MARCH 2022

Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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

FIBER PROJECT HITS MILESTONE

As of the printing of this newsletter, we have connected our first 100 fiber members! The feedback from these members has been overwhelmingly positive. One member states, "The direct fiber connection to our home allows us to stream our television services with no buffering! We have disconnected our expensive satellite TV service and signed up for a much cheaper streaming service to watch our favorite TV channels, saving us over $100/month."

On the heels of our first 100 fiber members, we are beginning to connect members along Hwy 15 in the area of John's Country Junction and moving South down US Hwy #1 towards Toombs Central School. Some of the areas included are: Cedar Crossing/Vidalia Rd, Collie Williams Rd, Coogan Williams Rd, Four Acre Road, Hidden Hammock Rd, portions of Lawson Rd, Lyons Center Rd, Pinewood Rd, South Thompson Rd, Tom McDonald Rd and Tom Odom Rd.

If you live in the areas described above, please call us today to get more information on our fiber broadband service. You can reach us at 912-526-8181.

Contractors

We are using multiple contractors to help us with the installation of the fiber broadband project. Kennedy Broadband and Trawick Construction are the main contractors working to build the distribution/backbone of the system. You may see their vehicles parked on the side of the road with safety cones out and workers wearing safety vests walking in areas where they cannot drive their vehicles. Not all of the Kennedy and Trawick vehicles are the same, but they will all be clearly marked with their logo and an Altamaha EMC contractor magnet on the side.

In addition to Kennedy and Trawick, we are utilizing the services of other contractors for the drop installations to the homes and the installation of the fiber equipment inside the homes. These vehicles are also marked with an Altamaha EMC contractor magnet.

If you have questions or concerns about anyone claiming to represent Altamaha EMC, please contact us at 912-526-8181.

Improve safety with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detector upgrades

If that old smoke detector, discolored, stained with paint or years of household grime, could send you a message, it might say, "Please replace me." Those lifesaving warning devices designed to alert us to smoke and fire were never meant to last forever.

"The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) suggests replacing smoke detectors every 10 years," says Nicolette Nye, a public affairs specialist with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Both organizations cite sensor degradation rates of 3% per year for their replacement recommendations.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends that a working smoke detector be installed in every bedroom, on every level of a home and in hallways outside of sleeping areas.

Carbon monoxide detectors are designed to sound the alert before carbon monoxide reaches life-threatening levels.

"After 10 years, there would a potential of a 30% failure rate," adds Nye, who also cites a CPSC recommendation that consumers should look for smoke alarms rated or certified by Underwriters Laboratories, which is designated with UL on the device, or Electrical Testing Laboratories, marked with ETL.

Both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are designed with a timeframe or useful lifespan of 10 years, says Shawn Mahoney, an NFPA technical services engineer.

"Once they start to reach their end of life, consumers may notice alarm signals—typically a chirping sound that is either a low battery or an indication of the device's end of life, meaning that it's time the unit was replaced," says Mahoney.

The NFPA recommends that batteries be replaced once a year and urges you to test the unit once a month as an added precaution against failure.

Chirping, prompted by a drained battery, will typically stop within seven days, and when that happens, the unit stops functioning.

"If you're just waiting to hear the sound and not testing regularly, there's a possibility that you're going to miss that, especially if you have battery-only systems," says Mahoney.

According to the CPSC, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors represent good investments in your family's safety, says Nye, emphasizing that both types of devices should be replaced after 10 years.

"Consumers who have working smoke alarms in their homes die in fires at about half the rate of those who do not have alarms," Nye says. "Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home and outside of sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide detectors are designed to sound the alert before carbon monoxide reaches life-threatening levels."

Design improvements are another great reason to consider replacement of older units. Ionization smoke alarms made their debut in the consumer market in 1970. Photoelectric smoke detectors were first patented in 1972, and the first 10-year lithium, battery-powered smoke alarms hit the market in 1995. Since then, units using the best features of all three technologies have become popular.

Many states have also upgraded building codes to require hardwired smoke alarms with battery backup power, and carbon monoxide detectors in all new residential construction.

As fire codes have evolved to require smoke alarms in close proximity to cooking appliances, manufacturers have improved the technology, says Mahoney. "They can distinguish between an actual fire event in the home and cooking fumes, reducing the incidence of nuisance alarms."

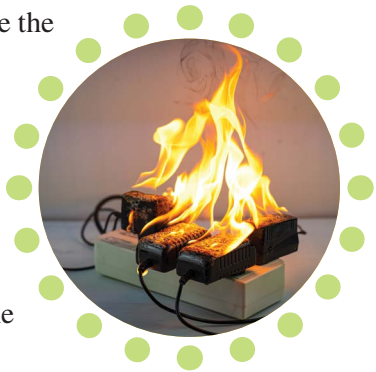
Features for residential alarms and detectors are also available to enhance the safety of the hearing impaired, says Nye, adding that those include bed shakers and strobe lights offering another level of alert to fire or carbon monoxide danger.

Limit the number of appliances in a single outlet

How many appliances do you have plugged into the power strip in your TV room?

Take note: Each of those electronics uses a lot of electricity, so if you power up all of them at once, you could be overloading an electrical circuit. That's because even though each plug goes into a separate socket on the power strip, the power strip itself is plugged into a single outlet.

And if you have plugged another power strip into another one to increase the number of appliances you can power from that single outlet, you could be setting yourself up for trouble.



At a minimum, you could trip the circuit connected to that single outlet. Worst case, you could start a fire by overloading that circuit. If your circuits are overloaded, it's time to call a licensed electrician to upgrade the home's electrical system so it can keep up with the demands new technology places on it.

