

South River EMC Communicator

May 2025

Scholarships Awarded

Each year, South River EMC offers a scholarship opportunity to students living in the South River EMC area.

A committee reviewed applications and selected three students to receive the \$1,000 scholarship.

Michelle Cinto-Aldana, daughter of Byron Cinto Hernandez and Ana Aldana Campos of Clinton, will graduate from Hobbton High with plans to attend North Carolina State to receive a degree in Psychology.



Dominique Dipre, daughter of Eulogio Dipre and Erika Caldera, of Godwin, will graduate from Midway High with plans to attend Methodist University to obtain a degree in Biology.

Mallory Edwards, daughter of Danny and Angela Edwards of Clinton, will graduate from Mintz Christian Academy, with plans to attend Campbell University for a double major in English and History.



This scholarship opportunity showcases many wonderful attributes in our students each year. For details on this scholarship and others offered by South River EMC, visit sremc.com/scholarships.



Mark Your Calender!

South River EMC offices will be closed Monday, May 26, in recognition of Memorial Day.



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/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

The Multi-Purpose QR Code To Connect

Help. You can get it or give it in one place.

But how do you get started, where can you volunteer and when?

Local non-profit organization Beacon Rescue Mission has just the way to get you volunteering, or signing up for help should you need it.

Amos Love, executive director of Beacon Rescue Mission, has always struggled to keep track of those who need help and those who wish to volunteer. A chance meeting with a programmer changed the trajectory of his mission to help those in need.

Love now has a simple system in place where people can scan a QR code and request help or volunteer.

When requesting help, people complete a form about themselves and their needs and the Beacon Mission reaches out to confirm.

If you select volunteer, you can indicate what assistance you can provide.

"When someone submits a help request, we go through it and based on what is needed we can reach out using the database to those who might be able to help," said Love.

For example, someone could need help with transportation to an appointment, anyone who

volunteered to help with transportation receives a text requesting their assistance.

If a volunteer answers, they then receive the information for the individual.

with Love stating he has received communication from, at the very least, Georgia.

There isn't much that can be done, but to connect people to resources in their local area.

Connections, or relationships in which a person, thing or idea is linked or associated with something else, is the cornerstone of how Beacon Rescue Mission operates.

People on both sides of the issue, those seeking help and those willing to volunteer, are in need of these connections and benefit from helping each other.

And this non-profit organization has found a way to track people helped, people volunteering, money spent on projects, all important things to know as a non-profit.

With a recent Operation Round Up grant, Beacon Rescue Mission continues to make connections.

Don't worry, if you'd like to reach out in a different format such as via phone, that is still an available option as well.

"You never know what someone needs," said Love. "And some people just need prayer and letting them know that you did pray for them means the world to them."

So, if you're looking for a way to get involved in the community, scan, select 'I Can Help', pick your specialty and start working to build even more connections in benefit or everyone.

Beacon Rescue Mission *A Help In Time Of Need* Ministry Service Connection

Hotline text/call: 910.892.5772

www.beaconmission.com



"This helps us meet needs as they are presented," he said. "And to make connections and share the Gospel."

Sometimes people just need a prayer, and there are many volunteers who are ready to pray for them.

All the information is stored and can be tracked for progress. It makes it easier for the organization to keep track of requests.

"We have over 19,000 contacts and add more everyday," said Love. And it's a far-reaching program for Beacon Rescue Mission,

Use Hot Days To Submit Bright Ideas

School is still in session, and for some, end-of-grades are looming.

That means there is a lot to get done, but there is still time to gather ideas and submit a Bright Ideas grant application.

The 2025-26 Bright Ideas application period opened April 1, and as teachers wrap up another year, it's time to consider the coming year.

Have you found some new ideas and items to help students understand concepts a little better? If it seems that the school budget might not be able to help, consider a Bright Ideas grant.

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 amount up to \$2,500.

Each year, South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grants to teachers in parts of Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties and has funded \$1.7 million in projects locally.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received \$16.5 million to fund over 15,400 projects affecting nearly 4 million students.

Applications for professional development will not be considered.

The final application deadline is Sept. 15, but educators with applications submitted by Aug. 15, will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

South River EMC only accepts applications online at ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/bright-ideas/.

If you're interested in learning more about Bright Ideas, visit sremc.com/bright-ideas or e-mail connections@sremc.com.



Connect your smart thermostat.

Earn rewards.

