



# ILLUMINATIONS

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR GENERAL MANAGER



### Such's Life

Most of you who are loyal readers of this newsletter, know my wife and I are from North Georgia. Many of you also know I attended North Georgia Technical College in Clarkesville, Georgia. As such, I would roam the North Georgia backroads because...well...I found myself bored. During my troubadour adventures, I would many times discover interesting new places. So, traveling Highway 60 from Blue Ridge, Georgia, through the Chattahoochee National Forest headed toward Dahlonega, Georgia, one happens upon the little town of Suches, zip code 30572. Suches is an unincorporated community with a local school called Woody Gap School, the smallest public school in Georgia. Suches is also home to High Valley Resort, Kennedy Creek Resort, and Woody Lake.

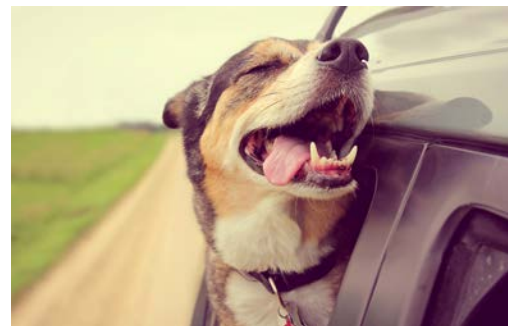
When you drove through downtown Suches, and if you were careful not to blink, you would see a sign that read, "Welcome to Suches, Such's-it-is." I know of no one who called Suches by just its name. Everyone I knew would say, "Suches, Such's-it-is." Such's-it-is was such as it was; which was, not much to look at (at least back then).

Nowadays, Suches, Georgia, is a bustling town with all types of outdoor activities, resorts, festivals, and campgrounds.

My how time changes things...This time last year, everyone huddled at home and would only venture out for necessities. Or maybe, out of boredom, a welcome backroads road trip! Our area of Middle Tennessee, similar to Suches, has many "off the beaten path" adventures suitable for Sunday driving, or any day driving. With rivers and streams and waterfalls as

backdrops, many of us have worn out the backroads during this pandemic only to discover new places of remarkable beauty.

Change is inevitable even for small towns. Suches adopted a new tagline: "The Valley Above the Clouds." McMinnville, too realigned itself to reflect its nursery roots with a new tagline, "Where Life's In Full Bloom." Both towns obviously saw the value of their natural resources and opted to better describe them. Sounds much more inviting, wouldn't you agree?



However, one thing never changes – your friends at McMinnville Electric System are always here to keep your lights on. Maybe you'll enjoy a backroads road trip every now and again. Until next time, McMinnville Electric System, Shining the Light on your Future...since 1939.



Ralph Dunn retired after almost 22 years with the system. Scaled back celebrations are symptomatic of the restrictions placed on gatherings during COVID. With a small cake and ice cream snack and the customary meter lamp presented, Ralph quietly (as quietly as Ralph could!) ended his career with MES on May 28, 2021. Taking over as Manager of Operations & Engineering is long-time employee, Neal Smith. Congratulations to all!

WHAT'S

STOPPING

YOU?

from going Paperless with

eBill

- Q:** Does your paper bill serve as a reminder to pay your bill?
- A:** That's easy...set up text alerts so you get a timely reminder.
- Q:** Do you think its going to be difficult to change from a paper bill to eBill?
- A:** We've got you covered there too...Visit [www.mesystem.net](http://www.mesystem.net) and complete our quick form and you're all done!

Seriously,

WHAT'S

STOPPING

YOU?

from making your life easier with paperless eBill?

Did we forget to mention the \$1 credit each month you are enrolled in eBill? There's that, too!

CONTEST!

Everyone who chooses an online \*MES payment or billing service from our website during the month of July will be placed in a drawing for an electric drill set!

\*Only payments generated through our website or our mobile app, MESPowerApp are included in this campaign.



Just a few examples of scams identified by the Department of Homeland Security. The site listed in the footnote has more details:

PHISHING ATTACKS

Ever click on a link or open an attachment in an email, even though you're not quite sure who it's from? Cyber criminals have skillfully figured out how to create emails that look like they're coming from legitimate sources, including banks, government agencies, and other services and businesses. Get savvy in recognizing these frauds since often they not only collect your personal and financial information, but also infect your device with malware and viruses.

IMPOSTER SCAMS

You know you're a good person when your first instinct is to help when you receive an email or call from a government official, family member, or friend asking you to wire money. You know you're a smart person when you don't immediately fall for it and verify whether the situation is real or not. Criminals have become experts at impersonating those closest to you by exploiting your personal information available online.

"YOU'VE WON" SCAMS

Winning isn't always what it's cracked up to be. If you receive an email stating you've won a prize, the lottery, or a sweepstakes, be instantly on your guard if you are asked to pay a fee or tax for the prize, or if there's a request for your credit card or bank account information. Here, you can win by not falling for this scam.<sup>1</sup>



We are here to help you with MESPowerApp installation and other services. Let us make your experience with MES services as easy and convenient as possible. Just Ask Us!



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/be-cyber-smart/common-scams>