

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

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SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



Whether it is a penny, nickel or dime, the act of donating small change can make a big difference for the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation (Foundation). The Foundation was established in 2003 as a method to give back to our local communities. While the Foundation gives back in many ways, the best opportunity is the partnership with Sawnee EMC members.

Through Operation Round Up, participating Sawnee members can opt-in to "round up" their electric bill each month to the next highest dollar. That difference, 100% of that seemingly small change, goes directly to the Foundation and is then distributed to local charitable organizations within our

communities. The Foundation also helps local teachers by way of its Bright Ideas Program. Bright Ideas is a grant process for teachers to receive funding for classroom projects or programs that may not have been funded otherwise. It can mean a tactile board for a special needs class or a hands-on learning opportunity to creatively teach science to students.

Since the Foundation's inception, over \$3.5 million has been gifted to local charitable organizations and our Bright Ideas teacher recipients. This is possible due to Sawnee EMC's members who donate an average of 50 cents per month. With the challenges COVID-19 presented this year, the Foundation proactively stepped up in a big way by

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QUOTABLE QUOTE

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper."

— Jerry Seinfeld

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM SAWNEE EMC

A Holiday Throwback

The following story was taken from an article attached to the very first newsletter published by Sawnee EMC (then known as Forsyth County Electric Membership Corporation) in December 1940. Enjoy!

There was a farm woman in Georgia who had once lived in the city. When she moved back to the farm, she took with her all the family's electrical equipment, including a string of holiday lights.

But the family farm was far away from the power lines of the private utility company. Sadly, she was forced to store away the electric iron, the radio, the percolator, refrigerator, toaster, holiday lights and other electrical luxuries she had become used to while living in the city. She now ironed with a sadiron and sewed by the kerosene lamp. The children thought the holidays were very drab without the bright, brilliant electric lights.

Eight holiday seasons went by - eight drab holidays without lights.

Then the neighbors got together and organized a cooperative to bring in electric power to their farms... the REA co-op. The farm woman was able to get her electric equipment out of storage and once again put it to work. She was full of joy because she knew how electricity could change lives and lift their burdens.

And for the ninth holiday season, when she looked at the bright lights, she thought how they symbolized all the good things electricity can bring.

Sawnee EMC's Board of Directors and staff wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season!

View our special holiday message at sawnee.com/holiday.

Big Difference

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awarding over \$250,000 to local area food banks, over \$10,000 to help support summer lunch programs at local schools and providing hospital employees with lunch.

Please take time this month to either sign up for Operation Round Up on a reoccurring monthly basis or consider making a one-time donation on your December electric bill. You can go online to **sawnee.com/oru** to sign up or contact our Customer Call Center at 770-887-2363. Again, know that 100% of the money that is donated will go directly to the people who need it most, in our local communities.

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



Unwrap Winter Energy Savings

The holidays are upon us! It's that special time of year when we usually spend time with friends and family, either in the kitchen or out and about shopping for the perfect gift. As you find yourself wrapped up in the holiday excitement, Sawnee EMC would like to remind you of a few ways to be more energy efficient and to gift yourself with lower bills in 2021 and beyond.



COOKING EFFICIENTLY

- ★ Be kind to your oven. Every time you open the oven door to check on a dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees. This forces the oven to use more energy in order to get back to the proper cooking temperature. Try keeping the door closed as much as possible.
- ★ If you're using a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven 25 degrees lower than stated on the recipe, since they hold more heat than metal pans.
- ★ Utilize small appliances. During the holidays, the main appliances used are usually the oven and stovetop. Try using your slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or air fryer.

HOME EFFICIENCY

- ★ Take advantage of heat from the sun. Open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and then close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- ★ Find and seal all air leaks. Check areas near pipes, gaps around chimneys, cracks near doors and windows and any unfinished places.

EFFICIENT SHOPPING

- ★ Purchase LED holiday lights. A string of energy efficient LED lights only uses 5 watts - that is 6 times less than traditional lights - and they last up to 10 times longer.
- ★ When buying new, ask for Energy Star TVs and appliances. This will save you in electricity usage and costs over time.

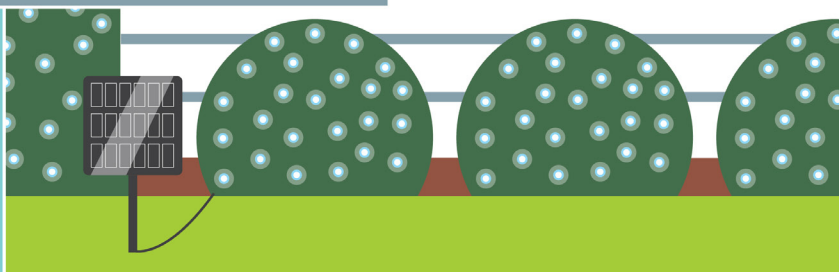
Being energy efficient is usually not top priority when celebrating the holidays, and most of us don't realize this until the next bill comes in. We are here to help if you have questions. Contact a member of our Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.com.



Holiday Saving TIP:

Use solar-powered lights
to decorate outdoors this
holiday season.

Questions about solar
for your home? We can
help. Visit our solar site
at sawnee.com/solar.



Here's WATTS Cookin'

Antipasto Salad

Ingredients:

8 cups chopped romaine lettuce
3/4 cup grape or cherry tomatoes, halved
6 ounces provolone cheese, diced
4 ounces marinated artichokes, drained
and chopped
1/2 cup olives (about 3 ounces)

2 ounces salami, diced
2 ounces pepperoni, quartered
1/4 cup sliced pepperoncinis
1/4 cup sliced red onion
1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (more
to taste)



Instructions:

In a large shallow salad bowl, add the romaine and layer all the other ingredients. Toss together with your favorite Italian dressing and enjoy.

👉 Thanks to Gretchen Howard 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.