

# South River EMC Communicator

May 2023

## Restoring History

*Plain View School was built in 1927 with classrooms, a media center and an auditorium. A cafeteria was built in 1953 and a gym in 1956.*

The school served children in the Plain View Community of Sampson County until the new school was built in 2001.

The original Plain View School had a bell, which resided in the cupola on the roof.

"The cupola was a bell tower, but they took the bell out about 20 years ago when the new Plain View School was opened," said Kim Schmidlin, Plain View Community Coalition board member. "It (the bell) was reconditioned and sits on a brick platform at the new school."

The property and buildings of the original school were deeded to the community, and the Plain View Community Coalition was formed to convert the property for community use.

Before the old school was demolished, the cupola was removed and saved as a small piece of history. But the question remained as to how to refurbish the cupola.

After an exhaustive search, they found someone willing to tackle the restoration project right in Sampson County.

The project was undertaken by South River EMC Lineman Ben Beasley. He has the right balance of carpentry expertise and know-how. Beasley picked up the cupola and moved it to his home workshop to complete the work.

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*The cupola on Plain View School before it was removed.*



## Reminder:

South River EMC offices will be closed May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

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## Members Round Up For Communities

*South River EMC recently awarded \$46,152 in grants through Operation Round Up.*

Those grants went to the following non-profit organizations and schools:

- ▶ Mingo Masonic Lodge: \$1,079
- ▶ Five N Two Food Pantry: \$5,000
- ▶ The Fun Clothes Inc.: \$5,000
- ▶ West Area Volunteer Fire Department: \$4,100
- ▶ Plain View Community Center: \$5,000
- ▶ Autryville Fire Department: \$5,500

- ▶ Hobpton High School: \$7,500
- ▶ Hargrove Elementary: \$7,823
- ▶ New Life Uplifted School: \$5,150

The Operation Round Up program is supported by members of South River EMC who have their bills rounded up to the next dollar each month. In any given month that equals no more than

99 cents per member, but that small change adds up.

Information on Operation Round Up can be found on our web site at [sremc.com/operation-round](http://sremc.com/operation-round), where the most recent list of winners can also be found.

Past winner information is located on our Operation Round donation history page at [sremc.com/donation-history](http://sremc.com/donation-history).

The next application deadline is May 19, so if you have an application in the works, get it submitted soon.



## South River EMC Awards Scholarships

*South River EMC helped four students in their college endeavors this year.*

Recently, four students were selected to receive a \$1,000 South River EMC scholarship.

After reviewing the applications, a committee awarded scholarships to the following students who live in the South River EMC service area:

Gracyn Baggett, granddaughter of Billy and Loretta Baggett of

Roseboro, who will graduate from Midway High, with plans to attend UNC-Wilmington

for a degree in social work.



Jenna McLamb, daughter



of Derek and Misty McLamb of Roseboro, who will graduate from Midway High, with plans to attend

Campbell University for a degree in elementary education.

Manuel Guerrero, son of Jose and Stephanie

Guerrero, of Clinton, will graduate from Clinton High with plans to attend Sampson Community College to ultimately

obtain a degree in engineering.



Hunter Pope, son of Toby and Amy Pope of Dunn, who will graduate from



Triton High with plans to attend Campbell University for a degree in Biology, pre-med.

Factors considered in the selection process include: character, moral standards, citizenship, past and present academic performance, letters of recommendation, statements of career goals and qualifications; and extracurricular activities.

This scholarship opportunity showcases many wonderful attributes in our students.

Congratulations!

**Costs are rising everywhere and your cooperative isn't immune.**



**Line and bucket trucks: up 20-25%**  
Lead time of 24 months.

**Pole-top transformers: up 30%**  
Lead time of 20 weeks.

**Pad-mount transformers: up 30%**  
Lead time of 40-52 weeks, depending if single or three phase.

**Wire: up 30%**  
Cost expected to double in 2023.

**Cabinets: up 30%**  
Lead time up to 50 plus weeks.

*HISTORY continued from page A*

"I was asked because I'm a carpenter," said Beasley. "I thought, 'I believe I can do it and I'd like to try and help save it.'"

