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**SANTEE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE NEWS**  
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## It's not the lights

**I ONCE HAD** an elected official state to me—with a great deal of certainty—that it was a well-known fact

that Santee Electric raises rates in the wintertime because we need to make sure we collect enough to cover all those Christmas lights!

It occurred to me that if someone who was supposedly “in the know” might come to this conclusion, I wonder how many other people might have this misconception. For this reason, I thought this month’s column would be a good opportunity to explain a few things. It’s not the Christmas lights!

First and foremost, Santee Electric does not raise rates at Christmastime. If your bill goes up in the winter months, it’s almost certainly because you use more electricity heating your home than you do at other times of the year.

Second, Christmas lights, and all lights in general, do not use a lot of electricity compared to the “big users” in your home. This may be surprising to some. After all, people still call us “the light company,” they call our poles “light poles” and when we have a power outage, they call to say, “my lights are out.”

Given that everyone associates Santee Electric with lights, it seems only natural to think that your lights drive your power bill. They really do not, though.

What does drive your power bill, then?

As I have already hinted at, your heating and air system is your primary driver. Keeping a house cool on a hot day (or warm on a cold day) drives your power bill. This is particularly true if you have an electric heat pump with electric strip heat or an electric furnace for cold nights.

Other major power users in your home are electric water heaters, electric ranges, electric clothes dryers and water pumps. These are almost always 240 volts (compared to most other things in your home that only operate at 120 volts). They also typically run for a significant amount of time, and they require a lot of current when they do run.

Think of a hair dryer compared to a clothes dryer. The clothes dryer operates on twice the voltage and runs for about an hour while the hair dryer only runs for a few minutes and requires less voltage and current. All this means that your electric clothes dryer will use a lot more energy (the combination of voltage, current and time) than your hair dryer.

I have thanked you in the past for helping us to manage our system peak (6 to 9 a.m. in winter or 4 to 7 p.m. in summer) . You may have thought, “I want to help, but I cannot turn everything off during those peak hours.” The truth is that you don’t have to. Anything you can do to manage those bigger loads during peak hours helps us manage costs and helps you save.

Now, there’s nothing wrong with turning off lights when you leave a room. Just know you do not get the same return on your efforts as you do when you manage your water heater or HVAC system during peak.

Thanks for all you do and have a great month!

**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## Bowl week a rich experience for local all-stars

**SHE'FOND BOYD** is an all-star lineman from Andrews High School, but on this night, the lineman's glove just didn't fit. Thankfully, a teammate was there to help pull Boyd's large hand out of the personal protective equipment typically used in electrical line work

Boyd's small adventure was just one part of a Lineman Demo Day experience the night before the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl. He was among 88 of South Carolina's top high school football players selected to play in the annual all-star game on Dec. 10 at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium in Myrtle Beach. Along with Boyd, Santee Electric area all-stars that participated included



TRAVIS BELL

Josh Daniels of West Florence High helps She'Fon Boyd pull the lineman's safety gloves off during the Lineman Demo Day activities.

Tae Sellars of Hannah Pamplico High, Daquan Burroughs of Johnsonville High and Jaylin Davis of South Florence High. They all got to explore careers as lineworkers through hands-on demonstrations presented by Horry Electric Cooperative electrical linemen.

The local players were also a part of another bowl week tradition. Opposing players from each team partnered to

assist 44 deserving kids from Horry County Schools for a Christmas shopping spree at a local Target store. Since they began sponsoring the game, South Carolina's electric cooperatives have provided each child a \$150 Target gift card to spend on clothes, toys and other items on their Christmas list.

In the game, the North defeated the South 22-14.

## Ready for an experience you won't forget?

Your co-op has two amazing trips planned this summer. Juniors: Apply for the Washington Youth Tour. Sophomores: Apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit.

**Juniors:** Experience Washington, D.C., with hundreds of students from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!

