



COLQUITT EMC NewsLINE

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SEPTEMBER 2026

1 9 3 6 THIS MONTH IN 1936

- Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) on the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona begins operation.
- The first transatlantic “ping-ping” round-trip air flight from New York to England and back begins, piloted by Dick Merrill with Harry Richman.
- Chicago Public Schools begins using radio broadcasts for distance education due to a polio outbreak.
- Lou Gehrig plays his 1,500th consecutive game for the New York Yankees.
- Radio is used for the first time in a presidential campaign



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER?

Colquitt EMC is ready to respond when a storm hits our service area. We would like to encourage all members to be ready, too. A little planning now can make a big difference later!

- Build an emergency kit with essentials, like water, non-perishable foods, batteries, medications and flashlights.
- Only operate portable generators outside, away from doors, windows and vents.
- Charge phones, backup batteries and essential medical devices before storms move into the area.
- Report power outages via mobile app, outage line or online portal. Our outage map is available on our website and mobile app.
- Treat all downed lines as energized and dangerous. Never approach, touch or drive over a downed line. Stay at least 50 feet away and call 911.

For more ways to prepare for severe weather, visit ready.gov.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Save the Date

OCTOBER 20-22, 2026

SPENCE FIELD • MOULTRIE, GA

CEMC'S 90TH ANNUAL MEETING • LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

NOVEMBER 3, 2026 DRIVE-THRU: 9AM - 1PM SPENCE FIELD IN MOULTRIE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Account # _____

Member's Signature _____

Including myself, you may plan on _____ person(s) for lunch.

Deadline for drive-thru lunch reservations is October 20, 2026. (Limit 3 meals per member)

2026 BOARD CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee of Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation met Tuesday, June 2, 2026, and nominated the following individuals whose names will be placed on the ballot and voted on by the Colquitt EMC membership prior to the November 3, 2026, Annual Meeting:

In addition to nominations made by the Nominating Committee, any 50 or more members may make nominations by petition. The deadline to receive nominations by petition was August 7, 2026. Members vote for directors via mail with election results presented at the Annual Meeting*.

**The Colquitt EMC Bylaws allow for district director elections. This means that only members who will be voting for director positions are those who have memberships in the districts (counties) of the directors who are up for election.*

District 2 - Brooks County
Patti Price Niewoehner

District 3 - Berrien County
Ben Griner
Clay Davis

District 4 - Cook County
Derry Bennett
Tony Marshall

(See biographies inside.)

ABOUT OUR 2026 BOARD CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 2 – BROOKS COUNTY

Patti Price Niewoehner

- Serving Brooks County on Colquitt EMC Board of Directors since 2017
- Former Chairman and Vice Chairman of Colquitt EMC Board of Directors
- Holds Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- Graduate of Valdosta State University, Bachelor of Business Administration & Marketing
- 25+ years Professional Career in the Agricultural Chemical Industry
- Manages day-to-day operations of family farm
- Holds Operational Excellence Certification with Six Sigma
- Former President of Wiregrass Camellia Society
- Former Treasurer of Georgia Citrus Association
- Member of Quitman United Methodist Church



DISTRICT 3 – BERRIEN COUNTY

Ben Griner

- Serving Berrien County on Colquitt EMC Board of Directors since 2020
- Current Secretary/Treasurer of Colquitt EMC Board of Directors
- Holds Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- Owner/Operator of Griner Farms, LLC in West Berrien
- Maintenance Manager at Chaparral Boats, Inc.
- Graduate of Berrien High School and Wiregrass Technical College
- Holds Machine Tool Technology Degree and Electrical Training
- Certified Volunteer Fireman with the West Berrien Volunteer Fire Department since 1999
- Member, Councilman, and Building Committee Member of Tift Avenue Church of God



Clay Davis

- Graduate of Berrien County High School – Class of 2003
- Owner/Operator of 4D Farms since 2003
- Row-crop and cattle farmer
- Member of the Berrien County Farm Bureau
- Member of the Berrien County Young Farmers
- Fire Chief of the Nashville Fire Department since 2020
- Husband of Andrea Davis and father of two daughters, Sawyer and Jencey
- Member of Flat Creek Baptist Church