The original cupola was destroyed in a fire. However, it was replaced mid-century. As the focal point of the school, it had previously been refurbished; however, it had deteriorated significantly.

With weather and age, it was also damaged when blown over during a storm.

"It was a lot of work," said Beasley. "It had a lot of louvers, I



*Beasley's set-up*

started counting them, but it was just a lot."

He salvaged what he could.

"The corners and part of the top of the arches and the top itself was what I could use of the existing cupola," said Beasley.

He made all new louvers, not a light task for how many there were on each side. He started about November 1 and the cupola was installed in February.

"Ben used fir wood, which is the original wood type used on the cupola," said Schmidlin.

"It's a piece of history," said Beasley. "With so much history

being thrown away, you've got to save something."

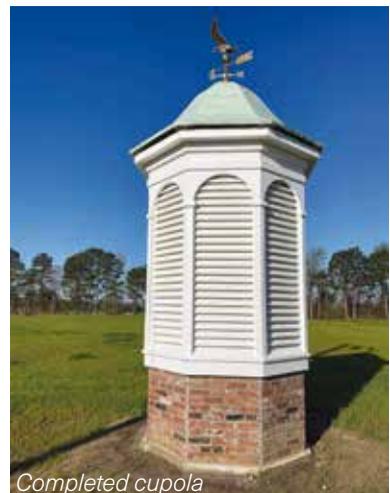
Beasley was not the only craftsman working on this project — he was joined nights and weekends by several Cooperative co-workers.

"I'd like to thanks the guys from South River EMC who worked with me, as well as the painter who painted the cupola," he said.

You can see the completed project at 5561 Plain View Highway, Dunn. It sits back off the road, so you'll have to stop and see!



*Cupola removed*



*Completed cupola*

## Are You A Teacher With A Bright Idea?

*As summer nears, may your ideas be bright!*

Whether you're a teacher in your first year, or your 10th, there are always new ideas or even replacement needs, and often times, a budget that doesn't allow for them.

A Bright Ideas grant could be just the item to help.

The Bright Ideas program awards grants to teachers in certified, public K-12 schools, who have innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Project ideas can come from anywhere, in any subject and any amount up to \$2,500.

Each year, South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grant funding to teachers in parts of

Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received \$15 million to fund over 14,200 projects affecting 3.5 million students.

However, applications for professional development will not be considered.

The application period opened April 1. Educators with applica-

tions in by August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is September 15.

South River EMC accepts applications online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).

If you want to learn more about this program, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or e-mail [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).



### Carolina Country On The Go

Interested in taking Carolina Country with you?

Simply visit [sremc.com/carolina-country](http://sremc.com/carolina-country) to sign up for the electronic addition, while there, you can also look at the most recent issue of the magazine digitally, as well as South River EMC's past issues.

If you'd like to continue receiving a paper, as well as an electronic copy of this newsletter, that's possible too. When asked if you no longer want to receive your printed issue of Carolina Country, check "no."



# A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

**DON'T**

place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



**DO**

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



**DO**

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



**DON'T**

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.



## Shop For Pool Savings This Season

Pool pumps circulate water through the pool filtering system, mixing chemicals and sanitizing the water to help keep it clean.

The pump must be the right size for your pool so the filtering system operates efficiently.

Once you find the appropriate size for a pump, you need to consider the speed of your pump.

If you have a pool with a pump, it typically comes with a single speed pump. One speed for all activities.

A two-speed offers just what the name implies, the option of two speeds to tailor energy and water use a little more to task.

Then, there is the variable speed pool pump, which allows

users to set pool speed to task. This versatility allows you to set speeds so that you aren't overusing water or electricity to clean, filter and take care of your pool.

South River EMC offers rebates for variable and two-speed pool pumps, details as well as application, can be found at [sremc.com/pool-pumps](https://sremc.com/pool-pumps).

## Hot Days Ahead

Cooling your home can get expensive, particularly during long summer days. And we'll be seeing plenty, so it's best to know your options for savings.

There are savings tips, but no cure all, because every home is different, some are built tighter than others, and home size alone can affect costs.

However, setting your thermostat higher in the summer, to about 78-degrees or higher, could help save. On days when the temperature tops 98 degrees

the savings won't be great, they'll be greater than if your thermostat is set at 72 degrees.

