

October
AROUND TOWN CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>10
13th Annual Calvert Arts Festival
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Sunderland.
202-603-3273
allsaints1692.org/upcoming-events/calvert-arts-fest
Sponsor: All Saints' Episcopal Church</p> | <p>24
Trick-or-Treat on the Square
3 to 5 p.m.
Historic Downtown Leonardtown, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown.
301-475-9791
leonardtown.somd.com/trickortreat
Sponsor: Commissioners of Leonardtown</p> |
|---|---|

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

Two convenient ways to communicate with SMECO

SMECO 24/7 mobile app
With SMECO's 24/7 mobile app, you can report outages, view the up-to-date outage map, review and pay your bill and more. Download the SMECO 24/7 app and make doing business with SMECO even easier.

smeco.coop/smeco247

Texting option
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.

smeco.coop/textme

Keep your distance from transformers

If you are served through underground electric facilities, you may be tempted to hide that big green transformer in your yard with plants or landscaping, **but don't do it.**

SMECO crews need to have access to all electric equipment, including these transformers, in order to make occasional repairs. It is also dangerous to dig around or work close to the transformer. These boxes contain high-voltage lines and should be avoided.

When landscaping, make sure to keep plants at least **10 feet away** from the transformer.

Additional landscaping tips to consider:

- Put grass, gravel, or two-inch rock around transformers or other electrical equipment.
- Do not use ivy or other climbing plants around the equipment.
- Do not change the grade around equipment.
- Call Miss Utility at 811 to have the location of underground power lines marked before digging to plant trees or shrubs.

It's best to keep your distance from the transformers and to teach your children to stay away from the transformers.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

Source: energy.gov



SMECO Board appoints director

The SMECO Board of Directors recently appointed Susie Hance-Wells of Prince Frederick to fill the unexpired portion of Samuel "Jack" Hammett's three-year term, which ends in 2021. Hammett, who stepped down as of March 31, 2020, represented Calvert and Anne Arundel counties and served on SMECO's Board since 1990.



Four SMECO customer-members applied for the position. The application and interview process began in April and Hance-Wells took the oath of office at the July 21 meeting of the SMECO Board of Directors. According to Scott White, chairman of SMECO's Board, "Susie Hance-Wells has had years of experience with matters that are important to the residents of Calvert County. She has embraced the growth of the county while maintaining its storied heritage. And her knowledge and experience with budgets, governance, and long-term planning will help to strengthen our cooperative and its Board."

Hance-Wells is a lifelong resident of Calvert County. She graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, and since then she has managed her family's 320-acre farm, taking it from a tobacco and cattle farm to a farm-to-table operation. She has served on the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board, the Planning Commission, the Colonial Farm Credit Board, and the Farm Bureau in Calvert County. Hance-Wells served on the corporate board of the Southern States Cooperative for six years, and she is currently the chair of the Calvert County Board of Appeals.



- 1 Take control with Account Manager.
- 2 Plant the right tree in the right place.
- 3 Check out two convenient ways to communicate with SMECO.
- 4 Keep your distance from transformers.
- 5 Energy efficiency tip of the month—keep your dryer clear of lint to save.
- 6 Board appoints Susie Hance-Wells to fill seat vacated by Jack Hammett.

Take control with Account Manager

Most people only think about their electric service if the power is out or if it is time to pay the bill. Your electric account may not be at the top of your mind, but we know that our members care about how they are contacted and when. And our members also care about the amount of energy they use and how much that usage adds up on the monthly bill.

To manage your account and take a deeper look into your bill, you can sign up for and then sign in to Account Manager on SMECO's website.

If you are new to Account Manager, click New User and the site will guide you through set up. (You will need your account number located on the top right corner of your bill.)

