



South River EMC Communicator

IS THE CALENDAR MARKED?

The 2020 Annual Meeting of Members

When and Where

Thursday, April 16, at the Crown Theatre and Arena in Fayetteville.

Entertainment 6-7:25 p.m.

Musical entertainment by Paris, along with seating and refreshments, will be provided in the arena.

Bazaar 6-7:30 p.m.

A variety of vendors will be at the event to showcase their wares.

Kids Korner 6-9 p.m.

The Kids' Korner will feature fun activities to include: Magic by David, with face painting and balloon creations; a bounce house; and a Teddy Bear Mobile—on-site animal stuffing for kids.

***No knives or weapons of any kind are allowed at the Crown Center.**

****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.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Spring ahead when Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8. It's a good time to change smoke detector batteries and heating and cooling system filters.

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BASKETBALL CAMP CHANGE

South River EMC will accept Touchstone Energy basketball camp scholarship applications until March 31.

However, there has been a change for the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill (June 20-24). *Campers applying for this camp must be rising sixth graders, currently in the fifth grade.*

The Wolfpack Women's Basketball Academy at North Carolina State University in Raleigh (June 21-24), remains unchanged and campers may

be rising sixth, seventh or eighth graders.

The overnight camps are held in the summer, and campers work closely with coaches and players to develop skills, to help them perform and excel both on and off the court.

Campers must:

- Attend a school in the Cooperative service area.
- Have permission from a parent or guardian to attend. An information sheet must be signed.
- Provide their own transportation to and from camp.



Winners attend the camps courtesy of South River EMC. The Cooperative funds one scholarship to each camp.

Eligible students interested in the scholarship can contact the Cooperative at 910.892.8071, or download an application from sremc.com/content/basketball-camps.

WHO WE'RE SENDING ON THE YOUTH TOUR

South River EMC has selected three students to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour this year and they are:



Carter Godwin, a sophomore at Midway High School. Godwin lives with his family in Dunn and is involved in community service, local theatre, Skills USA, the drama club, Bible Club, Beta Club, Student Government Association, as well as church activities.

Anna-Cater Meyer, a junior at Hobbton High School. Meyer is



highly involved in extra-curriculars, with her junior year including youth group membership, vice presidency of the Future Farmers of America, membership in the National Beta Club, Sampson County Junior Leadership program, local softball team, and ~~and~~ class president of the Student Government Association, among other activities. She lives with her family in Faison.

Jeremiah Faircloth, a junior at Mintz Christian Academy. Faircloth lives with his family in Roseboro. He is involved with Mintz Christian JV/Varsity Bas-

ketball, the fine arts drama team, creative movement, and choir, acts as church soundman, Facebook live cameraman, volunteers at the food bank, as well as at school and church.



As representatives of South River EMC, each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour takes place June 20-26.

For information on this program visit sremc.com/content/electric-cooperative-youth-tour

MAKING SURE IT'S ALL UP-TO-DATE

At South River EMC, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable service possible for you, our members.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve member service and enhances communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities, like our annual meeting.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address to our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages for necessary maintenance. In these instances, if possible, we provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone

messages, text messages or email, if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if South River EMC has accurate contact information.

Many of you have been Cooperative members for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone, and we might not have that number in our system.

We want to emphasize that we will never sell this information to any third parties. It is only used by South River EMC to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by completing the update information form under "additional service options" at sremc.com, or by calling our office at 910.892.8071 and speaking with a member service representative. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service to you.



WAYS TO ELECTRIFY YOUR LAWN CARE

Spring is just around the corner, and you can practically smell the freshly cut grass. If you're in the market to upgrade your lawn care equipment, you may want to consider electric or battery-powered options.

Gas-powered lawn mowers and trimmers may be your go-to, but times they are a changin'. Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products compared to their gas-powered counterparts. Here are three ways you can electrify your lawn care this spring.

