



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

SEPTEMBER 2017

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

EASY PAY OPTIONS

To make paying your electric bill easier and faster, we offer a variety of payment options for our members. Choose the one that works best for you. All payment options are available at no extra charge.

AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT & CREDIT/DEBIT CARD DRAFT

Have your monthly bill automatically deducted from your checking account or charged to your credit/debit card every month.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENT

Pay your monthly electric bill with the ease of your home computer. Simply logon to www.altamahaemc.com and click on the Pay Bill link. Online payments can be made using your checking account (E-check) or your credit/debit card.

PAY-BY-PHONE

Using our automated phone service, you can pay your bill using a credit/debit card or e-check. Remember to have your electric account number available when you call.

LEVELIZED BILLING

Levelized billing brings your highest bills down and your lowest bills up to about the same level each month. The levelized bill will be based on your average energy use for the most recent 12 months. The bill amount will not be the same each month, but will increase or decrease slightly as your usage pattern changes. The real benefit to you will be to prevent extreme fluctuations in payments due to seasonal increases and decreases in power used. Call our office today for more information.

NIGHT DEPOSIT BOXES

For added convenience after normal business hours, payments can be dropped in the night deposit boxes at our Lyons, Soperton and Swainsboro offices.

PAYMENT KIOSK

We now have payment kiosks at all three of our offices. The kiosks can be used to make payments on your account 24



hours a day, seven days a week. Cash, checks and credit/debit cards (Mastercard and Visa only) are accepted at the kiosks. The kiosks accept payments for regular electric accounts and pre-pay accounts. If you plan to use the kiosk on a regular basis, you can request a printed card from us that you can scan to access your account each time you visit the kiosk.

PAY IN PERSON

Our offices are open for your convenience from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

All three locations have a drive-thru window for added convenience. As an added convenience to our members, the drive-thru window at our Lyons office is open until Midnight Monday-Friday.

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT

Your monthly electric bill contains an envelope that you can use to mail your payment to Altamaha EMC.

**Our Lyons Office
Drive-thru window
is open 8am - midnight
Monday - Friday**

For more information on any of our convenient payment options, please call us today at 912-526-8181.



Student Leaders Participate in Enlightening Co-op Conference

Brittany Braddy of Mount Vernon represented Altamaha EMC at the 2017 Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference this summer. The conference is an educational experience for students to engage in real-world experiences that help them learn about both cooperatives and themselves. The conference is sponsored by electric cooperatives across Georgia, including Altamaha EMC and aims to teach practical leadership skills and encourage students to lead positive change in their local communities.

In addition to educational sessions, students participated in mud courses, ropes courses and training exercises. They learned from one another and collectively discovered the best methods for overcoming a variety of obstacles. The competitive atmosphere encouraged lively problem-solving and creative solutions.

The adventures went beyond the campsite as well; students visited Walton EMC's Community Solar Installation and Godfrey Dairy, a Dairy Farmers of America member. Back indoors, students participated in a personality assessment seminar as well as a Congressional Insight workshop facilitated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The latter pro-

vided a view of the skills needed to be an effective member of Congress and provided examples of the variety of responsibilities placed upon legislators and a glimpse of the important relationship between legislators and citizens.

To hear different perspectives from different co-ops, the group was joined by representatives from electric cooperatives across Georgia, NRECA, Southern States, Farm Credit Associations and Dairy Farmers of America. Students also had the opportunity to spend time with Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black.

Brittany is a senior at Montgomery County High School. She summed up her conference experience by saying, "This camp has given me a new perspective on leadership, new lifelong friends and a new found appreciation for cooperatives." Brittany earned the honor of being chosen by fellow students as one of two students invited to return to next year's conference to serve as a member of the camp staff.

The 2017 Cooperative Youth Conference was made possible by generous support from the electric cooperatives of Georgia, Georgia Cooperative Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Take Time to Reap a Safe Harvest

It can be an exciting and exhausting time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Each year, dozens of farm workers are killed and hundreds are injured in accidents involving power lines and electrical equipment.

“Things people see every day can fade from view during the hustle and bustle of harvest time making it easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead,” says Jay Pittman, Safety Director for Altamaha EMC. “But failure to notice them can be a deadly oversight.”

Harvest time is the perfect time to review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below and to the side – a 360-degree rule.

“Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it’s only a few feet,” says Pittman. “Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result. Also use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck.”

Farm workers should take these steps to ensure a safe harvest season:

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.
- As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don’t use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside bins. Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there’s fire or imminent risk of fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury.

For more information on farm electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org (Spanish versions of this information are also available on the website).



2017 Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars for the 2017 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 2:30 PM at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. All members are invited to attend.

In addition to the annual financial reports, election of three seats on the Board of Directors and the general business session, many prizes will be given away. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on November 1st.

What's that hissing sound?

If you hear a hissing sound and don't have a cat, check your electricity. Damaged wires and outlets can hiss when something's wrong—just like the cat. But hissing electricity is much more dangerous than your pet. Check your cords and outlets regularly to prevent an electrical accident. Some tips:

- When electrical cords are damaged, worn, cracked or corroded, the chances of fire or power surges increase significantly. Check for loose or improper connections, cracked wire insulation, chewed electrical wiring or frayed appliance or electrical cords. Call a licensed electrician to fix wiring problems; electricity is not a do-it-yourself project.

- Use common sense: Avoid plugging anything into an electrical outlet near a water source. But did you know that even plugging a cellphone in too close to water can create a hazard if it falls into a tub or sink

and you stick your hand in to retrieve it? You could get shocked.



- Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? To douse an electrical fire, which usually start because of faulty wires or outlets, you need one. Never throw water onto an electrical fire; it can electrocute you.

- Child-proof all electrical outlets within reach of small children. Insert outlet covers where the prongs of an appliance go. That will prevent toddlers from sticking fingers and other objects into the sockets.

- Cramping too many plugs into a power strip and plugging it into an outlet that's not sturdy enough for the load can cause the outlet to overheat and the circuit to trip. If you need more outlets, hire a licensed electrician to solve your problem.





Member RECIPES



Frozen Fruit Salad

- 1 can Eagle Brand Condensed milk
- 1 large tub Cool Whip
- 1 large can crushed pineapple (drained)
- 2 cups chopped frozen strawberries
- 2 cups chopped frozen peaches
- 1 cup chopped seedless grapes
- 3 sliced bananas
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Directions

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Pour into a molded pan or loaf pans, or you can leave it in the bowl you mixed it in. Freeze overnight. Turn pan/bowl upside down on plate, slice and serve. Delicious!

*—From the kitchen of
Sandra Whitaker*

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.