

# cooperative **REVIEW**

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative



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## Information is key in an emergency

Today's technology makes it easier than ever to stay in touch, whether that is with friends and family, or with your local community. Your cooperative, the College of Southern Maryland and your local counties all have notification systems that will keep you up-to-date on what's happening in your town.

### SMECO

SMECO has two mobile options available to its members, the SMECO 24/7 mobile app and SMS texting. Download the free SMECO 24/7 mobile app to report outages, view the up-to-date outage map, and pay your SMECO bill—all with the touch of a finger. Download the SMECO 24/7 app free from Apple iTunes or Google Play.

If you prefer texting, just text REG (for register) to 76326 (SMECO). With SMECO's easy-to-use texting service, you can report outages, get status updates, and pay your bill. Visit [smeco.coop/SMECO247](http://smeco.coop/SMECO247) for more information.

### College of Southern Maryland

CSM.TXT is the College of Southern Maryland's alert service provided through e2Campus. This



*As part of SMECO's increased focus on renewable energy options for its members, the cooperative has promoted Jeff Shaw to Vice President, Distributed Energy and Sustainability. Learn more on page 4.*

service will send instant alerts and time-sensitive messages, including up-to-date information on emergencies and campus closings.

Messages can be sent to a cell phone via text message, or to an e-mail account. Registration is free; all cell phone text message fees will apply.

For more information or to register, visit [ready.csmd.edu/CSM.TXT/index.html](http://ready.csmd.edu/CSM.TXT/index.html).

## Calvert County

Calvert County has two services available to notify residents of critical information in a timely fashion.

### CALVERT COUNTY ALERT

Calvert County ALERT is offered by Calvert County's Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division. It provides critical information for a variety of situations, such as severe weather, evacuations, law enforcement notifications, missing persons, water/sewer updates, etc. Messages can be sent to home phones, mobile phones, business phones, e-mail addresses, through text messaging and more. To sign up, residents can click on the Emergency Alerts button at [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us).

### NIXLE

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office uses Nixle, which sends notifications through text, e-mail, voice messages, social media, and the mobile app. Residents can sign up at [local.nixle.com/register](http://local.nixle.com/register).

## Charles County

Charles County Government and affiliated agencies use a Citizen Notification System (CNS) to send important notifications to residents.

During the registration process, citizens are able to manage their message settings, provide preferred contact information, and select categories of information. Residents can subscribe to a variety of notification categories, such as the following:

- School Closings/Delays
- Public Health Advisories

- Crime Alerts
- Emergency Alerts
- Park Events/Outdoor Sports
- Environmental Resources/Curbside Recycling
- Road Maintenance

CNS notifications can be accessed on any computer or mobile device with Internet access and through the free Android or iOS Everbridge mobile applications, available for download from the Apple Store or Google Play.

For more information, or to register, visit [www.charlescountymd.gov/CNS](http://www.charlescountymd.gov/CNS).

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

St. Mary's County has two notification options available for its residents.

### **CODERED**

St. Mary's County offers CodeRed notification for its citizens. CodeRed is an ultra high-speed telephone communication service used to quickly contact citizens for emergency notification. The system is used to make calls to all or targeted areas of the county when important information needs to be immediately relayed.

The system is capable of dialing 60,000 phone numbers per hour. It then delivers a recorded message describing the situation in the affected area, which may include instructions requiring action on the part of the recipient. Sign up for CodeRed at [www.stmarysmd.com/emergencycodered.asp](http://www.stmarysmd.com/emergencycodered.asp).

### **StormReady**

St. Mary's County citizens can stay up to date with weather warnings and notifications through the StormReady program, which also tracks the progress of county road crews during snow plowing operations. Visit [www.stmarysmd.com/dpw/roadalertmap.asp](http://www.stmarysmd.com/dpw/roadalertmap.asp) for more information.