Electric Lawn Mowers

Electric lawn mowers have come a long way over the last few years. Early models required corded connections, which were tricky to manage—but the cord has been cut. Newer cordless electric mowers are certainly more expensive than gas-powered mowers, but much of the upfront cost can be recovered since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas engines. Cordless electric mowers typically range from \$200 to \$500.

Electric mowers are suitable for most lawn care needs, with batteries that typically require about one to two hours to fully charge, and most batteries can run for a full hour. That said, if you have a large yard (half an acre or larger), a gas-powered

option may be best to suit your needs.

Electric Trimmers

Cordless electric string trimmers are a great option for most lawns. Traditionally, like lawn mowers, string trimmers have typically been powered by gas. But electric trimmers are improving and are now considered worthy competitors of gas-powered models.

Cordless electric trimmers are much quieter and easier to use, but most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. So, if you have a lot of space to trim, you may want to consider a back-up battery or plan to work in short bursts. If you're interested in purchasing an electric trimmer, the main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time and power. Costs can vary depending on your needs, but you can find a quality version for about \$100.

Electric Leaf Blowers

After cutting and trimming your lawn, you'll need to clear off those walkways and patios for

the finishing touch. If you don't want to deal with the maintenance of a gas-powered blower or the restraints of a corded blower, a cordless electric version is a great option.

Cordless electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver, but they don't offer quite as much power as gas-powered and corded blowers. If your leaf blowing and clearing needs are minimal, a cordless electric leaf blower can get the job done. Costs for a cordless electric blower vary depending on power and battery quality, but you can purchase a dependable model for about \$150 and up.

If you're looking to electrify your lawn care equipment, be sure to do your homework. Search online for the latest reviews, and check trusted, known websites like [ConsumerReports.org](https://www.consumerreports.org). With a little research, you'll be well on your way to Lawn of the Month—with less maintenance, hassle and noise.



WHEN IMPROVEMENTS NET SAVINGS

As you might be aware, South River EMC offers a rebate to members who purchase and install a smart thermostat. Once you learn to use the handy little device, you can keep your home more comfortable, and achieve energy savings.

Smart thermostats are easy to use and offer insight into how energy selections affect costs. And there is yet another way to save.

We encourage you to look into our SmartStat program, if you have purchased a Nest or ecobee thermostat.

With SmartStat, you can maximize savings and help South River EMC to save money on days when electricity demand is highest.

Members who enroll in the program agree to allow South River EMC to adjust the thermostat setting by three degrees for up to three hours during peak times. There could be up to 32 events in a year, and no more than 16 events per season, which will generally occur during the week.

Events can occur on weekends in emergency conditions and you will get advance notification when possible.

There will be no more than one event a day. Members who choose to enroll in the SmartStat program will receive a credit on their electric bill.

You can register up to two smart thermostats per electric account for program enroll-



ment. The best part is you remain in control; if your home gets too hot during peak time, you can change the temperature setting at any time.

To speak with someone about the SmartStat program, call 910.892.8071 x 2150 or sign up at sremc.com/content/smart-thermostat-smartstat.

Looking For A Quality Whole House Standby Option?

South River EMC has partnered with Generac to provide an option for members who want or need hassle-free standby power.

