

Electric News

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Appreciating Heroes in Hard Hats #ThankALineman

Georgia's electric utilities, including Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC), have set aside the month of April to honor the brave men and women who keep our electricity flowing all year round. What was a one-day observance has been extended to an entire month.

"One day is not enough to thank our linemen for the essential part they play within our communities and our members' lives every day," says Lewis Sheffield, General Manager of LOEMC.

"These men and women have an extremely dangerous job and encounter many hazards every workday," says Sheffield. "They often face treacherous weather conditions while they work through ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and floods to restore electricity."

To further ensure their safety, business leaders, EMC members and lawmakers in Georgia recently

passed House Bill 767, a new law that requires motorists approaching utility linemen at an active work site—as indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights—to change lanes or slow down to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted limit.

Any motorist who fails to comply can be fined up to \$250 per occurrence.

To show your appreciation, and as a sign of respect and support, please take a

moment and thank a lineman for the work he does. Use #ThankALineman to show your support for the workers who light up our lives and dedicate themselves to getting the job done, regardless of the conditions.

At Little Ocmulgee EMC, lineworkers maintain 2,038 miles of distribution line in Wheeler and Telfair counties and portions of Laurens, Dodge and Montgomery counties.



Good Friday and Memorial Day Closings



Little Ocmulgee EMC offices will be closed Friday, April 14, 2017, in observance of Good Friday and Monday, May 29, 2017, for Memorial Day. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 342-1290.

For your convenience, night deposit boxes are available at our main office in Alamo and the Dublin branch office, or you may pay your bill online at www.loemc.com.

Dates to Remember

April 1.....	April Fools' Day
April 14.....	Good Friday
April 16.....	Easter
April 22.....	Earth Day
April 24.....	Holocaust Remembrance Day
April 26.....	Administrative Professionals Day
May 4.....	National Day of Prayer
May 14.....	Mother's Day
May 20.....	Armed Forces Day
May 29.....	Memorial Day
June 14.....	Flag Day
June 18.....	Father's Day
June 21.....	First day of summer



Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits by Sept. 1 Deadline

A current list of members with unclaimed capital credit checks issued in 2011, marked as “undeliverable” by the post office, is located for review at LOEMC’s offices in Alamo, Dublin and McRae. This list can be viewed online at www.loemc.com.

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2017. If not claimed by this date, they

will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Our corporate office in Alamo and the branch office in Dublin are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McRae branch is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Change Batteries in Smoke Alarms, CO Detectors

If you didn’t do it in March when you moved your clocks ahead one hour for daylight saving time, remember to change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors—even if the batteries aren’t dead.



If you don’t have fire alarms and CO detectors, your family is at risk. The alarms loudly warn you if smoke or gas is present in your home, giving you and your family sufficient time to get out.

Carbon monoxide is a clear, odorless gas that is deadly but hard to detect. If you don’t have an alarm, it’s unlikely



you will know if your home has a CO leak. Carbon monoxide doesn’t come just from cars; gas appliances such as a furnace, water heater, dryer or stove are potential sources of the gas as well.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-

9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 by mail, or fax to (202) 690-7442 or email program.intake@usda.gov.

Little Ocmulgee EMC Celebrates 2017 Telfair County Woman of The Year

Debbie Bullard, a dedicated 30-year employee of Little Ocmulgee EMC, was recently honored by the Telfair County Chamber of Commerce as its 2017 Woman of the Year.

Bullard prefers remaining in the background to being in the limelight. She is unassuming and seeks no recognition for her good deeds. When this generous lady sees a need, she does something about it. It may be a meal, a ride to an appointment or a visit to a homebound individual. She may just provide an encouraging word and smile to brighten someone's day.

Bullard donates a tremendous amount of time and energy to our community. She believes in Telfair County and sees its great potential. She understands that we can grow and continue to create jobs, expanding our business and industrial bases, and she appreciates the county's potential for tourism because of the abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities and the natural beauty.

