



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC | Fiber



*Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnal*

## Altamaha EMC Urges Dove Hunters to Avoid Firing Near Power and Fiber-Optic Lines

As dove-hunting season approaches, Altamaha EMC is reminding hunters about the hazards of firing at doves perched on power lines and fiber-optic lines. Power lines are popular roosting spots for doves, which typically congregate on the lines while taking a break from flying or before descending to the ground to feed. This makes them easy targets.

Though it may be tempting to shoot at a bird while it is sitting on a line, firing at power lines is always a bad idea. Shooting in the direction of power lines, fiber cables, insulators, and other electrical equipment can result in extensive damage that could cost thousands of dollars to repair. Such unnecessary costs take funds away from other projects and even lead to higher utility bills. Damage to equipment also could leave businesses and homes without power and internet for extended periods of time.

Fiber-optic cable runs adjacent to and beneath the electric lines. Optical fibers are protected by glass tubing, which shatters when shot and can disrupt phone and internet service. On opening day of dove season last year, a main fiber cable was shot in Clarkesville-based Habersham EMC's service area. The outage affected 120 members, including internet users who were without service until repairs could be made. That same afternoon, another fiber cable was shot, and the next day, a third fiber cable was damaged.

Central Georgia EMC in Jackson experienced 15 incidents of shooting damage in the 2022 and 2023 hunting seasons. The co-op is still gathering the construction, labor, and material costs for replacing the damaged fiber, but splicing costs alone have surpassed \$27,000, with the cost of labor and materials predicted to far exceed that.

"Fiber repairs are expensive and can be tedious, as a strand of fiber is about as thick as a strand of

hair. So, when you start splicing fiber to repair a damaged section, you must perfectly match and fuse two strands of hair on each end of the section being replaced," says George McLendon, Manager of Altamaha EMC. "For a 96-count fiber line, two crews—one at each end of the replaced section—will make a total of 192 splices, taking six to eight hours to complete."

There is also the risk of physical harm to oneself and others. Damaged power lines can produce high-voltage arcs that can ignite surrounding vegetation and start a fire. Plus, a downed line may electrocute people on the ground.

"When it comes to safety, hunters should always keep a reasonable distance from power lines and electrical equipment. A wise preventive measure would be to note in advance the location of power lines and other electrical equipment on the property where dove hunting will take place, especially in densely wooded areas where power lines are hard to see," McLendon says.

Damaging electrical equipment violates Georgia law, which states that anyone who "knowingly and without authority and by force or violence interferes with the operation of any system of public communication, public transportation, sewerage, drainage, water supply, gas, power or other public utility service or with any constituent property thereof" could face criminal charges and/or be held liable for the cost of repairs.

Although most hunters are committed to safety, gunfire damage to power lines and fiber lines is a growing issue statewide. To help ensure a safe and successful dove-hunting season, Altamaha EMC urges hunters to remain aware of the dangers involved and the damage caused by firing at birds perched on power lines and fiber lines.

# Operation RoundUp Spotlight: Supporting Local Communities



Altamaha EMC is excited to announce two recent grants awarded through our Operation Roundup program, aimed at supporting local organizations that positively impact our communities. This quarter, we spotlight grants given to the Emanuel County 4-H program and the Dream Center in Vidalia.



## ***Emanuel County 4-H Program Receives \$3,000 Grant***

The Emanuel County 4-H program has been awarded a \$3,000 grant to assist with the cost of summer camp for several campers. Georgia 4-H's mission is to help youth acquire knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes that enable them to become productive, contributing members of

society. This is achieved through hands-on learning experiences in areas such as agriculture, leadership, communication, health, and citizenship.

As a branch of the University of Georgia and UGA Extension Emanuel County, 4-H fosters leadership, public speaking, citizenship, and community service among youth. This grant will ensure more young people can participate in the enriching experiences offered at 4-H camp, promoting personal growth and community involvement.

## ***Dream Center in Vidalia Receives \$2,500 Grant***

The Dream Center in Vidalia has been awarded a \$2,500 grant to support their work with women struggling with chemical and behavioral addictions. The Voice of Grace Dream Center is a six to nine-month residential program designed to help women 18 and older achieve freedom from addiction through heart transformations in and through Jesus Christ.

Since March 2012, the Dream Center has provided a safe environment for women to begin their healing process. The center's mission is to help women become spiritually alive, emotionally whole, physically healthy, and socially active. With a Christ-centered staff, the Dream Center aims to produce graduates who are true disciples of Christ, defined by their future and not their past.

This grant will help the Dream Center continue providing crucial support and resources to women in need, enabling them to transform their lives and become contributing members of society.



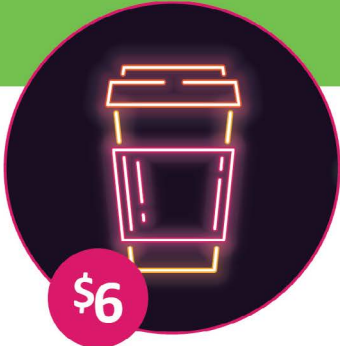
Altamaha EMC is honored to support these organizations and their missions. Through Operation Roundup, we give back to our community and make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Thank you to our members who contribute to this program, making these grants possible. Together, we are building a brighter future for our community.

# Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



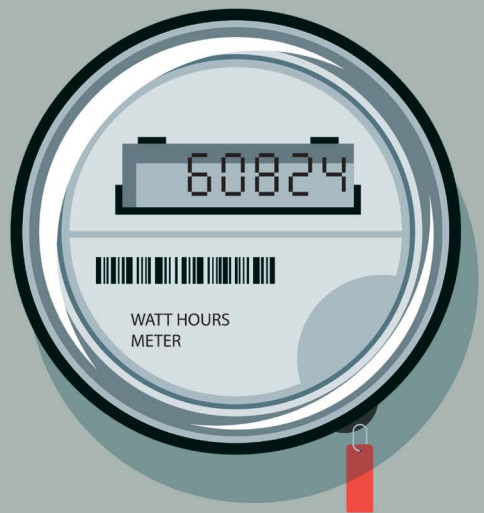
All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

## 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.

# Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

*Altamaha EMC will hold its 2024 annual meeting at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Official notice of the time, date and place will be provided to each member in advance of the meeting. Director elections will be held at the annual meeting for District 1, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Toombs and Tattnall Counties; District 2 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Treutlen County and District 4 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Emanuel County. The following is a summary of the provisions of the cooperative's bylaws pertaining to the process for election of directors:*

## **Section 3.03 Qualifications of Directors.**

Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election. Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence. May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the cooperative. May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the cooperative. May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. May not be the incumbent or candidate for a salaried elective public office. May not have been convicted of a felony.

## **Section 3.04 Nominations by Nominating Committee.**

The Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee comprised of independent members of the cooperative. The nominating committee meets not less than sixty five (65) days prior to the annual meeting and nominates one or more candidates for the directorships that are to be filled at the annual meeting. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and the meeting date for the committee will be provided to the members prior to their meeting and shall be posted at the cooperative's headquarters.

## **Section 3.05 Nominations by petition.**

Other nominations for director elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than one hundred (100) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than forty five (45) days prior to such meeting.

## **Section 3.06 Posting of the notice of nominees.**

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

## **Section 3.07 Restrictions on Other Nominations.**

Except in the event that all candidates nominated by the nominating committee and petition are deceased, or withdrawn in writing from candidacy prior to the election, no other nominations shall be in order.

## **Section 3.08 Election procedures.**

Directors shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members from the applicable voting district, or those authorized to vote for them pursuant to Section 2.05 of these bylaws as set out below, at the meeting in which the election is to be held. Should two or more candidates tie for the highest vote, then run-off ballots shall be taken among them.

## **Section 2.05 Representation of Members.**

Unless it is made to appear otherwise by writing executed by the member and filed with the Secretary or his designate prior to a meeting of the members, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the primary residential abode of the member, who presents himself or herself to the Secretary, or his designated registrar(s), prior to a meeting of the members, as a representative of such member, shall be deemed to act and vote for the member he purports to represent and in as full and ample manner as if the member had been present and personally acting at the meeting. The presence of the member purported to be represented by such person shall, however, revoke the authority hereby created and only the member shall be entitled to act and vote at such meeting. Except as is expressly provided for herein, no other person shall have the authority to represent, act or vote for any member at a meeting of the members.

## **Section 2.07 Credentials and Election Committee.**

Section 2.07 of the bylaws provides for a committee of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) independent members to oversee the nominating, registration and election processes and to resolve disputes relating to same.

**2024 Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on August 20, 2024. This committee consists of the following members: Chris Hopkins, Robert Jones, Gary J. Walden, Chris Braddy, Zac Frye, and Russ Yeomans.



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# Member RECIPES

## Georgia Summer Gazpacho

### INGREDIENTS

1 cucumber  
2 pounds ripe, fresh tomatoes  
1/4 Vidalia onion  
1 Anaheim pepper or 1/2 medium red bell pepper (or any other mild pepper except for green bell pepper; something with a tiny bit of heat provides balance but isn't necessary)  
1 clove garlic  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons red wine vinegar  
1/4 cup infused sunflower oil  
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil



### DIRECTIONS

Peel cucumber and cut into chunks. Halve and core tomatoes, and cut into chunks. Peel Vidalia onion and cut into chunks. Halve pepper, remove seeds and stem, and cut into chunks. Peel garlic. Put cucumbers, tomatoes, onion, pepper and garlic into a blender and blend on high for at least 2 minutes or until the mixture is smooth and dark pink. With the blender still running, add salt and red wine vinegar. In a slow and steady stream, drizzle in the oils, and blend until mixture is airy and emulsified. It will turn bright orange. Chill until mixture is cool, about 3-6 hours. Serving options: Drizzle with olive oil and a touch of red wine vinegar, and top with chives, dill or basil, halved cherry tomatoes, toasted crusty baguette or croutons. Can be served in tall glasses for sipping or in soup bowls. Serves 4-6.

*-Courtesy of Georgia Grown*