



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# Preparing for storm season

As we enter the month of June, we begin the 2024 hurricane season with storm names ranging from Alberto to William. While many are eager to enter the warm summer months, we know the weather threats that occur living along the Gulf Coast this time of year. I will leave explanations of climate phenomena such as La Nina or El Nino up to the weather experts. With that, they have recently predicted that an above-average number of storms is possible in the Atlantic this hurricane season. Meteorologists are forecasting 20-25 named storms across the Atlantic basin in 2024, including 8-12 hurricanes – this is well above the 30-year historical average of 14 named storms.

In the coming weeks, we encourage you to begin preparing for hurricane season by storing non-perishable food, water, fuel, and batteries, and to have storm evacuation routes picked out ahead of time. While this is not a topic any of us enjoy discussing, it is of utmost importance we take storm preparations seriously.

Singing River Electric recently conducted the annual review of our Emergency Preparedness Plan. If a hurricane or tropical storm approaches our area,

our plan contains detailed steps to take once the storm enters the Gulf of Mexico. Employees are pre-assigned specific tasks, such as securing supplies, food, fuel, and housing, while line crews, service personnel, and their supervisors are assigned areas of our system to report to once the storm has passed. This ever-evolving plan has been activated and successfully implemented countless times through the years.

Being part of the national network of electric cooperatives provides Singing River Electric access to cooperative line personnel who will assist us in restoring your electric service following a disaster. Over the years, cooperative linemen from across the country have provided restoration assistance, and we have no doubt fellow cooperatives will again respond when needed. This is an immeasurable asset, allowing us to speed restoration and help our communities.

I encourage each of you to be proactive by making your preparations for this hurricane season. It's not too early. Be assured, in the event of a disaster, your electric cooperative is prepared to restore electric service to our members as quickly and safely as possible.



*by Brian Hughey*

General Manager and CEO

## Energy Tips



**Gabe Robbins**

Energy Services Representative  
[robbins@singingriver.com](mailto:robbins@singingriver.com)

## Talking about solar energy

Residential solar installations have gradually increased over the past several years in south Mississippi.

As your trusted energy advisor, Singing River Electric's energy services team is a resource for you if you are considering installing solar panels at your home or business.

A great starting point is using the solar calculator on our website at [singingriver.com/solar-calculator](http://singingriver.com/solar-calculator). This tool will help you estimate your solar generation potential, ongoing utility costs, and estimated payback period for a rooftop solar system.



Also on our website are the member application and interconnection agreement. The application along with the one-line diagram of your system should be submitted to Singing River Electric & Cooperative Energy before your system is installed.

If you have questions about solar, email me at [robbins@singingriver.com](mailto:robbins@singingriver.com). You can also visit [singingriver.com/solar-energy](http://singingriver.com/solar-energy) for more information.



Join us at Singing River Electric's

# 86th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING | June 27, 2024

Participate in Singing River Electric's 2024 board of directors election

Learn more about how your electric cooperative works and participate by voting in person in SRE's board of directors election.

**Our 86th Annual Membership Meeting will be held on June 27 at SRE's Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South. Registration begins at 5 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6 p.m.**

The meeting will include an annual update on business of the cooperative, a report outlining 2023 financials, the board election, and more. All three districts will have an election for three Post 3 seats, and one district will elect a Post 4 seat. Any Singing River Electric member may vote in person at the annual meeting on June 27. According to the bylaws, SRE members should vote for one candidate in each of the three districts. Members can also vote online or return their proxy by mail.

Voting fulfills the 2nd Cooperative Principle – Democratic Member Control.

Each member is entitled to one vote regardless of the number of accounts in the person's name. A proxy may be assigned to the board as a whole, or a member can vote up to 200 assigned proxies at the membership meeting. The presence of a member at the meeting or an online vote, or in the case of joint membership, the presence of a spouse shall revoke the proxy. All proxies must be received by SRE's Lucedale office at close of business on June 18.

Members returning their proxy or voting online will be entered into a drawing for up to \$500 cash. Those attending the annual meeting will be eligible for attendance prizes.