CONNECT
TO SAVE

Enroll in Connect My Thermostat, an exclusive offer from Connect to Save and South River EMC, to earn rewards and help your community.

- ✓ Receive \$50 up front, then an additional \$50 for each year you participate.
- ✓ Strengthen the power grid through efficient energy use
- ✓ Contribute to wholesale power savings for members in your neighborhood and across the state

Learn more:
connecttosavenc.com/SREMC

Connect Thermostat

Get Rewarded

An offer for South River EMC members that puts money in your pocket — while supporting the reliability of the power grid and achieving wholesale power cost savings that benefit all co-op members.

Members can enroll their smart thermostat(s) in our Connect to Save program. Enrolling earns you \$50 upfront and \$50 every year you participate. The program enables minor adjustments to thermostat settings when the demand for electricity peaks, but don't worry — you'll always remain in control of your settings.

Connect to Save is one of the many ways South River EMC provides services to power a Brighter Future. Visit connecttosavenc.com/SREMC.

Rates Effective With May Billing

Residential S	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access		
single-phase	\$31	\$37.50
Energy		
Summer	10.85¢ per kwh	11.61¢ per kwh
Winter	9.84¢ per kwh	10.52¢ per kwh
Residential TOU S	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access		
single-phase	\$34.10	\$41.25
Energy		
on-peak	18.62¢ per kwh	19.60¢ per kwh
off-peak	7.45¢ per kwh	7.84¢ per kwh
super off peak	3.73¢ per kwh	3.93¢ per kwh
Small GS	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access		
single-phase	\$37.20	\$45
three-phase	\$66.96	\$81
Energy		
first 750 kwh	11.67¢ per kwh	12.50¢ per kwh
next 1,250 kwh	10.21¢ per kwh	10.94¢ per kwh
next 2,000 kwh	9.67¢ per kwh	10.36¢ per kwh
all other kwh	8.94¢ per kwh	9.58¢ per kwh
Medium GS	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access		
single-phase	\$99.75	\$120.67
three-phase	\$173.25	\$209.58
Demand	\$6.75 per kw	\$6.80 per kw
Energy	no change	no change
Large GS	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access	no change	no change
Demand	\$9.25 per kw	\$10 per kw
Energy	4.46¢ per kwh	4.53¢ per kwh
Visit sremc.com/rates for more information.		

start Safety Education Early

May is electric safety month

DO'S & DON'TS AROUND ELECTRICITY

Start discussions about electrical equipment and safety when children are young!



Here are some great safety lessons to teach:

DO



- Stay inside after a storm in case there are downed power lines.
- Place a cell phone on a bedside table, not on bedding or under a pillow.
- Find another tree to climb if an overhead power line is nearby.
- Fly kites, drones or other RC toys in an open area away from overhead power lines.

DO NOT



- Do not go near a downed power line.
- Do not use or set plugged-in items near water, including a sink, pool or bathtub.
- Do not go near or enter a substation to retrieve a toy or pet.
- Do not try to free an object that is stuck in a power line.

Learn other electrical safety tips at:

 **Safe
Electricity.org®**



How To Select A New HVAC

Does the thought of replacing your HVAC unit give you chills?

Don't let it! Be proactive and select an appropriately sized unit that you can research and budget for before replacement is needed.

You'll want to replace with an appropriately sized unit to provide the right amount of heating and cooling. But make sure that it is

doing so efficiently.

That's why looking at the seasonal energy efficiency ratio 2, or SEER2, rating is important. The higher the SEER2 rating, the more efficient the system is at cooling.

Even if you're not in the market for a new heating and cooling unit, finding out what is available helps make an easier transition

when the time comes.

South River EMC offers rebates for heating and cooling systems of a higher SEER2 rating.

Considering a new unit? For details on the rebate offered by South River EMC, visit sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling.

Weatherization Costs Can Add Up

Heating and cooling your home is the biggest monthly energy cost and there are several contributing factors for this.

Weatherization is one that includes caulking, weather stripping and insulation. Caulking and weather-stripping help prevent air infiltration, or the loss of inside air outside and vice-versa. A little infiltration is normal, but too much can cause discomfort as well as an increase in costs as your heating and cooling system works harder to meet demand.

Meanwhile, insulation prevents heat transfer, which is when heat moves from a warm space to a colder space. As temperatures heat up, that means as you cool your home, heat from outside could be entering. Having sufficient insulation helps prevent this.

While weatherization is important, it's not the only item that needs checking.

For example, your thermostat might need updating, or your heating and cooling system might need service.

