



SEMCO NEWS

Official Member Newsletter

December 2017

Use your small change to make a big difference

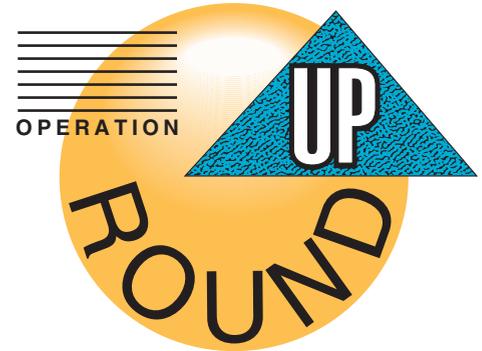
Averaging just 50 cents per month, Sumter EMC members have raised more than \$925,275

During this holiday season, it is with profound joy that we thank those Sumter EMC members whose generous donations through Operation Round Up® (ORU) have helped so many in our local communities. Your pennies, nickels and dimes have added up to more than \$925,275 since we started the ORU program in 2003.

“ORU is unique in that every penny collected through the program goes back into the local communities in Sumter EMC’s service area,” says Ted McMillan, President/CEO of Sumter EMC. Each month, Sumter EMC rounds up the electric bill of participating members to the next dollar and deposits this change in a separate checking account.

“The Sumter EMC Foundation Board of Trustees, which allocates the funds, is composed of Sumter EMC members who serve on a strictly voluntary basis. Sumter EMC uses existing resources to administer the program, so 100 percent of the funds collected can be allocated to local agencies and organizations that provide support for education, health and safety, cultural purposes, emergency needs, charities and economic development,” adds McMillan. Individuals cannot apply for ORU funds, and ORU funds are not used to pay the electric bills of Sumter EMC members.

“During hard economic times, when it is even more important for neighbors to help each other,



charitable giving is often the first thing to go,” McMillan continues. “If you do not already participate in ORU, please consider joining today.”

It’s so easy. Just call Sumter EMC at (800) 342-6978 or complete the online form located under Quick Links on the home page of our website, sumteremc.com. A little pocket change from you each month, combined with the donations from other members, can add up to positive, life-changing results.

For a complete list of ORU recipients, check out the Foundation pages in the Community section of our website, sumteremc.com.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Sumter EMC Board of Directors and employees

The Sumter EMC Americus office and appliance center will be **OPEN**:
Dec. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sumter EMC offices and appliance center will be **CLOSED**: Dec. 25 and 26, 2017 and Jan. 1, 2018. For emergencies, call (800) 342-6978. A dispatcher is on duty 24 hours a day.

Electrical Safety Activity



**Energy
Explorers**

The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.

*Can you find the four hazards in the home below?
Use the safety tips for clues.*

Electrical Safety Tips:

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or appliances.
- Never leave a candle burning if you're not in the room.
- Make sure your tree is watered daily.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for fraying/damaged or exposed wires.



Bring one for the chipper!

Give yourself and your community a very special Christmas gift by recycling your Christmas tree! The “Bring one for the Chipper” program has become a holiday tradition in Georgia for more than 20 years and is the largest tree recycling program in the nation. Since its inception, the program has recycled an estimated 6 million Christmas trees. The trees are ground into mulch that is used to reduce soil erosion and provide ground cover for playgrounds, local government beautification projects and individual yards.

To participate, remove all the decorations (lights, ornaments, tinsel, etc.) from your Christmas tree or trees and take your tree to a drop-off site near you. To locate a site, visit keepgeorgiabehautiful.org/bring_one_for_chipper.asp and search by ZIP code or check your local newspaper during December 2017 for the location and hours of operation for drop-off sites in your area.



Help deter holiday criminals

During the winter holidays, the number of home break-ins skyrockets. Paired with basic security measures, like locking windows and dead-bolting doors, a well-lit home—inside and out—can deter would-be robbers. Outdoor lighting lets you and law officers scan the property to see if anything or anyone is around.

Sumter EMC offers a variety of lighting packages to suit your needs, and you may qualify to get the first three months of service free! After that time period, you will pay a small monthly charge that covers all electricity used by the light and all routine maintenance and bulb replacement. For details, call Customer Service at Sumter EMC, (800) 342-6978.



Renew your GATE sales tax exemption certificates before January 1, 2018



If you currently have one or more account(s) with Sumter EMC, **you must renew your GATE certification before January 1, 2018, to continue receiving your sales tax exemption.** For details on how to renew your GATE certificate, visit our website at the following link: <http://www.sumteremc.com/content/sales-tax-exemption>.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov/productfinder for a full list of energy-efficient products.

—Source: energystar.gov