**Sophomores:** Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

We've made it easy to apply for either FREE trip. Apply today!



Washington Youth Tour: June 17-22, 2023



Cooperative Youth Summit: July 10-13, 2023



Applications available: [santee.org/washington-youth-tour](https://santee.org/washington-youth-tour)  
Application Deadline: February 16, 2023



PHOTOS BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER



Peggy Singletary went through Help My House and made energy efficiency improvements, along with getting a new HVAC system.



Peggy Singletary (left) and Kevin Myers, SEC's Trusted Energy Advisor

# SEC member saves big

BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

**LONG-TIME SANTEE**  
Electric member Peggy Singletary saw a 65% decrease on her first bill after participating in the Help My House program.

Help My House is a simple, affordable way to improve the energy efficiency of your home and lower energy bills. Through the program, homeowners can apply for a zero down, low-interest loan to finance energy efficiency improvements. A Help My House loan covers things such as new heating and cooling systems (HVAC), adding insulation and sealing windows and doors. The Help My House program was created to help members save energy and money.

Singletary learned about the Help

My House program when she applied for Operation Round Up after her HVAC system completely shut down.

"My friend knew about my (HVAC) system breaking and told me that I should submit an application to Operation Round Up," says Singletary.

Once SEC received her application for Operation Round Up assistance, it was recognized that Singletary met all the requirements for Help My House. Thanks to a new collaboration between the two programs, qualified members can now apply for a \$5,000 Help My House loan pay down through Operation Round Up.

"Her situation was the perfect case for this collaboration between the programs. After conducting an energy audit on her home, we started the process," says Kevin Myers, SEC's manager of Marketing and Trusted Energy Advisor.

Singletary's home improvements included a new HVAC system, new



**Interested in Help My House?**  
SEC'S ENERGY EXPERT will do a comprehensive audit of your home to see if you qualify for efficiency improvements. If you qualify, we'll recommend a certified program contractor who can make the recommended efficiency improvement to your home. Help My House loan payments can be made on your monthly electricity bill.  
Visit [santee.org/help-my-house](https://santee.org/help-my-house) or call (803) 922-1604 to learn more.

insulation and air vents repaired and installed. It took only one day to complete all the repairs.

"Everything was smooth sailing thanks to Kevin and the contractors. I was very pleased with how simple the process was," says Singletary.

# Congratulations teachers!

## SEC awards Bright Ideas grants

**SANTEE ELECTRIC** was proud to award 16 teachers a Bright Ideas grant in 2022. Bright Ideas provides funding for innovative classroom-based education projects.

Grants are available to all kindergarten through 12th grade teachers in Santee Electric's service territory. Each applicant is judged anonymously by educators from other parts of the state. There is no limit to



creativity in the Bright Ideas grant and there was a wide range of initiatives in the 2022 projects.

The Santee Electric Prize Patrol—Joanna Arnsmeier, manager of Community Relations, Jay Kirby, vice president of Public Affairs, Kevin Myers, manager of Marketing and Rob Ardis, president and chief executive officer—surprised the teachers with their grants at their schools.

Teachers, be on the lookout for the Bright Ideas application opening in July. You could be one of the 2023 Bright Ideas Grant winners!

### McDonald Elementary School, Georgetown

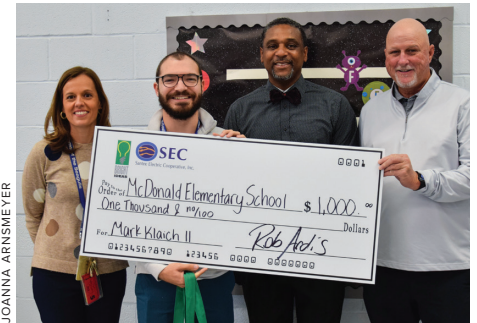
Winners: Angela Geer, Chelsea Gruber, Mark Klaiach



Angela Geer (second, left) won an \$800 grant for her project "Coding Using DASH and STEAM Teaching in the Classroom." Principal Mack Burgess (left), Assistant Principal Ashley Smith (second, right) and the SEC Prize Patrol smile along with her.



