



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

JULY 2019

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

Stay Safe During and After Summer Storms

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Altamaha EMC encourages you to practice safety with these reminders – during *and* after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water — When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

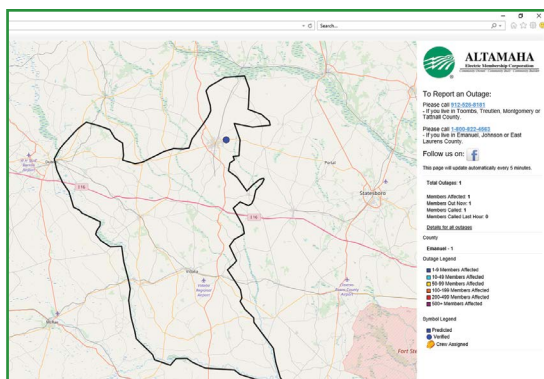
Skip the makeshift shelter — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

Portable generators — Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Flooded areas — Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Altamaha EMC by calling 912-526-8181 immediately.

Electrical equipment — Never use electrical equipment that is wet – especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

Altamaha EMC has served our local community since 1936 and safety for our members is our number one concern. To learn about our safety programs and tips, visit www.altamahaemc.com.



Outage Map Now Available

At Altamaha EMC we continually work towards improving our service to you, our valued members. We are pleased to announce that you can now view outages using our new outage map system. The outage map can be viewed on our website at www.altamahaemc.com or from our mobile app.

Always report all power outages by calling 912-526-8181. Stay away from downed power lines.

Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

Thanks to our members who participate in Operation Round Up, the Altamaha EMC Foundation board awarded \$11,000 to three local nonprofit agencies or schools in March 2019.

The Boys and Girls Club of Laurens and Johnson Counties received a grant to help establish a library and reading room for the members of the Laurens County club located in Dudley.

A grant was awarded to the Special Education Department at East Laurens High School. The funds will be used to furnish a self-contained classroom where students with disabilities learn the necessary skills needed to live more independently and be productive members of the community.

Sav-A-Life Ministry of Dublin received a grant to train nurses in ultrasound technology. The ministry aids women in untimely pregnancies by providing ethical medical services and education.

Interested charitable organizations and agencies can apply for funding by completing the required application which can be found on Altamaha EMC's

website at www.altamahaemc.com. The deadline for the next round of funding is September 6, 2019. For more information, contact Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120.

The Operation Round Up program is a great example of how small change is making a big difference in the lives of so many in need.



Pictured (L-R): Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager; Becky Wood, Sav-A-Life Ministry of Dublin CEO; Mack Griffin, Altamaha EMC Foundation Board President; and Krista Anderson, Altamaha EMC Foundation Director.



Pictured (L-R): Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager; Mike Sweat, Altamaha EMC Director; Krista Anderson, Altamaha EMC Foundation Director; Chip Fleming, ELHS Special Education Teacher; Jennifer Stinson, ELHS Special Education Teacher; Kathy Sweat, Laurens County Board of Education Board Member; Kelly Jones, ELHS Paraprofessional; Mack Griffin, Altamaha EMC Foundation Board President; Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC Foundation Coordinator.



Pictured (L-R): Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager; Krista Anderson, Altamaha EMC Foundation Director; Sandra Clem, Boys and Girls Club of Laurens and Johnson Counties, CEO; and Mack Griffin, Altamaha EMC Foundation Board President.

Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarships Winners



The Altamaha EMC Foundation recently awarded four scholarships to high school seniors embarking on their college journey. These scholarships are funded through Altamaha EMC's Operation Round Up program. Each year, the Foundation awards two scholarships worth \$1,000 each to students planning to attend a 2-year or 4-year college in Georgia and two scholarships also worth \$1,000 each to students planning to further their education at one of Georgia's technical colleges.

The 2019 scholarship winners are: Kirsten Gray of Swainsboro High School, Emily Ely of David Emanuel Academy, Hailey Mullis and Kayla Kittrell of East Laurens High School.

Emily will be attending Southeastern Technical College in the fall. Hailey has been accepted at University of Georgia. Kirsten is planning to attend Reinhardt University. Kayla will be a student at Oconee Fall Line Technical College this fall.

Congratulations to these four students!

Water, Water Everywhere—But Not Near Electricity

On summer days, you're likely to take more showers than usual after swimming, playing outdoor sports or working in the yard. Make sure your bathroom is a safe place.

