



## Mike Brunson retires from Sumter EMC

**M**ike Brunson retired from Sumter EMC on May 7 after 25 years of service. He came to work for the Cooperative on April 26, 1996, as a Draftsman/Dispatcher I. After gaining knowledge and experience, he earned a promotion to Draftsman/Dispatcher II.

“Working at Sumter EMC has been challenging at times, but it made me a better person for that reason,” Mike says. He acknowledges Rene Smith, Charles Kendrick, Gene Durham and Gerald Finley for helping to mentor him at Sumter EMC.

In retirement, Mike looks forward to spending time with his wife, Debbie,

going fishing and camping and visiting with their nine grandchildren. He has most enjoyed the friendships he made with his co-workers over the years at Sumter EMC. Mike says he will miss the camaraderie he’s experienced with them and the fulfillment he’s gained from serving our members.

“Mike has been an asset to Sumter EMC, and we will miss him. We wish him many happy years of retirement,” says Sumter EMC President/CEO Rene Smith.

Sumter EMC is grateful to have dedicated employees like Mike who



Mike Brunson

are committed to taking excellent care of our members. Congratulations on your retirement, Mike!

## Board appoints Andy Payne as Webster/Randolph County Director

**I**n compliance with the Cooperative’s bylaws, the Sumter EMC Board of Directors appointed Andrew “Andy” Payne to fill the Webster/Randolph counties directorate seat left vacant by the retirement of Raymond Goodwin.

Payne was appointed, effective March 30, 2021, to complete Goodwin’s unexpired term.

Payne is a lifelong resident of Webster County and a member of Sumter EMC. He holds a bachelor’s



Andy Payne

degree in agriculture from the University of Georgia. He has spent his life as a farmer, owning and operating a diverse row crop operation to grow peanuts, cotton and corn and raising cattle.

Payne has served as a board member of other organizations, including a local school board.

His vision for the future is to enhance the communities where we live. “This involves a due diligence to find strong leadership for generations to come,” he says. Payne’s strong and faithful leader-

ship will help keep rural communities, like those he represents, viable.

He serves on his local Farm Bureau Board of Directors and is actively involved in Preston Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon. He and his wife, Lori, have two daughters, Olivia and Sydney.

“We are pleased to welcome Mr. Payne to the Sumter EMC Board of Directors. We look forward to working with him and sincerely appreciate his willingness to serve our members in Webster and Randolph counties,” says Dr. Cecil Myers, Board Chairman of Sumter EMC.

# Tips for maintaining an efficient HVAC system

**A**h, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast from your home's air-conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months. If it breaks down, it's the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

**Change or clean filters.** Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy (DOE) recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider

checking filters more frequently.

**Clean the HVAC unit.** Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

**Clear space around the HVAC unit.** Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind by the lawn mower

can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the DOE recommends scheduling tuneups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy.

When HVAC equipment fails, it's inconvenient and uncomfortable—especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's life span.

If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, try this quick test. Follow the steps in the graphic below.

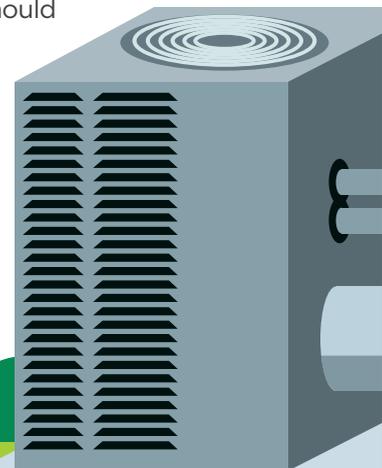


## 3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



# ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 21, 2021

## Stay safe over Fourth of July

**W**ith the pandemic winding down in many areas, cooped-up social distancers are likely to be out in droves to celebrate the Fourth of July. Keep your family safe this holiday by following some common-sense rules for celebrating with and near electricity.



