Rockingham Complex
Open to Member-Owners

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) opened the new Rockingham Complex to member-owners on Monday, July 16.

The complex is at 180 Oakwood Drive in Rockingham, Virginia, and houses the Cooperative’s headquarters, Rockingham District office, a warehouse and garage. SVEC no longer owns or occupies the former headquarters on Dinkel Avenue in Mount Crawford and former Rockingham District location on Mosby Road just outside of Dayton’s town limits.

The new complex provides more workspace for employees and privacy for member-owners to conduct business with Cooperative personnel. It also features drive-through lanes with kiosks that are available around the clock.

“The opening of this facility marks a major milestone at SVEC, and one that greatly improves our service to member-owners,” SVEC President and CEO Michael W. Hastings said. “We no longer have two or three employees working in cramped offices, or people in closets that have been turned into makeshift workspaces. What’s even more important for member-owners is that there is no longer a significant shortage of private meeting space. We are just excited overall to be up and running at our new location.”

The facility is open for business 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-234-7832.

We invite all member-owners to join us for a ribbon cutting and open house from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Rockingham Complex. Following tours of the new facility, we will have food available, including hot dogs, chips and ice cream.

“This will be a celebration for the completion of a major project and a chance to look to the future,” Hastings said.

SVEC May Major Outages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of Member-Owners</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Cause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Green Spring Road, Apple Pie Ridge, and Clear Brook areas</td>
<td>1,048</td>
<td>7 hours</td>
<td>Equipment failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Hawkbill area</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Thunderstorms in area</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Town of Strasburg area</td>
<td>1,435</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Thunderstorms in area</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Chambersville area</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Thunderstorms in area</td>
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</table>
SCC Urges Hurricane Preparation

 Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative wants to help you be aware of safety measures you can take before an emergency hurricane situation.

The State Corporation Commission’s (SCC) Bureau of Insurance encourages Virginians to review your insurance policies to make sure you have the necessary coverage in the event of a hurricane or other disaster.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30 each year. Once a hurricane develops in the Atlantic, it will be difficult to find an insurance company willing to write related coverage until the storm threat passes, according to the SCC.

Areas hundreds of miles from the coast can face floods and other damage caused by hurricanes’ high winds and torrential rains. Even minor floods can cause extensive damage to your home, business or belongings.

Homeowners insurance policies issued in Virginia typically do not provide coverage for damage to your home and belongings because of floods, surface water or storm surges. However, the federal government does sell insurance for direct flood and flood-related damage to homeowners, renters and businesses in eligible communities through its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The SCC encourages policyholders to prepare a complete inventory of their personal property including photographs, videotapes and serial numbers. Keep your insurance policies and home inventory in a safe place. If your property is damaged by a hurricane, contact your insurance agent or company as soon as possible. Make any necessary emergency repairs and take reasonable steps to prevent further damage to your property. Make a list of all damage to your property and include photographs, notes and repair-related receipts.

The SCC offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes at www.scc.virginia.gov/boi.

For additional emergency-preparedness information relating to hurricanes and all types of disasters and hazards, visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.gov.
The Cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting was held on June 14 at the James Madison University Convocation Center. More than 1,100 members and guests attended the meeting. The meeting is held every year for member-owners to elect their board of directors and learn about the year's Co-op business.

Member-owners received a reusable cloth gift bag upon registration at the meeting, which contained an Annual Report; a pen; and an “Energy Savers” guide to energy efficiency. Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) celebrated children at the meeting with a Kids Zone and also had a high-voltage safety-demo trailer set up outside of the Convocation Center, where member-owners could learn about power lines and the possible dangers they present.

One of the purposes of the Annual Meeting is the election of directors. Three director positions were decided at this year's meeting. The Cooperative's Bylaws require a minimum of two candidates for each position to be filled. Four individuals were nominated to run for the board, plus two incumbents. Elected to serve on the board were Todd Van Horn in Frederick/Clarke counties, Brian Plum in Page County, and Brent Arbogast in Rockingham County.

Following the election, reports were made by SVEC Board Chair Gerald A. Heatwole, and SVEC President and CEO Michael W. Hastings. Following the President and CEO's report, special presentations were made by Vice President of Engineering and Operations Greg Rogers, Page County Board of Supervisors member Mark Stroupe, and Operation Round Up Chair Chris Runion.

