

March
AROUND TOWN CALENDAR

25

Maryland Day at
St. Clement's Island Museum

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

Visit smeco.coop/aroundtown for upcoming local events or to have your non-profit event included in SMECO's online calendar and *Cooperative Review* newsletter.

Scholarship applications
are due by April 6

Completed scholarship application packages (all items must be submitted as one package) are due by April 6, 2021.

Learn more about SMECO scholarships and submit your application online at smeco.coop/scholarships.

Energy efficiency
tip of the month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: energy.gov



First EV Recharge
unit ready for use

In January, the first SMECO EV ReCharge electric vehicle (EV) charging station went live. The charger, located at the St. Mary's County Public Library at 23630 Hayden Farm Lane in Leonardtown, has 24-hour access. Work began on a second site in Leonardtown in January and SMECO plans to break ground on a third site in St. Mary's and a site in Charles County in February.

The live unit in Leonardtown is the first of up to 60 public EV charging stations the cooperative will be installing in Southern Maryland in the next five years. These installations will include Level 2 chargers and direct current fast chargers available for public use.

EV owners can use the Greenlots Mobile App to find the nearest station, start and end charging, easily make payments, and receive real-time notifications.

Convenient access to SMECO's EV Recharge stations will serve the growing population of electric vehicle owners who are transitioning away from gas-powered vehicles. The Level 2 chargers will cost 18 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)* and the DC-powered fast chargers (DCFC) will cost 34 cents per kWh.* SMECO's EV Recharge rates are based on average costs for other charging stations. Learn more at smeco.coop/Recharge.

*Rates subject to change.

Schneider
promoted to
senior VP

Roger Schneider has been promoted to SMECO's new Senior Vice President for Engineering and Operations and Chief Operating Officer. He stepped into his new role on January 5, 2021, following the retirement of Ken Capps.



Schneider has more than 30 years of utility experience, including 23 years at SMECO. Most recently, he has served as managing director of system engineering and construction, overseeing transmission, substation and distribution engineering, project management, system planning and reliability, standards and workflow, and vegetation management.

His past positions at SMECO include system operator, distribution engineer, project manager, and system operations and automation director.

During his SMECO career, Schneider has managed the implementation of the Outage Management System, the transition to centralized distribution operations, and the replacement of the failed 69-kV transmission cable underneath the Patuxent River.

SMECO's new Chief Operating Officer holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from The Pennsylvania State University with a minor in economics.



- 1 Senior VP of Engineering and Operations and COO retires.
- 2 SMECO's online store can help you save.
- 3 Scholarship applications are due by April 6, 2021.
- 4 Energy efficiency tip of the month: wool or rubber dryer balls help reduce drying time.
- 5 EV charger in Leonardtown is now available.
- 6 Roger Schneider promoted to Senior Vice President and COO.



Senior VP of Engineering and Operations and COO retires

Ken Capps, Senior Vice President of Engineering and Operations and Chief Operating Officer, retired on January 4, 2021, ending his 39-year career with the cooperative.

Capps began his SMECO career in 1981 as an associate engineer. Capps's work included design analysis as well as distribution and communications. He moved up to substation and distribution director in 1990 and to system operations manager in 1994. He became head of Engineering and Operations in 2003.

During Capps's time as senior vice president, SMECO expanded its electric system and its technological capabilities to ensure reliable service. Under his leadership, the cooperative

completed the Southern Maryland Reliability Project, which created a 230-kV transmission loop, and we built new 69-kV lines in Charles County to keep pace with population growth.

The Engineering and Operations Department also invested in systems for outage management and mobile workforce management, centralized its system operations, and installed smart meters throughout our service area under his leadership. SMECO also assumed responsibility for the electric systems at three Navy facilities in Southern Maryland and at St. Mary's College of Maryland and made upgrades there for reliability.



Capps explains solar technology to students at SMECO's solar farm in Hughesville.

1981 to 2020

Number of customers

1981: 63,465
2020: 168,110

Miles of line

1981: 5,518
2020: 10,347.8

Number of employees:

1981: 329
2020: 474

Average number of customers per mile

1981: 11.5
2020: 17.05

Total electric revenue

1981: \$65,862,952
2020: \$449,984,147

System peak:

1981: 233.9 Megawatts (1/29/1981)
2020: 939.0 Megawatts (1/7/2018)

E&O highlights

2004: SMECO switched to a computerized outage management system so crews in the field could send and receive outage information instantly. The new system replaced printed outage tickets and radio dispatched crews.

2007: SMECO launched the mobile workforce, equipping key vehicles with computers to enable field employees to increase efficiency and response time.

2009: SMECO took over responsibility for the electric systems at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, NESEA's Webster Field facility, and the Navy Recreation Center.

2013: The cooperative began construction of a new double-circuit 69-kV transmission line from La Plata to Waldorf.

2014: SMECO completed the Southern Maryland Reliability Project. The project was conceived in the 1970s and construction on the final Calvert-St. Mary's section began in 2009. The seven-year, \$108-million project was constructed under budget and ahead of schedule and completed a 230-kilovolt (kV) loop throughout SMECO's service territory. On April 7, 2015, an insulator on a Pepco line failed and caused the Pepco transmission line to fall to the ground. Power went out for thousands of people from southern St. Mary's County to College Park, including the White House. Thanks to the completion of the 230-kV project, power to most SMECO members was restored within half an hour.

2017: In the fall, SMECO and the College of Southern Maryland launched Practical Electrical Utility Worker Training, a 12-week program of pre-apprentice courses focusing on the construction trade. During the first semester, five students began the program.

SMECO's online store can help you save

Get instant discounts and find products eligible for SMECO rebates at **smeco.coop/onlinestore**.

At SMECO's online store, cooperative members have access to exclusive discounts on energy-efficient products. Plus, you will get free shipping on orders over \$35.

SMECO residential electric members are eligible to purchase products with instant rebates applied through the SMECO Online Store. Eligibility is verified in the online store using each customer's SMECO account number and the associated zip code of the service address.

Each customer is able to purchase a limited number of incentivized products per year. Once a customer has reached their maximum number of incentivized items for the year, they may continue to order additional products but they will not receive the instant rebates.

The online store accepts a variety of payment options. Eligible customers can pay by check, money order, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or American Express. Credit card payments are preauthorized during the checkout process, but charges are not posted until after the order has shipped. Customers who choose to pay by check or money order should complete their order online and mail payment. The order will be released upon receipt of payment. It is not possible to have the purchase applied to your monthly electric bill.

smeco.coop/onlinestore