

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 44 • Issue 12

The Story of Sawnee EMC: A Holiday Celebration of Service

As we gather during this holiday season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the lights that brighten our lives each day. In today's world, we often take electricity for granted, but in the 1930s, many rural Americans faced the harsh reality of living without it. While they dreamed of the comforts that electricity would bring, other power companies found it unprofitable to extend service to rural areas, leaving many in the dark.

This season of giving reminds us of the spirit of community. It was in this very spirit that President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as part of his New Deal on May 11, 1935. The REA provided low-interest loans to groups of rural Americans, allowing them to form their own electric cooperatives - shining a light of hope into the lives of rural Americans.

The Story
of Sawnee EMC
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CONTACT US

Web Address & Email:

www.sawnee.coop

customerservice@sawnee.coop

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

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

-Edith Sitwell

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Manage Your Sawnee EMC Account with SmartHub

Sawnee EMC is dedicated to making online account management effortless for its members. With the SmartHub app, you have a wealth of tools right at your fingertips. Whether you want to view your energy usage and billing, manage payments, or communicate service issues, SmartHub offers a streamlined experience that keeps you informed and in control.



KEY FEATURES OF SMARTHUB

BILL & PAY

With the **"Bill & Pay"** feature, you can easily access your current account balance and due date. The app allows you to manage recurring payments, modify payment methods, and review your billing history - all from your mobile device. Need a copy of your past bills? You can view PDF versions of your paper bills at any time, ensuring you have all the information you need right at your fingertips.

MY USAGE

Understanding your energy consumption is crucial for managing costs. The **"My Usage"** feature provides detailed graphs that highlight your energy usage trends. Navigating these graphs is quick and easy, enabling you to identify periods of high usage and make informed decisions about your energy consumption.

CONTACT US

Should you have any questions or concerns, contacting Sawnee EMC is simple using the **"Contact Us"** feature.

The app allows you to reach out via email or phone with just a few taps. You can also submit predefined messages, making it easy to communicate specific issues. For added convenience, you can include pictures and GPS coordinates to provide more context when reporting service problems.

NOTIFICATIONS

Stay informed with the **"Notifications"** feature, which keeps you updated on important information that may affect your service. This includes announcements about rate changes, outage information, and upcoming events, ensuring you're always in the loop.

REPORT AN OUTAGE

The **"Outage Reporting"** feature gives you real-time updates on service interruptions and outages. You can easily report an outage directly through the app, allowing Sawnee EMC to respond quickly and efficiently to restore your service.

Download
our App by
searching "Sawnee
EMC" in the App
Store or Google
Play.

If you don't have a SmartHub account, create one today at [sawnee.coop](https://www.sawnee.coop) by clicking "Pay Bill / Log in" and follow the steps to create an account. If you have any questions about accessing your Sawnee EMC account online, please contact our Customer Call Center at 770-887-2363, text 678-999-8124, email customerservice@sawnee.coop or chat at [sawnee.coop](https://www.sawnee.coop).



Sawnee EMC Receives ACSI Award

Sawnee EMC earned this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2023. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with Sawnee EMC in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.



The Story of Sawnee EMC *Continued from page 1*

With the formation of these electric cooperatives, local leaders rallied to secure REA loans and establish Boards of Directors, setting rates and policies. For many, getting electricity was as simple as visiting the local REA office, paying a small membership fee, and applying for service. These electric cooperatives were designed to serve their members, embodying the true spirit of community.

In Forsyth County, Georgia, community leaders joined together to create the Forsyth County Electric Membership Corporation (FCEMC) on July 16, 1938. On June 22, 1939, less than one (1) year later, the flip of a switch illuminated approximately 750 homes! With 163 miles of electrical lines built at a cost of \$125,000, families could finally celebrate the warmth and joy of the season together, with energy rates as low as \$1.25 for 14 kilowatts.

In August 1950, the FCEMC became known as Sawnee Electric Membership Corporation (SEMC), named for the stunning Sawnee Mountain, a local landmark that serves as a reminder of the cooperative's roots in the community and its commitment to serve.

As we look forward to 2025, Sawnee EMC continues this tradition of service. Our nine-member Board, elected by our members, along with our dedicated and professional staff, remains committed to our mission of providing reliable and affordable electric energy. We are proud to be a not-for-profit entity focused on serving our community, ensuring that every home can enjoy the warmth of lights and the comfort of electricity.

This holiday season, let us celebrate the journey of Sawnee EMC and the bright future ahead. Together, we look forward to another great year of illuminating homes and fostering community connections, keeping the spirit of service alive. Here's to a joyful and bright 2025!



REMINDER:

**Sawnee Electric Foundation
Accepting Applications
for 2025 Youth
Scholarship Program**

In Spring 2025, the Sawnee Electric Foundation will award scholarships to high school seniors in the Sawnee EMC service area.* To be eligible, a student's primary residence must be served by Sawnee EMC.

Applications and criteria are available online at [sawnee.coop/scholarships](https://www.sawnee.coop/scholarships) or through high school counselors. Submit completed applications by 5:00 p.m. on January 10, 2025. Please mail your completed application packet to Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation, Attn: Marketing Department - Youth Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 1174, Cumming, GA 30028 or email scholarships@sawnee.coop.

For additional questions on this program, please contact Mandy Love, Director of Marketing, at 678-455-1579 or via email at mandy.love@sawnee.coop.

**Certain restrictions and requirements apply.*

Sawnee EMC ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

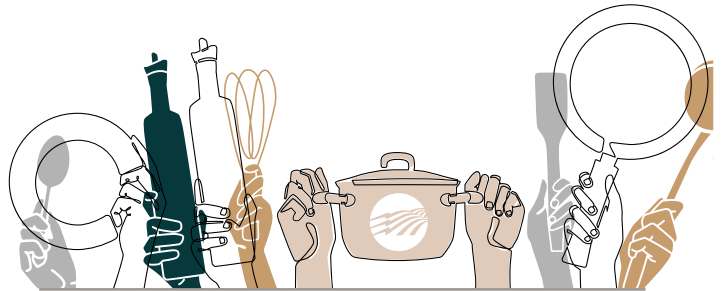
If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



Sawnee EMC Is Calling All Culinary Creatives

Do you have a go-to dish that brings joy to your table? If so, share your favorite recipe with us by submitting it to marketing@sawnee.coop. If your recipe is chosen to feature in any of our upcoming Highliners, you'll receive a \$5.00 credit on your bill. Whether it's a family classic, a seasonal favorite, or your own recipe, we'd love to share what you have to whip up!



Here's WATTS Cookin' Peanut Butter Blossoms

Ingredients:

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons baking soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fine salt
1 cup smooth peanut butter (not natural)
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature

2 large eggs

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable shortening
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups packed light brown sugar
2 cups peanut butter chips
48 to 60 chocolate kiss candies

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375°F and coat 2 baking sheets with cooking spray. In a medium bowl, mix flour, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In a large bowl, beat peanut butter, butter, and shortening until smooth. Add brown sugar and beat until fluffy (about 4 minutes). Mix in eggs and vanilla, then add flour mixture in two batches. Fold in peanut butter chips. Scoop and roll tablespoon-sized balls of dough, spacing them 2 inches apart on the baking sheets. Bake in batches, until edges are golden and middles are soft (about 10 minutes), allowing sheets to cool in between. Indent and top each with a chocolate kiss. Cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely.

👉 Thanks to Sarah Chism 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.coop.