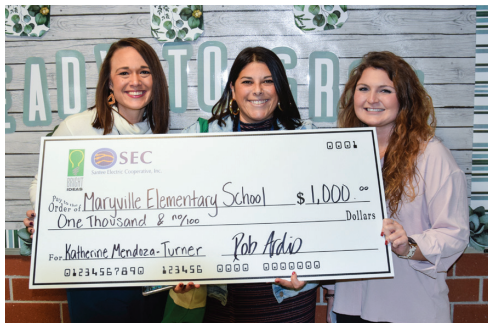
Chelsea Gruber (center) won a \$500 grant for her project "Coding in Kindergarten."



Mark Klaiach (second, left) won a \$1,000 grant for his project "Elementary Drumline."

### Maryville Elementary School, Georgetown

Winners: Katherine Mendoza-Turner, Courtney Butler



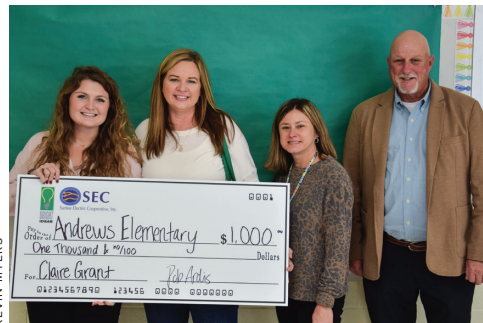
Dr. Carla Brandon (left) smiles with Katherine Mendoza-Turner (center), who won a \$1,000 grant for her project "Growing Ready Readers."



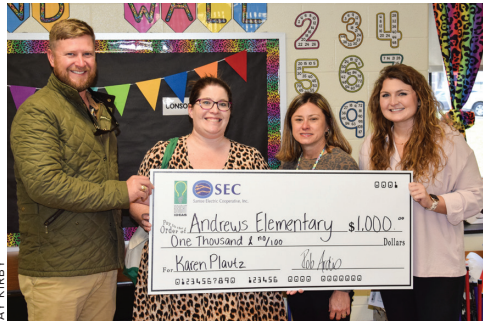
The SEC Prize Patrol awarded Courtney Butler (center) a \$600 grant for her project "Lego Building Foundations."

### Andrews Elementary School, Andrews

Winners: Claire Grant, Karen Plautz



Claire Grant (second, left) won a \$1,000 grant for her project "Dash, Dot, and Code A Lot!" Principal Adrienne Watford and the SEC Prize Patrol share the moment with her.



Karen Plautz (second, left) won a \$1,000 grant for her project "From Class Greenhouse to Class Garden."

## Florence School District 5

Winners: Kenly Thomas, Emma Wiggins, Jen Hodges, Marisa Lewis, Tiffany McCullough, Shana Barrineau, Brittani Burroughs, Sheri Sims, Lindsey Bibler



KEVIN MYERS

Kenly Thomas (middle) won a \$500 grant for her project “The Circle of Life: Learning about the Lifecycle of Plants and Animals.” Johnsonville Elementary Vice Principal Brandon Carter (left), Superintendent Allana Prosser (second, right) and the SEC Prize Patrol smile with her.



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Carvers Bay High School Principal Larry Odom (second, left) and the SEC Prize Patrol smiles with Tiffany McCullough (center), who won a \$1,000 grant for her project “Finding the Finches.”



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Johnsonville Middle School Principal Mirandi Squires, Superintendent Allana Prosser and the SEC Prize Patrol stand with Emma Wiggins (center), who won a \$1,000 grant for her project “Small Groups- Big Learning!”