The bathroom is one of the few places in the home where electrical appliances and water have a great chance to meet—and a great chance to cause electrical shock or death.

If you have children, the bathroom can be a room of hazards—electrical or otherwise—waiting to happen. Try these tips to lessen the danger:

- Use a bathmat with a nonskid bottom and use a nonslip mat or decals on the floor of the tub.

- Keep medications and vitamins in their original containers to avoid confusion, and always choose child-resistant caps. Keep medications and cleaning supplies locked up if there are small children around.

- Make a storage space under the counter and out of the way for hair dryers, curling irons and other electrical appliances that could be hazardous with water contact. Educate children on the dangers of mixing water and electricity.

- Use nightlights in the hallway and bathroom for easy bathroom access at night.

- Don't leave children unattended during bath time. If you have toddlers, use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning.

- Check the temperature of bath water and fully fill the tub before putting children in. Tap water can instantly scald if you let it run too hot. Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to guard against burns, but keep bath water at 100 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

- Use only electrical appliances or cords that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory like UL.



Thank You to Broadband Survey Participants

Thank you to everyone who completed the broadband survey. This data is vital in our efforts as we apply for grants to fund rural broadband in our service area. Everyone who completed a survey, either online or in our office, was entered in a drawing for a \$100 bill credit. The winners are:

Patricia Jones of Lyons

Larry Wilson of Lyons

Richard Guinn of Soperton

Scott Barwick of Swainsboro

Arnetha Gaffney of Lyons

Ida Snell of Swainsboro

Gerret Beasley of Vidalia

Herschel Riner of Swainsboro

Emily Wallis of Emanuel County

Julia Lynch of Vidalia

David Marsh of Emanuel County

Kelvin Harris of Soperton

Flossie Miller of Soperton

Juan Garcia of Swainsboro

Ryan Williams of Swainsboro

Rex Scarboro of Swainsboro

Debra Ford of Vidalia

Denny Riner of Swainsboro

Ronnie Williamson of Soperton

Patricia Burgos of Lyons

The winners will see the \$100 bill credit on their next bill. Congratulations!

Don't Touch That Dial

It's so tempting to turn the thermostat down to freezing cold when you walk into a warm house on a hot day. Don't do it. Setting the thermostat at a very low temperature won't cool your house any faster than setting it on the temperature that you regularly choose to feel comfortable.

In fact, lowering the thermostat beyond the temperature you desire only makes your air conditioner run longer, not faster. You could end up paying more money for an uncomfortably chilly house.

Here are a few other energy-saving tips for summer:

- Install a programmable thermostat, which you can set higher for hours when the house is empty, but lower during your at-home hours. It takes less energy to cool your home when you return than it does to keep it cool while you're gone.
- Set the thermostat at 78 degrees. You'll save about 15 percent on your cooling bill over a 72-degree setting, while remaining comfortable.
- Keep lamps and other heat-emitting devices—like TVs and large electronics—away from the

thermostat. Most appliances heat up when you use them, which can trick the thermostat into “thinking” the air is warmer than it really is so it should keep running when the house is already cool.

- Letting the morning sunlight into your bedroom will help you wake up naturally, but it will add to your energy bills during the day. Before you leave the house for the day, close your curtains and window shades to keep the sun's heat out.

- If you use room air conditioners, fit them snugly into window frames and close all heating ducts.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: energy.gov



Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Member RECIPES



Lemon Blueberry Mini Cheesecakes

Ingredients:

12 lemon Oreos
2 (8-oz.) blocks cream cheese, softened
3/4 c. powdered sugar
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. lemon zest
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
Pinch of kosher salt
1 1/2 c. heavy cream
1/4 c. blueberry preserves

Directions:

Line a cupcake pan with cupcake liners then place an Oreo into the bottom of each cup. Set aside. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with a hand mixer until smooth, then beat in powdered sugar, lemon juice, lemon zest, vanilla, and salt. Add heavy cream and beat until fluffy and stiff peaks form. Spoon cream cheese mixture over Oreos. Using a small spoon, dollop a small amount of blueberry preserves into the center of each cheesecake. Use a toothpick (or a small skewer) to swirl. Refrigerate until firm, about 4 hours.

-From the kitchen of Cali Mosley

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.