

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Scholarship Application

College scholarships will be awarded through a drawing at the 2017 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative 80th Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 8, 2017. At the time of the annual meeting, to be eligible to receive a scholarship, the applicant must be either:



- a. a senior in high school;
- b. a senior in a home-schooled program;
- c. a non-traditional student entering their freshman year in a post-secondary accredited program
- After successful completion of their first semester of post-secondary school or college AND receiving credit for at least 12 credits at a minimum "C" average, a \$750 check will be made out to the student and the school for the second semester tuition. If the student fails to meet these qualifications, the scholarship will be awarded to the alternate if they have met all the same requirements.

### Qualifications:

1. Only dependents of members or members of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will be eligible to receive scholarship money. Family members of employees and directors are eligible.

2. The application can be mailed to the address below and needs to be received ***on or before April 3rd*** to qualify:

**Mailing Address:** *Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative  
Attn: 2017 Scholarships  
231 N. Sheridan St.  
Lancaster, WI 53813*

**Email Address:** *csolmstead@srec.net*

**SREC will mail or email each student a letter to verify receipt of the application. If you do not hear from SREC by April 4, 2017 please call to verify SREC received your application.**

3. The student ***must*** be present at the SREC Annual Meeting held on April 8, 2017 to win.
4. The student must receive college credit for at least 12 credits at a minimum "C" average to be awarded the scholarship.
5. Simply fill out the application form and return it to the address stated above. Applications can be picked up at any of the SREC three offices: Lancaster, Darlington, or Gays Mills or on our website @ [www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)  
If you have questions regarding the 2017 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Scholarship please contact Carrie Olmstead at 608-723-2121 or 800-236-2141ext. 556.



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

***\*deadline April 3, 2017***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (or legal guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*(if different from student)*

Cooperative Billing Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Utilities are raising awareness about scams

When a scammer called Florida pet clinic operator Cindy Evers last year and demanded immediate payment on an overdue electric bill, it sounded real.

“They knew my account number and gave me a figure that I owed that’s close to what I usually pay on my electric bill,” Evers said. She paid, even though, in the back of her mind, she knew her payment wasn’t late.

“I have pets under sedation, and I’m taking care of animals. I think I just panicked, thinking they were going to shut my electricity off. I did what they told me to do.”

Evers lost \$900 because the call was a scam.

The scam that duped Evers has been plaguing utility consumers across North America for several years, robbing them of millions.

Now, utilities are fighting back.

Recently, more than 80 utilities and energy industry organizations from across the U.S. and Canada joined forces to recognize the first-ever North American Utilities United Against Scams Day on November 16, 2016.

Electric co-ops have increased their communication efforts, sending information directly to members and encouraging local TV stations and newspapers to warn citizens about the scam, how it works and what people should do and not do, if they are ever targeted.

Even the wariest consumers can be duped, however. The scammers are developing new tactics every day.

The “past due” scam, similar to the one Florida customer Evers experienced, goes something like this: A customer gets a call from an 800-number that looks like a valid utility company phone number. Widely available spoofing software allows crooks to display what appears to be an official number on caller IDs. The caller threatens to cut off power if the customer doesn’t pay.

But here’s the giveaway: The crook will demand payment via a prepaid debit card or money order. And he’ll ask for it within a specified time frame--often an hour or less.

The scammer may even quote an amount that sounds like your typical monthly bill. That way, the threat has even more credibility.

Scammers might direct the customer to a specific store nearby that sells the prepaid cards and instruct the customer to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer.

Some scammers have even been bold enough to contact potential victims in person, coming to the member’s house.

### ***Here are some tips on how to protect yourself:***

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you don’t know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- Most utilities will NOT require their customers to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call the police and report the incident to your local utility.

### ***How you can help***

You can alert your family members and friends. Share the scammers’ tactics described in this article or those you have heard about. You can also help raise awareness and warn others by reposting scam awareness information on social media; use the hashtag #stopscams.

*Tracy Warren writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. ■*

#### **Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don’t let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



# ENERGY STAR

## Buyers Guide

Purchasing **ENERGY STAR**-certified appliances and electronics is a great way to save energy in your home. But how do you choose the right product? It depends on your energy-saving goals *and* how you use energy in your home.



Do you wash multiple loads of laundry each week? Investing in an ENERGY STAR-certified washer could save you around \$45 on your utility bill each year. Some of the top-rated ENERGY STAR-certified large washers come from LG and Samsung. Visit ENERGY STAR's "Most Efficient 2016" page to learn more.



Home computers can use a shocking amount of energy each year. If all computers in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR certified, we would save more than \$1 billion in energy costs per year. If you can't buy an ENERGY STAR-certified computer, consider updating the power management setting on your computer. Visit [energystar.gov/products/office\\_equipment/computers](http://energystar.gov/products/office_equipment/computers).



The larger TVs get, the more energy they use. But ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are, on average, 25% more efficient than conventional models. LG, Samsung and Vizio make the list of ENERGY STAR's most efficient 2016 TVs.

### There are many different types of ENERGY STAR-certified products, including:

- Air purifiers
- Roof products
- Set-top boxes and cable boxes
- Decorative light strands
- Data center storage
- Pool pumps
- Vending machines
- Dehumidifiers

Learn more about **ENERGY STAR** products.  
Visit [energystar.gov/products](http://energystar.gov/products)

## Recipes

Thank you Rita Kruser (Cuba City) for sharing your German Chocolate Bar recipe! She says, "These bars disappear really fast as everyone returns for a 2nd or 3rd nibble bite size bar!"

### German Chocolate Bars

- 14 oz package Kraft Caramels
- 1 pkg German Chocolate Cake Mix
- ¾ cup Melted Butter or Margarine
- 12 oz pkg Chocolate Chips
- 2/3 cup Evaporated Milk, split (use for caramel mixture and cake mixture)
- ½ cup Chopped Walnuts, optional

Melt caramels with 1/3 c. evaporated milk in microwave or double boiler. In mixing bowl, combine cake mix, remaining 1/3 c. evaporated milk, butter and nuts. Place 2/3 of cake mix mixture in a greased 9x13" pan.



Pat mixture flat to cover the bottom of the pan. Bake at 350 for 3 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle the chocolate chips over the crust. Then pour hot caramel mixture over the chips. Then top with remaining cake mixture, crumbled. Return to oven for 15 to 18 minutes at 350. Cut into bite size bars.

Thank you Cathy Skaike (Platteville) for your Chicken Noodle Soup recipe! She shares that this recipe is from her sister-in-law Ann Rupp.

### Chicken Noodle Soup

- 1 square Chicken Bouillon
- 32 oz Chicken Broth
- 1 can Cream of Chicken condensed
- 1 can Cream of Celery condensed
- 24 oz Egg noodles, frozen or amish
- Salt and Pepper
- ½cup butter
- Mixed Vegetables, optional
- 4 large skinless/boneless chicken breasts



Salt and pepper chicken and place in the bottom of crock pot. Spoon soup over the chicken. Cut butter into several pieces and place evenly over soup. Whisk the bouillon with broth and pour over the soup. Place lid on pot. Turn on low 6 hours or high 3 hours. Remove chicken and cut into pieces. Add back to crock pot. Add noodles and veggies if wanted. Stirring occasionally last 2 hours on low. \*\*I used 16 oz. of noodles. It all depends how thick you want your soup.

## Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service Inc. will not be trimming in February.

**It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:**

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at [jgardner@srec.net](mailto:jgardner@srec.net) or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.

## WATT'S HAPPENING

*Watt's Happening* is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

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Heidi Pierce ..... Editor

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