

# cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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## Incentives to preserve historic barns

Preserving the history and environment of Southern Maryland is a very important factor when SMECO considers and implements new technology. The counties of Southern Maryland also work hard to ensure proper preservation of our historic landscape, including old tobacco barns.

Personnel within the three counties worked with Tommy Short, Environmental Affairs

### Barn

*continued page 2*

*On May 12, 1982, SMECO held the dedication ceremony for the cooperative's new headquarters building named for Forrest Coakley, the cooperative's first general manager. At that dedication, Coakley noted, "This is a far cry from the two-room storefront on the main street of La Plata next to the Stumble Inn! That's where we were in 1938 when I first came aboard."*



## Barn

CONTINUED

Coordinator for SMECO, to ensure best practices were used during the removal of aged barns on the site of SMECO Solar LLC's new solar facility in Hughesville. While the barns on the site could not be saved, they were documented and then plans were made to reuse the barn material. It is anticipated that the wood from the barn will be removed—at no cost to SMECO's customer-members—and recycled and reused.

Many old barns throughout Southern Maryland can be restored and rehabilitated, and incentives are available to aid in restoring this disappearing element of local history.

*The Adaptive Reuse of Tobacco Barns* ([www.co.cal.md.us/assets/Planning\\_Zoning/HDC/TobaccoBarnsBooklet.pdf](http://www.co.cal.md.us/assets/Planning_Zoning/HDC/TobaccoBarnsBooklet.pdf)) provides guidelines to help barn owners find new uses and opportunities for their tobacco barns, ensure individuals are aware of their history, explore opportunities to ensure the survival and proper restoration of tobacco barns, show successful examples of barns that have been adaptively restored, and describe the incentives to reuse tobacco barns.



“You can convert an old tobacco barn for about one-quarter of what it would cost to build a new barn of the same size,” according to Jack Hart, general contractor and owner of Advanced Equine Construction.<sup>1</sup>

State and federal incentives for the restoration of old tobacco barns, including the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, provide Maryland income tax credits equal to 20 percent of the qualified capital costs expended in the rehabilitation of a “certified heritage structure” that meets the proper standards and receives certification by the Maryland Historical Trust. A 10 percent tax credit is also available for non-historic buildings built before 1936. These credits are mutually exclusive. The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program

also offers a 20 percent tax credit on restorations that meet the proper criteria.

Guidelines for rehabilitation of historic barns include the following:

1. *Preserve the historic setting of the barn as much as possible.*
2. *Repair or place historic siding with wood rather than cover barns with artificial siding.*
3. *Although windows are not common on tobacco barns, repair rather than replace historic windows whenever possible, and avoid “blocking them down” or covering them up.*
4. *Avoid changing the size of door openings whenever possible.*
5. *Consider a new exterior addition only if it is essential to the continued use of a historic barn.*
6. *Retain as much of the historic internal structural system and spaces as possible.<sup>1</sup>*

If you are considering rehabilitating an old tobacco barn, please contact the appropriate person for your county:

### **Calvert County**

**Calvert County Community Planning and Building**

Kirsti Uunila, *Historic Preservation Planner*

150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

410-535-1600 ext. 2504 • [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us)

### **Charles County**

**Charles County Department of  
Planning and Growth Management**

Cathy Thompson, *Community Planning Program Manager*

P.O. Box 2150, La Plata, MD 20646

301-396-5815 • [www.charlescountymd.gov](http://www.charlescountymd.gov)

### **St. Mary's County**

**Land Use & Growth Management**

Grace Mary Brady, *Historic Preservation Planner*

23150 Leonard Hall Drive, P.O. Box 653

Leonardtwn, MD 20650

301-475-4200 ext. 1549 • [www.co.saint-marys.md.us](http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us)

## **Mystery man revealed**



Many customer-members have called in requesting the identity of the lineman featured on the cover of our May annual report issue. His name was Frank Norris and he served the cooperative for almost 40 years.

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## Join the celebration August 23 at the SMECO annual meeting

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Join us Thursday, August 23, at the Blue Crabs Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf for the Co-op's Annual Meeting. Register and vote from 3 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

At the meeting you can learn more about the various projects in progress at SMECO. There will be information about smart meters, the new solar project in Hughesville, the new Engineering and Operations building, and the 230-kV Southern Maryland Reliability Project.

Former SMECO Vice President Al Gough, Jr. will be on hand to sign copies of his book *Lighting Up Our Lives: The History of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative* and local performers, including fan favorite Sam Grow, will provide entertainment. Stay until the end to enjoy a fabulous fireworks display in celebration of SMECO's 75th anniversary.

Members who are unable to attend the meeting may request an absentee mail-in ballot by calling 1-888-440-3311, extension 4722, or by visiting our website at [www.smeco.coop](http://www.smeco.coop). Requests for absentee ballots must be submitted by Thursday, August 14. Please mail your completed ballot back to SMECO by August 20, 2012, so it can be counted at the annual meeting.

If you vote for a business or organization, **you must bring the registration identification card to the annual meeting.** If you don't have the registration card, you won't be able to vote.

SMECO will mail the official Annual Meeting Notice along with a voter registration card to each customer-member on or around July 22. The notice will contain complete meeting details, including biographical information for each individual running for a seat on the Board of Directors.

Candidates for SMECO's Board of Directors may campaign in designated locations. Candidates for political office are prohibited from campaigning according to stadium policy.



