

November AROUND TOWN CALENDAR

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Craft and Apple Dumpling Fair

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Good Shepherd
United Methodist Church, 305
Smallwood Drive, Waldorf.

301-643-1160

All Faith Church Annual Fall Dinner

Noon to 5 p.m. Mechanicsville VFD
Social Hall

301-884-3773

allfaithchurch1692@gmail.com

Sponsor: All Faith Episcopal Church

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Auction

4 to 10 p.m. Immaculate
Conception Church Parish Center,
28297 Old Village Avenue,
Mechanicsville.

301-884-3123

ICChurchmd.org

Sponsor: Immaculate
Conception Church

November holidays

Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Nov. 28–29: Thanksgiving

SMECO offices closed. Customer
Care Center is available 24/7.

1-888-440-3311

smeco.coop

Find more events at smeco.coop/aroundtown.

October is National Co-op Month

A cooperative belongs to the community it serves because the cooperative's customers are also its owners.

SMECO's employees play a role in improving the quality of life for the cooperative's members, not only in providing electric service, but also in being a part of the fabric of the communities where they work and live. Our employees give back in a variety of ways—from volunteer efforts to charitable donations. They have contributed more than \$200,000 to local United Way organizations since 1999. In addition, SMECO employee fundraisers have contributed \$270,650 to local organizations in just six years.

SMECO's members can count on the cooperative's commitment to the community.

SMECO donates 1,635 pounds of food locally

SMECO and its employees donated 1,635 pounds of food to the Southern Maryland Food Bank. This donation helped the Southern Maryland Food Bank feed 75 families in Southern Maryland. SMECO is committed to the community and contributes to organizations that support local residents.

Over the course of two weeks, SMECO employees brought in non-perishables, canned goods, and monetary donations that will benefit the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

The SOMD Food Bank has served the tri-county area for over 35 years, working with pantries, shelters, group homes, and soup kitchens to provide direct service to isolated and resource-poor areas.

If you would like to donate, the Southern Maryland Food Bank accepts monetary and non-perishable food donations. All donations are accepted at Southern Maryland Food Bank's location or by mail at 22 Irongate Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602. You may drop off donations at satellite locations or contribute online. Learn more at southernmarylandfoodbank.com/how-to-donate.



From left to right: Mike Campbell, SMECO; David Lindsey, SMECO; George Mattingly, Southern Maryland Food Bank Warehouse and Retail Manager; and Natalie Cotton, SMECO.

Save on heating costs

In Southern Maryland, the largest energy user in the home is the unit that supplies heat. Heat pumps are the most prevalent electric heating system in SMECO's service territory.

A heat pump is a closed circuit that moves heat from one place to another. In summer, it removes heat from the inside and discharges it outside. In winter, it removes heat from outside and transfers it inside. *When it's very cold or below freezing and your heat pump is running 100 percent of the time but cannot keep up with the thermostat's temperature setting, the heat pump will need to access supplemental heat.*

Heat pump tips

- Never set the thermostat to emergency heat unless the outdoor unit stops working, then call your HVAC technician immediately.
- Set heat to the coolest possible setting. Try not to increase more than two degrees at once.
- Change filters monthly.
- Keep all vents open and free from blockages.
- Replace older thermostats with smart models—ask your HVAC technician which will work best.
- Have system serviced by a licensed HVAC technician annually to ensure peak efficiency.
- Keep outdoor unit free from snow, ice, and other air blockages.
- If your heat pump needs to be replaced, check out the EmPOWER Maryland rebates available at www.smeco.coop/hvac.

Minimize high bills

Act now to save money as the weather turns colder. Look on SMECO's website for tips on what you can do to save energy and save money this winter.

www.smeco.coop/ways-to-save



1

Election results were announced at the 2019 SMECO Annual Members' Meeting.

2

Members have direct access to account information and many self-service options.

3

Celebrate National Co-op Month in October.

4

SMECO donates 1,635 pounds of food to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

5

Make small changes now to save on heating costs this winter.

SMECO holds 81st Annual Meeting—more than 7,800 vote in election

SMECO held its 81st Annual Meeting on August 29, 2019, at Middleton Hall in Waldorf. The Board of Directors election was conducted online and by mail prior to the meeting.