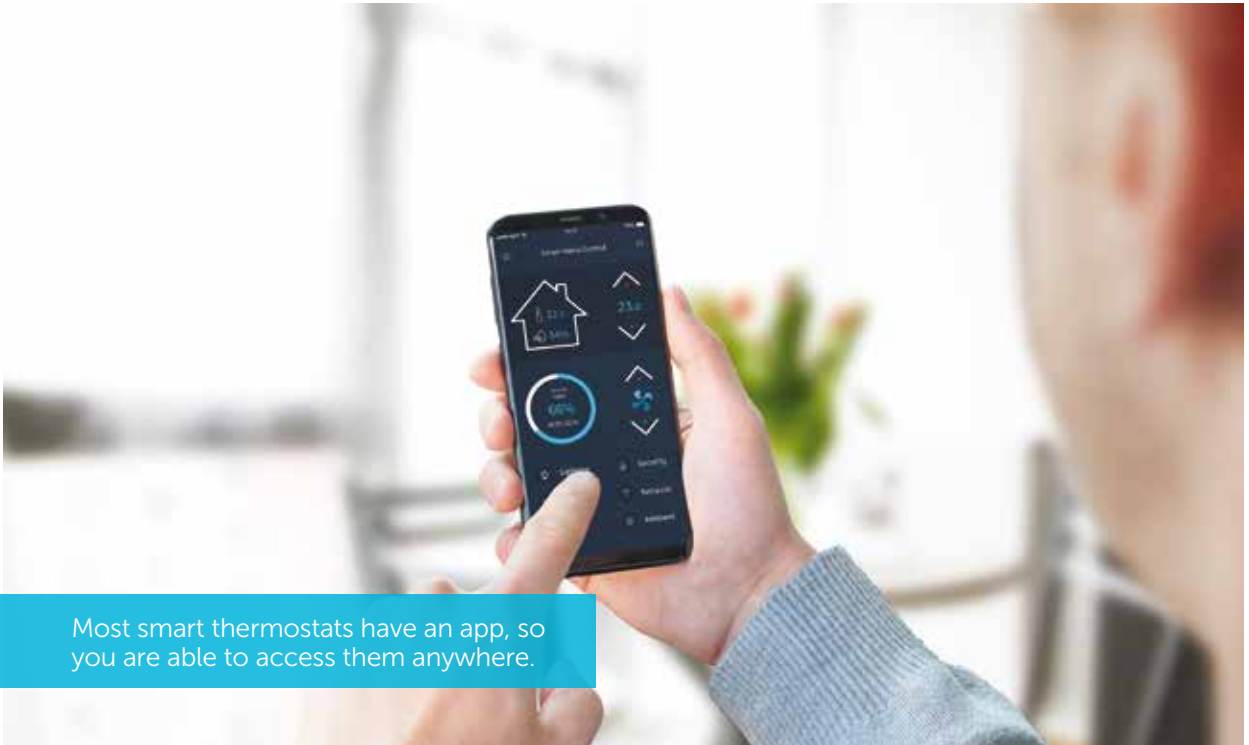


North Carolina's weather is unpredictable, especially during hurricane season. If you never want to experience another power outage, consider a whole house standby solution by Generac.

South River EMC members receive special pricing on hardware, which is installed and serviced by a local, certified Generac dealer. Plus, a 7 year limited warranty.

Interested in more information?

Contact one of the Advise Guys at 910.892.8071 or email: AdviseGuys@sremc.com



Most smart thermostats have an app, so you are able to access them anywhere.

Help Yourself Save With A Smart Thermostat

Smart thermostats can help you save, you just have to let them.

Installing one, and then learning from it, is key. Smart thermostats are easy to use, and can tell you whether your setting choices are helping you or not.

But, don't take this article for it, ask your friends and family. See what they've learned from their

smart thermostat. And remember, smart thermostats are not just digital, not just programmable, they're smart.

You can access them from anywhere there's Wi-Fi and the imaging is pretty vibrant for a thermostat. If you can use Facebook, you can use a smart thermostat.

Purchase and install a smart thermostat and begin saving, as well as receiving a rebate. You can save even more by signing up for the SmartStat program, visit sremc.com to learn more about both programs. Or, call 910.892.8071 x 2152 to learn about the smart thermostat rebate.

Pool Pumps Are An Important Consideration

If you have a pool, do you know how much energy it uses? Most likely not, because pools are used at a time where energy is also being used to cool your home. However, if you have a pool, not all summer energy costs are dedicated to cooling.

In fact, pool pumps contribute greatly to summer energy costs, especially if your pump is a single speed unit. Single speed

pool pumps use one speed and one water level, the highest, to perform all tasks. While this might not necessarily seem like a bad thing, it's not the best. In that case you're wasting both energy and water.

