

August
AROUND TOWN CALENDAR

1-2
National
Lighthouse
Weekend at Piney
Point Lighthouse

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Piney Point
Lighthouse Museum.
301-994-1471
Facebook.
com/1836Light
Sponsor: St. Mary's
County Museum
Division

National
Lighthouse
Weekend at St.
Clement's Island

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
St. Clement's Island
Museum.
301-769-2222
Facebook.com/
SCIMuseum
Sponsor: St. Mary's
County Museum
Division

2
Independent
Consultant Vendor
Show

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Hollywood Volunteer
Fire Department
Social Hall 24801
Three Notch Road,
Hollywood.
301-373-2221
Vendorshow@
hvfd7.com
Sponsor: The Ladies
Auxiliary of the
Hollywood Volunteer
Fire Department

8
Beach Party
on the Square

4 to 9 p.m.
Historic Downtown
Leonardtown, 22670
Washington Street,
Leonardtown.
Sponsor:
Commissioners
of Leonardtown
301-475-9791
leonardtown.somd.
com/beachparty

Find more events at smeco.coop/aroundtown.
Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, some events
may be cancelled or postponed.

Join CoolSentry to save

SMECO's load management program—CoolSentry—
helps save energy and money during the summer.

Signing up

- CoolSentry is an opt-in program. If you would like to participate, call **1-866-921-9474** or visit smecocoolsentry.com to enroll.
- When you enroll, you will select a participation level. This level determines the amount of the credit you will receive from June through September. The participation levels depend on the cycling of your A/C compressor during a conservation event. Regardless of which level you choose, the A/C fan operates continuously throughout the conservation event to circulate air throughout your home.
 - » **Cycling at 50 percent: \$50 in bill credits**
The compressor will operate half the time it did prior to the conservation event.
 - » **Cycling at 75 percent: \$75 in bill credits**
The compressor will operate for a quarter of the time it did prior to the conservation event.

- New CoolSentry participants will receive a free programmable thermostat, professionally installed, or a digital cycling unit (DCU) installed on the outdoor central A/C unit.

Conservation events

- SMECO schedules conservation events **during times of peak demand**. Peak demand times occur when everyone uses a lot of electricity at the same time, usually on the hottest days.
- During a conservation event, a wireless signal is sent to the CoolSentry thermostat or DCU and places the central air conditioning units and heat pumps into conservation mode. The signal will coordinate your A/C or heat pump with others in the neighborhood to reduce electricity use. The temperature in the home may rise slightly, but will stay comfortable.

1-866-921-9474
smecocoolsentry.com

Practice boating safety
around power lines

Boating is a popular activity in Southern Maryland and SMECO would like to remind sailing fans to be aware of power lines. Check out these safety tips to ensure safer sailing this summer.

Mind your mast

Many sailboats have masts of 30 feet or more. Most of these masts are made of aluminum, which conducts electricity. When rigging or aluminum masts come into contact with electric power lines, a lethal hazard is created.

Before you sail, step the mast in an area clear of power lines. Ensure that the path you take to the launching ramp will not allow your mast to come into contact with overhead lines.

The National Electrical Safety Code requires that power lines maintain a certain clearance over water or posted launching areas suitable for sailboats. This doesn't guarantee that your mast will not come into contact with lines. Take responsibility to see that your mast and rigging stay at least 10 feet away from all power lines.

Once you are on the water:

- Continue to keep an eye out for overhead lines because power lines do cross over waterways.
- Make sure that your boat has proper clearance from any overhead lines.
- Your mast must never make contact with power lines.

When you are removing your boat from the water, be sure to inspect the area for possible power lines that may come into contact with the mast as you step it and store it for travel. Practice safe sailing and enjoy!

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.





- 1 SMECO awards scholarships to four local high school seniors.
- 2 Take steps to keep everyone safe around power lines this summer.
- 3 Join CoolSentry to save.
- 4 Practice boating safety around power lines.
- 5 Energy efficiency tip of the month—save money on cooling.



College scholarships awarded to four local high school seniors

SMECO awarded four scholarships to high school seniors for 2020 to students who live in the cooperative's service area. SMECO has awarded scholarships to 112 students in the 28 years since beginning the program in 1993.