# SMECO recognizes new vice president

SMECO recently appointed Jeff Shaw to Vice President, Distributed Energy and Sustainability. Shaw's promotion to this position is part of the cooperative's increased focus on distributed energy resources and sustainability. (Distributed energy resources are relatively small electric generation units, such as solar panels, located close to where the energy is being used. Sustainability refers to green power, efficiency, and environmentally-friendly business practices.)

SMECO customer-members have shown an increasing interest in renewable resources and frequently call on the cooperative for guidance and assistance. Many of our customer-members are investing in rooftop solar and are interested in community solar programs and other types of renewable energy sources. SMECO receives numerous interconnection applications each day.

SMECO is aligning the organization's structure and resources to effectively respond to immediate demands for solar net-metering applications and to address SMECO strategic renewable interests.

"The public demand for renewable options and sustainable initiatives is ever increasing as consumers look for ways to have a positive impact on the environment. We want to help our customer-members understand the net metering process and overall economics of the solar renewable option," said Sonja Cox, Sr. Vice President Financial Economic & Employee Services and CFO for SMECO.

In the past few years, SMECO has worked to provide customers with the expertise needed to help them make sound decisions on installing renewable power sources. Many customers have installed solar arrays on their homes and businesses, and these installations require close coordination among SMECO, our customer, and the installer. Shaw will manage these responsibilities.



In addition to residential and community solar, SMECO continues to meet state requirements for renewable energy. SMECO is investigating additional utility-scale solar projects.

One recent enhancement to help our members is the installation of the software application **WattPlan**, an online, self-service tool that our members may use to help them make decisions on solar installations. With WattPlan, customer-members who are considering solar can simply enter the address of their home or office and WattPlan provides a personal estimate of the building's potential for a rooftop solar array, including an estimate of the amount of electricity that could be generated and how much might be saved each year on the electric bill. (The figures shown are estimates only.)



*Jeff Shaw, SMECO Vice President, Distributed Energy and Sustainability*

Shaw's team will keep abreast of other related emerging technologies, support and ensure alignment with integrated resource power supply plans, manage utility-scale renewable projects, ensure member engagement and communication, and advocate policies that reflect SMECO members' interests. Shaw will continue to oversee and direct the energy efficiency programs that SMECO offers its customer-members, in addition to enhancing the renewable options available.

## October 03

### **A Taste of Southern Maryland Wine Tour**

Sponsor: Jack and Jill of America Foundation

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dunkirk Parking Lot, 3198 Ferry Landing Road, Dunkirk. Explore world-class vintages, premium crafted beers, and hand-selected hors d'oeuvres while taking in the landscape of Southern Maryland. Proceeds benefit LEAP Forward and Jack and Jill of America Foundation.

301-509-3872

[leapforwardinc@yahoo.com](mailto:leapforwardinc@yahoo.com)

## October 7

### **Little Explorers: Fall Mixed Up**

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Historic St. Mary's City, Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation, 47621 Old Cove Road, St. Mary's City. Designed for children ages 3 to 5 and an accompanying adult. \$ Admission; one accompanying adult free.

240-895-4990

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

## October 10

### **Dinner at Van Sweringen's**

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

5:30 to 8 p.m. Historic St. Mary's City, Van Sweringen's Inn, 47414 Old State House Road. Cook and enjoy an authentic and delicious colonial meal. For adults ages 18 and older. \$ Admission. Reservations required.

240-895-4990

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

## October 11

### **Fall Festival**

Sponsor: Town of La Plata

Noon to 3 p.m. La Plata Town Hall. Come for a day of free family fun.

301-934-8421

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

## October 14

### **Speaker Series #6: Todd Brewster "Lincoln's Gamble: The Tumultuous Six Months that Gave America the Emancipation Proclamation and Changed the Course of the Civil War"**

Sponsor: Sotterley Plantation and The Boeing Company

7 to 8:30 p.m. Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood. Lincoln's Gamble portrays the president as an imperfect man with an unshakable determination to save a country he believed in, even as the course of the Civil War remained unknown. Free. Advance reservations are required.

