeding America program, and they established a donor agency direct-match program as a partnership with corporate grocery partners such as Food Lion, Walmart, Publix, Target and ALDI.

With Five N Two as a designated partner agency, it is eligible to receive donations of food and non-food items that do not meet grocery store commercial standards, but are still safe to be consumed.

"Our primary focus is on Harnett County residents," said Johnson. "But we have also served residents of Lee, Moore, Chatham and Cumberland counties."

Interested in helping? The best way is to sign up to be a monthly financial contributor, even small monthly contributions are helpful. Visit the organization online at fiventwofoodpantry.com.

"It felt wonderful to receive an Operation Round Up grant! It has allowed us to deal with an ongoing problem and helps us to ensure that we keep the food we receive properly refrigerated for our clients," said Johnson.

The Five N Two pantry is located at 17247 NC-27, Sanford, in an unincorporated part of Harnett County.



The two new coolers purchased, before food placement.

LINEMAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

South River EMC is offering two different scholarships to the Lineman Academy at Nash Community College beginning August 16.

Power On

The first opportunity is the Power On Scholarship. In order to apply, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- have the physical ability to perform the essential functions, duties and responsibilities of the job.
- have the ability to perform the outside duties of the job during extreme adverse weather conditions such as temperatures above 90 and below 32 degrees, rain, sleet, snow and high humidity.
- have own transportation to and from Nash Community College.

The purpose of this endeavor is to provide interested individuals with the ability to gain the experience and training necessary for a successful career as an electric line worker.

Applications are due July 7 and can be found at sremc.com/power.

Boots To Buckets

Boots To Buckets is our other scholarship opportunity. This scholarship is for candidates who are looking for a career after their honorable discharge from the military. In order to

apply, you must meet the same requirements outlined for the Power On scholarship as well as

- recently honorably separated from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces (or at least will be separated by the start date of the academy).
- must have own transportation to and from Nash Community College.

The Electric Line Construction Technology curriculum prepares participants to work as electric line workers. Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, books, boots, and safety glasses.

Applications are due July 7 and can be found at sremc.com/boots-buckets.

Students will combine electrical theory with laboratory and practical applications in the course of study. Students are expected to master competencies such as those included in elements of electricity, overhead pole and electrical line construction, safety codes and applications, electric power system, transformer and meter



installations, and exploration of underground electrical distribution.

Upon successful completion of the program, individuals will receive the Associate of Applied Science degree and a third class (apprentice) lineman certificate and will possess the necessary skills for employment in the dynamic electrical utility field.

Awarding of these sponsorships and successful completion of the program is not a guarantee of employment with South River EMC, it does place you in a more valuable position.

For details on either scholarship, contact Catherine O'Dell at 910.892.8071 or codell@sremc.com.

IT'S TIME FOR BRIGHT IDEAS!

We're nearing the end of another school year. Hard as that is to believe, it also means you might be thinking about what you'd like to do differently in the coming school year.

Does your school have the budget for it? Many times, programs specifically for a teacher's classroom, fall on the teacher to provide funding to accomplish.

That's where the Bright Ideas grant program can help you. The Bright Ideas program offers grants for educators in public K-12 schools, for innovative, classroom-based ideas. Requests for professional development will not be considered.

The Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, when it



was found that teachers were spending at least \$500 of their own funds to purchase classroom materials. And with learning styles evolving, need for supplies must be met and not out of the pockets of our educators.

In over 25 years, the electric cooperatives of North Carolina have awarded \$13.6 million

to fund over 12,359 projects affecting almost 2.7 million students.

Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500, for any subject. South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grants to teachers annually and has provided \$1.4 million in funding for teachers in parts of Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties since the program's inception.

If you have an application in by August 16, you are eligible to enter a drawing to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is September 15.

South River EMC accepts applications online at ncbrightideas.com. Learn more at sremc.com/bright-ideas or e-mail sremc@sremc.com.

CUT DOWN ON PAPER AND UP ON CONVENIENCE

You're spending time on your computer, tablet or phone every day, why not take care of your electric bill?

Sign up for E-Billing and see just how easy managing your account can be. No checks to write, no stamps to buy, no bills to mail.

Additional benefits include:

- E-mail reminders when your bill is ready
- 24/7 online access to your account
- Paperless
- Easy setup
- Daily and hourly electric use summaries
- Secure, online access to your statements

To sign up for E-Billing, sign in to your online account (online profile) at sremc.com.



BE READY FOR STORM SEASON LIKE US

Now that summer is in full swing, we all welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings many of people's favorite activities, like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but South River EMC crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. You should also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the following items as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

- If you have an electric powered medical device, be sure to have a back-up power source.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions.

Listen to local news for storm and emergency information, and check South River EMC's website and social

media channels for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to perform their jobs safely, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and visit our website and social media sites to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

Here's hoping we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. We recommend that you act today because there is power in planning.





Imagine the scavenger hunt to repair air leaks this summer!

The Water Heater For You

A conventional water heater is what you pick again and again, but why not consider another option that could save you energy and money.

For example, a heat pump water heater. These units are typically

two to three times more efficient than a standard electric water heater. Another option is a solar water heater, which uses the sun to heat your water, not electricity. It does usually require an electric back up though.