Each of the following students will receive a \$1,500 college scholarship:

- Aaliah Amosu
- Chloe Harsha
- Jordan Homan
- Alyssa Mazzone

Aaliah Amosu, graduate of St. Charles High School in Charles County, plans to attend George Washington University to pursue a career in computer engineering. She took third place in Robotics and Intelligent Machines in the Fairfax County Regional Science Fair in 2018. She is a member of the Girl Scouts, Vex Robotics team, Math Team, and Academic Quiz Bowl team. Amosu received Principal's Honors and a Scholar Athlete award, served as Executive Secretary in the Student Government Association (SGA), and played field hockey. Amosu is the child of Adenike and Olasunkanmi Amosu of Waldorf, MD.

Chloe Harsha, is a graduate of Leonardtown High School (LHS) in St. Mary's County. Harsha plans to study animation and visual arts at St. Mary's College of Maryland. An accomplished artist and musician, Harsha enjoys working in the theater with the LHS ROSE Players and has volunteered hundreds of hours over the years in community theater productions at the Newtowne Players and Historic Sotterley. She has served as sound designer, scenic artist and paint manager, and played in leading, supporting and ensemble roles. Harsha also served as the president of the new National Art Honor Society chapter at LHS. Harsha is the child of Laura Underwood of California, MD.

Jordan Homan, graduate of La Plata High School (LPHS) in Charles County, plans to attend the University of Maryland and study psychology. She is the child of Robert and Linda Homan of Bel Alton, MD. As a freshman, Homan was the Maryland Young Writers high school student winner for fiction for her short story, "It Will Always Come Back Around." Homan participates in multiple extracurricular activities. She won the Director's Choice Award as a junior and participated as a cast member in the LPHS theater department's musical productions throughout her high school years. On multiple occasions, she was named to the Principal's Honor Roll and received Academic Excellence Letters, Certificates of Academic Excellence, and an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar with Distinction award.

Alyssa Mazzone, graduate of Patuxent High School in Calvert County, plans to study computer science and specialize in cyber security at the University of Maryland. She has been the Varsity Cheerleading Captain for two years and was named All American Cheerleader in 2016 and 2019. She received Minds in Motion Academic Athlete awards, as well as awards for Academic Excellence in AP Computer Science and Photography. Mazzone has participated in numerous community service activities and fund-raisers including Relay for Life, Christmas in April, Karsyn's Carnival, March of Dimes, Friendship Dances, and Wobble Before You Gobble 5K runs. She also won the Miss Maryland Teen USA Humanitarian Service Award in 2018. Mazzone is the child of Brian and Darlene Mazzone of Lusby, MD.

SMECO provides scholarships to local students who excel in their endeavors and who show promise in their chosen field of study.

Keep children safe around power lines

It's time for fun in the sun as children are out of school and we are in the thick of summer. Warm weather brings a lot of children outside to play, and SMECO wants everyone to stay safe.

Electricity always tries to find the easiest path to ground. The best way to stay safe around overhead power lines is to never become that easiest path. Help your children understand these safety tips to keep themselves and their friends safe.

- Never climb on or play in trees that are growing next to power lines.
- Never climb on power poles or transmission towers.
- Don't build a tree house, fort, or anything else in a tree that is next to power lines.
- Don't climb the fence around an electric substation. If your child loses a ball or a pet gets inside the fence, they should tell an adult who can contact SMECO.
- Keep balloons, kites, fishing lines, and aluminum ladders away from overhead power lines. Any of these items may conduct electricity and can bring that electricity through the person holding the object on its way to the ground.
- Never touch a power line with a hand or with any other object, whether the line is in a tree or on the ground.
- Children should tell an adult if they see trees growing close to or touching power lines.
- If children see a power line that has fallen into a tree or onto the ground, they should stay away and tell an adult immediately.
- Keep electrical appliances away from water.
- Do not sit on or play around the electrical transformer boxes found in neighborhoods.

Adults should be careful outside, too!

Overhead power lines carry high voltages and maintain only a coating of insulation to protect them from weathering. If your body or anything you are touching comes in contact with the power line, the results could be fatal. Electricity will course through your equipment and you, and that current can heat up and burn the tissue inside the body. If you become the easiest path to ground, the results could be deadly.

- If you are using farm equipment or other machinery, including ladders, and any part of it comes in contact with an overhead line, the equipment and you will become the easiest path to ground. If you are doing any work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If a tree is in contact with an overhead power line and you attempt to remove the tree, you can become the easiest path to the ground.
- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.
- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work in and around your home or business.
- Plant trees at least 30 feet from overhead lines.
- In addition to overhead lines, SMECO has many underground electric lines. Call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked.