The age and efficiency of your heating and cooling system also impacts your costs.

While keeping a system serviced twice a year helps it run efficiently, once a system reaches a certain period, it just needs replaced.

Heating and cooling is the biggest part of your electric costs, so finding a system with a seasonal energy efficiency ratio,

or SEER2, of 16 or higher could mean savings.

The SEER2, rating measures the heat removed from conditioned space during the cooling season, so cooling efficiency of the unit.

The higher the SEER2 the more efficient the unit and the greater the opportunity for savings.

Looking into a new heating and cooling system? If so, you might also be eligible for a rebate.

For details, visit [sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling](https://sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling).

## A High Efficiency Home For The Market

A high efficiency residential option, or HERO home, is a home built to save.

With plans and options that give you an estimated 30 percent in energy savings, why wouldn't you consider a HERO?

With better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment,

and lighting packages, the HERO home code has two ways to save: the prescriptive path, straightforward but inflexible, or the performance path, a more flexible option.

You might be in the market for a home, and you might not, but a home built tighter is something

that sounds like a great idea.

Interested in learning about what a HERO home requires? Information can be found at [energycodes.gov](https://energycodes.gov). South River EMC offers several rebates on HERO certified homes, details on those rebates can be found at [sremc.com/hero-program](https://sremc.com/hero-program).

## Weatherizing Helps Comfort And Cost

Heating and cooling costs add up, and there are numerous reasons. One of those reasons has to do with the air infiltration in your home.

Air infiltration, air coming and going from the home, is normal, but too much can cause discomfort, as well as an increase in heating and cooling costs.

If you have a home that could do with some improvements, but

cost stands in the way, it might be something Community Action could help with improving.

In having work completed by a Community Action program, you could be eligible for a rebate if the entire weatherization package is completed.

The package 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.

This rebate is available for single family, or manufactured low-income homes.

For details, visit [sremc.com/weatherization](https://sremc.com/weatherization).



## Federal Energy Efficiency Credits Available to Maximize Savings

- ▶ Central AC up to \$600
- ▶ Air-source heat pump/mini-splits up to \$2,000
- ▶ Insulation up to \$1,200
- ▶ Energy Star certified heat pump water heaters up to \$2,000
- ▶ Windows up to \$600

*Details at [energystar.gov](https://energystar.gov), search "federal."*

## Water Heater Options Can Help You Save

Water heating is the second-highest energy cost each month, and that is due to reasons like your choice in water heaters and how much hot water you use.

An electric storage water heater is typically what a homeowner has for water. It operates by releasing hot water from the top of the tank when you turn on the hot water tap. To replace the hot water, cold water enters the bottom of the tank where it is heated, ensuring that the tank is always full.

While it's the usual choice, it's not the most efficient, as water is heated consistently owing to standby heat loss.

Another option to consider might be a solar water heater. The fuel is free, and cost has changed in recent years, however, you must make sure it is the best option for you. You'll need good solar resource to power a solar water heater for your



home, and get quotes, comparison could help make sure you're getting what you need. Also, make sure that there are no building codes which pro-



hibit the roof mounted system. A solar water heater is a good choice, but you want to make sure it's a cost effective choice, do you and your family use enough hot water?

Meanwhile, a heat pump water heater pulls heat from the surrounding space and uses it to warm water. Because it moves heat, rather than creating it, this type of unit is two to three times more efficient. There are requirements for it that you'll want to consider. Heat pump water heaters need to be in a place that remains in the 40- to 90-degree range year-round. They also need about a 1,000 cubic feet of space. If those are things you can do, it might be a good match to help you save on water heating costs.

A tankless or on-demand water heater, heats water only as needed, which means they don't have the standby energy losses associated with storage water heaters. Sounds like a match for you? We recommend you do some research if you are considering such a unit for water heating savings. The start-up energy cost for an on-demand electric water heater is equivalent to the use of a standard electric water heater to continuously heat water.

South River EMC offers rebates on solar and heat pump water heaters, details of which can be found at [sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating](https://sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating).



South River EMC  
**Communicator**

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