



THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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KEEP IT SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

If you decorate for the holidays, please remember these important electrical safety tips:

- * Carefully follow the instructions concerning the installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- * Use lights and other electrical decorations that are certified by an independent testing laboratory such as “UL”.
- * When decorating outdoors, only use products that are approved for outdoor use.
- * Consider LED decorations, which use much less energy.
- * Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging it into an electrical outlet. Frayed or cracked wires, as well as loose connections, may cause injury or fire.
- * Always replace any damaged items.
- * Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords to exterior surfaces.
- * Do not overload extension cords – they can overheat.
- * Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of standing water.
- * Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- * Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed and be sure to use a timer to control your energy cost.



For more ways to save, visit our Energy Center at www.sawnee.com/energy, contact a member of our Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.com.

CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:
www.sawnee.com
customerservice@sawnee.com

Business Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Physical Address:
543 Atlanta Highway
Cumming, GA 30040

Customer Call Center:
Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (770) 887-2363
Fax: (678) 947-3368
Text: (678) 999-8124
TDD: (770) 781-4271



QUOTABLE QUOTE

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Take the CHILL OUT OF WINTER BILLS

Between holiday houseguests, colder days, and longer nights... electric bills tend to climb up during the winter. Please review these easy ways to save energy when the temperature drops.

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY TIP:

Use LED lights to decorate. They're up to 75 percent more energy efficient than incandescent lights and last much longer—but check for an ENERGY-STAR rating before you buy. Cheaper LEDs tend not to last as long or be as durable.

- **Set your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower):** If you turn the heat down by just one degree, you can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Consider a smart thermostat that you can set to lower the temperature when the home is empty and use your smart phone to increase the setting before you get back home.

- **Adjust blinds and curtains:** Keep them open to let sunlight in during the day, and close at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

- **Reduce hot water temperatures:** Heating water accounts for approximately 12 percent of the average home's energy usage. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower—that's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs.

- **Seal and insulate:** This is the best way to keep heat in and cold air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows.

- **Inspect your vents:** HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.

- **Keep food cool:** Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal.

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Sawnee Named 2017 EMC OF THE YEAR

Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation (“Sawnee”) is pleased to announce that it has been named the EMC of the Year in the state of Georgia. On November 13, 2017, the Cooperative was presented with the 2017 Georgia EMC Community Service and Volunteerism Award by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (“Georgia EMC”). Georgia EMC selected Sawnee because of the many community services that it provides throughout its seven (7) county service area.

“Through a multitude of community programs, and in particular the success of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation, it’s not difficult to see the impact that Sawnee has had on the quality of life for thousands of members in every part of their service area,” says Bill Verner, Senior VP of External Affairs with Georgia EMC.

Since its inception in 2003, the Sawnee Foundation has been able to distribute almost \$3 million in grants within the local communities — for food pantries, for charities, for schools, for teachers to implement new programs, emergency funds for members who suffer a home loss due to fire or natural disaster, for animal welfare charities, and many other worthy projects.



CASA of Forsyth County received a grant from the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation to purchase new technology to better aid the needs of the children they serve.



Wendy Sellers (r), CEO of Washington EMC, presents the 2017 Community Service and Volunteerism Award to Michael Goodroe (l), CEO of Sawnee EMC.

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*— Bill Verner
Senior VP of External Affairs
Georgia EMC*

“We are so honored to receive this recognition, on behalf of the tireless efforts of the men and women that call Sawnee home each and every day, and on behalf of our members who enable us to do what we do,” states Michael A. Goodroe, President and CEO of Sawnee EMC.

Sawnee EMC strives to be the very best electric cooperative in the nation and this award signifies that commitment, and confirms the cooperative principle of “concern for the community” in its actions. Sawnee EMC will celebrate its 80th year of operation in 2018 and is honored to be an integral part of the communities within its service territory.



Let the Giving Season Last All Year Long

It only costs a little each month, yet the small change collected by the Sawnee Foundation's Operation Round-Up Program has made it possible to put millions of dollars of charitable contributions back into our communities over the last decade.

With the month of December upon us, many people are busy with holiday parties and other activities. However, it is the time of year when we feel thankfulness in the air and want to reach out to others who may be in need.

This is where the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation's Operation Round-Up comes in... not just in

December, but all year long. By rounding up your Sawnee EMC bill to the next highest dollar each month, you can help a local charity stock their food pantry, you can help provide prescription medicine for the elderly, or you could even help purchase items for foster children in your area. The possibilities are endless.

Please take the time this month to consider making a one-time donation on your December electric bill or sign up for Operation Round Up on a reoccurring monthly basis. You can go online to www.sawnee.com/oru to sign up.

Please know that 100% of the money that is rounded up will go directly to the people that need it most, right here locally.

Thank you for your time, your consideration of this worthy program and for being a member of Sawnee EMC.

Happy holidays and blessings to you and yours!

You can go online to www.sawnee.com/oru to sign up or simply complete the Operation Round Up card that is included in this month's bill and return with your payment.

Here's WATTS Cookin'

Strawberry Pretzel Layered Salad

Ingredients:

<i>2 cups pretzel sticks, broken in half</i>	<i>1 large pkg. sliced, frozen strawberries, thawed</i>
<i>4 tbsp. sugar, plus ¾ cup sugar</i>	<i>1 large and 1 small pkg. strawberry Jello</i>
<i>1 stick butter, melted</i>	<i>1 ½ cup boiling water</i>
<i>1 (8 oz.) pkg cream cheese</i>	<i>½ cup cold water</i>
<i>1 small container of Cool Whip</i>	

Instructions:

For the crust, mix the pretzels, 4 tbsp. of sugar and butter. Press this mixture into a 9 x 13 inch pan. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Set aside and allow to cool. In a mixing bowl, beat together cream cheese and ¾ cup of sugar. Fold in Cool Whip and spread over cooled crust. In a small bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in cold water. Add strawberries to Jello and cool slightly. Pour over cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate until serving time.



👉 Thanks to Elizabeth Wofford for the recipe! Do you have a recipe to share with us? If we print it, we'll credit your account \$5.00. Send your favorite recipe to marketing@sawnee.com.