

# cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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## Hurricane Irene rocks the area

The most powerful storm to take aim at the Eastern Seaboard in almost 20 years gave Southern Maryland a beating on August 27 and 28, 2011. Hurricane Irene brought high winds and heavy rain that toppled trees onto homes, automobiles, and power lines.

Our service territory began experiencing power outages at 11 a.m. Saturday morning and those outage numbers peaked 12 hours later when

**Irene**  
*continued page 2*

*Nancy Pilkerton of Great Mills won the grand prize—a well-traveled SMECO vehicle, a 2001 Ford Ranger—at our 73rd annual meeting. Read more on our annual meeting on page 8.*



approximately 109,000 customer-members—more than 70 percent of the cooperative’s members—were plunged into darkness.

At the height of the outages, SMECO faced 11 transmission circuits that were out of service, as well as 18 substations and 82 feeders that were de-energized.

The hardest hit areas of Southern Maryland were the waterfront and those neighborhoods near the rivers and Bay. Downed trees fell on power lines and broke poles, and caused extensive damage to SMECO’s electric system.

In the nearly seven days it took to complete restoration of electric service to Southern Maryland, over 150 crews replaced more than 300 broken poles, 400-plus cross-arms and cross-arm braces, about 200 transformers, and almost 3,600 fuses.

“Hurricane Irene caused more damage and more outages than at any time in the history of our cooperative,” said Austin J. Slater Jr., president and CEO of SMECO. “Yet, the restoration process that followed this destruction was the most well-coordinated, organized, and executed storm response I have ever witnessed.”



Employees from all areas of the co-op, including safety division personnel, meter operations, collectors, contact center representatives, materials management personnel, information technology, and the system operations center, were integral to SMECO's service restoration process. In addition, all the necessary equipment and materials required for restoring service were available.

SMECO crews worked to restore electric service, along with Pike, Asplundh, CW Wright, Penn Line, and Muskgrove crews. Crews from seven electric cooperatives in Alabama and nine electric cooperatives in Georgia assisted with power restoration.

All customer-members had power restored late on

Friday, Sept. 2.  
Thank you for  
your patience  
and support



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# Need help paying your energy bill? Help is available!

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Having trouble paying your electric bill? You may be eligible to participate in one of two payment programs offered by the State of Maryland.

If you qualify for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) or the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP), you may receive payment assistance. EUSP participants are required to be enrolled in a monthly budget payment plan. MEAP customers have the option to participate in a special budget payment plan offered through the Utility Service Protection Program (USPP) that is designed to safeguard MEAP customers from termination of service during the winter.

To find out if you qualify for a MEAP or EUSP grant, apply at your local Office of Home Energy Programs. The locations and phone numbers are listed below. Be sure to call ahead to obtain an appointment to fill out the necessary paperwork.

If your electricity has been turned off, you may be able to be reconnected and placed on a MEAP or EUSP budget payment plan. If you fail to make your monthly payments after being placed on a payment plan, you can be dropped from the program and your service can be turned off.

## **MD Office of Home Energy Programs**

### ***Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee***

8371 Leonardtown Rd., Business Rt. 5, Hughesville

410-535-1010

Calvert County

301-274-4474

Charles County

301-475-5574

St. Mary's County

301-870-3770

Metro Line

### ***Prince George's County Department of Social Services***

805 Brightseat Road, Landover

301-909-6300

Pr. George's County

# Apply for assistance in person at the Energy Assistance Fair

Representatives will be available to assist in filling out applications. **Please bring the following with you to apply for energy assistance:**

- **photo identification**
- **copies of social security cards** for all household members, including children
- **proof of all household income** for the last 30 days
- **copy of your most recent electric bill** and other heating bills showing the name of your energy supplier and your account number
- **copy of your lease** (if you rent)

**Wednesday, November 9**

**9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**SMECO's Hughesville  
Headquarters Auditorium**  
15035 Burnt Store Road  
Hughesville, MD 20637

No appointment necessary!

