

THE SAWNEE HIGHLINER

Volume 46 • Issue 3

Sawnee EMC Text Reminders - Easy, Convenient & Simple

Sawnee EMC offers text message reminders as an easy, convenient and simple way to keep track of your Sawnee EMC account.

Sawnee EMC's text reminder service offers you the option of choosing notifications most important to you! General notices, power outages and billing reminders are all available via text.

Text reminders offer a fast, easy, and direct communication conduit to your cooperative, without the need to check your email or log into your Sawnee EMC account.

Sawnee EMC members can sign up for text alerts and reminders by following these easy steps.

1. **Open the Sawnee EMC app or login to SmartHub at sawnee.coop.**
2. **Navigate to Notification Settings:** log in and look for the "Manage Notifications" section under "Settings". From here you may customize your communication preferences.
3. **Select Text Message Alerts:** In the notification settings, choose the op-

tion to receive text message reminders. Enter your mobile phone number to ensure the messages are sent to the correct device.



4. **Customize Your Preferences:** You can decide which notifications you want to receive via text. Billing reminders, outage alerts, and general notices, or all of them!
5. **Save Your Settings:** Save your settings once you have selected your preferred text reminders.

If you don't have a SmartHub account, create one today at sawnee.coop by clicking "Pay Bill / Log in" and follow the steps. 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 with us at sawnee.coop.

At Sawnee EMC, We're More Than Electricity, We're Service.

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

**Keep your face to the
sunshine, and shadows fall
behind you"**

— Walt Whitman

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

March is the Ideal Month for Home Safety and Maintenance Checks

March brings to us the first glimpse of the change of seasons as the winter heating season comes to an end and hints of spring weather begin to arrive. During this time, the term “spring cleaning” often comes to mind, but have you also thought about “spring maintenance?” March is an ideal time to review several often overlooked areas of your home, such as your home’s HVAC and safety systems, that if neglected, could result in costly repairs and higher energy bills later in the year.

HVAC SYSTEM FILTERS - Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, having a professional check refrigerant levels and a general inspection of the unit, can improve your system’s energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling a tune up service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long. Don’t forget, Sawnee EMC has a rebate to help with the cost of an AC tune-up – visit sawnee.coop/rebates for more information.

THERMOSTAT BATTERIES – Some HVAC system thermostats are battery powered. Weak or exhausted batteries may lead to inaccurate temperature readings by the thermostat and result in improper operation of your home's HVAC system.

SMOKE /CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR BATTERIES – Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors may be hard wired or battery operated. Daylight savings time is a great reminder to “spring forward” and check your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries. Use this time to dust off the alarm's vents as well to prevent blockage. Take a peek at the manufactured date on the back of the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector and consider replacing all units every 10 years, or as instructed by the manufacturer.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - We all hope to never have to use a fire extinguisher in our home but having one on hand, maintained and ready is critical in a time of need. Check to make sure the extinguisher is still present in its designated location, and free from any obstructions blocking the equipment from view or keeping it from being easily accessible. Check the pressure gauge to make sure the indicator is in the operating range and make sure the pull-pin is not missing and the seal is intact. Fire extinguishers do have a shelf life. The manufacturing date should be stamped on the cylinder for your reference and should be disposed of and replaced according to the manufactures recommendation.

Questions? Contact a member of Sawnee EMC’s Energy Services Department at 770-887-2363 or via email at energy_services@sawnee.coop.



SAWNEE®
An Electric Membership Corporation

RATED #1
BY THE PEOPLE THAT MATTER MOST –
OUR MEMBERS

Best in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Electric Service among Cooperatives, 3 out of 4 Years.

For J.D. Power 2025 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards.

Sawnee EMC and the Modern Grid

Sawnee EMC continues to enhance its electric system as the industry rapidly evolves. Today's power grid features a diverse mix of generation sources and advanced technologies that strengthen reliability and improve the member experience. As a distribution electric cooperative, Sawnee EMC is responsible for the portion of the grid from the substation to each home and business we serve — illustrated in yellow in the diagram below. Modern tools such as automated devices, real-time sensors, and advanced analytics also support platforms, like SmartHub, giving members greater insight into and ways to manage their energy use.

