



Sumter EMC mourns the loss of director and friend, Charles E. Hart

With profound sadness, Sumter EMC mourns the loss of Mr. Charles Emmett Hart. Mr. Hart was appointed to the Sumter EMC Board of Directors on December 1, 1999, and after being re-elected, served with honor and distinction until his death on July 3, 2017.

Mr. Hart represented the Schley County directorate district. He held the position of Assistant Secretary on Sumter EMC's Board from 2004 - 2011 and Secretary-Treasurer from 2011 until his death. Mr. Hart also earned the prestigious Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Mr. Hart was a native of Sumter County and a lifelong farmer. He was co-owner and manager of Fresh Plants, Inc. and immediate past president of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

Most important was Mr. Hart's faith in God and his love of family. He was a member of Friendship Baptist Church where he served as Chairman of the Deacons. He served as president of the Americus Campus of Gideon's International. His greatest personal joy, though,

was being a husband for 53 years to his beloved wife, Linda, father of their two sons and one daughter, and grandfather to six grandchildren.

According to Section 4.12 of the By-Laws, the vacancy created on the Board of Directors upon Mr. Hart's death must be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Board members, and the Director so elected shall serve the remainder of Mr. Hart's term of office. The Board is in the process of considering qualified members of Sumter EMC who live in Schley County to fill that vacancy.

Members interested in obtaining further information regarding that process should contact Jan Morris no later than Friday, November 17, 2017, at the Sumter EMC main office in Americus.



Board revises rate schedules RS-9B and GR-9B

The Board of Directors has approved revisions to Residential Service Schedule RS-9B and General Service – Residential Schedule GR-9B that will become effective January 1, 2018. The Board took action to adjust these two rate schedules following a study conducted by GDS Associates, Inc., a Marietta, Georgia based firm that provides financial and retail rate consulting assistance to electric utilities throughout the United States.

The rate revisions are "revenue neutral", meaning they do not produce an overall annual revenue increase or decrease to the Cooperative. Instead, the main goal of the rate revisions is to restructure the rates to better align them with the Cooperative's actual costs of supplying electric service.

The monthly service charge in each of the two rate schedules was increased by \$5.00, while the energy charges were reduced to produce a revenue-neutral result for the rate class as a whole.

No revisions were made to any of the Cooperative's other retail rate schedules. The revised Schedule RS-9B and Schedule GR-9B (now Schedule RS-9C and Schedule GR-9C, respectively) can be viewed at Sumter EMC's website, www.sumteremc.com where all the Cooperative's rate schedules are posted. The revised rate schedules will also be filed with the Georgia Public Service Commission.

To request a printed copy of a rate schedule, call Sumter EMC at (800) 342-6978 or (229) 924-8041.

Protect your linemen

Keep objects off electric cooperative poles

Sumter EMC's linemen are well-trained and very dedicated men, who take tremendous pride in serving you. You can help protect your linemen by not turning our utility poles into obstacle courses with tacks, nails and staples from posted signs, posters, notices, or mounted recreational equipment.

Tacks, nails, and staples driven into Sumter EMC's utility poles can puncture the linemen's rubber safety gloves and leave them vulnerable to electrocution. Linemen whose climbing hooks hit a nail instead of sinking securely into wood may fall from the pole and sustain serious injuries. Remember, when a lineman must unfasten his safety harness to climb above an obstacle on a utility pole, he's working without a net!

Also, when linemen have to remove objects from poles in order to climb them during an

outage, it takes much longer to restore your power.

Sumter EMC's linemen climb the poles in all weather conditions and at all hours of the day or night to maintain and repair the equipment that brings you safe, reliable electric power. These dedicated men face enough danger in their efforts to keep your electric power on -- please help eliminate additional hazards by not posting signs, posters, and notices or mounting recreational equipment on our utility poles.



REBATES

are available on a first-come, first-served basis to replace a central system electric or gas furnace with an electric heat pump.

Call Sumter EMC today to see if you qualify!



Rebate program ends on December 31, 2017 or when the budget for the program is reached, whichever comes first. Sumter EMC must inspect your existing heating system before any new work is done and again once all upgrades are complete.

Builder Rebates

Sumter EMC offers up to \$500 rebates to builders and individuals who purchase \$1,200 in appliances from Sumter EMC and build new total-electric homes or apartments that are served by Sumter EMC.

Call for details and be sure to ask about our Free Water Heater program!



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Why it Matters to You

Right of way (ROW): Refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative maintains and clears. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals, or disruption to electrical service.

15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines. By managing vegetation, your electric cooperative keeps power *safe and reliable*.

Southerners enjoy the beauty trees add to our region, especially at this time of year. But they also enjoy the comfort of knowing power will be available whenever they need it. Sumter EMC personnel are committed to providing you with reliable power. There are things we can't stop—high winds, ice storms, hurricanes—but we do what we can to prevent other outage culprits.

As you can probably guess, the majority of power outages for electric cooperatives are caused by weather-related events. But trees, shrubs and brush growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment is another reason for a significant percentage of power interruptions.

To cut back on potential tree-related problems Sumter EMC operates an aggressive right-of-way maintenance program. Our line crews look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of “danger” trees that could pull down a power line if they fall, and trees that could grow into lines. It's a job that's never done. By the time crews finish trimming activities along our more than 3,700 miles of distribution lines, vegetation has started to grow back at the starting point.

In working to keep a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall

they may grow and how wide their branches may spread.

The power line right-of-way extends 20 feet from either side of the lines. You can help reduce the number of power outages in your neighborhood by planting trees and shrubs far enough beyond the 20-foot minimum to allow them to grow to maturity without obstructing the power line right-of-way. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties with care and plant with power lines in mind.

Thanks for your help as we work together to keep electricity reliable. To report trees you think may pose a problem, call us at (800) 342-6978. To find out more about proper tree planting, visit our website at sumteremc.com.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall/Winter Energy Tip: When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature - set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



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1120 Felder Street Americus, GA

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