



South River EMC Communicator

CELEBRATING \$2 MILLION

South River EMC's Community Assistance Corporation (CAC) awarded \$23,622 to Stedman Volunteer Fire Department, Clement Elementary and Hargrove Elementary recently.

This puts Operation Round Up funding at \$2,003,041.94, all thanks to you, our members, and your participation in the program.

Having your bill rounded up each month allows small change to add up and make a big difference in your community.

With these funds, the CAC has helped 139 organizations, many of which have received funding multiple times for different programs.

Grants can be for up to \$5,000 for non-profits and up to \$10,000 for educational institutions.

Operation Round Up is funded quarterly and is a competitive process. Since inception, the program has helped organizations to purchase equipment, informational materials, and more to help our communities prosper.



South River EMC offices will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

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MESSAGE FROM CEO CHRIS M. SPEARS

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

South River EMC to Return \$3 Million

As a not-for-profit, at-cost electric provider, your local electric cooperative returns excess margins/profits in the form of Capital Credits. Each year, excess margins are allocated to every member of the Cooperative based on the amount of electricity used.

For many years, the Cooperative retired or returned Capital Credits on a 19-year cycle, and it still does. However, beginning in 2016, the Cooperative began using a hybrid approach to retiring Capital Credits. In addition to the 19-year retirement cycle, between 20 and 25 percent of the previous year's allocation is now being retired. Under the 19-retirement-year cycle, only around 33 percent of the active members actually received a Capital Credit retirement or payment. Now, everyone who was an active member of the Cooperative, the previous year, is receiving a Capital Credit retirement.

Under the 19-year cycle, in November 2018, South River EMC retired \$2.9 million. Under the hybrid approach, an additional \$1.4 million was returned.

Furthermore, beginning in 2016, the Cooperative now offers to retire, at a discount, the amount allocated to a member when they leave the system for whatever reason. In the past, this was done primarily to estates after a member passed away.

"I am pleased to announce that in May, \$3 million will be returned to the membership."

Power Cost Rebate

South River EMC ended up with higher margins than anticipated or needed in 2018. Consequently, a recommendation was made to the Board of Directors that they consider approving a Power Cost Rebate in the amount of \$3 million. The Board of Directors was completely supportive. This is all part of operating as a not-for-profit entity. I am pleased to announce that in May, \$3 million will be returned to the membership in the form of a rebate, based on electric usage in 2018. The rebates will show up on the May power bills.

I would also like to remind you that in 2017, South River EMC implemented a member credit that amounted to \$2.9 million; and in 2018, it implemented another member credit, which amounted to \$2.6 million.

Therefore, in a two-year period, \$5.5 million was not even collected because it was not needed.

Your cooperative has gone five and a half years without a rate increase and there are no plans for one in 2019. We have truly been blessed and I am thankful that we are in a position to return money back to you, our member-owner. We are committed to being good stewards of your electric cooperative and I hope that returning more money, possibly quicker than ever, demonstrates our commitment to you. There are benefits to being a cooperative member.



Director Receives Gold

South River EMC District 4 Director Jeffrey Martin received his Director Gold Credential.

This recognizes directors who have earned their Credential Cooperative Director Certificate and their Board Leadership Certificate. It shows Martin's commitment to advancing his knowledge throughout his tenure on the board.

The purpose of director-level education is to help cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives.



Jeffrey Martin
Director District 4

Looking For Ways To Save Money?

Make the switch from the standard residential rate to the time-of-use, or TOU, rate.

TOU is a rate that offers lower energy costs to members who use electricity during off-peak times. Conversely, energy used during on-peak times is more. This pricing encourages the most efficient use of the electric system while reducing overall costs to both the member and the Cooperative.

Learn more by visiting sremc.com/content/time-use, or by contacting one of the Advise Guys at adviseguys@sremc.com or 910.892.8071.



STEP UP TO THE PLATE

South River EMC's partnership with the Fayetteville SwampDogs enables us to send local students to day camp.

Camp is for students between the ages of 5-13 who love baseball, at J.P. Riddle Stadium in Fayetteville.

South River EMC offers four scholarships for each camp day.

Mail or e-mail the following information

to our office: student's name, address, age, a daytime phone number and the camp dates you want the student entered.

Mail to:
South River EMC
Camp Scholarship
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

E-mail: connections@sremc.com

Submission deadlines are June 5 (for June 12), July 3 (for July 10)

and July 23 (for July 30).

Scholarships only cover the cost of camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to and from the stadium on the camp day, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lunch and a snack will be provided. Campers may bring their own equipment, but are not required to do so.

Not selected? Your child can attend camp one day for \$50, two days for \$90, or all three days for \$120.

Interested in attending camp? Register at goswampdogs.com.



