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Annual Meeting

Altamaha EMC will hold our 2022 annual meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. Due to risks associated with COVID-19, we will practice social distancing guidelines as outlined by the CDC and limit person-to-person contact by using a “drive-through” format for this year’s meeting. The format will be the same as our 2021 annual meeting.

Members will enter the access route using Pete Phillips Drive (between Walmart and Southeastern Technical College). Employees will direct traffic to the registration area. Members will remain in their vehicles for the entire meeting.

During the registration process, members will receive the ever-popular bucket of goodies and snacks and cast their votes to approve the minutes from the 2021 annual meeting and for election of directors. Music and information will be broadcast over a designated radio station in advance of the business meeting. The business meeting will begin at 2:30 pm and will be broadcast over the designated radio station.

Concern for the health and safety of our members and employees is our utmost priority. More details regarding the annual meeting will be mailed to our members closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you (at a distance) on November 2, 2022.



Save a Life: Avoid Distractions While Driving

Some temptations are hard to resist. For me, it can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. Afterall, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be

avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

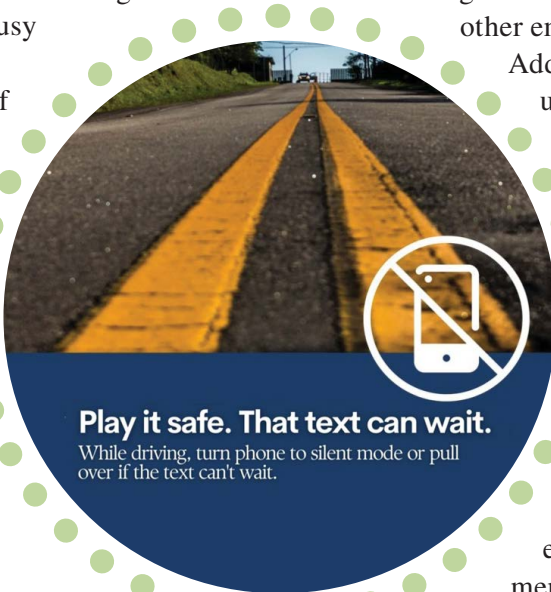
In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles.

Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I’d encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Altamaha EMC safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

-Romanous Dotson, CEO



Play it safe. That text can wait.

While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.

Leave your A/C on during vacations

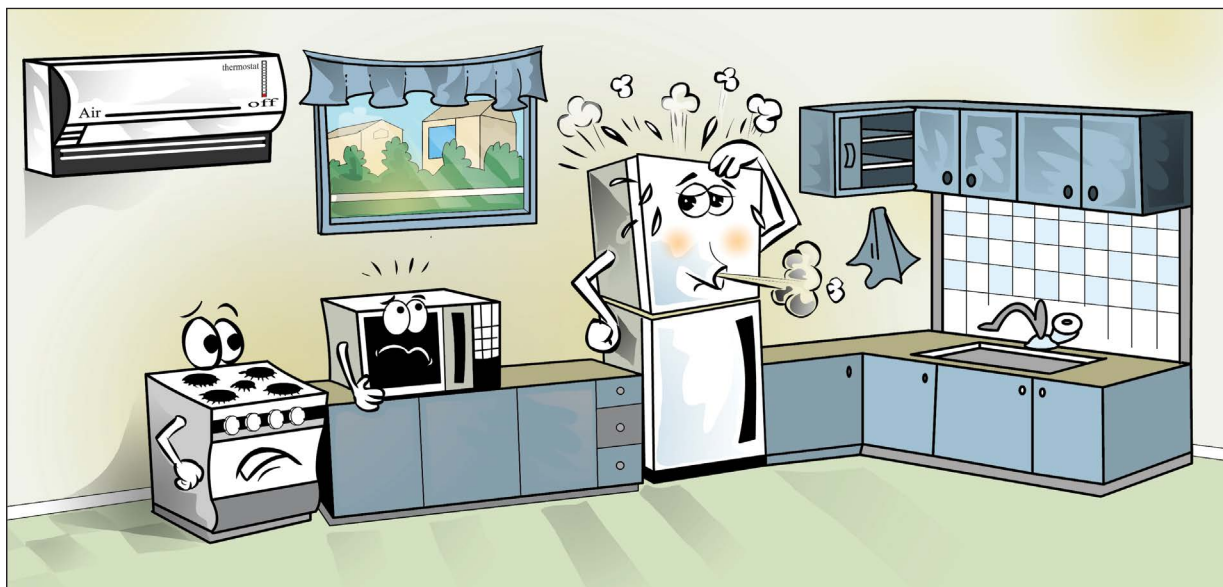
If you're thinking about saving a few bucks by shutting your central air conditioning off while you escape for summer vacation, consider what you need to keep cool in your home while you're gone.

At the top of that list is your refrigerator. In a kitchen that's too warm, your refrigerator has to work at least twice as hard to keep its interior cold. It will put in double duty regardless of whether there's food inside of it, as long as it's plugged in.

That can counteract any energy savings you might see when you turn off the A/C for a week. And it could stress your refrigerator out enough to damage or even ruin it.

Best bet: Nudge the thermostat up 4-5° higher than usual before you leave for vacation. That way your house won't be as cool as it would be to keep people comfortable, but it won't get so warm that your refrigerator is uncomfortable.

Plus, keeping the A/C on could prevent other problems that may occur in a home that gets too humid because of a lack of air conditioning, such as mold and mildew growth, and damage to electronics.

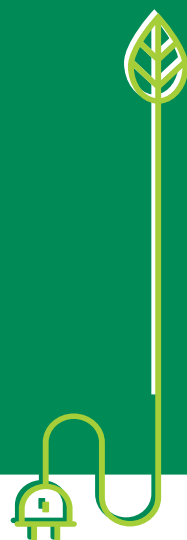


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

Altamaha EMC will hold its 2022 annual meeting at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. 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 3, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Montgomery County; District 5 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Laurens and Johnson Counties, District 2 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Treutlen County. 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.

2022 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on Friday, August 12, 2022. This committee consists of the following members: Chris Hopkins, Randy Mosley, Jimmy Glover, Gary J. Walden, Brad Dollar and Wayne Wilkes.



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Member RECIPES

Cajun Green Beans

Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable or canola oil
1/4 cup diced onion
1/4 cup diced bell pepper, any color
1/4 cup diced celery
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 tablespoon Cajun spice
4 cups green beans, washed, strung, snapped
2 cups chicken broth

Directions

Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic to pan and cook until onions are translucent. Add Cajun spice to vegetables, stirring to combine. Add green beans and chicken broth to mixture. Bring mixture to a boil then reduce heat to simmer. Cook 10 minutes for al dente green beans or 20-30 minutes for ones that are softer. Serves about 6.

Courtesy of Georgia Grown. For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit www.georgiagrown.com.



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.