

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 41 • Issue 12

Small Change Makes a BIG DIFFERENCE

Whether it is a penny, nickel or dime, the act of Sawnee EMC members donating small change can make a big difference for the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation (Foundation). The Foundation was established by Sawnee EMC in 2003 as a way 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.

Through Operation Round Up, participating Sawnee EMC members can opt to "round up" their electric bill each month to the next highest dollar. That difference, 100% of that small change, goes directly to the Foundation and is then distributed to local charitable organizations within our communities. The Foundation also helps our local school teachers by way of its Bright Ideas Program. Bright Ideas is a path 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 \$3.8 million has been gifted to local charitable organizations and teachers. This is all possible due to the generosity of Sawnee EMC's members who donate an average of 50 cents per month.

Please take time to 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, contact our Customer Call Center at 770-887-2363 or text "Round Up My Bill" to 678-999-8124.

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

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. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (770) 887-2363

Fax: (770) 234-6722

Text: (678) 999-8124

TDD: (770) 781-4271



QUOTABLE QUOTE

We aim above the mark to hit the mark. "

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Holiday Decor Tips for an Energy-Wise Home



Whether you've already "decked the halls" or you're just getting started, there is still time to incorporate energy saving ideas into your holiday décor planning.

If you plan on stringing twinkie lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LED lights consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last many holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—plus they're cool to the touch and have less fire risk.

If your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on operating costs. All you need is a programmable timer. Most timers cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers or your local home improvement store. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If lights are not part of your holiday decorating, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even local retailers, may give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and some sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit Sawnee EMC's website at sawnee.com for additional energy-saving tips.

Happy Holidays and blessings to you and your loved ones!



Thank you for helping us rank Best in Residential Customer Satisfaction among Cooperatives, 2 out of 3 Years.

For J.D. Power 2020 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards



KEEP IT SAFE this Holiday Season

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

☆
Carefully follow the instructions concerning the safe installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.

☆
Use lights and other electrical decorations that carry a certified label from an independent tester, such as “UL approved”.

☆
When decorating outdoors, only use lights that are approved for outdoor use.

☆
Consider LED decorations, which create much less heat and use far less energy.

☆
Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging it into an electrical outlet.
Frayed or cracked wires, as well as loose connections, may cause personal injury or fire.

☆
Always replace any damaged items – it is not worth the risk to use them.

☆
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.

Have fun and enjoy this holiday season...just remember to be safe!

Happy Holidays from Sawnee EMC

A Holiday Throwback

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

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 local utility company. Sadly, she was forced to store away the electric iron, the radio, the percolator, refrigerator, toaster, holiday lights and other electrical items she had become used to while

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

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 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.

Hope you enjoyed this holiday throwback story. **Sawnee EMC's Board of Directors and staff wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season!**

Here's WATTS Cookin'

Spicy Pumpkin Pancakes

Ingredients:

2-1/3 cups baking mix
1/3 cup canned pumpkin
1-1/4 milk
1/4 cup vegetable oil (your choice)

2 Tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
2 eggs

Instructions:

Heat griddle or skillet. Grease, if necessary. Stir all ingredients together until well blended. Pour batter onto hot griddle by 1/4 cupfuls. Cook on side one until bubbles pop and edges brown, flip and cook on side two until edge is brown. Enjoy with butter, maple syrup, a scatter of pecans or walnuts.



👉 Thanks to Jacqueline Thompson Graves 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.