



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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License Plate Pays Tribute to Linemen and Benefits Burn Patients and Families

Georgians can show additional support and appreciation for Altamaha EMC linemen and other utility line crews through the purchase of the state's first "Thank a Lineman" vehicle license plate.

Memories (some might say nightmares) from Tropical Storm Irma in September 2017 still linger for Georgians after Irma caused more than 1.5 million outages, including 550,000 for EMCs across the state. With some news sources reporting an estimated 16 million people without power due to Irma, this may become the single largest "blackout" by a weather event recorded in U.S. history and certainly the highest number and most geographically widespread electrical outage by a single weather event in Georgia.

The unprecedented event set in motion a massive power restoration effort involving more than 4,500 EMC linemen and support personnel from 18 other states from as far north as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan and Wisconsin, and as far west as Texas and Oklahoma.

For the vital work linemen perform in extraordinary circumstances such as Irma, and for their commitment every day, House Bill 260 was sponsored in the Georgia House of Representatives by Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell) and carried in the Senate by Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega) to make available a specialty license plate to honor Georgia's electric utility line workers, including Altamaha EMC linemen. It was signed into law by Gov. Nathan Deal.

Proceeds will benefit the Southeastern Firefighters

Burn Foundation (SFBF) which provides assistance to burn patients and their families at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

Specifically, the SFBF provides a place to stay for the families of burn patients at the Jeffrey Vaden Chavis House, just a few steps from the Burn Center, as well as meals and transportation to and from the hospital. After patients are discharged, the SFBF also provides assistance with prescriptions, anti-scarring garments and transportation to follow-up doctor visits.

Georgians who are interested in purchasing a "Thank A Lineman" license plate can visit <http://www.sfbf.net/License-Plate> when renewing their annual motor vehicle registration. For the first 1,000 plates, the one-time \$25 specialty plate manufacturing fee will be waived by the Motor Vehicles Division of the Georgia Department



of Revenue with a \$25 minimum donation to the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation.

In addition, by an act of the General Assembly and Governor Deal, \$10 of the Georgia Department of Revenue's \$35 Annual Specialty Tag Fee for "Thank A Lineman" license plates will be contributed to SFBF each year for as long as the motorist renews the specialty plate.

We hope you'll consider purchasing a "Thank a Lineman" license plate to recognize line crews and support burn patients and their families through the important work of the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation.

Energy efficiency for the modern family and its many devices

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. The latest research shows that 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open.

“Old school” energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.



Did you turn the heat down?

If you leave your heat at the same temperature all day and night, you're missing out on some serious energy savings. There's no need to keep your home toasty warm while nobody's in it—like during the day if everyone leaves for work and school. And you're wrapped tight in a comfy blanket overnight, so you should be perfectly comfortable sleeping in a home that's a bit cooler than it is before bedtime.

Your best bet: Invest in a programmable thermostat that will automatically turn the heat down when you leave for work; up when you're due to get home; down again right after you go to bed; and up again a half-hour before your alarm wakes you up in the morning.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling if you turn your thermostat back seven to 10 degrees for eight hours a day.



LYONS DRIVE-THRU OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT

As an added convenience for our members, the drive-thru window at our Lyons office is now open from 8:00 AM until Midnight, Monday – Friday. Members can make payments or inquire about their account at the drive-thru window. We do not accept application for new service at the drive-thru.

FOR SALE: 12' x 16' Portable Storage Building

Altamaha EMC is accepting sealed bids for a 12' x 16' metal portable storage building. Sealed bids will be accepted until Friday, March 16th at 5:00 PM. Only Altamaha EMC members are allowed to submit a bid. Minimum bid is \$500.

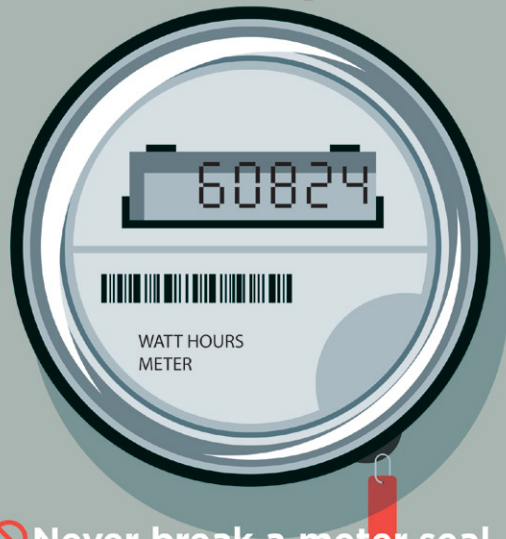
The building is available for your inspection at our office on Hwy 280 in Lyons. Viewing hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. The building will be sold as is and buyer is responsible for moving expenses.

All bids must include name, address and telephone number. Bids can be dropped off at our Lyons office or mailed to PO Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436 (ATTN: Joe Waters). For more information, contact Joe Waters at **912-526-2168** or joe.waters@altamahaemc.com.



DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



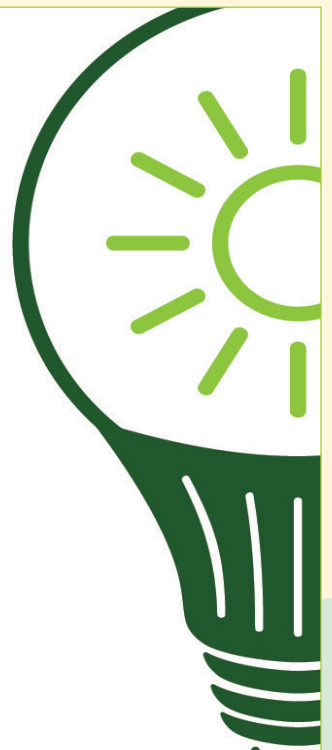
- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov





Member **RECIPES**

Strawberry Cake



4 eggs
3/4 cup oil
1/2 cup milk or water
1 small package strawberry jello
1 box White cake mix
1/2 pkg. frozen strawberries (partially thawed)

Beat eggs (one at a time). Add oil, milk or water and jello. Then slowly add cake mix and mix well. Stir in “mashed” strawberries. Bake cake according to directions on the cake mix box.

Icing

1 stick butter or margarine (room temperature)
1/2 package thawed strawberries
1 box confectioners’ sugar

Beat butter/margarine until smooth. Add sugar a little at the time. Add strawberries. The icing will not be thick. Cake is best if it sits overnight or at least several hours. Do not cover tightly.

-From the kitchen of Mandy Johnson

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.