- 1. Keep fireworks far from overhead power lines.** If fireworks are legal in your community and you set them off yourself, keep them at least 10 feet from power lines and 35 feet from high-voltage wires.
- 2. Keep an eye on your grill.** Whether it's electric, gas or charcoal, do not leave a hot grill unattended, even for a few minutes. The intense heat can easily harm children or pets. Plus, if flames are involved, you need to be there if they get out of control. Cooking accidents are the leading cause of house fires.
- 3. If you need an extension cord to plug in your grill or another cooking appliance, do not use that cord on more than one device at a time.** And do not plug extension cords into each other; they're not designed for that. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- 4. Keep the grill, blender, TV and other appliances away from the pool and all water sources.** Even if you're a safe distance from the water, unplug the appliance as soon as you're finished using it.
- 5. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand.**



### Slow Cooker Pulled Barbecue Pork

*Recipe courtesy of University of Georgia Health Services*

- 1 (2.5-pound) boneless pork loin roast, trimmed of fat
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons liquid smoke
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup barbecue sauce, or more to taste

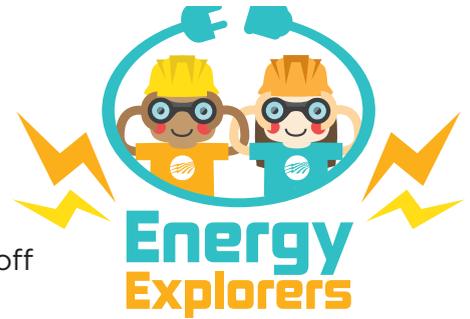


Place pork in slow cooker and add vinegar, liquid smoke, garlic powder and salt. Cover and cook on high for 6 hours.

Remove pork from slow cooker and place it in a large dish. Reserve liquid from cooker and set aside. Using 2 forks, shred pork and place back in slow cooker with about 3/4 of reserved liquid and the barbecue sauce. Cook on high 1 additional hour and serve. *Serves 8.*

The offices of Sumter EMC  
will be closed  
Monday, July 5

# SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD



Water and electricity never mix! When you're cooling off in the swimming pool, remember to practice electrical safety. Complete the pool safety crossword puzzle below.

**Hint:** Check your answers in the key below.

## 1 Down:

When possible, use \_\_\_\_\_ operated devices when outside near a swimming pool.

## 2 Across:

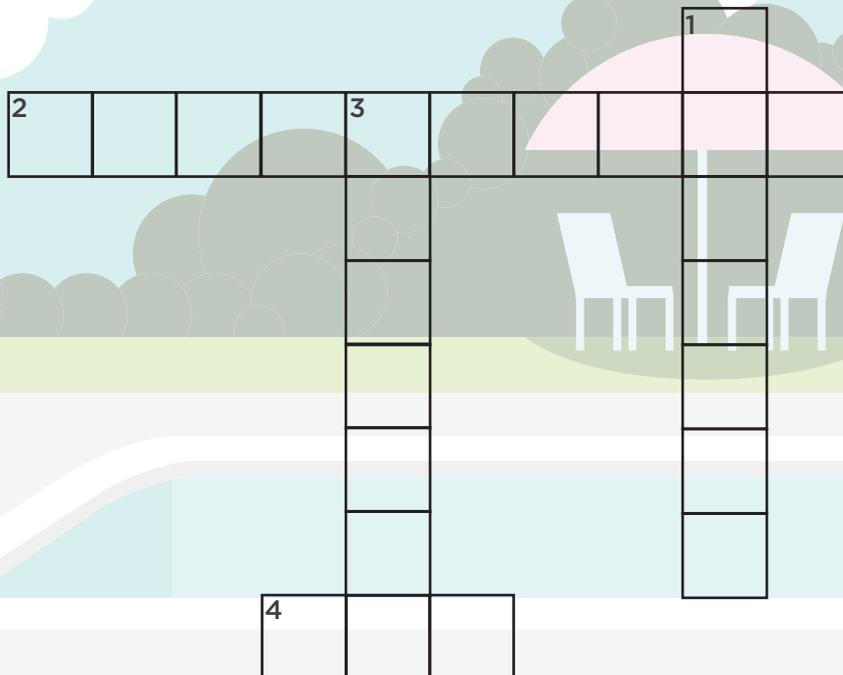
Never bring \_\_\_\_\_ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.

## 3 Down:

If you hear \_\_\_\_\_, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.

## 4 Across:

All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them \_\_\_\_\_.



Answer Key — 1 Down: battery 2 Across: electrical 3 Down: thunder 4 Across: Dry