

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

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STAFF

John Lykens, CEO
Dennis Klem, Manager,
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Todd Molyneux, Manager,
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Diane E. White, Executive Assistant

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***Credentialed Cooperative Director**
****Board Leadership Certificate**
*****Director Gold Certificate**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Power of Human Connection



THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT of articles published in recent days concerning the rise of artificial intelligence, more commonly referred to as AI. Some see this technology as a game changer for all things good, while others see it as a precursor to the end of days. In the end, and not unlike all technologies or things created by humans, it is how we use it that will determine the outcome. One thing is certain: While technology may be able to replace the jobs humans perform, technology will never replace humans and the human experience we all desire.

A colleague once asked me what the difference was between two paper product corporations. Both companies produce paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, etc. to be sold to consumers around the globe. As I paused for a moment to understand the point of his question, he immediately provided the answer: "It's the employees," he exclaimed. "The employees are the difference! Don't ever forget that." His words struck a direct hit, and I have not forgotten the lesson he passed onto me that day 25 years ago.

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC) provides the same commodity as Penelec and PPL. The electrons powering your home are no different than the electrons powering the homes of Penelec and PPL customers. So what is the difference between your utility provider and theirs? The difference here at SCREC is our employees! And while being a cooperative sets us apart from our investor-owned counterparts, the employees behind the scenes make the real difference.

Each and every one of us here at the cooperative is dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and cost-responsible energy to each and every member we serve. When members have questions or concerns, an employee of the cooperative is here to listen and address them. When members are struggling to pay their electric bill, an employee is here to help direct them to programs available to assist members in this area. When members' power is interrupted by weather, animals, power supply, etc., skilled cooperative employees are here to get it restored.

Over the last eight months, you have gotten to know Lori, Chad, Dianne Cusson, Todd, Diane White, Nolan, Kim, and Dennis, and their commitment to helping every one of our members, whether it's getting the lights back on, assisting with their bills, answering questions, or teaching future members about electrical safety. In the upcoming months, you will come to know Sarah, Dave, Heidi, Darrick, Tyler, Tom, Jeff, Kendall, Alex, Josh, and Hunter on a more personal level and why they're passionate about their jobs at the cooperative.

On a personal note, I would like to thank each and every SCREC employee for the outstanding job they do for the cooperative and all of our members. Without Kendall, Nolan, Diane C., Josh, Darrick, Dave, Alex, Tom, Todd, Sarah, Chad, Kim, Heidi, Jeff, Hunter, Diane W., Lori, and Tyler, SCREC would just be another electric company.

As your CEO, each column I write concludes with the words "Semper Fidelis." This is the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps, which I'm proud to say I was a part of for eight years. Translated from its Latin origin, the meaning is "always faithful." Your cooperative shall be always faithful in fulfilling the mission to provide safe, reliable electricity and related services to you, our members, in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner. I am honored to play a part in fulfilling our mission to our members.

Semper Fidelis. 🇺🇸

JOHN LYKENS
CEO

There's Always Room for Ice Cream!

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

WHAT DOES SUMMER MAKE YOU think of? Swimming, gardening, longer days, hiking, picnics? What about ice cream?

July is National Ice Cream Month, with National Ice Cream Day celebrated on Sunday, July 16. To help you celebrate this very special holiday, we have compiled all the ice cream shops in our service territory. Visit one you've never been to before or head to your favorite place for your usual order. Or, if you're as much of an ice cream fanatic as me, make it a goal to visit each location this summer!

Each spot offers other amenities or foods — antiques in Estella, mini golf in Hillsgrove and a full-service outdoor bar in Laporte, just to name a few. So, grab your spouse, kids, grandparents or whoever it may be and join us in celebrating National Ice Cream Month.

Baumunk's General Store

"Conveniently located in the middle of nowhere" may be their slogan, but for the folks who are out in the middle of "nowhere" on Route 154 in Shunk, Baumunk's General Store is a guaranteed stop.

Hershey's ice cream is scooped, dished and stacked in 12 different flavors. Looking to get an order outside of the cone? Try their Shunk Special or Peppermint Pattie sundae! They also offer milkshakes, floats and splits. You can enjoy your ice cream in their dining room or outside in their garden cafe, where, if you time it right, you can hear the Shunk United Methodist Church's chimes.

