



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

JULY 2018

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

Are You a Co-op Voter?

Did you vote in the 2016 elections? If so, you were one of 500,000 MORE voters in co-op territories that went to the polls. You helped turn the tide of decreasing voter turnout in rural areas like ours...and our elected officials took notice!

As member-owned electric cooperatives, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility which is responsive to the consumers it serves. But voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility -- to select the best leaders for our communities.

2018 is going to be an interesting and important election year, and electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter in our community.

When voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concern to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live, and raise families.

Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about. These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials. Registering to vote and showing up to the polls on Election Day are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative

principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.

Altamaha EMC has once again joined America's electric cooperatives in continuing the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion. This effort will ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on the next Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Ensure you're registered to vote right now. Then, encourage your friends and family to register too. Visit the Co-ops Vote web site, WWW.VOTE.COOP, to get information on how to register and to learn more about your elected officials. You can

also learn more about the issues that matter in our communities.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. You will join with 42 million members across the nation, to ensure that electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

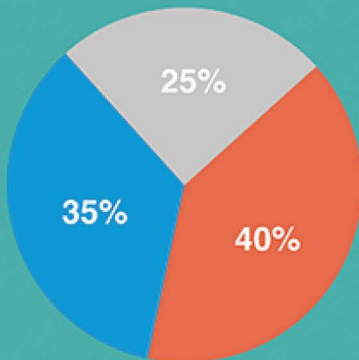
If you have any questions, please visit WWW.VOTE.COOP or contact us directly at 912-526-8181. I hope to see you at the polls!

-Romanous Dotson, CEO





2018 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook



Named storms
10-16

Hurricanes
5-9

Major hurricanes
1-4

Season probability

Electrical safety tips - hurricanes

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30. It's time now to get prepared in the event of hurricane related weather in our area. Below are tips you and your family should practice to stay safe before, during and after the storm.

Preparing for the hurricane:

- Make sure flashlights, battery-powered lanterns and radios have fresh batteries.
- Make sure you have an adequate supply of medicine, first aid supplies, and baby items.
- Keep at least a two weeks supply of bottled water, non-perishable food items, batteries and firewood on hand.
- If prescriptions are essential, make sure to get them refilled in case of an extended power outage or extensive damage to the area.
- It is a good idea to have identification and documentation on hand, such as your social security card, driver's license, birth certificate, and insurance information for your home, car, and life.
- Have an evacuation plan for you and your family in case of an extended power outage.
- Listen to weather forecasts and predictions for possible hurricanes.
- Avoid using candles if at all possible. If you must burn candles as a source of light, never leave the candles unattended. Keep candles away from furniture, draperies and other flammable materials. Keep children away from open flames.
- Don't open freezers and refrigerators any more than absolutely necessary.
- Listen to local radio stations for news about power outages.
- Turn off your heating and air conditioning systems, as well as electric range.
- Unplug sensitive electronic appliances such as TVs, VCRs, microwave ovens and computers – this will protect your appliances against power fluctuations that can occur when power is restored.
- After power is restored, be sure to wait five to ten minutes before turning on appliances and heating systems.

After the hurricane:

During the hurricane:

- Get inside a building and stay away from windows or glass doors.

and stay away. Call Altamaha EMC immediately to report the downed lines.

- Debris from the storm can hide power lines that have fallen. Fallen trees that contain energized power lines can energize any item it comes in contact with, such as a metal fence, a pond or standing water. Even the ground can be energized near fallen power lines.
- If your electricity is out, check with neighbors to see if they have power. If they have power, you may have blown a fuse or tripped a breaker. Never replace a fuse or reset a circuit breaker with wet hands or while standing on a wet (or damp) surface.
- If you're without electricity and want to use a portable generator, make sure to use it in a well-ventilated area.
- If power remains out following a storm and you have to cook with Sterno or charcoal, do so outside to avoid the build-up of deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

- Replenish your supplies of batteries, bottled water, non-perishable food items and firewood for future hurricanes.