301-373-2280

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

### **Homeschool Day:**

#### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historic St. Mary's City, Visitor Center, 18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City. Discover how "reduce, reuse, recycle" played out in colonial times. \$ Admission. One accompanying adult free. Registration is recommended.

240-895-4990

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

## October 17

### **7th Annual Dinner Dance**

Sponsor: Margaret Brent High School Alumni Association

5 to 11 p.m. Mechanicsville Moose Lodge. This event is held in observance of the 50th anniversary of the closing of the high school in 1965 and is a celebration of the legacy that has lasted over many years. The dinner dance is the association's main fundraiser for maintaining the Margaret Brent High School Scholarship Program. \$ Admission.

## October 22

### Lecture: A Few of My Favorite Things

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

7 to 9 p.m. Historic St. Mary's City, Visitor Center Auditorium, 18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City. Beverly Straube, senior archaeological curator at Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological Project, discusses James Fort artifacts and the stories behind them. Free.

240-895-4990  
hsmcdigshistory.org

## October 24

### Quarter Million Dollar Cash Bash

Sponsor: St. Michael's School and Mother Catherine Academy

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown. Win prizes ranging from \$1,000 to a grand prize of \$100,000.

\$ Admission Includes food and drink, games, and live entertainment. Purchase tickets online, call, or mail with check. Tickets available at gate, as well.

240-587-7111  
smscashbash.org

### All Faith Church Annual Fall Dinner

Sponsor: All Faith Episcopal Church

Noon to 5 p.m. Mechanicsville Moose Lodge. Stuffed ham, fried oysters, and fried chicken, with sides and drinks. Bake table, silent auction, and more.

301-884-3773  
allfaithchurch.com

### Haunted Ship

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

5:30 to 8 p.m. Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland Dove (meet at The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary), 47414 Old State House Road, St. Mary's City. Don a costume and visit the Maryland Dove,

transformed into a not-so-scary haunted ship. Bring the whole family to walk through. While you're there, make a craft, and meet a pirate on the beach. Donation.

240-895-4990  
hsmcdigshistory.org

### Community Shred and Electronics Recycling

Sponsor: Town of La Plata

8 to 11 a.m. La Plata Town Hall. Dispose of your personal documents and recycle unwanted electronics in a safe and secure manner. Residents and businesses may bring up to four file boxes of personal papers for shredding. Please see list of accepted and prohibited items on the town's website. Shredding is for materials of a sensitive nature—please recycle junk mail and magazines through normal collection services.

301-934-8421  
townoflaplata.org

## October 30

### Health Fair 2015

Sponsor: St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road, Hollywood. Seven health-related screenings available. Information and resources on a variety of topics including Alzheimer's disease, nutrition, medical equipment, diabetes, physical therapy services, counseling, library cards, chiropractic services, fitness, resources in the county, mental health, substance abuse, and treatment. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will be collecting prescription medications. A commercial shredder truck will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Flu shots will be offered. Free.

301-475-4200, ext. 1073  
stmarysmd.com/aging



## **SMECO bill payment address is changing**

SMECO will be moving its lockbox banking services in September 2015. This shift will affect where members mail their bill payments.

If you mail your SMECO payment or if you use a banking service to mail your payment, please use the following address as of **September 1, 2015**.

SMECO  
P.O. Box 62261  
Baltimore, MD 21264-2261

We are making this change to ensure our customer-members receive the best service possible.

SMECO transitioned to a different bank a year ago. In order to address concerns that have been raised by customers regarding the quality of service, SMECO is transitioning lockbox payment services back to the original bank.

In addition to mailing payments, customers can pay SMECO bills online, use the SMECO 24/7 app, or pay by text. Payments can also be made by phone, at Walmart, or at a Global Express retailer.

SMECO performed rigorous testing to ensure a smooth transition back to the original bank in September.