

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Join us for a year of celebration

On February 5, 1937, 75 years ago this month, SMECO's original board signed the documents that would bring the cooperative to life. In the coming months, we have many activities and programs planned to celebrate 75 years of service to Southern Maryland and the growth and continued advancement of this community.

Celebrate
continued page 2

"The Potomac River bridge, now the Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge, would be opened officially in 1940, with the Patuxent River bridge at Benedict opening in 1952. Originally a toll bridge, there was not enough traffic on the Patuxent River bridge to justify the salary of a toll collector."



SMECO
People. Power. Progress.™

SMECO
75
YEARS

Celebrate
CONTINUED

Be on the lookout for your golden ticket

We hope our customer-members will be as excited as children as they check their bills in hopes of receiving a golden ticket. Starting this month, a select number of customer-members will be randomly selected to win that month's golden-ticket prize.

All prizes are donated by local businesses. In



Keep an eye out for the golden ticket!

February, we are giving away prizes from seven local jewelry stores.

Golden Renaissance **JEWELLERS**

Golden Renaissance Jewellers has donated a beautiful 0.59-carat, heart-shaped diamond with SI2 clarity, H color, and a very good cut. The loose diamond is valued at \$1,680. **Golden Renaissance Jewellers** is located at 2591 Crain Highway in Waldorf. Visit their website at www.renaissancejeweler.com.



BLAIR'S JEWELRY & GIFTS

Blair's Jewelry & Gifts donated a pair of 14K yellow gold half-carat total weight diamond stud earrings. **Blair's Jewelry & Gifts** is located at 22861 Three Notch Road in California. Visit their website at www.blairsjewelry.com. Prize is valued at \$1,000.

Celebrate life's unforgettable moments with a beautiful Pandora signature clasp bracelet in sterling silver. **Dickinson Jewelers** has

dickinson **JEWELERS**

Fine Jewelry Since 1957

included nine of their favorite charms in a pink and red color scheme. This prize also includes a \$50 gift certificate to **Dickinson Jewelers**. With locations in both Prince Frederick (916 Costley Way) and Dunkirk (10286 Southern Maryland Boulevard), it will be easy to add your own personal style to your collection! You can visit their website at www.dickinsonjewelers.com. Prize is valued at \$535.



FINE JEWELRY & HOME BOUTIQUE

Joson Jewelry & Home Boutique has donated one pair of 14K yellow gold Freshwater Pearl and Diamond Dangle Earrings, valued at \$295.

Joson Jewelry & Home Boutique is located at 113B LaGrange Avenue in La Plata. Visit their website at: www.josonjewelryhome.com.

Rick's Jewelers, located at 308 San Souci Plaza



in California has donated an exclusively designed and copyrighted bracelet valued at \$160. The history behind the bracelet... the St. Mary's County Hook Bracelet is a tribute in precious metals to a lifestyle that is rooted in tradition and echoes a heritage born of the tidewater and the sea. A classically stylized "St" is "Hooked" by a Blue Crab in the shape of an "M", with the union of the two representing the "hook". Two 14-karat wraps signify the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Learn more about **Rick's Jewelers** at their website: www.rickjewelers.com.



Cecil's Country Store has donated this Linx & More CZ heart locket with three stones. These modern-day

glass lockets can be personalized by inserting charms such as hearts, birthstones, religious symbols, letters, hobby charms, sports charms, and much more. What's in your heart? This locket is valued at \$162.

Cecil's Country Store is located at 20853 Indian Bridge Road in California. Visit their website at www.cecilscountrystore.com.

Maertens Fine Jewelry, located at 11743 H.G. Trueman Road in Solomons, has donated a



MAERTENS FINE JEWELRY & GIFTS

beautiful pair of sterling silver earrings with a filigree pattern and gray freshwater pearls, valued at \$150. Visit **Maertens Fine Jewelry's** website: www.maertensjewelry.com.

We will announce each month's winners on Facebook and Twitter, as well as in the following month's newsletter. Like us or follow us to hear it first! Visit facebook.com/SMECO.coop or twitter.com/somdelectric.

Anniversary bits and pieces

SMECO is publishing a book, written by former employee Al Gough, documenting the history of SMECO and Southern Maryland. We will host the dedication of our new Engineering and Operations building in the fall and we are sponsoring a 75-mile bike ride (see the back cover).