Having work completed by a Community Action program could make you eligible for a rebate. In order to qualify the entire weatherization package must be completed.

The package is for single family or manufactured low-income homes and includes: air/duct sealing, improved insulation, an HVAC tune-up or replacement, and a programmable thermostat.

For full details, visit sremc.com/weatherization.

Is A HERO Home For You?

The high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is built on efficiency.

With requirements above and beyond, i.e. better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages, a HERO home is an estimated 30% more efficient than a home built to code. The designation can be achieved in one of two ways.

Prescriptive is straightforward but inflexible, involving full compliance with a list of specific requirements for items like insulation, window U-factors, whole house tightness and duct leakage testing, among other things.

Performance is more flexible, requiring an energy cost analysis to prove the home will have energy costs less than or equal

to that same home built to the HERO Code's prescriptive requirements. It does not allow for HVAC or water heating tradeoffs to be compliant.

South River EMC offers several rebates for members who buy or build a HERO-certified home. For details, visit sremc.com/hero-program.

Are Your Windows In Need Of Replacement?

Your windows play a big part in your home's energy performance and comfort levels.

If your windows are damaged, chances are that they aren't functioning properly and you need to replace them, or at the very least, have them checked out by a professional.

Windows don't suddenly become less efficient, with the exception of a break; it happens

slowly over time. That being said, how do you know when they need replaced?

Home windows have a lifespan of 15-20 years. Once they reach this age, seals start to weaken or fail, and can create problems.

Start by cleaning the window tracks of debris that can make them hard to close.

Analyze wood finishes to see how they are holding up, damage

could result in problems with comfort and energy use.

Inspect windows annually, if they are damaged or drafty, if caulking is cracking, make a plan to replace them.

Only you can decide if your windows need replaced. If you replace windows you could be eligible for a rebate. For details, visit sremc.com/energy-star-windows.



Is It Time To Upgrade Your Pool Pump?

As temperatures warm, it's time to begin readying your pool.

There are more than 8.5 million residential pools installed across America and over 200,000 new pools are built annually, and they could be using a lot of energy.

A key component of pools is the pump, which re-circulates water through a filter to maintain water clarity and hygiene. All swimming pools have at least one pump, but some have multiple pumps and many pool owners don't realize how much energy a pool pump may be wasting.

Pool pump speeds vary based

on the pool's operation like filtration, for example, which only requires half the flow rate of running a pool cleaner.

Conventional single-speed pool pumps, with only one speed, are set to run at the higher speeds required of the pool cleaner and ultimately waste energy during filtration operation by running faster than necessary.

A variable or two-speed pool pump can run at different speeds and be programmed to match the pool operation with an appropriate speed. Reducing pump speed by one-half allows the pump to

use just one-eighth as much energy.

By replacing a single-speed pump with a variable or two-speed pump, you could see savings based on the ability to tailor water and energy rate to the tasks being performed.

With a pool pump having the ability to be a home's second-largest energy user, every little bit you can save helps.

If you have or are planning to install a more efficient pump for your pool, you could be eligible for a rebate. For details, visit sremc.com/pool-pumps.

Replace Your Water Heater Efficiently

When you turn on the hot water, it takes a few minutes to warm up. But, what happens when it doesn't heat up?

It is important to consider what should happen next and to prepare for it. It is not if you must replace your water heater, but rather when.

Replacing a standard electric storage water heater with a similar unit might be the choice you make; however, it is not the most efficient option. These units have a tank, which holds water that is heated periodically throughout the day. While beneficial for some, those who are not home throughout the day might not find it a good use of energy.

There might be a more efficient water heating option, such as a solar or heat pump water heater. Both are more expensive than a standard water heater, but each can have a positive impact on savings.

The solar water heater is a roof-based system and is particularly helpful if a home has good solar resource. Get quotes on systems and shop around. Make sure when you get quotes, that they are all for the same type and size of system.

Now, what if solar isn't a good fit for you and your family?

A heat pump water heater is another energy-efficient option, and they work much like a

refrigerator in reverse, pulling the warm air from outside and using it to heat your water. Because this type of system moves heat, rather than creating it, it is 2-3 times more efficient than a standard storage water heater. It does have space and temperature requirements to be as efficient as possible.

Doing your research ahead of time helps you find the type of unit that works best for your home and water heating needs. If you find that solar or heat pump water heating is the best option for you, South River EMC offers rebates.

For details, visit sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating.



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