The following SMECO members were elected to serve on SMECO's Board for three years:

- Calvert County: W. Michael Phipps
- Charles County: Gilbert O. Bowling
Richard A. Winkler
- Prince George's County: James A. Richards
- St. Mary's County: P. Scott White

One bylaw amendment providing that a person's capital credits can be used to offset arrearages was also included on this year's ballot, and it passed.

This is the third year SMECO's election was conducted by mail, and, for the first time, members could also vote electronically by casting their ballots online. Ballots were mailed to members on July 22. The deadline for submitting ballots by mail or electronically was August 22. Members who returned their ballots were eligible to win one of 30 electric bill credits of \$50 each. More than 7,800 members voted: 6,560 voted by mail and 1,278 voted online.

Election results were announced at the meeting.

Scott White, Chairman of the SMECO Board of Directors, welcomed SMECO's members to the event and called the meeting to order. SMECO's president and CEO, Austin J. Slater, Jr.,

Bill credit winners

Nancy G., Mechanicsville
Norman W., Waldorf
Bennetta F., Waldorf
Redda R., Solomons
Shirley B., Saint Leonard
Luis S., La Plata
John G., Leonardtown
Sylvia M., Waldorf
Lillie S., California
Michael D., Lexington Park
James T., Dameron
Carmen A., Waldorf
Paul W., Mechanicsville
William M., Issue
Joyce B., Hughesville

introduced the video version of the cooperative's 2018 annual report. The video highlighted the strides SMECO has made since installing smart meters throughout the service area. Energy use data, monthly billing information, and tips on how to save energy and money are available to co-op members online through SMECO's Account Manager system.

Slater said that SMECO's margins for 2018 totaled more than \$27 million, and all of those funds were allocated to members' capital credit accounts. He also said that SMECO will be refunding more than \$5 million of the cooperative's margins to members this year. "When SMECO issues capital credit refunds to members, we are making good on a basic co-op principle. We pass on savings to members because they share the financial responsibility and the financial rewards of the co-op," Slater explained.

Some SMECO members who attended the meeting expressed their concern about the health effects of using coal to generate electricity. Slater and board chairman Scott White responded to members' concerns and explained the current situation regarding SMECO's adoption

of renewable energy. Slater said, "Ten years ago, 40 percent of SMECO's power purchases relied on coal. Now, just 15 percent of our power portfolio comes from coal." He added, "We know our members are interested in electric vehicle charging, and we plan to install up

to 60 charging stations at public sites throughout our service area. We are also working toward implementing time-of-use rates that will make it more affordable for members with electric vehicles to charge them at home."



Election results

Eligible voters: 139,181
Total returns: 7,838

Bylaw Amendment	For	Against
Article VII, Capital Credit Recoupment and Offset.	4,989	544

Board of Directors

Calvert County (one seat available)

David E. Dickinson	2,153 votes	
W. Michael Phipps	3,231 votes	4
Douglas J. Smith	1,258 votes	

Charles County (two seats available)

Gilbert O. Bowling	3,291 votes	4
Kevin F. Corcoran	1,981 votes	
Kenneth W. Cross	1,426 votes	
Jeannette Devine	2,249 votes	
Nelson Torres	1,535 votes	
Richard A. Winkler	3,067 votes	4

Prince George's County (one seat available)

James A. Richards	6,083 votes	4
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St. Mary's County (one seat available)

James P. Dell	1,389 votes	
Scott Randall	1,908 votes	
P. Scott White	3,178 votes	4

You have direct access to account information and many self-service options

SMECO's Account Manager gives you fast and direct access to your account information from your computer or mobile device. SMECO implemented the smart meter energy tabs within the Account Manager system to help you track the amount of energy you use from day to day. Having access to your smart meter data provides you with greater control over your energy usage.

Save money. Save time.

With SMECO's online Account Manager, you have a single place you can go to log in, view your account information, and perform various self-service tasks.

- View bills and make payments
- View billing history for the past 24 months
- Sign up for AutoPay
- Enroll in Budget Billing
- Request a payment arrangement
- Stop service on your account
- Track energy use and get savings tips
- Forecast your bill
- Update notification preferences
- Sign up for weekly email updates

With weekly email updates and high bill alerts, you can avoid surprises and take steps to save.

Keep your information handy

For more information on Account Manager and a wallet card where you can save your account and log-in information, see the insert included with your bill.

smeco.coop/accountmanager