### Three ways to vote:

- 1. Vote online** by opening the SmartHub app or visiting [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com) and clicking on the "Vote Here" icon at the top of the page. By entering your membership ID and zip code, you can view candidate biographies and cast your vote by the Tuesday, June 18, deadline.
- 2. Vote by proxy** by completing the mailed proxy and returning it using the enclosed self-addressed envelope by the Tuesday, June 18, deadline. The proxy allows the board of directors or another member to cast your vote. You may still attend the meeting; your presence will rescind the proxy allowing you to vote in person.
- 3. Vote in person** at the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 27, at the SRE Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South.

\*Deadline to vote by SmartHub app/online or return your proxy is June 18.

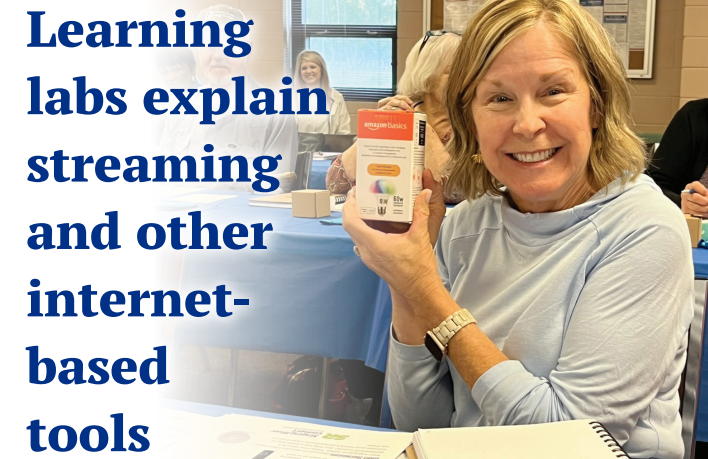
## Singing River Connect reaches 7,500 subscribers



Congratulations to George Bond, Singing River Connect's 7,500th subscriber!

A George County resident, Bond praised Singing River Connect for the quality of service provided. "I love it. Singing River Connect is blazing fast. I use it mostly for online gaming, and it's perfect for that. It's awesome - the best we have in the area!"

Singing River Connect provides lightning-fast and reliable fiber internet with trusted local service. Visit [singingriverconnect.com/signup](http://singingriverconnect.com/signup) to become a subscriber!



### Learning labs explain streaming and other internet-based tools

Singing River Connect hosted two learning labs at the Sand Hill office on April 25. Attendees learned about streaming platforms for TV shows and movies, cybersecurity tips, smart home devices they can now utilize thanks to fiber internet, and Wi-Fi calling.

As your trusted local provider, Singing River Connect values this time spent with our subscribers and helping them get the most out of their fiber internet connection.

### Singing River Electric 2024 Director Election

Candidates for one 3-year term by district:

#### District I, Post 3

○ **Cary E. Williams**, Representing Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County in Ala.

#### District II, Post 3

○ **Travis Baxter, Rickey E. Breland, Sherwin Ray**, Representing George and Stone counties in Miss., and Mobile County in Ala.

#### District III, Post 3

○ **Edward H. Thornton**, Representing Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss.

#### District III, Post 4

○ **Jared M. Case, Mark W. LaSalle**, Representing Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss.

Deadline for nominations to be placed on the ballot was Feb. 29, 2024. This deadline and a notice for nominations was included in the Jan. and Feb. 2024 *Today in Mississippi* magazine issues.

**You can win up to \$500 by voting online or returning your completed proxy by mail by June 18.**

**WYNE**  
**GREENE**  
**PERRY**  
**LEAKESVILLE**  
**LUCEDALE**  
**GEORGE**  
**JACKSON**  
**HARRISON**  
**OCEAN SPRINGS**  
**PASCAGOULA**

**Singing River Electric Cooperative**  
A Southern Bell® Cooperative

**DISTRICT 1**  
Represents SRE members in Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Mississippi, and Washington County in Alabama.

