

Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

New Law Adds Protection for Utility Linemen

The 41 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Altamaha EMC, brought the issue of line worker safety before the 2016 Georgia General Assembly. Accordingly, EMC linemen will join the ranks of law enforcement, public safety and transportation personnel who will be better protected under a new law signed by Gov. Nathan Deal.

House Bill 767, the “Move Over for Linemen” legislation, requires any motorist approaching utility linemen at an active work site, as indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights, to change lanes or reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted speed limit. Any motorist who does not change lanes or drop their speed to avoid the utility workers can be fined up to \$250 per incident. The new bill, effective July 1, applies to all types of utility workers, including electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications workers, right-of-way crews or utility contractors.

During the legislative session, Georgia EMC led a coalition of utilities and businesses consisting of the 41 EMCs, Georgia Power and municipal systems in support of HB 767, sponsored by Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell). The new law and added protections are critical to safeguard workers. According to the

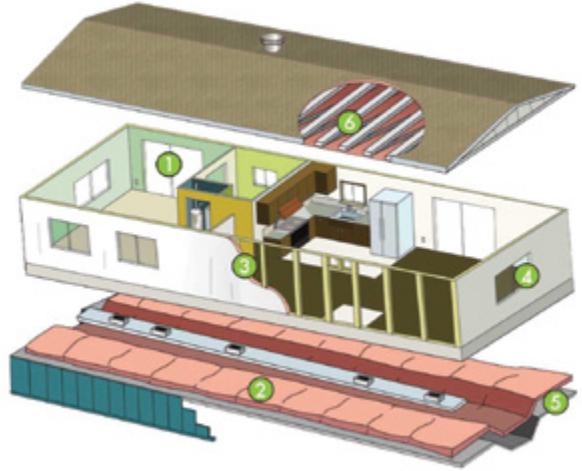
Georgia Department of Highway Safety, emergency vehicles parked beside a highway are vulnerable to crashes, even with emergency lights flashing. Consequently, the original law (passed in 2003) was created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, wrecker operators, and highway maintenance workers by maintaining an open buffer lane between passing highway traffic and authorized roadside emergency vehicles.



Gov. Deal signed the bill during a statewide event to recognize Lineman Appreciation Month in April. The EMCs, Georgia Power, municipal systems, Electric Cities of Georgia, MEAG Power and other utilities gathered at the State Capitol as Gov. Deal, members of the legislature and the public said “Thank You” for the work and sacrifice of linemen and keeping the lights on 365 days a year.

RETROFITTING YOUR MANUFACTURED HOME FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- 1 Install energy-efficient windows and doors
- 2 Replace insulation in the belly
- 3 Make general repairs (seal bottom board, caulk windows, doors, ducts, etc.)
- 4 Add insulation to your walls
- 5 Install or seal belly wrap
- 6 Add insulation to your roof or install a roof cap



Make Your Manufactured Home More Energy Efficient

If you live in a manufactured home, chances are you may have a disproportionately higher energy bill than a family living in a modular or traditional wood-frame home. The good news is there are many ways you can improve your home's energy efficiency.

Manufactured home or mobile home? Some use the term manufactured home and mobile home interchangeably. A mobile home is a factory built home constructed before 1976 when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) set national standards that nearly every manufactured home must meet. Thereafter, factory-built homes were called manufactured homes and are engineered and constructed in accordance with the 1976 federal code administered by HUD.

Manufactured homes come in all shapes and sizes. They may be single- or multi-sectioned and are available in various sizes and floor plan configurations. There are many differences between manufactured homes built before the U.S. HUD Code took effect in 1976 and those built afterward. One of the major differences is energy efficiency. Those built before federal standards were put in place were generally not as energy efficient as later models, even though thermal standards were changed in 1994. And while your manufactured home may have been built to the energy standards of the time, significant progress has been made over the past decades with high-efficiency mechanical equipment, windows, insulation, siding and roofing materials.

In short, whether your home is less than five

years old or more than 50, most homes can benefit from energy efficiency measures simply due to wear and tear. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind can increase air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooling and heating energy.

If your home was built before 1976, the Dept. of Energy recommends the following steps to retrofit your manufactured home and improve energy efficiency:

- Install energy-efficient windows and doors
- Replace insulation in the belly
- Make general repairs (seal bottom board, caulk windows, doors, ducts, etc.)
- Add insulation to your walls
- Install or seal belly wrap
- Add insulation to your roof or install a roof cap.

In addition to the measures listed above, consider caulking and weather-stripping windows and doors, particularly if you are not able to replace them with more energy-efficient ones. Properly seal any openings around ducts and plumbing fixtures. Replace any incandescent light bulbs with LEDs – both indoors and outside. Reduce “phantom” loads by unplugging electronic devices such as computers, printers and gaming systems when not in use. If you are planning to move to a new manufactured home, look for the Energy Star rated model.