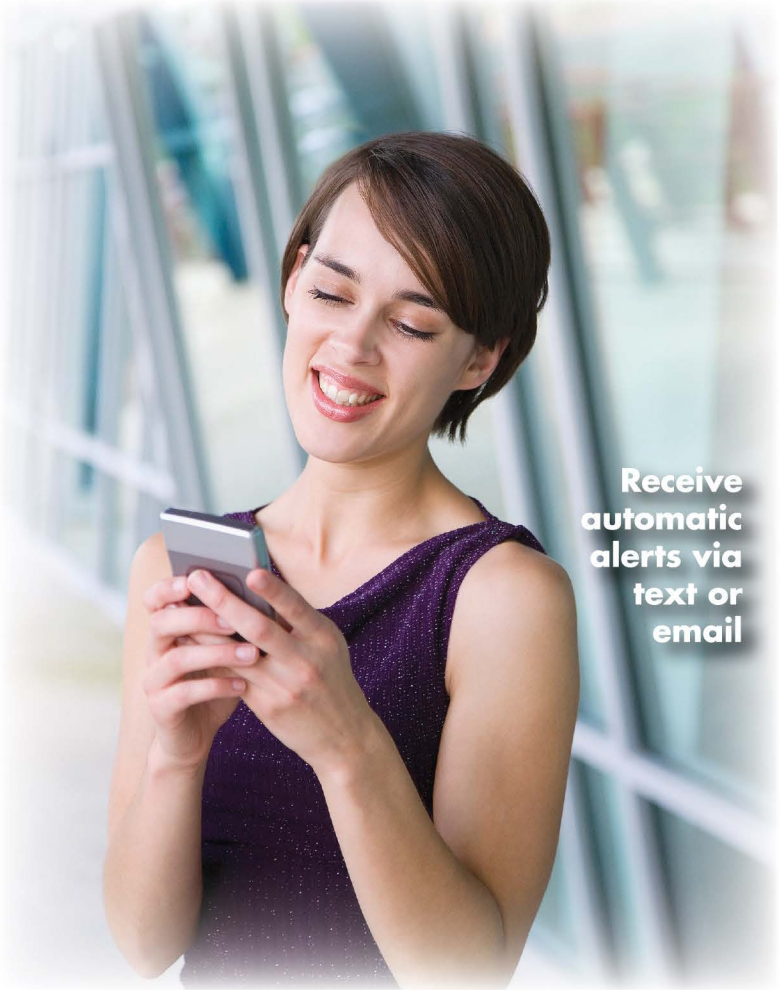
Take Charge with Pay•Your•Way

Altamaha EMC's innovative prepay program for residential accounts allows you to take charge of your electric bills by paying for your electricity before you use it. This approach gives you more flexibility and control over the use of electricity. Some advantages of **Pay•Your•Way** are:

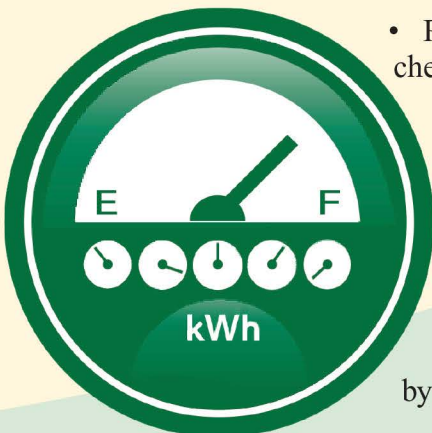
- No more surprises when you get your electric bill each month
- Notifications allow you to better monitor your energy use and budget for electricity costs
- Timely notices enable you to know immediately if your energy use increases significantly so you can take corrective action to resolve problems that will increase your bill
- You control the payment schedule – pay monthly, weekly or more often
- If you have an existing account with us, we will credit your deposit from that account to your **Pay•Your•Way** account
- Additional deposits, late fees or reconnect fees are not applicable to **Pay•Your•Way** accounts
- If your **Pay•Your•Way** account is disconnected, you will be reconnected automatically when a payment is made and applied to the account that raises the credit balance above \$50
- Payments can be made at all three Altamaha EMC offices during normal business hours, by telephone, or on our website at www.altamahaemc.com

- Payment methods include cash, check, money order, e-check, debit or credit card
- **Pay•Your•Way** includes a debt management feature that provides a way to spread a pre-existing delinquent balance due over an extended period of time
- Automatic alerts and notifications can be sent via text or email

For more information on **Pay•Your•Way**, contact us today by calling 912-526-8181.



**Receive
automatic
alerts via
text or
email**



Keep children safe all summer

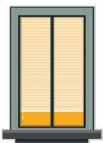
You might not be able to keep your eyes on your children every minute this summer while they're roaming around the neighborhood having fun. So teach them how to keep themselves safe, especially around electricity.

- **The most important lesson about outdoor electrical safety: Never touch a power line.** A downed line might seem like it is dead, but chances are good it's still energized. Touching it with a hand, a toy or a stick could electrocute someone.
- If a kite, balloon or another toy is caught in an overhead power line, do not try to dislodge it by throwing shoes or other items at it. Call your electric cooperative to help retrieve the toy.
- Stay far away from overhead power lines while flying kites or using large toys so they don't touch energized lines.
- Do not climb utility poles or trees that are close to power lines.
- Don't post signs, balloons, ribbons or anything else on utility poles or electrical equipment.
- Stay out of electrical substations—even to rescue a pet. Those substations house high-voltage equipment that can electrocute someone.
- Don't touch electrical toys that are in a puddle or floating in a pool.



Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



ALTAMAHA
Electric Membership Corporation
Community Owned • Community Built • Community Builder



Member RECIPES



Italian Pasta Salad

16 oz. fusili pasta, cooked according to package instructions
8 oz. mozzarella balls, halved
4 oz. salami, quartered
2 cups baby spinach
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup artichoke hearts, chopped
1/2 cup pitted black olives, sliced

Dressing Ingredients

1/3 cup olive oil
2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
1 garlic clove, minced
2 tsp. Italian seasoning
1 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley
Pinch red pepper flakes
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

In a large bowl, toss together pasta, mozzarella, salami, spinach, tomatoes, artichokes, and olives. To make the dressing, add olive oil, vinegar, garlic, Italian seasoning, parsley, and red pepper flakes to a jar and secure with a lid then shake to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Dress pasta with dressing and serve.

-From the kitchen of Lisa Williamson

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.