## Progress continues on 230-kV line

The Southern Maryland Reliability Project is making steady progress. Access road construction is largely complete from the Sollers Wharf switching station through White Sands, and teams are preparing the pads—the bases for the cranes that will be used to place the new poles.

Work is also occurring concurrently on the Sollers Wharf switching station. The site that will house the new substation has been cleared and graded, and pole locations are being drilled and the concrete poured to prepare for pole installation.

*A pad to support the crane during pole installation.*



For more information on the Southern Maryland Reliability Project, or for detailed information on sites near your home or office, please visit [www.smeco.coop/reliability](http://www.smeco.coop/reliability). The site contains a detailed route map of the project,

as well as details on the benefits of the upgraded line. If you have any questions, please call 877-918-6824.



*Drilling a hole for the concrete base of a pole.*



Want to beat the heat and reduce your cooling costs? SMECO can help with energy-saving programs and rebates of \$100–\$750 for energy efficiency upgrades and services. Visit [SMECO.coop/save](http://SMECO.coop/save) and click on *Rebates for Residential Heating and Cooling*.

## around **TOWN**

### August 4

#### Movie Night: "As You Like It"

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

7 to 9 p.m., SMCM Visitor's Center; 18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City.

#### **\$ Admission.**

240-895-4990

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

All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 100 Lower Marlboro Rd., Sunderland Home-baked goodies and homemade crafts are also available. **\$ Admission.** Free for children age 5 and younger.

410-257-6306

[allsaints1692.org](http://allsaints1692.org)

### Beach Party on the Square

Sponsor: Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Leonardtown Business Assoc.

4 to 9 p.m., Historic Downtown Leonardtown and Leonardtown Wharf Park. Live music, entertainment, and more.

Parking and admission free.

301-475-9791

[leonardtown.somd.com](http://leonardtown.somd.com)

### August 11–12

#### Colonial Kids Workshop: Fun with Shakespeare

Sponsor: Historic SMC

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Historic St. Mary's City; 48751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City

Only wit and wonder need attend. Workshop Saturday; dress rehearsal and performance Sunday. Ages 12–17 years. **\$ Admission.**

Reservations required by Aug. 6.

240-895-4990

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

### 67th Summer Supper

Sponsor: All Saints Episcopal Church

3 to 7 p.m.



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

## August 24

### Proposal Writing for Foundation Grants

Sponsor: MD Governor's Grants Office, College of So. MD, Charles County Government, Charles County Public Schools, Charles County Public Library, and Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

College of Southern MD, La Plata Campus. Free interactive training seminar on Proposal Writing for Foundation Grants. Class size limited. Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline is August 17.

301-934-7648

[charlescounty.org/fs/grants/](http://charlescounty.org/fs/grants/)

### 3rd Annual "Helping Us — Help You" Golf Tournament

Sponsor: Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department

7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Twin Shields Golf Club,

2425 Roarty Road, Dunkirk  
Captain's Choice Scramble format. Check-in at 7 a.m., shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Contests, prizes, raffles, lunch, and an award ceremony. **\$ Admission.**

443-532-1025

[www.supportdunkirk5.org](http://www.supportdunkirk5.org)

## August 25

### Chaptico Classic

8 to 11 a.m.

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 37497 Zach Fowler Road, Chaptico. Race 10K or 5K T.A.C. certified courses or walk a three-mile loop. Meet three-time Olympic competitor and bronze medalist Lynn Jennings. Reg. starts at 7 a.m. and races begin at 8. Pre-register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), or sign up beginning at 7 a.m. on the day of the race. **\$ Admission.**

301-475-2886

## Will you be a winner?

July's prizes bring the opportunity for relaxing stay-cations thanks to four generous, local sponsors. Watch for your bill to see if you won!

Win a beach cottage weekend getaway for two from **CAMP MERRYELANDE** valued at \$309. Camp Merryelande is located on St. George's Island. This family-oriented vacation destination offers beach cottages and campgrounds either on the beach or with nice views of the beach and river. The cottages are modern and come with WIFI, satellite TV, and full kitchens. Learn more about Camp Merryelande at [www.campmd.com](http://www.campmd.com).

The **VICTORIAN CANDLE BED & BREAKFAST** in Hollywood, Maryland, valued at \$205. A Victorian-style house nestled on 12 acres overlooking the Patuxent River, the bed & breakfast features seven queen rooms and one king room with private full baths, refrigerators, high-speed internet, and full and Continental breakfasts. Visit its website at [www.victorian-candle.com](http://www.victorian-candle.com).

**THE INN AT BROME HOWARD** has donated an overnight stay for two (weeknight only) valued at \$140. The Inn at Brome Howard is a bed and breakfast on the grounds of Historic St. Mary's City, a National Historic Landmark. Surrounded by fields and forests on the banks of the St. Mary's River, the 1840s Inn is the perfect retreat for weddings, birthdays, a family adventure, or a romantic getaway. Learn more about the inn at [www.bromehoward.com](http://www.bromehoward.com)

Win a weeknight overnight stay for two at the **BACK CREEK INN**, valued at \$130. Located in the heart of historic southern Maryland, the Back Creek Inn offers a unique blend of old and modern conveniences. The Back Creek, one of southern Maryland's scenic waterways along which the Inn is nestled, merges with the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. Sailing and motorized boating guests may dock at one of the two slips available at the Inn's dock. Visit their website at [www.backcreekinnbnb.com](http://www.backcreekinnbnb.com)