DISTRICT 4 – COOK COUNTY

Derry Bennett

- Graduate of Cook High School – Class of 1986
- President of Cook County Farm Bureau since 2013; active member for 30 years
- Cook County DFACS Board for over 21 years
- County Supervisor of Alapaha Soil & Water Conservation District
- Member of Cook County Board of Equalization since 2010
- Auctioneer/Real Estate Broker since 2000
- Owner of Grain Growers, LLC
- Farmer for 30 years farming row crops, pecans, hay and cattle
- Member of Cook County Young Farmers
- Member of Antioch Church in Cook County



Tony Marshall

- Graduate of Cook High School – Class of 1978
- Graduate of Valdosta State College: BBA, Accounting - 1983
- Attended Valdosta Technical College: Obtained Electrical Certification - 1985
- Obtained Georgia Unrestricted Master Electrical License - 1998
- Owner and Operator of A & M Electric, Inc. - 2002-Present
- 41 Years Experience in Electrical Industry
- Pastor, Primitive Baptist Churches



HONORING OUR HISTORY.

ENERGIZING OUR FUTURE.

CELEBRATING ALL YEAR LONG!

WHERE IS MY HOME LOSING ENERGY?

The big picture: If your electric bill suddenly seems higher, the first question is not just “How much did I use?” It is “When did I use it—and what was running?” Your home’s biggest energy users are usually heating and cooling, water heating, refrigeration, lighting, and laundry or cooking appliances.

Why it matters: A high bill is often caused by a change in weather, equipment operation, household habits, or a hidden problem—such as an HVAC system running longer than normal, an electric water heater working overtime, a second refrigerator in a garage, or an appliance left on.

Start with your own usage history: Colquitt EMC members can log in and review daily energy use to see patterns. Visit <https://colquitemc.com/energy-management/check-usage-history> to compare usage by date and look for spikes that line up with hot or cold weather, guests, laundry days, equipment trouble, or changes in routine.

Go deeper with a home energy monitor: Plug-in monitors can measure a single appliance, while whole-home monitors track electric use at the panel. They can help confirm whether a freezer, space heater, dehumidifier, pool pump, well pump, or other device is using more electricity than expected.

The top five places to look first: Heating and

cooling usually use the most electricity in many homes, followed by water heating, refrigeration and freezers, lighting, and laundry or cooking appliances. In South Georgia, air conditioning can be a major summer driver, especially if filters are dirty, ducts leak, thermostat settings are low, or the system runs nearly non-stop.

How Colquitt EMC can help: A free home energy audit from Colquitt EMC can help identify likely high-energy users in your home. An energy advisor can review your usage, inspect common problem areas, and suggest practical steps based on your home—not just averages.

What you can do next: Once you know the likely source, target the fix. Adjust thermostat settings, change HVAC filters, seal duct leaks, repair dripping hot water lines, lower water heater temperature when appropriate, retire old extra refrigerators, use LED lighting, wash full loads, and avoid using space heaters as a long-term heating solution.

The bottom line: Your bill tells you how much energy you used. Your usage history, monitors, and a free Colquitt EMC energy audit can help show why you used it—so you can focus on the changes that are most likely to lower your bill.



SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Colquitt EMC's 90th Annual Meeting of Members

SPENCE FIELD, MOULTRIE



Colquitt EMC is an equal opportunity provider.

Recipe OF THE MONTH



Roasted Brussels Sprouts & Red Onions

INGREDIENTS

40 ounces fresh Brussels Sprouts, trimmed and halved lengthwise
1 red onion, quartered and thinly sliced
3 tbs olive oil
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
1 tbs white balsamic vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line cookie sheet with foil. In a large bowl, toss sprouts and onion with oil, sugar, salt and pepper. Spread in single layer in pan. Roast 35 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking time. Remove from oven drizzle with vinegar; toss well and serve.

Church of the Month



New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church

3488 Enburg Ave. • Valdosta, GA
Rev. George W. Blunt

Services:

Sunday Morning	
Worship	8:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Sunday School	9:45 AM
Wednesday Noon Prayer	12:00 PM
Wednesday Night Bible Study	6:45 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

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

~ 1 John 1:7 NIV