These are some of our upcoming plans, but we have much more in store for you. Keep an eye out for more information on upcoming events through Facebook, Twitter, our anniversary web page, and through your monthly newsletter.

smeco.coop/75years

Statement of Nondiscrimination

SMECO is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). Sonja Cox, SMECO Senior Vice President of Financial, Economic and Employee Services, is responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination efforts. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free 1-866-632-9992 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) or 1-866-377-8642 (relay voice users).

SMECO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Reminder: scholarship applications are due by March 1

SMECO is offering \$1,500 college scholarships to four high school seniors graduating in 2012 and who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers.

We would like to remind all eligible high school seniors that completed scholarship application packages (all items must be submitted as one package) are due by **March 1, 2012**. They may be taken to one of the SMECO offices listed below or mailed to:

Attention: Bernadette Lewis, SMECO Headquarters
P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD, 20637

For more information or to obtain an application, visit www.smeco.coop, see your school career counselor, call SMECO at **1-888-440-3311, ext. 4340**, or visit a customer service desk in SMECO's Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, and Hughesville offices.

Applicants for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's scholarships shall be considered based on the cooperative's established guidelines without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

Help your neighbor stay warm

For people who have fallen on hard times, receiving enough money to pay past due electric bills can make a big difference. By contributing to Members Helping Members, you can help other SMECO customer-members stay warm. "I contribute to help people who are trying to make ends meet. Everyone needs a helping hand now and then," said Yvonne G., SMECO member.

It's easy to help! Simply sign up to add \$1 to your SMECO electric bill every month. You can sign up to be a member who helps members in several convenient ways.

- **Call:** 1-888-440-3311
- **Online:** www.smeco.coop/mhm
- **In person** at the customer service counter at a SMECO location



Ready to fall in love with a new home?

If you are considering buying a new home, consider an ENERGY STAR[®] qualified home built by a leading Southern Maryland builder. Homes that meet the ENERGY STAR guidelines typically include energy-saving features that make them 20 to 30 percent more efficient than standard homes.

around **TOWN**

March 3

Annual Spring Dinner

Sponsor: Ladies Auxiliary
of the Hollywood Volunteer
Fire Department

1 to 5 p.m.

Hollywood Firehouse
Social Hall. The menu will
include stuffed ham, fried
oysters, chicken salad,
parsley potatoes, candied
yams, cole slaw, green
beans, beets, rolls, tea,
and coffee.

301-373-2695

March 10

Dinner-Dance

5 to 11 p.m.

Amazing Place Party Barn
featuring the Wanderer's
Band, Clements, MD.

All proceeds from this
event will be donated to
the Margaret Brent High
School Alumni Association
for the scholarship fund.

\$Admission.

301-997-1778

240-298-8297

March 22

Financial Workshop

Sponsor: Office on Aging

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Calvert Pines Senior Center
Relatively small changes in
behavior can have a large
impact in overcoming
deficiencies in retirement





Visit www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown for more events.

savings. This workshop will provide you with a background so you can improve your retirement prospects. Presented by Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER). This workshop is free. Must RSVP by March 15 by calling. 410-535-4606

March 24

Annual Bike Ride

Sponsor: Charles County Sheriff's Department
Registration 9 a.m.,
Flex Start 10 a.m.
Village Green
Pavillion
100 Walter Thomas
Road, Indian Head
Benefitting United Way of
Charles County and Spring



Dell Center equally, this is a great way to get started shaping up for the summer. Everyone is welcome to come and ride all of, or a portion of the 26-mile, scenic Rail Trail. The Town of Indian Head will provide lunch to all who participate. Pre-registration by March 14 guarantees you an event T-shirt. Registration the day of the event is welcomed, however T-shirts will be on a first-come first-served basis. Registration forms are available to download from the United Way of Charles County website Special Events tab or by calling to have one mailed to you. 301-609-4844 www.unitedwaycharles.org



Join us for our 75th anniversary bike ride

SMECO is working in conjunction with the Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club to plan a 75-mile bicycle ride beginning at our headquarters building in Hughesville on June 2, 2012, which is also National Trails Day.

The routes for the 75th anniversary ride will include two segments of the Three Notch Trail and is also on a portion of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail on-road bike route. The anniversary ride will feature a 75-mile route for experienced riders and shorter routes, as well. This event is the perfect opportunity for healthy celebration with your fellow customer-members. There will be food and plans for non-riders, too!

We will provide more details once registration is available, and you can check out smeco.coop/75years for updates.

We look forward to this year of celebration with you and the future of SMECO and Southern Maryland.

