



## Eddie Dunn retires from SEMCO after 45 years

**E**ddie Dunn began his career with Sumter EMC 45 years ago, and as luck would have it, there was snow falling on his first day of work in January 1977. Eddie's career at the co-op led him to many different roles, working his way up through the ranks, from the entry level as an apprentice lineman to operations superintendent, where he supervised the entire construction workforce.

Eddie has led and trained many of our line crews for a number of years, and we are very thankful for the years he's dedicated to making sure our linemen are well-prepared for the work ahead. Eddie says this type of work brought him to Sumter EMC, as he wanted a career

where he could work outside.

Some of the most significant changes Eddie has seen during his career involve technology. In 1977, everything was done manually. He says he never thought he would see the day when meters could be read by computer over the power lines. And some of his most vivid memories from his time at Sumter EMC involve storm work—the ice storm in 1983, flood of 1994, and Hurricane



Eddie Dunn

Michael in 2018 all had a deep and lasting impact on him.

On his retirement, Eddie says he will miss the friends he's made over the years and his colleagues with whom he has worked. He has worked closely with a tremendous number

of apprentices and linemen, and he's had a direct hand in cultivating and growing the current and next generation of linemen—something that's very special to Eddie. Just as he has been a mentor to many at Sumter EMC, he found a mentor in J.D. Stripling and credits him as the most influential person in his career.

In retirement, Eddie says he plans to do some reflecting at first. He also has projects he is looking forward to starting, and he wants to do some traveling. Reflecting on his 45 years with the Cooperative, Eddie says the job was challenging but very rewarding, as his career has molded him into a better person.

Sumter EMC is grateful for Eddie's decades of service and dedication to our Members. Congratulations, Eddie! We wish you many years of happiness in retirement!

## Congratulations to Carol Harvard on her retirement

**E**ighteen years ago, Carol Harvard started her career with Sumter EMC as a Cashier in our Member Services Department. "Job security and Sumter EMC's great reputation really drew me in to the Co-op," says Carol. After several years, and with experience under her belt, she was promoted to Credit and Collections Manager, and eventually to Customer Service Representative, the position in which she is retiring.

Carol says she was surprised at the close relationships she developed with our members over time, and she will

miss interacting with them on a daily basis.

"Assisting our members and helping meet their needs has really given me a sense of fulfillment in my career here at Sumter EMC. I have enjoyed being a part of this team—we are all like family here. I will miss my co-workers, who have become really good friends," she says.

Carol has two upcoming family beach trips and looks forward to having



Carol Harvard

more free time for travel. She and her husband, John, plan to take kayaking trips to Florida. Carol is especially excited about spending more time with family, including her daughter, Carley, and her grandson, John Carson, who live in Jesup.

Sumter EMC is grateful to Carol for her years of service and dedication to our members. We wish her many wonderful years in retirement. Congratulations, Carol!

# Keep your patio cool on hot summer days

Nothing brings family, neighbors, and friends together better in the summer than a cookout on a fully equipped patio. But on the hottest days, it's tempting to move the party indoors.

Instead, consider cooling your patio down a bit. Here are four suggestions:

- 1. Add a roof.** The best way to keep the heat from ruining an afternoon party is to keep the sun off of the patio. Consider building a metal roof over your patio or installing a retractable awning or a pergola. A pergola adds shade and makes the outdoor room look extra stylish.
- 2. Install some fans.** If your patio is covered, a ceiling fan can create a soft breeze that will cool off everyone who is sitting or standing nearby. Portable, high-velocity fans

placed on the patio floor also will help guests feel cooler. Plus, they'll keep bugs away.

- 3. Try a mister.** Try an outdoor cooling system that sprays a fine mist that evaporates in the air without hitting the ground or getting the patio—or the people using it—wet. The heat in the air makes the mist evaporate, leaving less heat in the immediate area. A tip: Get a good system, as the ones you connect to your garden hose could leave the party all wet.
- 4. Paint the floor.** When sunshine lands on the concrete floor of an uncovered patio, it can overheat both the area and your guests' feet. Consider painting the floor a light color to keep it from absorbing so much heat. Or simply throw a sturdy outdoor rug on the floor.



## Gate codes and locks

If you have a residence or farm with an electric gate on your property, please provide Sumter EMC with a gate code. If you have a chained gate, we'll add our own lock into a link. During outage situations, our personnel patrol lines in an effort to determine the cause of an issue, and we need to gain access to the property to inspect and repair the issue. In these instances, the outage time is extended while Sumter EMC personnel contact the homeowner for a code. To place a code in your file, please contact Sumter EMC at (800) 342-6978 during business hours. Thank you for your help!