She devotes a great deal of time and hard work to these roles:

- An active, involved member of McRae United Methodist Church.
- Active member of the Rotary Club since 2005.
- Serves on the Telfair County Development Authority. During her tenure, the Development Authority has successfully helped retain and expand existing industries, saving jobs and creating additional employment opportunities.
- Served as President and Board member of the Telfair Chamber and remains a faithful and strong supporter.
- Serves as a volunteer with the Telfair-Wheeler Airport Authority. She assists the authority with



TELFAIR SNAP SHOTS/ROBERT HENDRICKS

Debbie Bullard accepts the 2017 Telfair County Woman of the Year award.

recordkeeping, financial accounts and adherence to deadlines. She was instrumental in getting the runway extended to 5,000-plus feet to accommodate corporate aircraft. Recently, she was involved in obtaining the new fuel farm for our airport. She understands the importance of the airport to economic development for Telfair and Wheeler counties.

- She started the Telfair-Wheeler Youth Leadership Program and plays an active role in each session.

Debbie and her husband, Wendell, live in McRae Helena and have one son, Hollis.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Dishwasher efficiency tip: Air-dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes dry faster.

—Source: U.S. Department of Energy

How Landscaping Can Help You Save Energy

BY PAT KEEGAN AND AMY WHEELLESS

Late winter and early spring are great times to think about making changes to your home's landscape. While the goal of most lawn and garden projects is to beautify your outdoor space, a well-designed project can also reduce your energy bill, increase the overall value of your home and provide additional benefits, such as reduced noise pollution, optimized water use and cleaner air around your home.

The two best strategies for improving the energy efficiency of your home with landscaping are to incorporate shading in the summer and wind-blocking in the winter.



Deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home can deflect hot summer sun.

Summer shading

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, shading your home is the most cost-effective way to reduce heat gain from the sun and reduce your air-conditioning costs in the summer. Having more plants and trees in your yard can reduce the air temperature by up to 6 degrees Fahrenheit.

Planting deciduous trees on the south, southwest and west sides of your home can cut heating during hot summer months while allowing sunlight through during the fall

and winter, when the trees have lost their leaves. When planting trees, consider the expected shape and height of the mature trees and where they will shade your home. A tree with a high mature height planted on the south side of a home, for example, will provide all-day roof shading in the summer, while a lower tree on the west side of your home can protect it from the sun.

Plant trees an appropriate distance from your home so they do not disrupt your foundation or your roof as they grow. While it will be five to 10 years before a newly planted tree will begin providing shade to your roof, it can start shading windows immediately. Incorporate other plants to provide near-term shade. Shrubs, bushes and vines can quickly shade windows and walls.

Also consider any paved areas around your home and how you can shade them during the summer. Think about walking barefoot across your driveway on a hot July afternoon. If your driveway or patio is unshaded, it is probably quite difficult. That absorbed heat is also reflecting onto your home, causing your air conditioner to work even harder. You can use trees, hedges and other landscaping structures, such as arbors, to shade these paved areas.

Wind-blocking techniques

If your home is in an open area without many structures around it, cold winter winds may be increasing your heating bills. A windbreak on your property can help deflect these winds over your home. The most common type of windbreak uses a combination of conifer (evergreen) trees and shrubs to block wind from the



An arbor or trellis over a door or window can provide both an interesting focal point and summer shade.

ground to the top of your home. For the best windbreak effect, plant these features on the north and northwest sides of your home at a distance of between two and five times the height of the mature trees. Incorporating a wall or fence can further assist with the windbreak.

Another insulating technique is to plant shrubs and bushes closer to your home, but at least one foot away. The space between these plants and your home helps insulate your home during winter and summer months.

Before making any final design decisions about your yard, if you live near power lines, talk with your electric co-op about how far from these lines trees should be planted.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more ideas on energy-efficient landscaping, please visit www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.