TAKE THE THUNDER OUT OF LIGHTNING!

Twenty years ago, our lives were less complicated... sure we had computers in our home, but they were only used to send notes to friends and family and occasionally "surf the net." We had video games, but these were often simple hand-held devices to entertain the kids on trips.

Today, our lives revolve around technology, with high-speed connections through advanced computer networks, home automation systems and innovative ways to watch movies directly from the internet through your game system.

Rather than send checks, many of us pay our bills and manage our finances through our home computer systems. Internet download speed, wireless routers and internet bandwidth are becoming common topics during family discussions!

New technology and electronic equipment can make our lives easier, but they also are at higher risk for damage from lightning storms and other events.

South River EMC can help protect your home and appliances through our Strike Guard surge protection program. The program can

virtually eliminate opportunities for a storm-related surge to damage your home, appliances and sensitive electronics.*

The first step to protect your home is a special meter base surge protector that installs directly behind your electric meter. It protects your home 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, capturing surges and sending them to earth ground OUTSIDE... before they can enter your home and cause damage.

The second step in protecting your home is to install quality plug-in surge protectors with sensitive electronics in your home.

Once the meter base surge protector and plug-in surge protectors are installed, you will experience peace of mind as storms rumble through... knowing that the system is providing 24/7 protection for your home and sensitive electronics.

Don't wait until after you have damage, call 910.892.8071 or go to sremc.com/content/surge-protection to sign up before the next spring storm.

**We are still researching a solution to handle a "direct lightning strike" at or near your home. (Fortunately, these are rare!)*

AND WE'RE OFF ON ANOTHER BRIGHT IDEA

Who: Educators in public K-12 schools.

What: Bright Ideas grant applications for innovative, classroom-based ideas up to \$2,500. Total amount awarded around \$50,000.

Where: Online at ncbrightideas.com

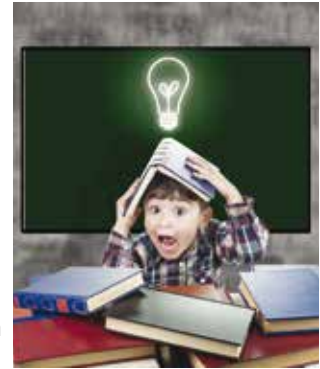
When: Now through August 15 for early bird prize entry; final deadline is September 23.

Why: Because teachers spend over \$500 out-of-pocket on supplies for their classrooms.

South River EMC only accepts applications online at ncbrightideas.com.

For more about this program, visit sremc.com or e-mail sremc@sremc.com.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received \$12.2 million from Bright Ideas, using it to fund over 11,600 projects affecting 2.3 million students statewide.



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Five students were selected to receive a South River EMC's Scholarship in 2019.

After meeting with applicants, a committee awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to the following students who live in the South River EMC service area:



Matthew Raynor

Receiving a \$1,000 scholarship is Matthew Raynor, son of James and Laura Raynor of Eastover. Raynor plans to attend NC State University to study engineering.



Madison Butler

Madison Butler, daughter of Keith and Jacqueline Butler of Roseboro, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend UNC-Wilmington to study education for a career as a teacher.



McKenzie Autry

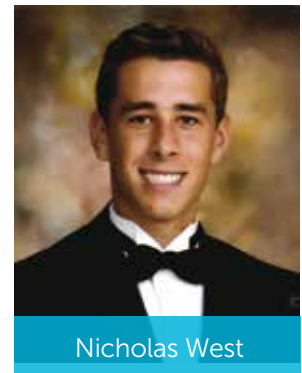
McKenzie Autry, daughter of William and Lisa Autry of Fayetteville, receives a \$500 scholarship to attend ECU Honors College to study biology for a job in pediatric medicine.



Savannah Puryear

Savannah Puryear, daughter of Kenneth and Monica Puryear of Clinton, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend NC State University to study business marketing.

Our final recipient, Nicholas West, son of Raymond and Valerie



Nicholas West

West of Stedman, will receive \$500 to attend NC State University to study biomedical engineering for a career in prosthetics design.

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; extracurricular activities; and a personal interview with an interview panel.



Purchasing energy-efficient products is the start, using them efficiently adds to savings.

The Logo That Helps You Save

Energy Star certified appliances are recognizable by their blue logo, but what does that mean?

The Energy Star logo lets consumers know that a product or building is more energy-efficient than others in the market. Since 1992, Energy Star has saved consumers more than \$450 billion in energy costs, and over 3.5 trillion kilo-

watt-hours of electricity.

With the typical household spending around \$2,000 a year on energy costs, take note. With Energy Star certified products, you could save 30 percent or about \$575 on your energy costs each year.

