



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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MARCH 2025

BE READY FOR STORM SEASON

Preparedness is the Best Defense

My fellow members,

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life. Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Colquitt EMC crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from

potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Colquitt EMC's website, Facebook and Instagram for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on social media. Call our outage reporting number at 1-855-293-1804, or report via Colquitt EMC's mobile app or online portal – this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out!

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Colquitt EMC, we recommend that you make a plan today—because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

Sincerely,

Danny Nichols, *President/CEO*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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SPRING CLEANING FOR A GREENER HOME

Spring is in the air! Birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and it's the perfect time to give your home a good cleaning. But spring cleaning isn't just about making things look nice. It's also a great opportunity to boost your home's energy efficiency and save some money on your utility bills. Think of it as spring cleaning for your wallet!

Here's a checklist of simple tasks that can make a big difference:

HVAC Heroes: Your heating and cooling system works hard to keep you comfortable. Show it some love! Start by changing your air filter. A dirty filter makes your system work harder and uses more energy. While you're at it, schedule a professional service for your air conditioner. They'll clean the coils and blower blades, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Don't forget about your refrigerator! Cleaning the coil on the back or bottom of your fridge will help it run more efficiently.

Laundry and Vents: A clogged dryer vent is a fire hazard and wastes energy. Cleaning the vent hose will help your dryer work faster and safer. This simple task can save you money and give you peace of mind.

Sealing Up Savings: Drafty doors and windows let valuable energy escape. Check the weather stripping around your doors and replace any damaged or missing pieces. This will help keep the cool air in during the summer and the warm air in during the winter.

Fan-tastic Savings: Ceiling fans can help you save energy year-round. In the summer, they circulate the air, making you feel cooler and allowing you to raise your thermostat a few degrees. But dusty fan blades aren't very efficient. Give them a good wipe down to ensure they're working their best.

Outdoor Efficiency: Just like indoor

maintenance, outdoor upkeep can save energy too. Cut back any bushes or plants that are growing too close to your outdoor air conditioning unit. This will improve airflow and help your AC run more efficiently.

Let the Sunshine In: Clean windows aren't just pretty; they also let more natural light into your home. This "daylighting" reduces your need for artificial lights, saving energy.

Water Heater Wisdom: Your water heater works hard to provide you with hot showers and clean dishes. Draining the tank once a year helps remove sediment that can make it less efficient.

Drip, Drip, Save: Leaky faucets and toilets waste a surprising amount of water and can drive up your water bill. Replacing worn washers and seats on leaky faucets and the flapper on leaky toilets are easy DIY projects that can save you money.

Gasket Goodness: The gaskets around your refrigerator, freezer, and dishwasher doors help seal in the cold and keep warm air out. Clean these gaskets regularly and replace them if they're damaged. A good seal means less energy wasted.

Screen Saviors: Damaged window and door screens let bugs in and force you to keep your windows closed, even when the weather is nice. Repairing or replacing damaged screens allows you to open your windows and enjoy fresh air without the unwanted guests.

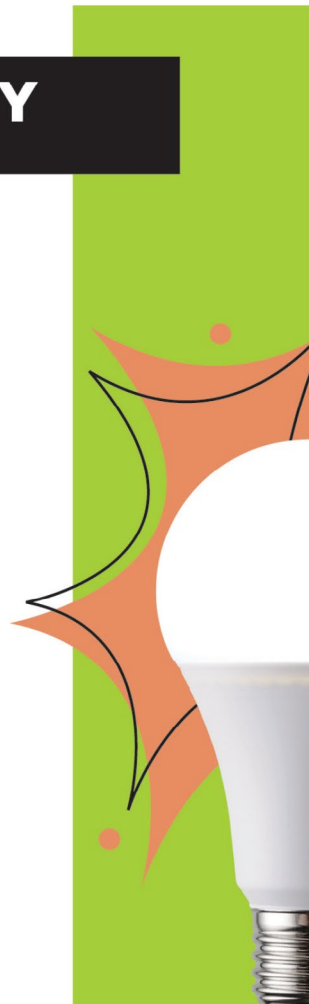
By tackling these spring cleaning tasks, you'll not only have a sparkling clean home, but you'll also be saving energy and money. It's a win-win! So, grab your cleaning supplies and get started. Your home and your wallet will thank you.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

In compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-12-236 of "The Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act" of Georgia, Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation is attempting to locate former members and heirs whose capital credit checks were issued December 1, 2019 for electrical service received in 1998, but which have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or have been otherwise unclaimed.

A current list of these members, with their last known address, is available to view on Colquitt EMC's Website. Please call your local office if you are listed. The last possible date to claim these funds is June 30, 2025. All funds not claimed by this date will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by Georgia Law (OCGA Section 44-12-236).



LOCAL STUDENT TO COMPETE AT STATE AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION CDE COMPETITION

The FFA South Region Area 5 Agricultural Electrification CDE Competition took place on February 11. A Colquitt County FFA student will move forward to compete at the state competition in March.

Aaron Dunn of Colquitt County High School placed first at the Area 5 competition and will move on to compete at the State CDE in March at the FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington.

The overall objective of the Agricultural Electrification Career Development Event (CDE) is to promote and expand educational programs in electrification for students enrolled in agricultural education. To achieve this objective, CDE reinforces the classroom instruction and FFA supervised activity projects in three stages – a problem solving exercise, practical wiring exercise and an oral demonstration.

Colquitt EMC is proud to partner with our local FFA programs! ***Good luck at the next competition Aaron!***

COMING SOON! COLQUITT EMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



Colquitt EMC Scholarship Applications Available April 1 – June 15! Applicants must:

- Reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC Member
- Be enrolled in a college or technical college with campus locations/degree offerings within Colquitt EMC's service area.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Submit a complete application with two letters of recommendation, proof of enrollment and transcript.

Undergraduate and graduate students may apply. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible. Applications will be available at colquittemc.com April 1 and will be due June 15.

If you have any questions regarding the Colquitt EMC Scholarship, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.

Recipe OF THE MONTH



Spinach Dip

INGREDIENTS

1 (10 oz) package frozen spinach, thawed and drained
1 cup sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
1 (1 oz) package onion soup mix
1 (8 oz) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped (optional)
½ chopped onion
Round loaf of bread, hollowed out (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Thaw and drain the spinach. Squeeze the spinach with paper towels to remove excess water. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl. Let set in the fridge for a couple hours before serving. Scoop dip into hollowed out loaf of bread. Serve with crackers and fresh vegetables.

Church of the Month



First Baptist Church of Quitman

509 W. Screven St. • Quitman, GA
Pastor Steve Shierling

Service Schedule

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Morning Worship	11 AM
Sunday Evening Bible Study	5:30 PM
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246 with your church's information or email marketing@colquittemc.com. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

~ 1 John 4:18