

Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

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MANAGER'S *Comments*

Lewis Sheffield, Little Ocmulgee EMC General Manager



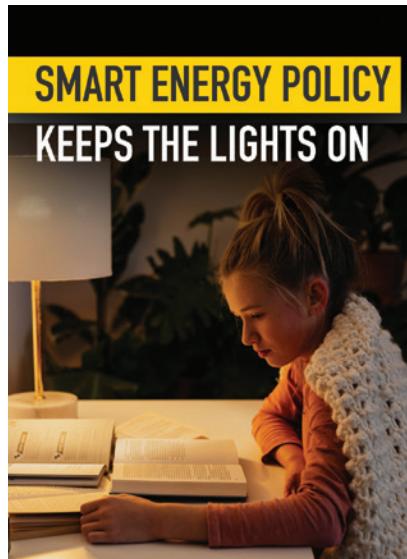
Electric Cooperatives Bring Unique Value to Their Communities

Electric cooperatives stand out from other types of businesses because we are built and led by the communities we serve. As independent, not-for-profit electric utilities, we are owned and governed by our local members—not by outside shareholders or investors. That is a powerful differentiator.

Here are a few ways electric co-ops like Little Ocmulgee bring unique value to the local communities they serve:

- **We put people before profits.** Co-ops are not-for-profit and provide at-cost electric service. Any excess revenue is returned to our consumer-members in the form of capital credits, typically as a bill credit or check.

- **Community comes first.** We live and work here, too, and we care deeply about our local communities. That's why we engage in development and revitalization projects, sponsor local students for scholarships and youth programs and give back to



local organizations like the local fire departments or local food pantries to help our neighbors in need.

- **Affordable, reliable power is our priority.** Little Ocmulgee purchases electricity from Oglethorpe Power and Georgia Energy Cooperative (GEC),

our wholesale energy partners. Oglethorpe Power and GEC are generation cooperatives formed by a group of electric co-ops in our state and region. This cooperative business structure allows us to pool local resources and provide electricity at a lower cost than if we purchased it from outside sources.

We're focused on our members' energy needs—not only for today but for the long haul. We're advocating for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all. We recognize we must be inclusive of all energy sources, which is why we work closely with Oglethorpe Power and GEC to ensure the use of diverse energy sources.

Reliable, affordable electricity is more important than ever before, and our focus will continue to be in the best interest of the local communities we serve.

Holiday Office Closure

Little Ocmulgee EMC's offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day.



Little Ocmulgee EMC to Celebrate 87 Years of Service to Members

The 87th Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held Nov. 12, 2025, in the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Doors will open promptly at 12:30 p.m. for member registration.

Prior to the business session, which begins at 2 p.m., there will be a health fair, vendor booths and gospel entertainment. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025

**Wheeler County High School Gymnasium
50 Snowhill Road
Alamo, GA 30411**



Pursuant to Little Ocmulgee EMC Bylaws, a committee to nominate members for directorship has been appointed. The following members will serve:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** Betty Barrow, Eric Phillips, Caleb Skipper
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Marty Kinnett, Carey Knowles, Mattie White
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Clark, Tommy Clark, Jamie Nobles

If you have comments or suggestions concerning nominations or persons who wish to be considered for director nomination, please contact the above-named committee members.

The Nominating Committee will meet Aug. 26, 2025, to make director nominations. One director from each district is elected each year and will serve staggered three-year terms.

Directors seeking reelection for another three-year term are:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** LaRue Fountain
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Wesley Yawn
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Locke

Nominations for directors can also be made by petition, which must be signed by 15 or more Little Ocmulgee EMC members and submitted to the co-op no later than Sept. 12, 2025, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: energy.gov



ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season:

Be Prepared

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, power banks, flashlights, nonperishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

Stay Safe

- Ensure a safe shelter. Stay away from windows and doors. During tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely. Operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas; place on a flat, dry surface; do not overload; and always read the operating manual before use.
- Severe storms can bring down tree limbs and power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of nonperishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Planting a Tree?

Know its mature height before deciding where to plant

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Little Ocmulgee EMC and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, call 811 before putting a shovel in the ground. The Call Before You Dig number is a free service that locates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public underground utilities like electric, gas, water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes.

Other tree tips:

- It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in power outages or blinking lights. Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.
- Tall-growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines and most maples.
- Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches touch the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added. In addition, a child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

TREES — TOO CLOSE FOR (YOUR) COMFORT

TREES CAUSE MAJORITY OF POWER OUTAGES



WHY DOES YOUR POWER PROVIDER TRIM TREES?

Although most trees do not present a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines, poles or other utility equipment and cause service issues. Unruly and overgrown trees can:

- ⚠ Cause outages.
- ⚠ Create fire hazards.
- ⚠ Break off and land on power lines.
- ