



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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



## Thank a Lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Altamaha EMC, you would probably picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

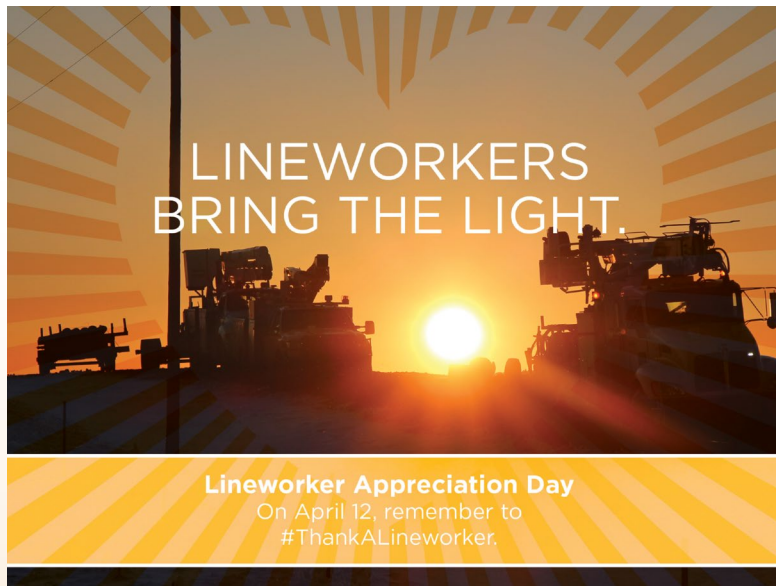
“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April each year to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Altamaha EMC, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Altamaha EMC, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, please take a moment to thank them for their exceptional service.



# What to Do When a Member Passes Away

When the unfortunate passing of a member happens, family members have many issues to address. One of the least of those often can be what to do with their loved one's Altamaha EMC account.

Frequently, widowed spouses or their children leave the account in their deceased loved one's name. This is understandable, but it may overlook one of the unique benefits of being a member of Altamaha EMC. The estate of the member may be entitled to the capital credits owed to the account.

Keep in mind that only the account holder can accrue capital credits. While listing a spouse on your account may allow them to access information for that account, it does not mean the capital credits are accruing in both names.

Capital credits are paid to the estate of a member upon the member's death. Capital credits accrue only through the date of death of a member.

In order to receive payment, a representative of the estate must come to our office and provide a copy of the death certificate. A check for the accrued capital credits is issued within 4 – 6 weeks. It is important to claim the capital credits once a member dies and change the name on the account to a living survivor so capital credits will begin accruing in the new person's name.

We understand how trying dealing with the loss of a loved one can be. Our staff will work with you to make the capital credit process as easy as possible. For additional information, please call our office at 912-526-8181.

## How Capital Credits Work

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



**1** Altamaha EMC tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

**2** At the end of each year, Altamaha completes the financial reports and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.

**3** Altamaha allocates the margins to members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during the year.

**4** When a member passes away, a representative of the estate can apply for a refund of the capital credits that have accrued.

## 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.





# Tiny But Deadly: Cigarette Butts are the Most Commonly Polluted Plastic

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The Earth Day campaign for 2021 is targeting cigarette butt pollution.

If I asked you, what is the most common form of plastic pollution, what would you say? Plastic bottles? Straws? While these are good guesses, they are not the correct answer. Cigarette butts are the most abundant form of plastic waste in the world, with about 4.5 trillion individual butts polluting our global environment.

But wait, aren't cigarette butts made of cotton or paper? NO, cigarette butts are primarily plastic. Cigarette butts are small and tend to go unnoticed, but they are hiding almost everywhere. Contrary to what many believe, cigarette butts are not harmless. They are made of cellulose acetate, a



man-made plastic material, and contain hundreds of toxic chemicals. While cigarette filters, or the plastic part of butts, can take up to 10 years to completely degrade, the chemicals they release can remain in the environment for many more years beyond the life of the cigarette butt itself.

These lingering toxins include arsenic (also used in rat poisoning), lead (a poison that can affect the brain development of children) and nicotine. When these toxic plastics are improperly disposed of on the street corner or out the car window, they slowly leach toxins into our natural systems, presenting a serious threat to us and our environment.

These tiny toxic butts also cause significant harm to our water sources. It is not uncommon for field researchers to find cigarette butts inside of dead sea birds, sea turtles, fish, and dolphins. What's more, a 2011 Study found that the chemicals leaching from cigarette butts can be lethal to freshwater and marine fish species.

It is imperative to ensure that cigarette butts find their way to the waste bin or sent to a recycling facility. Smokers should consider finding designated smoking areas or carrying their own "pocket ashtrays" to collect their waste.

Picking up cigarette butts from your local environment is unpleasant but is a great way to clean your community — you will be amazed at how many cigarette butts you can find in any given area. Use gloves and masks for safety.

You can encourage others to do their part as well by reminding people of the dangers of smoking and advocating for more comprehensive waste management systems to your politicians. Join the mission to create cleaner communities and a better future!

*All Altamaha EMC members who visit our office on Thursday, April 22nd will receive a free Earth Day gift!*

HAPPY  
EARTH  
DAY 22 APRIL

# Exhaust fans: more necessary than you know

Some older homes don't have exhaust fans in the bathroom or kitchen. Others have old fans that are so noisy nobody ever turns them on.

Adding or upgrading exhaust fans can make a home safer and more comfortable.

An exhaust fan's primary purpose is to remove moisture from the room. But the fans also remove bathroom and cooking odors and reduce fumes from cleaning chemicals.

They can also save your paint. Excessive moisture on bathroom walls can cause paint to bubble, peel and chip. The excess humidity created by every shower can cause mold to accumulate.

Exhaust fans help prevent those problems. Invest in good ones, and hire a pro who knows how to install them properly. Choose a quiet model so it won't annoy you when you turn it on.

And turn it off after the air in the room clears. As helpful as an exhaust fan is, it can suck the heated or air-conditioned air out of your home if you let it run after it has removed odors and humidity from your kitchen or bathroom.



ISTOCK.COM / AZZIRT

## Tamper-resistant receptacles are **safety solution**

Nearly seven children a day are shocked or burned when they slide keys, pins, paper clips and other small objects into electrical outlets in their homes, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Some of those injuries are fatal.

That means every room in your house that has an electrical outlet—and that's probably every single room—presents a danger to your children.

It costs about \$2 per outlet to replace your old ones with updated, tamper-resistant versions designed with a built-in shutter system that prevents objects from entering the slots. Plugs can still fit into the slots, however, when equal pressure is applied to both sides.

Tamper-resistant receptacles are safer than removable outlet caps because children are unable to detach them.

The National Electrical Code requires new homes to have tamper-resistant receptacles, but it's up to the owners of older homes to upgrade their outlets.



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## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



**ALTAMAHA**

Electric Membership Corporation

Community Owned • Community Built • Community Builder



# Member RECIPES

## Cinnamon Roll Cobbler

### Ingredients

- 1 (20 ounce) can of pie filling (Apple, Peach, Cherry, Blueberry etc)
- 1 tube of refrigerated cinnamon rolls

Open package of cinnamon rolls and place close together in greased metal baking dish. Pour the canned pie filling over the top of cinnamon rolls. Spread the mixture to cover each roll. Bake for about 22 to 25 minutes in a 375 degree pre-heated oven. Remove when done and drizzle top with (cinnamon roll) icing. Serve.

*- From the kitchen of  
Anita G. 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.