**DISTRICT 2**  
Represents SRE members in George and Stone counties in Mississippi, and Mobile County in Alabama.

**DISTRICT 3**  
Represents SRE members in Jackson and Harrison counties in Mississippi.

**All SRE members vote for one candidate in EACH district.**

## Fiber Construction Timeline - June 2024

### Step 1: Make-ready engineering

*Examine. Design.*  
Ocean Springs substation area

### Step 2: Make-ready construction

*Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.*  
Fort Bayou substation area

### Step 3: Construction

*Building a network from the ground up.*  
Martin Bluff, St. Martin, Tucker Road, Forts Lake, Helena, Helena Industrial, Escatawpa South, Benndale and Wade substation areas

### Step 4: Splicing

*Connecting the dots.*  
Rocky Creek substation area

### Step 5: Service drop & drop splicing

*The last outdoor step. Almost there...*  
Leakesville, Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, and all previously opened fiber internet areas

### Step 6: Installation

*The speed of light, right to your home.*  
Leakesville, Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, and all previously opened fiber internet areas

**SR Connect is delivering lightning-fast fiber internet to 18 substation areas!**  
New areas are announced by electric substation and feeder; text a SRE member service rep. at 228-591-9166 to find out which one serves you. Visit [singingriverconnect.com/signup](http://singingriverconnect.com/signup) to apply for service and to see all areas where SR Connect fiber internet is available.

**Scan here!**



# NHN Grant helps keep George County roads safe

In an ongoing effort to keep roads safe, the George County Sheriff's Department purchased four portable breath alcohol testers thanks to a \$2,500 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant from Singing River Electric.

"We use these handheld machines in the field during traffic stops," explained George County Sheriff Mitchell Mixon. "Our officers perform between 15 and 20 breathalyzer tests each month."

The breath alcohol testers use fuel cell technology to detect alcohol within a person's bloodstream and display results within seconds.

"We are excited to have this technology in place for our Click It or Ticket Campaign," added Mixon.

For more information on Singing River Electric's Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant program, visit [www.singingriver.com/my-community](http://www.singingriver.com/my-community). The next application deadline is Friday, September 13, 2024.



George County Sheriff Mitchell Mixon, Administration Clerk Amy Davis, Chief Deputy Dominique Ruffell, and Sergeant Investigator Robert Karg.

For more information on SRE NHN Community Grants and how to apply, visit [singingriver.com/my-community](http://singingriver.com/my-community). Grants for up to \$2,500 are awarded to nonprofits in SRE's service area three times a year in January, May, and September.



Before you leave for vacation, reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your home's equipment by following these energy-saving tips.

**Q** How can I lower my electric bill when I'm gone on vacation this summer?

Your **cooling system** keeps you comfortable. If you aren't there, your home doesn't need to be quite so comfortable. Setting the thermostat 5-10 degrees closer to the outdoor temperature can save you energy and money when you aren't home. Turning off your cooling system is not recommended.

A **smart thermostat** gives you the ability to control your settings remotely from your smart phone – adjust the temperature after you leave home and right before you return.

Most **water heaters** include a vacation mode setting, which drops the temperature to reduce wasted energy when you're away. A storage water heater is like an insulated tea kettle, standing by and ready for you to have hot water whenever you need it. Leave yourself a note with a reminder to turn vacation mode off when you get home.

**A** Just like you, the equipment in your home is hard at work getting through the daily grind. While you are off enjoying a new adventure or time away, give your home's equipment a vacation too. Doing so can reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your cooling system, appliances, and more.

**Closing the curtains** can provide two benefits. It can keep heat from the sun at bay, which reduces the load on your cooling system and uses less energy. It also has the benefit of blocking visibility into your home when you're away.

For security, some people use **timers** or leave on exterior lights. Make sure any lights left on are **LEDs**, instead of incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and have less impact on your electric use when left on all night. Consider adding smart LEDs to your home; these can be controlled remotely through an app on your phone.

Did you know there are devices in your home that continue to draw power from your electrical outlets even when turned off or on standby? Before you leave, walk through your home and **unplug** devices and small appliances. Make sure gaming consoles and computers are fully powered down.