When appliance shopping, look for that blue logo and know

that it will amount to savings in your home, with a little help from you! Not only that, but South River EMC will give you a rebate on the purchase of an Energy Star certified refrigerator, clothes washer or dryer, or dehumidifier.

For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Readying The Pool For Summer?

If you are, checking out your pool pump could help you save.

A single-speed pool pump is cost efficient to purchase, but inefficient to run. With one speed and water setting to accomplish all jobs, it uses more energy and water than needed.

Meanwhile, a variable- or two-speed pump has two or more settings for use, and can be

tailored to specific jobs with appropriate energy and water use for each job.

Pump use also affects costs; by circulating the water while chemicals are added, they should remain mixed. Clean your pool with a skimmer or vacuum, instead of recirculating water to remove debris. Run your pump for less time.

According to a study, most people who reduced pump use to less than 3 hours per day, were still happy with the water's quality and saved money.

South River EMC offers a rebate on energy efficient variable or two speed pool pumps. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Heat And Cool Efficient And Smart

How you heat and cool your home is important, just as it's important to close windows and doors in the summer. You pay to have your home cooled and the size, age, and efficiency of your system can have an effect, just like your actions.

If it's time to replace your heating and cooling unit, a high efficiency system, 17 SEER or higher, can help you. The seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating measures the cool-

ing efficiency of a system, the higher the number, the higher the efficiency.

Now, you might have put in a 15 SEER unit within the last few years, and it's still doing great; however, standards change, as do systems when they age. You don't have to upgrade, but once your system hits 10 years, it's time to reevaluate.

Standard is now 15 SEER, which means for a high efficiency sys-

tem, you'll want a 16, 17, or 18 SEER. South River EMC rebates on 17 SEER systems and higher. This includes air source, mini splits, and geothermal systems.

So, if you're in the market for a new heating and cooling system, consider a high efficiency system, not only do you get an efficient system, you might also be eligible for a rebate.

For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

It's Never Too Early To Insulate And Weatherize

Insulate and weatherize in all weather! Don't delay just because it's warm, fix problem areas so you're not uncomfortable this summer.

Remember, because of those warmer and cooler areas, your heating and cooling system is used more often to combat uncomfortable temperatures. That can and will add up.

Check these areas:

Look for plumbing penetrations through insulated floors and ceilings, baseboard moldings, dropped ceilings above bathtubs and cabinets, attic access hatches, and doors.

Look for leaks and holes in ductwork, and poorly connected ducts.

For new or improved insulation, check the attic and under the floors; insulation reduces the amount of heat flow between

conditioned and unconditioned spaces and lacking it affects costs and comfort.

Then it's onto fixing. Do your research before taking on the project yourself, or hiring someone. Improving comfort can help lower your bills as well as making you eligible for a rebate.

For details, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Fixing ductwork is just one way to keep your home cool and comfortable this summer.

Smart Thermostats: Easy To Use

Member Crystal Kemp installed a smart thermostat to help improve the comfort of her home.

"I wanted to try something different," she said. "Also, I really wanted to be able to turn my heat on so that my home was warm when I got there."

After a successful installation, which Kemp said she spoke with a representative who

walked her through the process, her ecobee³ smart thermostat, was ready to go.

Thanks to the remote access available to Kemp, by having this wi-fi enabled thermostat, she could easily set her heat pump to come on and warm her house up before arriving home.

"It has helped to keep me aware of my energy use," she said. "I

try to be more consistent with how I use my energy now."

She gave it a try to see what it could do for her and she's happy with her results. Not only that, but installing a smart thermostat makes you eligible for a rebate.

For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

When Heating Your Water, Make Good Decisions

Heat your water more affordably, with a heat pump water heater or a solar water heater.

Why? Because if you're looking for a way to save energy, replacing your water heater might be the way.

Now, both systems are more expensive than a standard storage water heater, but they can help you save energy and money.

A heat pump water heater uses electricity to move heat from one place to another instead of generating it directly. That means they can be two to three times more efficient than standard water heaters. To move heat, these systems work like a refrigerator in reverse.

While a refrigerator pulls heat from inside a box and dumps it into the surrounding room, a heat pump water heater pulls heat from the surrounding air and dumps it, at a higher temperature, into a tank to heat water.

Meanwhile, a solar water heater can be a cost-effective way to generate hot water for your home. They can be used in any climate, and the fuel they use is free.

Solar water heating systems include storage tanks and solar collectors. There are two types of solar water heaters: active, which have circulating pumps and controls, and passive, which don't.

There are many options and considerations for solar water heaters, and you can read about those at energy.gov, in the Energy Savers section.

However, South River EMC offers two rebates on water heating, if you find one of these systems works for you.

There's a \$200 rebate for a heat pump water heater and a \$150 rebate for a solar water heater. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

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