In his speech, Board Chair Heatwole spoke about the completion of the new Rockingham Complex, at the corner of Oakwood Drive and Route 11 near Mount Crawford, and how it will enable the Cooperative to meet the needs of member-owners now and into the future. He noted the fact that SVEC has the lowest residential rates per 1,000 kilowatt-hours among electric cooperatives regulated in Virginia. He said that the board and staff ask the tough questions and work together to get the best results for the member-owners.

One of the benefits of being a member-owner in a cooperative, Heatwole said, are capital credits. In 2017, SVEC returned more than $4.6 million back to member-owners. He also spoke of the 99.97 percent reliability rate of the Cooperative, and the safety hours worked by SVEC employees. At the end of 2017, the Cooperative had accumulated 1.6 million hours worked without a lost-time accident. He said in 2017 the board voted to add Youth Tour, a program where three local high school juniors were selected to go to Washington, D.C., to learn about cooperatives, government and history.
President and CEO Hastings started by recognizing three board members: Richard Shickle of Frederick County, who did not seek re-election; Charles Huffman of Augusta County, who assumed director emeritus status; and Joyce Craun of Augusta County, who became director emeritus in 2017. Director emeritus status is an 18-month designation that allows someone to attend board meetings and serve in an advisory role, but not vote.

Hastings offered an update on the Rockingham Complex. The building combines SVEC’s headquarters and Rockingham District office. He noted that a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house would be held on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Rockingham Complex, from 2-5 p.m.

Hastings said SVEC is considering several options to incorporate solar panels at the new facility location. On a larger scale, he said the Co-op is also investigating the practicality of community solar projects around its service territory. These projects would provide an opportunity for member-owners who are unable to have ownership in solar power at home to still have an investment in solar generation, he said.

Hastings also shared information about Wildcat Point, a 1,000-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas power plant in Cecil County, Maryland. He noted that the facility produces enough electricity to power about 390,000 homes and adds to Old Dominion Electric Cooperative’s diversified mix of generation.

He then addressed a question that came from a member-owner at last year’s annual meeting, regarding the possibility of installing control switches on air-conditioning units during periods of high energy demand. Hastings said that with the current technology in place, there is not a cost-benefit to introducing an A/C switch program. Right now, he said, the Cooperative offers the Beat the Peak program and the load management program for water heaters to conserve. He noted that both programs are free and voluntary, and work to save during high-demand periods.

Mark Stroupe, a member of the Page County Board of Supervisors, spoke about the improvements SVEC has made to the infrastructure, including the rebuilt Stanley Substation. He also made positive comments about the vegetation-management program and Cooperative Living magazine as a great resource.

Chris Runion, chair of the Operation Round Up committee, shared more information about the program with the crowd, and said that it’s another way SVEC can carry out one of its core principles, which is “concern for community.” He also talked about the grants that were awarded in 2018, with plans for the last round of contributions to be made in July 2018.

The meeting ended with the drawing of door prizes. This year featured two grand prizes: two $500 gift certificates for electric service. Recipients of these two grand prizes were Wayne E. Nesselrodt of Harrisonburg and Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., of Bridgewater.

Christopher S. Runion of Bridgewater; Paul W. Wampler of New Hope; the Leary Educational Foundation in Winchester; A. Garvin Fishel of Winchester; and James E./Linda L. Cox of Luray were recipients of $200 gift certificates for electric service.

Cindy R. Steele of Fulks Run; Terry R./Joyce S. Smith of Port Republic; Elwood D. Shipe of Broadway; Cecil A./Mary A. Byrd, Jr., of Fishersville; John E./Donna R. Brown, Jr., of Waynesboro; Donna L. Hamilton of Staunton, Bruce P./Debra P. Bontz of McGaheysville; Dennis R. Miller of Criders; Kimberly Dill of Stanley; and Jerry W./Betsy Hines of Mt. Jackson were recipients of $100 gift certificates for electric service. Marshall F. Snead of Stuarts Draft was the recipient of the early-bird proxy prize.