*Happy Labor Day*

The offices of Sumter EMC will be closed Monday, September 5, 2022.

*Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Check on your neighbors



**N**ot everyone can afford a central air-conditioning system for their homes. And not everyone can tolerate the summer heat well enough to leave their air-conditioned homes for necessities like groceries.

So keep an eye out this summer for neighbors who might be living without air conditioning or who are elderly or have medical conditions. Medical experts say the following symptoms could mean your neighbor is suffering from a heat-related illness: confusion, fatigue or weakness, or mail piling up outdoors when they're at home. Anyone can suffer from heat stroke if they get too hot or from dehydration if they don't drink enough water. But elderly or sick neighbors have a higher risk.

If you can:

- Call or visit an at-risk neighbor twice a day.
- Invite the neighbor to stay with you in your air-conditioned home on the hottest days and even overnight if you have room.
- Remind your neighbor to drink plenty of water. Bring pitchers of cold water, lemonade, and caffeine-free iced tea as gifts.
- Offer to do the grocery shopping for your neighbor or to drive him or her to the store so there's no need to wait outside for the bus.
- Find indoor events and community- or church-sponsored activities that the neighbor could participate in as a way to stay cool during the day.
- Know if your at-risk neighbor keeps pets inside. If so, tend to the animals as well by filling water bowls frequently and making sure plenty of pet food is on hand.

Research shows that only about 17% of us check on neighbors during the summer. Make sure your family is one that increases that statistic.



## Goodson's Peach Pecan Crepes

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

### **Crepes:**

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 4 tablespoons melted butter
- Pinch salt
- 1 teaspoon maple extract, optional
- 1/4 cup Oliver Farms Pecan Oil, hold for crepe pan



GEORGIA GROWN

### **Filling and topping:**

- 1 (4-ounce) jar honey cinnamon pecan butter
- 1 jar peach-pepper jelly
- 1 (8-ounce) package softened cream cheese
- 8 ounces candied pecans
- Powdered sugar, optional

**For crepes:** Place all crepe ingredients except the pecan oil in a blender and blend until incorporated. Chill mixture at least 30 minutes or until needed.

Heat a crepe pan or a large flat pan over medium heat. Coat pan with pecan oil. Pour or ladle 1/4 cup crepe mixture into the pan while tilting it back and forth to coat the heated pan with a very thin layer of batter. *Note: The batter should start to set immediately.* When small bubbles begin to form, gently lift corners of the crepe to loosen. Flip it over and cook for an additional 30 seconds, then turn it out onto a paper towel-lined plate. Repeat steps until all batter has been used.

**For filling and topping:** Make the filling by blending pecan butter and softened cream cheese. Remove lid from pepper jelly jar and heat jar in the microwave, about 10 seconds, to slightly liquefy jelly. *Note: You can microwave an additional 10 seconds, if needed.*

**Assembly:** Spread crepes with cream cheese filling, fold into thirds lengthwise (or fold into quarters to form a wedge shape). Drizzle with warm peach pepper jelly, sprinkle with candied pecans, and dust with powdered sugar, if desired. *Serves 4.*

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit [www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com).



# Restoring power safely and efficiently

**W**e do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: Power outages occasionally happen.

For most Sumter EMC Members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms like hurricanes impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So when the power goes out, how do Sumter EMC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on

utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Sumter EMC keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers, and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. This is why you see Sumter EMC crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees, too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition

to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines, and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

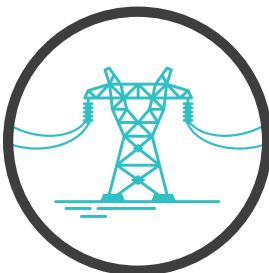
If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is through our mobile app or at [www.sumeremc.com](http://www.sumeremc.com). You can also call our outage reporting number at (800) 342-6978.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies, or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a Member of Sumter EMC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

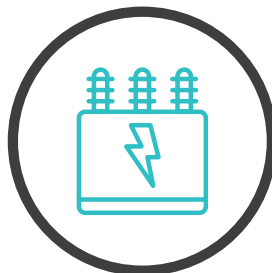
## Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible until everyone has power.



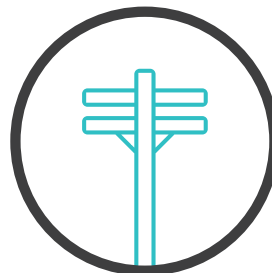
### 1. High-voltage transmission lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



### 2. Distribution substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



### 3. Main distribution lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



### 4. Individual homes and businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.