



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

DECEMBER 2017

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday

Even the happiest of times can turn to tragedy if you aren't careful. This winter, practice some common-sense electrical safety. You could prevent accidents, fires and injuries—and save the season for everyone who gathers in your home for the holidays. Here are 10 electrical safety tips:

Buy lights designed for outdoor use. The lights you use to safely decorate your indoor tree are not safe to use outside, where it's cold, damp, windy and exposed. Luckily, it's easy to find lights designed specifically for the outdoors.

Choose a fire-resistant tree. On an artificial tree, look for a label that guarantees it is "fire retardant" so it will resist burning and easy to snuff out if it does catch on fire. If you're a fan of live holiday trees, choose one that is fresh and water it every day.

Keep your tree away from heat. Not only will the heat dry out a live tree's needles, it can catch a real or artificial tree on fire. Keep trees and other combustible decorations at least three feet from a heat source, like a radiator or portable electric heater.

Be picky about hooks. Never staple, screw, nail or tack your outdoor lights to your roof, gutter, railings or doors, as you could cut through the wires on the light strands. Instead, buy insulated hooks. You'll greatly reduce the risk of a fire, and they won't damage your roof.

Examine the lights. Whether you just bought a new set or you're reusing last year's indoor or outdoor lights, inspect them to make sure they all light up and their wires aren't damaged.

Insist on "certified." The UL label on Christmas lights, replacement bulbs and decorations means the products have passed tests that prove they are fire and shock resistant.

Use extension cords sparingly. Extension cords extend the reach of your light strands. But if you hide them under a rug, they'll get trampled on—and can overheat and catch that rug on fire.

Follow instructions. Manufacturers of incandescent holiday lights usually recommend that you string together no more than three sets before plugging them in. More than that creates a fire hazard. If you're using energy-efficient LEDs, you can safely link up to 25 strands.

Use battery-operated candles. Almost half of decoration-related fires are started by candles with real flames, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Install smoke alarms. A beeping smoke alarm could be your first clue that you need to get everyone out of the house. Change your alarm's batteries before your home fills with company.



81st Annual Meeting Highlights

A crowd of over 1,000 people gathered at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia on November 1st for Altamaha EMC's annual meeting of the members. A total of 812 members registered for the meeting.

Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO, addressed the membership and discussed the restoration efforts following Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irma. Bryan Isgett of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co. reviewed the cooperative's financial reports showing the sound financial position of Altamaha EMC.

Directors Billy Benton, Brandon Braddy and Robert E. Youmans were each re-elected by acclamation to a three-year term on the board.

The management, board and employees of Altamaha EMC chose The Mercy Ministries as the cause for this year's annual meeting. Staff from The Mercy Ministries sold raffle tickets for a \$100 gift card. Members also donated money to The Mercy Ministries to help offset the cost of patient care.

A banner was displayed in front of Southeastern Technical College honoring Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright. On Oct. 4th, 2017, Dustin lost his life while serving as a Green Beret in Africa. He died from wounds sustained during combat. Dustin was 29 years old. His brother, William Wright, led the pledge of allegiance at the beginning of the meeting.

Door prizes were awarded after the meeting adjourned. All members and guests were given a bucket with prizes and treated to refreshments as they left the meeting.



The staff of The Mercy Ministries was on hand to share information about their organization.



Arnold Palmer was one of the lucky prize winners.



These ladies enjoyed a ride from the parking lot on the golf cart.



A tribute to Toombs County's own, Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright.



Carly Gay and Karen Sumner received commemorative rocking chairs for their retirement.



Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Warnock were all smiles after getting their door prize.



All attendees were given an Altamaha EMC bucket as they left the meeting.

Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

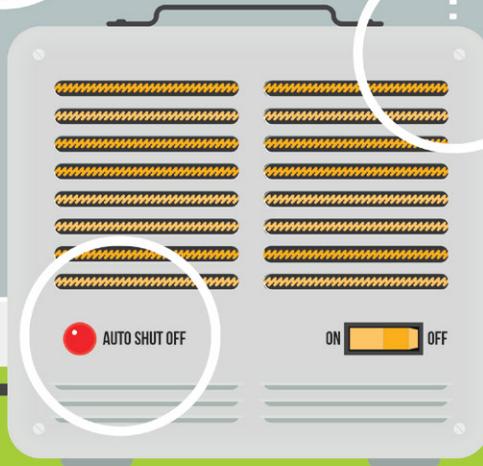


DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.

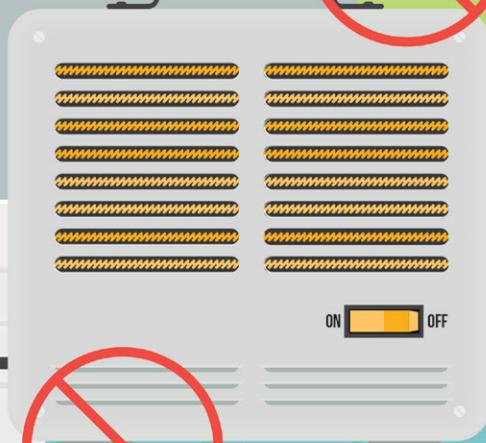


DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

The board of directors, management and employees of Altamaha EMC extend to you and your family our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!

In observance of the holiday season, the offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed December 25th, December 26th, and January 1st.

In the event of a power outage or related problems, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling (912) 526-8181 or (800) 822-4563.

GATE Certification Expires December 31—Time to Renew

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 386 into law in 2012. Under this law, all agricultural producers must apply ANNUALLY to the Department of Agriculture in order to remain tax exempt. Current GATE certifications expire on December 31, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2018, all your Altamaha EMC accounts that are currently tax exempt will be taxed unless you provide us a copy of your 2018 GATE card. We must have this card on file before December 31, 2017 in order for your accounts to be tax exempt on January 1, 2018.

You can apply for the tax exemption certificate on the Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.georgia.gov. If you have questions about your certification, please contact the Dept. of Agriculture at 1-855-327-6829.

Scholarship Applications Now Available

Altamaha EMC is currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship, a program sponsored by Georgia's electric cooperatives.

The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. Factors for consideration include grade point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors, and financial need. A scholarship committee comprised of EMC directors and managers selects students who exceed in these areas and who struggle with college expenses.

Eleven scholarships will be awarded statewide in early spring of 2018. Students who apply for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program. They also must complete an application



and write a biographical sketch which provides a preview of his or her future plans. Created in 1985 by the board of directors of Georgia EMC, the Scholarship pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program. Since 1985, Georgia's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$191,000 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program. Applications are available for download on our website.

You can also request an application by contacting Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120 or via email at tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com. **Completed applications are due by January 31, 2018.**



Member RECIPES



Cookie Dough Fudge

1 stick butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups mini chocolate chips, divided
14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
1 1/2 cups melted white chocolate
1 cup chopped nuts, optional

Grease an 8 inch square pan with cooking spray. Line with parchment paper and set aside. Using hand mixer, beat butter, sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Add flour and beat until combined. Stir in 1 cup mini chocolate chips. In separate bowl, mix together milk and melted white chocolate, then fold into cookie dough mixture. If desired, add 1 cup chopped nuts to mixture. Pour into prepared pan and top with remaining mini chocolate chips. Refrigerate until firm, about 2 hours. Remove & lift out of pan using edges of parchment paper. Cut into squares. Serve.

-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.