By selecting a variable or two speed pool pump, you can set water and energy settings a little closer to task, which saves you energy and money. So, if

you don't have one of these pumps, consider one and you can save money, as well as receiving a rebate for efficient measure.

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

Saving For Energy Star Means Saving Beyond

Appliances can cost a lot of money and often, when you have to replace them it's at a time you can't waste deciding on the best one, you just need a replacement. So, know ahead of time that you want an Energy Star certified appliance, and which one is your top pick.

Set aside money as possible, and that way you have it when it comes time for replacement and you can make a decision based on energy costs, not just appliance cost.

After all, Energy Star certified appliances use less energy and water than standard appliances.

And that can add up monthly. Start researching, and when the time comes to replace an appliance, do it and save!

For more information on the Energy Star appliance rebate, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

Make Water Heating Work For You

Water heaters are the second highest users of energy in your home. Heating and cooling is the first, and that's not going to change. However, water heating can have less impact on costs if you choose an energy-efficient unit.

Examples include solar water heating, as well as, heat pump water heating. Heat pump water heaters, or HPWHs, are two to three times more efficient than standard water heaters, and al-

though they must be located in a space that remains in the 40-90 degree range year round, they exhaust cool air.

Meanwhile, a solar water heater doesn't use electricity at all, unless it is because of the back-up required for the system. Solar water heaters use the sun to heat water for your home, and as long as there is a good solar resource, you could save money heating your water. However, before deciding it's

right for you, get several quotes and speak with installers.

South River EMC offers rebates to members who make energy-efficient water heating choices. Again, before you make a decision, make sure it's the right one for you.

For details on the rebates visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.



Energy Star certified appliances have features that help save energy and money.

The HERO Home

South River EMC offers rebates on HERO certified homes, but just what are HERO homes? High Efficiency Residential Option, or HERO, is a way of home building that is approximately 30 percent more efficient than

homes built to code.

The reason for efficiency is that the HERO alternative requires slightly better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages to deliver

even greater savings.

Interested? Visit sremc.com for details, or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Keep Heating And Cooling Costs In Check

Keeping your home comfortable can be costly. However, with a few improvements you can fix not only your level of comfort, but costs as well.

How so? When there is insufficient heat during cold temperatures, what do you do, but check the thermostat. Sometimes you adjust it a little, other times it's more than a little. This adjustment can mean the heat pump is running harder and longer than it was previously and that can get costly.

By checking and replacing insulation as necessary, you prevent heat transfer, or the loss of heat to the outdoors. But that's not the only thing, by weatherizing and caulking you also prevent air infiltration or the entrance of outside air inside and the loss of inside air outside. Basically heating or cooling air and then losing it, which means you aren't able to enjoy it.

By weatherizing and caulking, you prevent air loss, and those small improvements help

improve comfort in your home. Then you don't adjust the thermostat and that helps costs. A win-win for all.

So, if you're considering making some improvements to your home, find which ones will benefit you because they need to be done and because they might be eligible for a rebate.

For details on the rebate, as well as areas to check for improvement, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

Make Heating And Cooling More Affordable For You

Heating and cooling is important and it takes up almost 50 percent of your electric costs each month.

But if that's the case, why don't we do more about it? When we purchase a heat pump we look at what is the most affordable, not the most efficient. And like all other electric appliances, heating and cooling units have two costs. The cost of purchase, which can be expensive,

and the cost to run.

The older a unit gets the more inefficient it becomes, and while we replace them with newer units, we don't always look at the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER rating. It's important because it tells you the cooling efficiency of a system. The higher the SEER rating, the more efficient a system is, and a 14 SEER is standard.

Purchasing a high efficiency system, like 17 SEER or greater, can help you save energy and money. Plus, if you purchase an air source, mini split or geothermal heat pump with a higher SEER rating, you could be eligible for a rebate.

For information on heat pump rebates, as well as specifications, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

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