to Altamaha EMC

AUGUST 2019

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall

Addressing Rural Broadband

For more than 80 years, EMCs have been trusted partners in powering Georgia's communities. Accountable to our members and with the guidance of our locally elected board of directors, we value local control and recognize the importance of being responsible fiscal stewards. At Altamaha EMC, we continue to focus on providing safe, affordable, reliable power to the homes, schools and businesses that make our communities great.

We, along with the 40 other EMCs across Georgia, have faced a lack of legal clarity when it comes to providing rural broadband services. Whether it was utilizing extra capacity in our existing communications infrastructure, partnering with third-party providers or providing high-speed broadband services directly to members, without specific legislative authority, most EMCs were understandably unwilling to even begin exploring options. Thankfully, progress was made this legislative session with Senate Bill 2, which was signed into law by Gov. Brian Kemp on April 26, fulfilling one of his priorities for rural Georgians.

This new legislation empowers EMCs across Georgia to evaluate how



they might contribute to the expansion of broadband services in their area. In the end, each of Georgia's 41 EMCs will have to decide how – and if – it makes fiscal sense to offer these services. But make no mistake, Altamaha EMC is grateful for the leadership of Gov. Kemp, and all the legislators who supported SB 2, as this legislation is one more important step toward bridging the digital divide in many parts of rural Georgia.

As exciting as this news is for many, we are asking for patience. While a decision to offer broadband to residents in our footprint may seem like an easy decision, nothing could be further from the truth. There are considerable financial, logistical, operational, technological and structural challenges to expanding broadband services to our communities. This new law prevents any EMC from subsidizing broadband services through the sale of electricity, which underscores the fact that any decision to move forward with broadband services must be supported by our members as well as by a strong business plan. (*Continued on page 3.*)

A few facts about ceiling fans

eiling fans have been helping people beat the heat for more than 100 years. Philip Diehl, a contemporary of Thomas Edison, is credited with inventing the electrically powered ceiling fan in 1882.

Diehl used the electric motor he engineered for the Singer sewing machine and added two paddle blades, and the rest is history. The fans caught on fast, and Diehl didn't stop there. He improved

his design by adding a light kit. By World War I, most ceiling fans were revving up with four paddle blades.

An important reminder about ceiling fans is that they do not provide refrigerated cooling like an air conditioner does. Instead, they simply move the air around the fan. This movement of air is called convective cooling. It's no different from folding a piece of paper and fanning your face.

Every so often, Mother Nature dishes out lots of convective cooling. Whether produced by wind, ceiling

fans or a piece of paper, air moving across our skin will evaporate the moisture produced by our bodies, which makes us feel cooler.

Research shows that more than 75 percent of all U.S. homes have ceiling fans. When used correctly, they can help lower summer cooling costs and make the air near the fan seem cooler than it actually is.

Using ceiling fans in conjunction with your air conditioner creates a wind-chill effect inside your home. The energy-saving idea is to run your ceiling There is a downside to ceiling fans. They can rack up unnecessary additional kilowatt-hours when no one is around to enjoy the breeze.

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fan at the speed of your liking and raise the thermostat setting 3 to 5 degrees. However, your comfort is a personal choice, so the fan speed and thermostat settings are not set in stone.

A frequent question asked about ceiling fans is "Which direction should the paddle blades spin during the summer months?" Your fan needs to spin counterclockwise, in order to push the air downward. The opposite, or clockwise, applies during the winter. However, some people do not enjoy air movement from a ceiling fan during the heating season.

There is a downside to ceiling fans. They can rack up unnecessary additional kilowatt-hours when no one is around to enjoy the breeze. Many homeowners believe the fans are helping to cool the home's interior even while the room is empty. Left on and unattended, ceiling fans are just spinning up your electric bill.

Another little-known downside from ceiling fans is unwanted heat generated from the spinning motor.

When used correctly, ceiling fans can help lower summer cooling costs and make the air near the fan seem cooler than it actually is. The last thing we want in our homes during the summer is additional heat, which makes our air conditioner work harder to keep our homes cool.

Ceiling fan motors generate temperatures up to 130 degrees. While this operating temperature is normal and safe, it does add heat to your dwelling. Flipping the switch or pulling the chain to turn off the ceiling fan when you are leaving the room is a cool summer energy tip.



ACCOUNT NOTIFICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

In today's busy world, we all need reminders to keep us on track. Altamaha EMC encourages our members to take advantage of our **Alerts and Reminders** program which has the capability to send out various notifications concerning your account. These notifications consist of a Due Date Reminder, Past Due Date Reminder, Account Profile Change, Returned Check Alert, Payment Confirmation and High Energy Usage Alert. These notifications can be sent out by text message and/or email. Call our office today at 912-526-8181 and one of our Member Service Representatives will be happy to assist you in setting up the notifications that you choose. There is no charge for these notifications.



Broadband Continued from front

SB 2 provides flexibility for EMCs to approach the challenge creatively, including utilizing excess capacity from our ongoing investment in communications infrastructure for critical energy services and reliability. Given the capital costs and financial challenges that come with broadband expansion, some EMCs may pursue partnerships with third-party providers rather than provide high-speed internet service directly to customers. As for Altamaha EMC, we are evaluating various methods of offering broadband service to our members. It is important to remember that, just like current broadband providers, EMCs are not obligated to offer broadband service, especially if a business case for doing so cannot be made. What works for an EMC in North Georgia may not translate into success in South Georgia, and vice versa.

While plenty of variables remain and our research is just beginning, I can assure you Altamaha EMC is committed to being part of the solution to address our community's challenges. We will continue to be the first ones on the roads to get the lights on in the wake of a disaster. We will continue to support our community with our time. We will continue to support local schools and not-for-profits with our contributions and service. And we will continue to be a leader in planning for and delivering safe, affordable and reliable power.

Altamaha EMC stands ready to help our community achieve its goals. We appreciate our members' patience as we assess the rural broadband challenges in our area.

-Romanous Dotson, CEO/General Manager

Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

Altamaba EMC will hold its 2019 annual meeting at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. 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 resolves disputes relating to same.

2019 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. This committee consists of the following members: Chris Hopkins, Buddy Mosley, Gary J. Walden, Jimmy Glover, Al Purser and Johnny Tarpley.



Member RECIPES

Georgia Peach Bundt Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 cup softened butter
- 2 cups sugar & couple spoons of sugar to coat pan
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups fresh peaches, pitted and diced
- Topping:
- 2-3 peaches
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Butter then dust inside of baking pan with sugar. In a bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Stir in vanilla. Reserve 1/4 cup of flour. Sift together the remaining flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually stir into creamed mixture. Use reserved flour to coat peaches well, then fold the floured peaches into batter. Spread evenly into prepared pan. Bake 60 to 70 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Allow cake to cool in the pan for 10 minutes, before inverting onto a wire rack to cool.

For topping: Puree 2-3 peaches (peeled & pitted). Place pureed peaches, 2 tablespoons cornstarch, and 2 tablespoons sugar in saucepan and cook on low until thick. Serve over cake.

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.