



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall



## 2020 Census: Make Sure You're Counted

### *What is the census and why is it important?*

**T**he census is essentially a head count of every person living in the United States. To make sure the government represents the people, the U.S. Constitution requires a population count every 10 years.

However, the census is much more than a head count. It also determines how federal funding is distributed and how congressional seats are apportioned. An accurate count is vital to our communities. The information collected through the census also determines what portion of \$675 billion in federal money is given to each state and local community for vital resources such as schools, roads, hospitals, fire and police services, and more. Georgia usually receives more than \$2,000 per person as a result of census data. But if there is an undercount, we would obviously get less. Without an accurate count, the programs and services we rely on may not be available.

### *Is my information confidential?*

While the census uses our responses for the important decisions mentioned above, it is completely safe and secure. Strict federal law protects all data gathered from the census. The census never asks for social security numbers, bank or credit card accounts, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. It is against the law for any U.S. Census Bureau employee to share any personal information with anyone (not even the IRS, FBI or immigration officials).

### *How do I complete the census?*

You can complete the census in one of four ways: online, phone, mail or in person when a Census Bureau employee comes to your home.

Every household in the U.S. was mailed a census survey in March. By mid-April every household that has not yet completed the census will receive a paper questionnaire in the mail. In May, Census Bureau employees will begin visiting homes who have not responded.

Please take the 2020 census and make sure you and your family get counted. Help your community get the funding and support it needs!

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**

*The Official Newsletter  
of Altamaha Electric  
Membership Corporation*

# Marshall Amerson Wins Area Wiring Contest

Altamaha EMC is proud to recognize **Marshall Amerson** from Swainsboro High School as the first-place winner in the Region 4 EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) held in November 2019. He won a \$500 scholarship for this achievement.

Amerson went on to compete against first and second place winners from five other area competitions throughout Georgia in the statewide competition in March 2020. He earned an impressive 10th place finish at the state competition.

Offered through the local FFA chapter with significant support from Altamaha EMC, the competition helps students develop skills in electrical wiring, critical thinking, and effective communication. For more than 50 years, Georgia's electric cooperatives across the state have supported the leadership potential of youth in their communities by mentoring FFA students and preparing them for the contest by holding local practice sessions and staffing the area and state contests.

While participating in the CDE, students are tested in different ways to assess their wiring competency. Students are given a multiple-choice exam that is based on actual wiring practices, requirements of the National Electrical Code and knowledge of rural electrification and electric cooperatives. After completing the exam and a wiring problem, students must effectively communicate the electrical wiring tasks for their final assessment.

Van Henriott coordinates the wiring contest for Altamaha EMC. Henriott states, "Students are naturally competitive. That competitive nature combined with teaching the electrification CDE in the classroom is an excellent way for students to see how electricity is a part of our everyday life. It also shows students the abundance of good paying jobs associated with electrical wiring that can turn into a rewarding career for them. Our EMC sponsors this event because skilled tradespeople like electricians are getting harder and harder to find in rural Georgia."

The experiences the CDE gives to students has the potential to influence their future in multiple ways. For some students, participation in the wiring contest serves as a catalyst for future academic and career goals. Many CDE participants go on to pursue academic degrees and industry certifications in the electric and agriculture fields. Some CDE participants have graduated with engineering degrees, while others have gone on to become agriculture teachers in local high schools, colleges and universities.

The CDE is just one way Altamaha EMC invests in our local communities.



*Marshall Amerson, 1st place winner of the Area 4 CDE, is pictured with Ashley Henry, Swainsboro High School FFA Advisor.*



WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE DARK,  
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK.



#ThankALineworker

## Saluting Our Linemen

Linemen serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and electric cooperatives across the country designate the month of April to honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Linemen work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, linemen are at the heart of Altamaha EMC.

Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. When a storm hits, linemen set aside their personal priorities and go to work immediately to restore power. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineman.

Altamaha EMC is proud to honor our linemen who work daily to maintain 3,298 miles of power lines in our service territory. We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



# Find electrical hazards before they find you

You can't see all of the electrical hazards in your home unless you look for them. Here are five invisible hazards that your family should avoid:

**1. Overload.** Especially if your home is older, it might not have the capacity to handle all of today's energy-intensive gadgets. When your home was built, for example, it didn't have to handle phone chargers, electric treadmills or even automatic coffee pots. Invite an electrician to evaluate your home and upgrade its electrical capacity.

**2. Old circuit breaker boxes.** A box that feels hot is probably faulty and needs replacing.

**3. Constantly tripping breakers.** It's annoying when your hairdryer stops working or you trip a breaker whenever you plug in your curling iron and clothes iron at the same time. But those are warning signs that you're overloading your circuits. Call an electrician.

**4. An outdated fire extinguisher.** This life-saving device doesn't come with an expiration date, but that doesn't mean it will work when you need it. Fire extinguishers last between five and 15 years. Check the pressure gauge every month. Only if the needle is in the green area is it good to go.

**5. Hot outlets.** Regularly touch all outlets. Warm or hot outlets could signal an electrical overload or wiring that's melting. While you're at it, have an electrician switch out your old outlets for those with ground fault circuit interrupters, which will shut off in case of a hazard.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



## Spring is a great time to save energy

When it's not too hot and it's not too cold outdoors, take advantage of the opportunity to use less energy to keep your home comfortable. For example:

- **Turn off the heat and open windows all over your house.** The cross-breeze will

circulate fresh air throughout the home.

- **Cook outdoors.** Fire up the grill and dust off the patio furniture for your first *al fresco* meal of the season.

- **Open the drapes.** Switch off the electrical lights and let the sunshine light up your

home during the day. The sunrays also will help keep your home warm during early spring days.

- **Run ceiling fans.** They will help circulate the air and keep everyone in the room comfortable.



**ALTAMAHA**  
Electric Membership Corporation  
*Community Owned · Community Built · Community Builder*





# Member RECIPES

## Crescent Snack Bites

### Filling:

- 1 (21 oz.) can pie filling (any flavor, Cherry, Blueberry, Apple, etc.)
- 2 tubes crescent rolls

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray muffin tin with cooking spray (makes two batches). Open can of crescent rolls. Lay out the crescent roll dough flat. Separate into individual sections and lay each piece in the muffin tins, widest section at the bottom. (See option below\*) Place 1 to 2 Tbsp pie filling into each crescent roll. Gather edges of dough and fold up around the filling. There may be some gaps, but that's fine. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes until golden.

### Glazed Icing:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tbsp milk

In bowl, whisk powdered sugar with milk until smooth then drizzle glaze over each pie bite. Makes 16.

*Optional: Place 1 tsp. soft cream cheese at bottom before adding pie filling to the crescent roll.*

### *-From the kitchen of Anita Shepherd*

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.