

November
AROUND TOWN CALENDAR

7

Summerseat Farm Artisan and Vendor Market

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
26655 Three Notch Rd, Mechanicsville.
240-925-6156
summerseat.org

Sponsor:
Summerseat Farm

11

Veterans Day Parade

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Historic Downtown Leonardtown, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown.
301-475-9791
leonardtown.somd.com/veteransday

Sponsor:
Commissioners of Leonardtown

22

Fall Craft Show

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, 24801 Three Notch Road, Hollywood.
301-373-2221

Sponsor: The Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department

27

Christmas on the Square and Annual Tree Lighting

8:30 p.m. Historic Downtown Leonardtown, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown.
301-475-9791
leonardtown.somd.com/christmas

Sponsor:
Commissioners of Leonardtown

SMECO holidays

Nov. 11:
Veterans Day

Nov. 26-27:
Thanksgiving

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

Utility bill payment assistance available

Many Southern Maryland residents have experienced a financial impact because of COVID-19. You may be eligible for help from the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) or the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) offered by the state.

Do you qualify?

Maryland's Department of Human Services offers assistance through the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) for those who qualify. Below are the income eligibility limits. OHEP is not counting 2020 CARES Act federal assistance as part of the gross monthly household income. Regular unemployment compensation will be included in the calculation of gross income.

Income eligibility limits

Effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
(Based on 175% of the Federal Poverty Level)

Household size	Maximum gross monthly income standards
1	\$1,861
2	\$2,515
3	\$3,168
4	\$3,821
5	\$4,475
6	\$5,128
7	\$5,781
8	\$6,435
For each additional person, add	\$654

You can apply online at dhs.maryland.gov/energy. If you need assistance, call 1-800-332-6347. For info about assistance, visit dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/how-do-you-apply/

SMECO welcomes new vice president

Campbell Hawkins joined SMECO in August as the cooperative's Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer. He leads SMECO's new Strategy and Innovation Department.

Hawkins will work to identify areas of improvement, efficiency, and value within the cooperative. He will identify areas of opportunity for ways SMECO can improve product offerings for its members and ways the cooperative can expand and improve upon its technological capabilities and customer-centric service models.

Hawkins will promote an innovative culture in the workplace, and he will evaluate emerging technologies that provide opportunities for SMECO to improve service and efficiency.

Hawkins has more than 20 years of utility experience, most recently as senior director of the Innovation and Transformation Office at Xcel Energy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Earlier he was vice president of customer service at Duquesne Light in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he oversaw implementation of a large-scale advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project and led the company's efforts to acquire an energy services company. He was also director of customer operations for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12 percent of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: energy.gov



1

SMECO holds its 82nd annual meeting with a record number of votes cast.

2

Utility bill payment assistance available to qualified applicants.

3

SMECO welcomes new vice president.

4

Energy efficiency tip of the month: use energy efficient electronics.



SMECO holds 82nd annual meeting with a record number of votes cast

SMECO held its 82nd Annual Meeting on August 27, 2020, at the cooperative's headquarters in Hughesville. 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:** Nancy W. Zinn
- Charles County:** William L. Purnell
- Prince George's County:** Daniel W. Dyer
- St. Mary's County:** J. Douglas Frederick
Joseph Gilbert Murphy

One bylaw amendment was also included on this year's ballot, and it passed.

More than 11,000 members voted—a record high number of votes cast in a SMECO election—and results were announced at the meeting. This is the fourth year SMECO's election was conducted by mail, and, for the second 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 20. Eighty percent of the ballots were returned by mail and 20 percent were cast online. Members who returned their ballots or voted online were eligible to win one of 30 electric bill credits of \$50 each.

Scott White, Chairman of the SMECO Board of Directors, chaired the meeting and welcomed SMECO members to the cooperative's



transportation building where the event was held. He explained that the meeting was held at SMECO's headquarters campus because of the pandemic and the possibility that the meeting format would have to be altered.

Sonja M. Cox, SMECO's president and CEO since March 2020, recapped the cooperative's accomplishments of the past year. Cox said that SMECO's margins for 2019 totaled more than \$29 million. SMECO uses margins to invest in new construction and infrastructure improvements. As part of this investment, SMECO has replaced substation transformers at the La Plata, Piscataway, McConchie, and Mattawoman substations. Over the past few years SMECO has been working to rebuild the Farmington Switching Station to improve service

in Accokeek by relocating the Piscataway substation to the Farmington station. The project was recently completed and all of the members who were being fed by the Piscataway substation have been transferred to the new Farmington station.

Through the cooperative's SMECO EV Recharge program, SMECO is installing charging stations at local government-owned facilities, such as public libraries. The pilot program was approved by the Public Service Commission, and SMECO was authorized to install up to 60 charging stations in Southern Maryland.

Bill credit winners

- Cheryl D., Accokeek
- Timothy M., Dunkirk
- Alexis G., California
- Matthew K., Mechanicsville
- Thomas C., Lexington Park
- Jacqueline B., Waldorf
- Susan B., Lexington Park
- Patricia S., Accokeek
- Robert G., Owings
- Mohammed R., Huntingtown
- Robert C., Lexington Park
- Joseph R., La Plata
- Camille M., Huntingtown
- Evelyn L., Bryans Road
- Lloyd G., Lexington Park
- Robert D., Waldorf
- William C., California
- Daniel C., Bryans Road
- Paul P., Valley Lee
- Joseph C., Owings
- Kari W., Waldorf
- Jamie H., Dunkirk
- Deborah D., Leonardtown
- Carl S., Waldorf
- Louis H., Coltons Point
- Christina B., California
- Tammy J., Lusby
- Daniel R., Indian Head
- Geraldine T., Lexington Park
- Eric A., Lexington Park



Election results

Eligible voters: 141,522
Total returns: 11,194

Bylaw Amendment	For	Against
Article III, Meeting of Members	6,101	2,034

Board of Directors

Calvert County (one seat available)		
William F. Baca	2,964 votes	
Nancy W. Zinn	6,654 votes	✓
Charles County (one seat available)		
Kenneth W. Cross	3,230 votes	
William L. Purnell	6,688 votes	✓
Prince George's County (one seat available)		
Daniel W. Dyer	5,894 votes	✓
Edith D. Thrash	3,521 votes	
St. Mary's County (two seats available)		
J. Douglas Frederick	6,972 votes	✓
Debra Gray	3,763 votes	
Joseph Gilbert Murphy	4,545 votes	✓
David B. Richards	3,091 votes	