



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Hurricane Season extends from June 1 to November 30. Below are ways to help you and your household get prepared for the upcoming season.

Know Your Risk: Water & Wind

The first step of preparing for hurricanes is to know your risk. Find out today what types of water and wind hazards could happen where you live. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Impacts from wind and water can be felt hundreds of miles inland, and significant impacts can occur regardless of the storm's strength. Know if you live in an area prone to flooding, if you live in an evacuation zone, and identify any structural weaknesses in your home.

- Consider your threats: storm surge, flooding from heavy rain, strong winds, tornadoes, rip currents
- Determine if you live in a flood prone area
- Find out if you live in an evacuation zone
- Identify your home's structural risks (mobile homes & basements can be especially vulnerable)

Prepare Before Hurricane Season

The best time to prepare for hurricanes is BEFORE hurricane season begins. Avoid having to rush through potentially life-saving preparations by waiting until it's too late. Get your disaster supplies while the shelves are still stocked, and get that insurance checkup early, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.

- Develop an evacuation plan
- Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash
- Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions
- Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts
- Strengthen your home

Understand Forecast Information

Prepare for hurricane season by knowing how to understand forecasts. They can tell you a lot about what is expected, including the storm's paths, rainfall amounts, wind speeds, and more. There is a lot of information available days ahead of a storm, and it is important to understand what it means.

- Rely on forecasts from the National Hurricane Center & your local NWS office
- Know your alerts & the difference between a Watch and Warning
- Focus on potential impacts, regardless of storm size or category
- Know that deadly hazards occur well outside of the Forecast Cone

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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SMART THERMOSTATS CAN MAKE YOUR AFFORDABLE COOLING DREAMS COME TRUE

Are you losing sleep over high cooling bills? Has rising summertime energy use become a nightmare? Lowering cooling costs isn't just a dream but can be a reality with the help of smart thermostat technology.

How Smart Thermostats Reduce Energy Consumption

Smart thermostats can optimize your HVAC system's operation, ensuring it runs only when needed and at the most efficient settings. Here's how they achieve this:

- **Learning Your Habits:** Many smart thermostats learn your daily routines and temperature preferences over time. They automatically adjust the temperature based on when you're typically home, asleep, or away, eliminating unnecessary heating or cooling of an empty house.
- **Scheduling:** You can create customized heating and cooling schedules for different days and times, ensuring energy isn't wasted heating or cooling an empty home during the day.
- **Geofencing:** Some smart thermostats utilize your smartphone's location to detect when you leave or approach your home. When you're away, the thermostat can automatically set to an energy-saving mode, and it can begin adjusting the temperature to your preferred setting as you get closer to home.
- **Remote Control:** With a smart thermostat, you can control your home's temperature from anywhere using a smartphone app.
- **Energy Usage Reports:** Many smart thermostats provide detailed reports on your energy consumption, allowing you to track your usage patterns and identify opportunities for further savings.
- **Integration with Smart Home Systems:** Smart thermostats can often integrate with other smart home devices and platforms like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple HomeKit. Allowing voice control.
- **Occupancy Sensors:** Some advanced models feature built-in occupancy sensors or support external sensors that detect which rooms are in use.

Consider investing in a smart thermostat to make your dreams of affordable cooling comfort come true.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Some scammers will pose as utility workers or contractors affiliated with your electric utility by knocking on your door and claiming to be employed or hired by the utility company. They may claim they were hired to reset, repair, replace or inspect your electric meter or other utility-related device. If a utility employee or authorized contractor needs access to your home, we will schedule an appointment in advance, and proper identification will be provided for your review.

Source: *Utilities United
Against Scams*



BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE



Bright Ideas Grant Applications are available at colquitemc.com June 1-August 1. Bright Ideas awards teachers money for innovative lessons and projects to energize student learning. The Bright Ideas Program awards grants of up to \$1,000 to winning teachers. Public and private school teachers teaching grades K-12 in any subject area are eligible to apply. Schools in the areas that Colquitt EMC serves may submit more than one application. However, teachers are eligible to submit only one application per school year. The grants are not for professional development. The deadline for Bright Ideas Grant Applications is August 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.

HURRICANE SEASON FROM FRONT

Get Moving When a Storm Threatens

Do you know what to do when a storm threatens? Prepare for hurricane season by taking the time now to understand the actions needed when time is of the essence.

- Protect your home: cover windows, secure doors & loose items
- Determine sheltering options and consider your pets
- Ready your go-bag, meds & supplies, charge phone, fill up/charge vehicle
- Help your neighbors, especially the elderly and other vulnerable people
- Follow evacuation orders if given

Stay Protected During Storms

Be prepared for hurricane season by knowing what to do during a storm. Whether you've evacuated or are sheltering in place, know what to expect from the hazards you may face. Remain vigilant, stay up to date with the latest forecasts and alerts, and continue to listen to local officials.

- Stay in your safe places from water & wind
- Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates
- Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast
- Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate

Use Caution After Storms

A key part of hurricane preparedness is understanding the dangers that remain well after a storm. This is NOT the time to put your guard down. Nearly half of hurricane fatalities occur after the storm.

- If you evacuated, only return home when directed it's safe to do so
- Remain vigilant, as hazards remain: heat, downed powerlines, floodwaters & more
- Clean up safely: don't push yourself, and check on neighbors
- Only use generators outdoors, 20+ feet from your home
- Prepare for the likelihood that help, and communications may not be available

Take Action Today

Are you ready for hurricane season? Act TODAY to be better prepared for when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes and begin pre-season preparations now. Make sure you understand how to interpret forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during, and after a storm. Even if you feel ready, there may be additional things you could do or learn.

- Determine your risk from water & wind
- Begin preparing now, before a storm
- Learn how to understand hurricane forecasts and alerts
- Learn what to do before, during and after a storm



Recipe OF THE MONTH



Bruschetta

INGREDIENTS

1 baguette, cut in half lengthwise and toasted
2 teaspoons minced garlic
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
2 ½ cups minced Roma tomatoes
1/3 cup thinly sliced fresh basil
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper

DIRECTIONS

In a medium mixing bowl, add the tomatoes, garlic, basil, vinegar, olive oil, cheese, salt and pepper. Mix thoroughly and let sit for at least 15 minutes at room temperature to let the flavors marinate. Slice the bread into individual pieces and spoon the mixture on top.

Church of the Month



Park Avenue Methodist Church

100 E. Park Ave. • Valdosta, GA 31602

Rev. Jimmy Towson

Service Schedule

8:55 AM – Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
10 AM – Sunday School
11 AM – Contemporary Worship in
Worship Center

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@colquittermc.com. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

~ James 3:13