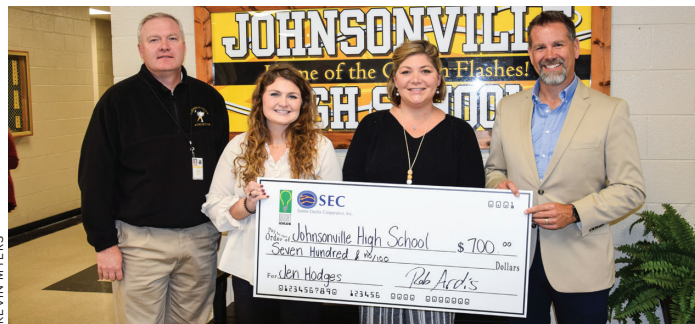
JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Shana Barrineau (center) won a \$1,000 grant for her project “Visual Learners Love Technology.”



KEVIN MYERS

Brittani Burroughs (center) won a \$1,000 grant for her project “STEAMing to Success.”



KEVIN MYERS

Jen Hodges (second, right) won a \$700 grant for her project “Environmentally Responsible Lamps.” Johnsonville High School Principal Sam Tuten (left) was proud of Hodges.



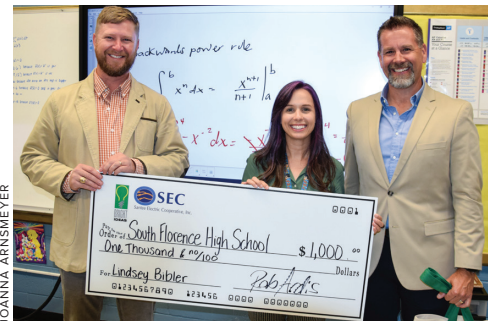
JOANNA ARNSMEYER

East Clarendon Middle-High School Principal Jason Cook (left) congratulates Sheri Sims for winning a \$1,000 grant for her project “Every Space Counts.”



KEVIN MYERS

Marisa Lewis (center) won a \$1,000 grant for her project “History and STEAM: A Perfect Pair!” Carvers Bay Middle School Principal Norine Fraiser (right) and Curriculum Coach Kimberly Brown (left) beam with happiness for Lewis.



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Lindsey Bibler (center) won a \$1,000 grant for her project “Using our Noodles to Create 3D Doodles.”



# Managing your account has never been easier...

...tap into your Santee Electric account anytime, anywhere with our free SmartHub app!

From making a fast payment to reporting a power outage, the Santee Electric SmartHub app gives you a quick and easy access to your account.

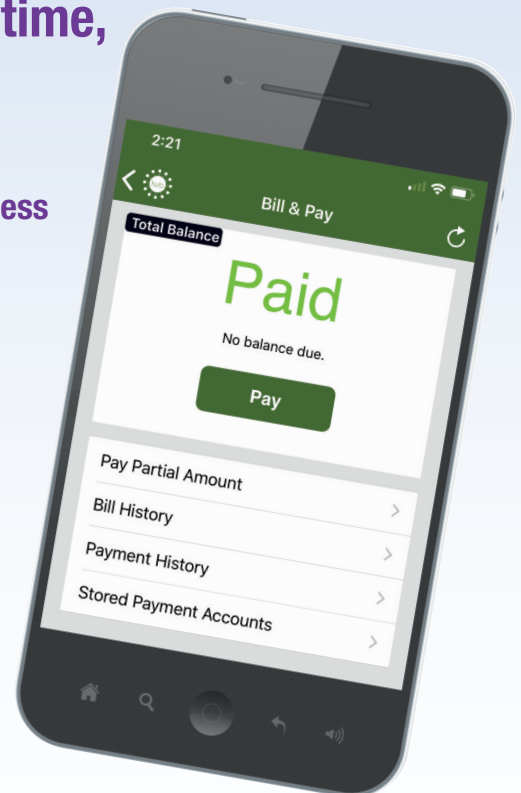
Available for all smart devices like iPhones, iPads and Androids.

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*For more information, visit [santee.org](http://santee.org).*



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