If you are interested in viewing this year’s Annual Meeting, a video is posted online at www.svec.coop. WVPT, the area’s PBS affiliate in Harrisonburg, provided a live stream of the business portion of the event, and the archived footage is now available.
Youth Tour Leaves Lasting Impressions

From June 10-14, three rising high school seniors from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative’s service territory participated in Youth Tour, a program of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Youth Tour is a jam-packed week of historical tours, political meetings and recreational opportunities that provides high school students a one-of-a-kind, all-expenses-paid experience. This year marked the first time in nearly 30 years that SVEC participated in the program, which began 53 years ago.

To join the trip, high school juniors whose parents or guardians are SVEC member-owners applied through their school earlier this year. The students then interviewed with SVEC staff before being selected to attend, joining 1,800 of their peers from across the United States.

A record 51 students from the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives attended this year's event.


Youth Tour embodies both the 5th (commitment to education) and 7th (commitment to community) cooperative principles. It helps co-op youth gain firsthand awareness of all that America stands for, while building pride in our nation and making contacts that may guide their future endeavors.

To learn more about this year’s trip, here are the three SVEC Youth Tour delegates’ experiences in their own words.

Nathan Harris, Stuarts Draft High School

What are your future plans?
I’m looking at pursuing civil engineering. My top two schools are Virginia Tech and Virginia Military Institute (VMI). I plan to stay in Virginia after college. I love the natural beauty of the area.

Why did you apply to go on Youth Tour?
I've always enjoyed learning about history, so this past school year I took AP U.S. history. My teacher took a special notice in how I asked questions to acquire a deeper understanding of the information he was presenting and gave me an application to the Youth Tour.

What were your top moments from Youth Tour and why?
Visiting Arlington National Cemetery was a top moment for me. It was a sobering moment for me seeing the endless graves. It helps bring in perspective the amount of men and women who gave their lives protecting this country.

Another top moment for me was the play we went to see, The Scottsboro Boys. This Broadway-quality play was held in a smaller, intimate theater really allowing you to connect to the actors.

On the morning of the second day there was a special speaker. He wheeled up to center stage in a wheelchair, instantly catching my attention. His talent for public speaking captivated the whole audience as he took us on a roller coaster of emotions that was his life story.
His name is Mike Schlappi. He was accidentally shot in the chest by his friend and paralyzed, but despite wanting to give up on life, he managed to push through and pursue his dream of becoming a basketball player. He went on to represent the United States four times in the Paralympics, winning gold and bronze medals. As I listened to him speak it really made me think about what I’d done with my life, and what I was going to do with it. He’s a living testament to the idea that you can do anything you set your mind to.

Why did you apply to go on Youth Tour?
I applied because I thought it would be a great opportunity to experience the nation’s capital through a perspective I never did before.

What were your top moments from Youth Tour and why?
The play (The Scottsboro Boys) was so great. It was a very enlightening experience and it was the first time I saw a live play.

My other favorite from the trip would have to be the farewell dance because I realized just how many new friends I had made on this wonderful trip.

What do you feel that you gained, personally, from attending Youth Tour?
I had forgotten how outgoing I could be and this trip definitely brought that out of me. I also gained affirmation of my love for the capital and the inner workings of the government.

Why should next year’s high school juniors apply to go on Youth Tour?
Again, I reiterate the fact that learning about history and government in school only goes so far. Seeing it for yourself is much better. Anyone who is interested in American history and meeting new people would enjoy themselves on this trip.

Alex White, Luray High School

What are your future plans?
I plan to attend school and become a lawyer, with my eventual goal being a career in public service.

Why did you apply to go on Youth Tour?
I applied with the intent of expanding my horizons via new experiences and friendships. That’s exactly what happened!

What were your top moments from Youth Tour and why?
My top moments were all in the same day, when we visited the U.S. Capitol. The highlights of that trip were seeing the awesome history of our country by way of the art in the building, meeting my congressman (Bob Goodlatte), and getting a feel for daily life in the governing body of the greatest country in the world!

What do you feel that you gained, personally, from attending Youth Tour?
I personally gained a better understanding of government, a stronger grasp of rural America’s role in politics, and a clearer vision of my own future plans. Most importantly, I cultivated friendships with people all across this great state. Those connections will be with me the rest of my life!

Why should next year’s high school juniors apply to go on Youth Tour?
Next year’s juniors would be derelict if they didn’t at least consider applying. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and participating gives you the chance to do things that you may never be able to otherwise!