## **Income Eligibility Standards**

to receive energy assistance

<b>Household size</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Income</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Income</b>
1	\$1,588.12	\$19,057.50
2	\$2,145.20	\$25,742.50
3	\$2,702.29	\$32,427.50
4	\$3,259.37	\$39,112.50
5	\$3,816.45	\$45,797.50
6	\$4,373.54	\$52,482.50
For each additional person, add	\$557.08	\$6,685.00



**Water heaters are usually the second largest energy consumer in the home.**

Inexpensive ways to reduce hot water consumption include installing low flow shower heads, turning down the temperature on the water heater to 120 degrees, and insulating the hot water tank. The cost savings will vary, but could easily add up to \$16 per month for a family of four.

## around **TOWN**

### **November 4**

#### **Auction**

Sponsor: Immaculate Conception Church

6 p.m. (preview 4 p.m.)

28297 Old Village Ave., Mechanicsville

Live auction, Country Store, bake table, plant and garden table, raffles, food table, and Christmas table.

Food and drinks available starting at 4 p.m.

301-884-4567

ICMechanicsville.com

### **November 5**

#### **Craft and Apple**

#### **Dumpling Fair**

Sponsor: Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, St. Charles, Waldorf. Please contact Nina for space reservations.

301-934-3635

### **Craft Bazaar**

Sponsor: Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

13025 Good Samaritan Drive, Waldorf. Handmade crafts, bake sale, cookie walk, white elephant sale, Secret Santa Shop, and food. Admission is free.

301-843-1335

gspc.cc

### **November 12**

#### **Annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale**

Sponsor: La Plata United Methodist Church—United Methodist Women

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

3 Port Tobacco Rd., La Plata. Homemade crafts, holiday baked goods, and reusable decorations. Breakfast and lunch for sale, and door prizes will be awarded.

301-934-3157

laplataumc.com



Visit [www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown](http://www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown) for more events.

**Kids Workshop—Animal Tracking & Woods Lore**

Sponsor: Historic SMC

10 a.m. to noon

Historic St. Mary's City

Learn to read the secret signs animals leave behind.

Reservations are required.

**\$ Admission.**

240-895-4489

[stmaryscity.org/events.html](http://stmaryscity.org/events.html)

**November 16**

**AARP Driver**

**Safety Program**

Sponsor: AARP and

Office on Aging

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(Attendees should arrive

30 minutes prior to

complete paperwork.)

Calvert Pines Senior Center.

Pre-registration is required.

**\$ Admission.**

410-535-4606

301-855-1170

**November 25–26**

**Hearth and Home in**

**Early Maryland**

Sponsor: Historic SMC

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City

Explore the colonial

table and discover how

Maryland's first settlers

celebrated the end of the

harvest season. Visitors

who donate a non-

perishable food item will

receive a \$1 discount.

**\$ Admission.**

240-889-54990

**FESTIVAL OF TREES**

Sponsor: Friends of Hospice

**November 25–27**

**Calvert County**

410-535-0892

**November 25–27**

**Charles County**

301-934-1268

# SMECO holds 73rd annual meeting

SMECO held our 73rd Annual Meeting on August 24, 2011, at the Blue Crabs Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf. We had 1,220 members register to vote, with 257 of them voting by absentee mail-in ballot. The following SMECO members were elected to serve on our Board for three years: Nancy W. Zinn of Calvert County; John H. Bloom of Charles County; Daniel W. Dyer of Prince George's County; and J. Douglas Frederick and Joseph V. Stone, Jr. of St. Mary's County.

SMECO's president and CEO, Austin J. Slater, Jr. reviewed the co-op's activities of the past year and responded to questions from the audience. Guest speaker, Jordan Goldstein, a senior at Patuxent High School and a Youth Tour participant, was one of the evening's highlights as he articulated what it means to be part of a cooperative.

"We are the cooperative difference. Every single member of every electric cooperative, by their participation, is committed to making America and its communities a better place. We—we are the cooperative difference," Goldstein said.

Entertainment included a performance by Sam Grow, local musician and son of a retired SMECO employee, as well as bingo. Dana Jones of Plum Point United Methodist Church in Calvert County gave the invocation, the North Point High School Air Force Junior ROTC presented the colors, and SMECO employee Theresa Dorsey sang the national anthem.



*Troy Scranage of Waldorf and John Lankford of St. Leonard each won a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. William Quade, Jr. of Prince Frederick won a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond.*