Here's how to tell if your home's circuits are overloaded, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- Lights are flickering, blinking or dimming.
- Electrical receptacles on the walls are warm to the touch or have become discolored.
- You smell a burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches.
- Circuits trip on a regular basis.

Here are some guidelines that could help you avoid overloading your circuits:

- Do not plug large appliances into extension cords or power strips. They need an outlet all to themselves.
- Get rid of extension cords. They're meant for temporary use—not permanent. Don't plug year-round devices like lamps or TVs up to extension cords.
- Notice how many extension cords you use. If it's a lot, that could be a signal that you don't have enough outlets. An electrician can add more.
- Don't mistake a power strip for extra juice. All a power strip does is allow you to plug more devices into a single outlet. Doing that can overload that outlet.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

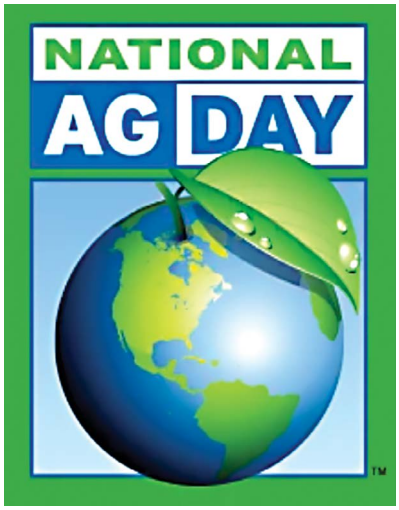
Source: Dept. of Energy

National Ag Day

March 22 is National Agriculture Day! American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It's the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation, made possible by the hard work of America's farms and farm families who lead the way in preservation and innovation for the health of our planet.

Each American farmer feeds more than 165 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Quite simply, American agriculture is doing more - and doing it better. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States. Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis.

Today and every day, we recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture. We appreciate all those who keep us fed and clothed no matter what obstacles are thrown their way.



Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

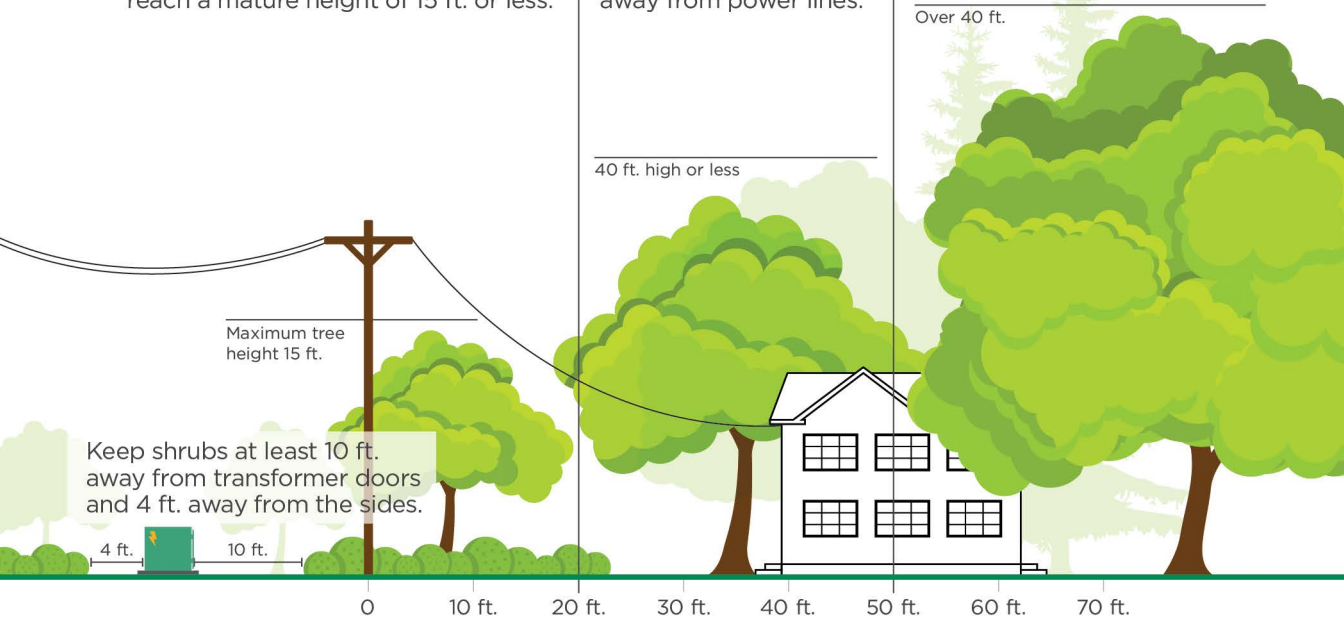
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



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

Member RECIPES

Blueberry Buckle

Ingredients

Crumble Topping

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup granulated sugar
4 tbsp. melted butter
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
Pinch of kosher salt

Cake

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tbsp. baking powder
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
4 tbsp. butter, softened to room temperature
1 large egg
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 cup buttermilk
2 cups blueberries

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 8-inch square pan with non-stick cooking spray and line with parchment paper. Make Crumble: In medium bowl mix all ingredients together until no dry spots remain. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. In a medium bowl, beat to combine butter, sugars, egg, and vanilla. Alternate adding buttermilk and dry ingredients into sugar mixture until both are used. Gently fold in blueberries until just combined and transfer to prepared baking pan. Add crumble mix on top of batter in an even layer. Bake 40 - 45 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool before serving.

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.