Power Generation

Advanced gas turbines, hybrid renewable plants and system digitalization are improving uptime and reliability.

Local Generation

Local solar, storage and wind help shave peaks and improve reliability.

Transmission Lines

Composite-core conductors boost line capacity and reduce sag.

Step-Down Transformer

Smart distribution transformers enable remote monitoring and predictive maintenance.

Step-Up Transformer

Smart and solid-state step-up transformers improve visibility, functionality and reliability.

Distribution Lines

Advanced materials and composite cores improve strength and reduce thermal expansion.

Transmission Substation

Digital substation gear allows better monitoring and automation.

Distribution Transformers

High-efficiency cores and digitally enabled transformers reduce load loss and improve resilience.

Meter

Advanced meters allow real-time data - transmission and two-way communication.

Consumer and Commercial Use

Distributed energy resources and Internet of Things devices allow users to better manage energy use.

Breaker Box

Smart panels enable real-time circuit-level monitoring and remote control.

Wiring

Structured wiring combines power and data cables to support smart home automation.

Source: NRECA; Design: Kevin Kepple

Understanding the Hidden Costs of Dehumidifiers

Maintaining proper humidity levels, especially in basements, is essential for protecting your home and improving indoor comfort. Many homeowners rely on dehumidifiers, but the cost of operating these appliances is often overlooked. Before purchasing or using one, it's important to understand both sizing and energy use.



per hour or an operating cost of about **\$0.14 per hour**. While this may seem minimal in the moment, operating a dehumidifier eight (8) hours or more a day could increase your energy bill over \$30 per month or more and add up to an increase of over \$400 annually.

When selecting a dehumidifier, consider the typical moisture level and size of the space needing moisture control. Choosing the correct capacity helps ensure efficient operation. Oversized units, such as 50-pint models, consume more electricity than necessary for smaller areas, while undersized units may run longer and work harder. Dehumidifier purchase prices typically range from about \$150 for smaller 30-pint models to over \$300 for larger capacities.

Once in use, dehumidifiers can noticeably impact energy consumption. Most models use between **300 to 700 watts**

To help manage energy usage, Sawnee EMC offers SmartHub, an online account management tool that allows members to track changes in their electricity consumption after adding new appliances. By monitoring usage trends, homeowners can better control energy costs and make informed decisions about efficient operation.

Login to SmartHub at www.sawnee.coop and learn more about your energy trends.

Questions? Contact our Energy Services team at 770-887-2363 or via email at marketing@sawnee.coop if you have questions or need more information.

Here's WATTS Cookin' Pesto Skillet Lasagna

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 8-oz pkg. fresh baby spinach
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup of all-purpose flour
- 2 cups whole milk, warmed
- 1/2 cup pesto (homemade or store-bought)
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 tsp lemon zest
- 1 cup whole-milk ricotta cheese
- 10 no-boil lasagna noodles, broken into 2-inch pieces
- 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese
- Fresh basil leaves, for topping

Directions: Preheat broiler with oven rack 5 inches from heat. Heat oil in a 10-inch broiler-safe skillet over medium-high heat. Cook spinach, tossing constantly, until tender and wilted. Transfer to a bowl. Reduce heat to medium. Melt butter in skillet. Add flour; cook, whisking constantly, until light brown. Whisk in warm milk; cook, whisk constantly, until thickened. Whisk in pesto and salt. Return spinach to skillet and stir in 3/4 cup water. Using tongs, add lasagna noodle pieces, submerging them in sauce. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cover; simmer until noodles are just tender. Stir together ricotta and lemon zest in a medium bowl. Dollop over cooked noodle mixture in skillet. Sprinkle with mozzarella. Transfer skillet to oven. Broil until cheese is melted and lightly browned. Top with basil and serve.



👉 Thanks to Diana Romano 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.