Besides ice cream, they also offer an extensive menu, featuring all-day breakfast, lunch and dinner options, plus their famous Baumunk's General Store old-fashioned sodas. They also have Shunk merchandise, fishing and



GARDEN CAFE: Sit down and enjoy your ice cream in the garden cafe at Baumunk's General Store. Their lush gardens are the perfect place to relax on a summer day.

camping supplies, decor, groceries, hardware, gas, oil, propane, and non-ethanol gas. The Shunk Post Office is located inside the store, too.

The store is owned by Bob and Ann Henderson. It was built in 1905 by A. E. Campbell and purchased by Ann's grandparents, Lawrence and Caroline Baumunk, in 1934.

They're open Mondays through Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Just want an ice cream cone? Visit the walk-up window (open Memorial Day through Labor Day) Mondays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. They are closed on Sundays. The phone number is 570-924-3231.

Bear Mountain Trading Post

This is for all the soft-serve lovers out there. If you haven't been to Bear Mountain Trading Post yet, clear your week-end schedule and make it a priority to get there.

Of course, there's the regular chocolate, vanilla or twist, but Bear Mountain is proud to boast over 50 flavor mix-ins. Everything from apricot to blue raspberry, tiramisu to rum and candy apple to lemon. If that isn't enough, choose from over 25 toppings — the combinations are endless!

If you want something a little different than the regular cone or cup, treat yourself to a polar bear shake, banana split, or sundae. The sundae menu features eight different options, or you can create your own.

Bear Mountain doesn't just stop at ice cream though. It also offers slow-smoked barbecue pulled pork and beef brisket, fries, nachos, chicken fingers, and baked goods (just to name a few other food options). Inside, there is a variety of antiques, vintage items, gifts, decor, and hunting,



ORDER UP: Jett Kleese and Leah Bedford serve up their specialty — the pretzel sundae — and smiles, too at Bear Mountain.

fishing, and camping supplies.

Jeff and Angie Higley established Bear Mountain on Route 154 in Estella in 2015. Since then, it's been a hit for antiques and tasty food. The trading post is open Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for upcoming events or call the shop at 570-924-4467.

Becky's Ice Cream

A staple in the community since 1995, Becky's Ice Cream on Route 87 in Hillsgrove is a favorite for locals and tourists alike.

Choose from 17 flavors of delicious, creamy Sunset ice cream (peanut butter ripple and peanut butter cup are the most popular), in a bowl or on a cone or get it in a milkshake, sundae, or float. They also serve traditional banana splits and brownie splits, and for furry friends, they offer doggie dishes, too.

In 2015, owners Zane and Becky Bagley opened Barnyard Mini Golf. For only \$5, you can putt through 18 holes, and kids five and under play for free with a playing adult.

"It's good family fun without breaking the bank," Becky says.

If you want to represent your favorite ice cream spot, stop by the T-shirt Coop for Becky's Ice Cream merchandise: T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs, can koozies, water bottles, tote bags, keychains and notebooks. They also have ice cream by the half gallon, gift certificates, and local honey and maple syrup.

Six generations of family have been helping at the Snell Brothers Farm, where the ice cream and mini golf are located. The shop is open seven days a week, starting the weekend before Memorial Day until the weekend after Labor Day from noon to 9 p.m. You can call the shop at 570-924-3326.

Three Bears Ice Cream Den

"Nobody has our ice cream!" claims Three Bears Ice Cream Den owners Denny and Deb DeKrane. And, truthfully, nobody around does.

Located on Route 220 just outside of Laporte, Three Bears Ice Cream Den serves up Leiby's ice cream in 17 different flavors. The shop also offers 14 different toppings and nine sundaes, plus floats and milkshakes. Doggie dishes are also available for all the pups who stop by.

The den is behind D&D Brew Works. In addition to the indoor restaurant and bar, the shop also has a full-service outside bar and seating. They're open to host class reunions, graduation parties, proms, and outside/inside weddings. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for upcoming events, such as the annual car show, pig roasts and bands.