Account Manager is a full self-service portal. You can:

- Update your contact information
- Go paperless—receive your bill and payment notices by e-mail or text
- Manage your notification preferences: e-mail and text options
- Enroll in budget billing to make your bill the same every month
- Enroll in or update AutoPay payment information
- Sign up for personalized weekly updates and high bill alerts under Notification Preferences
- View and pay your bill
- Look at billing and payment history
- Review and manage energy usage
- Manage multiple accounts
- Make payment arrangements
- View and report outages
- Stop service

Some things to remember when managing your Account Manager online profile:

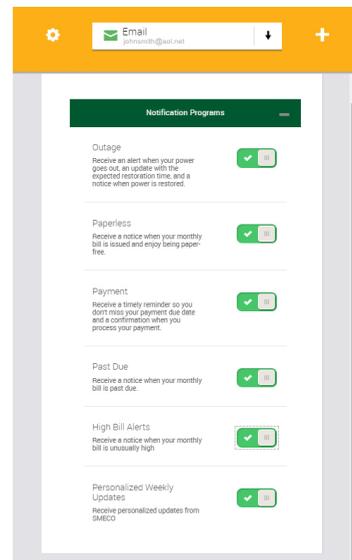
- If you have multiple accounts, you don't need to create multiple log-on credentials. You can manage all of your accounts in one place.
- Do you need to update payment or contact information? You will need to make that change individually on each account.

Notification Preferences

Under Notification Preferences, you can control how and when SMECO contacts you. You can also sign up for paperless billing, and sign up for personalized notices.

If you choose to go paperless and have your bills emailed to you, make sure you respond to SMECO's verification email. Check your spam filter if you don't receive the email once you have selected paperless billing.

If you want to receive paper bills, you will need to make sure paperless settings are turned off for all phones and emails.



Account Manager makes handling your SMECO electric bills convenient, easy, and efficient. Sign up today by visiting smeco.coop and clicking the Sign In button.

Plant the right tree in the right place

It's a great time to plant trees and shrubs. Consider electric equipment near your home and the future of your plantings.

Plan for the future when planting a tree

Trees are the major cause of power interruptions for SMECO customer-members. We devote much of our resources to cutting and trimming trees that threaten electric service.

When carefully selected and placed, a tree can provide your family with many years of enjoyment without threatening your electric service. It can even help you conserve energy by providing shade in the summer and protection in the winter.

- **Look up** first before you plant a tree. At its mature height, a tree planted under or too close to a power line may create costly trimming and maintenance work for you and SMECO to prevent trees from contacting power lines.
- **Don't forget the transformer.** Like all pieces of equipment, the transformer may need repairs at one time or another, and SMECO crews will need access. To prevent your plants from being removed, please place them at least **10 feet** away from the transformer.

Pick the right tree

You have many things to consider when selecting trees and landscaping for your home. Good tree placement and landscaping can enhance your property's value and prevent costly maintenance or damage to your home.

- Large trees should be planted at least 35 feet away from your house for proper root development and to minimize tree damage to the house.
- When planting a tree, consider your view, your neighbor's view, the location of your flower or vegetable gardens, and environmental conditions such as drainage, soil type, and sunlight penetration.
- Windbreaks should be evergreens planted on the west or north side of the house, about 100 to 150 feet and no more than 300 feet from the house.
- Deciduous (leaf-dropping) trees planted on the south or west side of the house will provide shade in the summer to cool the house and allow sun to enter the house in the winter.

Hundreds of species of trees can be grown in Southern Maryland. Do your research before you plant. If you have questions about planting trees near power lines, call SMECO.

Before you dig, call 811

Call Miss Utility by dialing 811 before you plant a tree or shrub, start a garden, or install a fence. SMECO will mark the location of underground power lines on your property. You can also visit call811.com

One call will save you a lot of time, trouble, and money. It could also save your life!



Zone A:

Small trees

Zone A is the area within 30 feet of the power line. Plant trees that reach no higher than 20 feet at maturity.

Zone B:

Medium trees

Zone B is the area 30 to 75 feet away from the power line. Plant trees that reach no higher than 50 feet at maturity.

Zone C:

Large trees

Zone C is the area 75 feet or more away from the power line. For this zone you may plant trees of any height.

Underground lines

The biggest danger to underground lines occurs during tree planting. Before you dig, call Miss Utility by dialing 811.