South River EMC offers a rebate on both of these systems. For details and information on both, you want to make sure you make the best choice, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

A HERO Home Can Help You Save

Are you in the market for a new home? If so, consider building a high efficiency residential option, or HERO home. These homes are 30 percent more efficient than homes built to code, and it's all because the homes are built tighter. HERO

homes require slightly better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages to deliver these great savings.

There are two ways to do it, and you can find out about

those at energycodes.gov, or if you're interested, South River EMC offers rebates on HERO homes, information on the requirements and the rebates can be found at sremc.com, or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Don't Be Uncomfortable, Make An Improvement

Just because the heat is back doesn't mean your home doesn't need some insulation, or more insulation. Maybe you need to do some weatherization work. You could caulk around plumbing penetrations, replace weather stripping around doors and windows. If

your home is warmer in some areas than others, and you're feeling uncomfortable, work is necessary.

However, finding your issues and working to fix them can make you more comfortable, as well as costing you less money.

Don't know where to check? Visit sremc.com/insulation-weatherization for information, you'll find information on the rebates offered as well. You can also call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Save With Energy Star

Need a new appliance? Consider purchasing an Energy Star certified one. The Energy Star logo means the appliance has undergone testing and been found to save energy.

Although they tend to be a little

more costly, Energy Star appliances make up for it in their savings.

If you need a new appliance, are interested in saving energy and money too, purchase Energy Star.

South River EMC rebates on Energy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washers and dryers, as well as dehumidifiers. For information, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

When The Time Comes, SEER Matters

It is the greatest debate, what affects your energy costs. Do you know the answer? More often than not, it has to do with heating and cooling your home.

There are a few pieces to this, such as your thermostat settings, system age, efficiency and upkeep.

Even the most efficient system becomes less efficient as it ages. The efficiency of your system is determined by its seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating, which measures

the cooling efficiency of a heating and cooling system. A high efficiency system is rated at 17 SEER or greater. More costly, but more efficient when it comes to cooling. Keep it running as efficiently as possible, as long as possible by having it serviced ever year.

Next, set your thermostat right. You've got to set it to at least 78 degrees during the summer. For days when it is regularly 90 degrees, a setting of 72 degrees is going to be costly. Not only

is it hotter than that outside, to keep your home cooled to that temperature is a pretty big job.

Start off with an efficient heating and cooling system and follow through with efficient practices, and make sure your system gets serviced this fall.

South River EMC offers rebate on 17 SEER or greater air source, geothermal or ductless mini-split systems. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Be it front load or top load, an Energy Star appliance can help you save

ADVISE *Guys*

The spring and summer months are always a fun time for those who enjoy warm weather. Many pool owners open their pools in the spring so it is ready to enjoy during the summer months. The thought of cooking out and lounging around the pool sounds great, but a lot of times pool owners forget the electrical cost they incur when running their pool pumps. The pump type, size and run time can make a significant difference in your monthly electric bill.

What pump size should I get? It is important that you pick the appropriate size pool pump. It's not uncommon for pool owners to purchase larger pumps with the logic being that it will work better. This will cause the pump to move more gallons per minute (GPM) than is required. This only wastes energy and causes higher electric bills. An oversized pump can damage the internal parts of the pump as well as the filter. An undersized pump will not circulate the pool water properly. In return, it can cause issues with water quality and safety.

For both an above ground and in ground pools, you need to figure out how many gallons of water the pool holds. You can search online for a pool gallon calculator to help determine the amount. Once you have determined that, you need to figure

out how many gallons per hour (GPH) or gallons per minute (GPM) you need to clean all of the water in your pool. These formulas may also be found online. Ideally, you want a pool pump that can filter all of the pool water in 8 – 10 hours. It is imperative to make sure all of the pool water is filtered at least once a day. This ensures water quality and safety. Keep in mind, the further away the pump is from the pool will impact the pumps GPH/GPM. You will need to factor in the plumbing when choosing a pump. Pipe size, lengths, valves and angles will need to be calculated for the best fit. Several tools can be found online to help with this. You can also contact pool pump providers or even pool companies to help you with these calculations.

Choosing a more efficient pool pump can save you money. The three you have to choose from are single-speed, two-speed and variable-speed pool pumps. The single-speed and two-speed pumps operate just like their names. The single-speed runs at one speed the entire time. The two-speed allows the pump to run at half or full. When it runs at half speed, it filters the water more slowly. This, in return, means the pump is using less energy and the water is filtered better. The variable-speed pump option is the



Advise Guy Eric Gainey

most efficient on the market. These pumps have the ability to operate at different speeds and can be programmed for your specific needs. They can help save you money, increase pool efficiency and prolong the life of all of the pumps components. Also, a pool pump timer is a great way to reduce this cost by reducing run time.

If you are in the market for a new pool pump, consider an Energy Star certified two speed or variable speed pool pump and start saving. To see if your pump qualifies, go to energystar.gov and click on pool pumps. South River EMC currently offers a \$50 rebate on a two speed or variable speed pool pump and motor. Eligibility, system requirements, restrictions and the application can all be found on our website at sremc.com.

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