Three Bears Ice Cream Den is closed on Mondays. They're open Tuesdays through Fridays from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 9 p.m.



SARAH PARRISH

DOGGIE DELIGHT: Jovie enjoys a doggie dish at Becky's Ice Cream in Hillsgrove.



SARAH PARRISH

LEIBY'S ICE CREAM: Have you ever had Leiby's ice cream? No? Neither have we! Stop by Three Bears Ice Cream Den outside of Laporte to try it.

Worlds Best Snack Shop

And last, but certainly not least, is an ice cream shop located at the end of the world. Okay, maybe not at the end of the world, but it is at the entrance to Worlds End State Park, just outside of Forksville on Route 154.

Worlds Best Snack Shop is owned by the Holle family and is managed by Frank Kastreva. For the ice cream lover, it offers 14 flavors of hand-dipped Hershey's ice cream. In fact, Worlds Best Snack Shop and the Sweet Shop in Eagles Mere sell the most Hershey's ice cream in Sullivan County.

For hungry hikers, swimmers, fishermen and fisherwomen, and those just passing through the park, the shop offers hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, nachos, soft pretzels, and all kinds of snacks and refreshments. Want the inside scoop? The cheese fries are their best seller!

You can stop by the shop seven days a week (weather depending). The grill is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and ice cream is scooped from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The snack shop can be reached at 570-924-4537. 📍

The Power Behind Sullivan County REC: Our Employees

A Monthly Spotlight

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

THIS MONTH'S EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT shines on the operations department and Journeyman Lineman Kendall Achey.

When growing up, Kendall had always wanted to work in the logging industry and was formerly employed by Spako's Tree Services before starting at the cooperative. He was hired at the co-op in November 2010.

"I was already working for Spako's on rights-of-way and had a few friends who were linemen here," Kendall recalls.

Helping members is Kendall's favorite part of the job. Whether it be a small task or large-scale storm damage, hearing members' appreciation and getting their power

back on is very rewarding. The worst storms he's had to work through, and ones our members will most definitely remember, are the flood of 2011 and windstorm of May 2017.

With ups come downs, and the hardest part of being a lineworker is certainly being away from home and missing family time. But it's all part of lending a hand and helping co-workers and members, which is his advice to new apprentice linemen Josh Heess, Jr. and Hunter Talcott.

"Be prepared to chip in and answer your phone!" Kendall says.

"I have enjoyed working with Kendall over the years," says Manager of Electric Operations Todd Molyneux. "He has become a great lineman and a valuable asset to the cooperative."

Kendall lives outside of Forksville with his wife, Billie Jo, and two children, Barrett and Braelyn. They have two dogs, Cricket and Willow, and three horses. Outside of work, he enjoys fishing, trapping and hunting.

Meeting the employees of your co-op gives you an inside look at who is keeping your lights bright, your refrigerator cold and water flowing. Check back next month to meet another dedicated Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative employee! 📍



THE ACHEY FAMILY: Journeyman Lineman Kendall Achey sits for a photo with Santa alongside his wife, Billie Jo, and children, Barrett and Braelyn.

THE SCREC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, JULY 4.

Meet Our New Linemen!

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE that Josh Heess, Jr. of Shunk and Hunter Talcott of Dushore have been hired by SCREC as first-year apprentice linemen.

Josh started his co-op career May 1. He was formerly employed at Patterson-UTI Energy. He is a 2021 graduate of Sullivan County High School and is proud to be following in his father's footsteps of being a lineman. He enjoys working on his diesel truck, hunting and taking care of his 17 dairy cows.

Hunter is originally from Tunkhannock and recently moved to the Dushore area. He started at SCREC May 8. He was formerly employed by Henkels & McCoy as a cell tower climber, and in 2021, he completed the Global Powerline Academy climbing school.

During two weeks in May, Josh and Hunter both attended climbing school in Indiana, Pa. The two completed basic climbing during the first week, then they hung grounds, crossarms and transformers during the second week. They also had to complete bookwork.

Congratulations to these two young men for starting their rewarding career at SCREC! 📍



NEW LINEMEN: Hunter Talcott, left, and Josh Heess, Jr., started at the co-op in early May as first-year apprentice linemen.

SARAH PARRISH