For more information about energy efficiency improvements for manufactured homes, contact the energy experts at Altamaha EMC (912-526-8181).



Electric Car

Saves Money & Protects Environment

Altamaha EMC recently added a total electric Nissan Leaf to our company vehicle fleet. This electric car will be used by our employees for company business.

Here are some facts about electric vehicles:

- Electric vehicles are clean, efficient, economical and quiet.
- They also create U.S. jobs and contribute to energy independence.
- The majority of electric vehicle drivers commute less than 40 miles per day.
- When charging an electric vehicle at home, the cost averages to about three cents per mile. According to the US Department of Energy (DoE), the average cost of charging a plug-in vehicle in the United States is about half the cost of filling a tank of gasoline.
- An average American will spend \$1.00 - \$1.50 a day to charge their electric vehicle.
- Unlike gasoline-powered vehicles, electric cars emit no tailpipe pollutants when running on electricity - cleaning the air we breathe and helping automakers meet the Obama Administration's new fuel economy and emissions standards.
- Beyond wiper blades and tires, all-electric vehicles require little maintenance, saving consumers money over the life of the car. Even the brake pads last longer in electric vehicles because they use regenerative braking to slow down -- a method of converting the energy used to reduce the car's speed into power that is stored in the car's battery.

Adding this electric vehicle to our company fleet is just another way we are saving money, protecting the environment and looking out for the best interest of our members.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

Source: energy.gov

Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

Altamaha EMC will hold its 2016 annual meeting at the Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Official notice of the time, date and place will be provided to each member in advance of the meeting. Director elections will be held at the annual meeting for District 2, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Treutlen County; District 3 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Montgomery County and District 5 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Laurens and Johnson Counties. The following is a summary of the provisions of the cooperative's bylaws pertaining to the process for election of directors:

Section 3.03 Qualifications of Directors.

Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election. Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence. May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the cooperative. May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the cooperative. May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office. May not have been convicted of a felony.

Section 3.04 Nominations by Nominating Committee.

The Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee comprised of independent members of the cooperative. The nominating committee meets not less than sixty five (65) days prior to the annual meeting and nominates one or more candidates for the directorships that are to be filled at the annual meeting. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and the meeting date for the committee will be provided to the members prior to their meeting and shall be posted at the cooperative's headquarters.

Section 3.05 Nominations by petition. Other nominations for director elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than one hundred (100) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than forty five (45) days prior to such meeting.

Section 3.06 Posting of the notice of nominees.

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

Section 3.07 Restrictions on Other Nominations.

Except in the event that all candidates nominated by the nominating committee and petition are deceased, or withdrawn in writing from candidacy prior to the election, no other nominations shall be in order.

Section 3.08 Election procedures.

Directors shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members from the applicable voting district, or those authorized to vote for them pursuant to Section 2.05 of these bylaws as set out below, at the meeting in which the election is to be held. Should two or more candidates tie for the highest vote, then run-off ballots shall be taken among them.

Section 2.05 Representation of Members.

Unless it is made to appear otherwise by writing executed by the member and filed with the Secretary or his designate prior to a meeting of the members, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the primary residential abode of the member, who presents himself or herself to the Secretary, or his designated registrar(s), prior to a meeting of the members, as a representative of such member, shall be deemed to act and vote for the member he purports to represent and in as full and ample manner as if the member had been present and personally acting at the meeting. The presence of the member purported to be represented by such person shall, however, revoke the authority hereby created and only the member shall be entitled to act and vote at such meeting. Except as is expressly provided for herein, no other person shall have the authority to represent, act or vote for any member at a meeting of the members.

Section 2.07 Credentials and Election Committee.

Section 2.07 of the bylaws provides for a committee of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) independent members to oversee the nominating, registration and election processes and to resolve disputes relating to same

2016 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. This committee consists of the following members: Gary J. Walden, Jimmy Glover, Derek Barnes, Buddy Mosley, Al Purser and Johnny Tarpley.



Member RECIPES

Homemade Blackberry Cobbler



Ingredients

- 2 ½ cups fresh blackberries, washed
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour (regular)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 stick of unsalted butter, melted

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix the blackberries and sugar together. Set aside for at least 25-30 minutes. This process will coax the juices out of the berries and make a syrupy mixture. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Using a wooden spoon, stir in milk to the flour mixture. Stir in the melted butter and hand-mix it until the ingredients are well mixed with only a few lumps. Pour the batter into a small baking dish and smooth it out evenly. No need to spray the pan, there is plenty of butter to help coat the dish. Pour the blackberry mixture and evenly distribute it over the batter. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour, depending how golden brown you want it. It will be bubbly and extremely hot, so be careful! Let it cool for at least 15 minutes so it will hold its shape. Serve warm or room temperature with fresh whipped cream or ice cream. Yummy!

*-From the kitchen of
Uldine Moseley*

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.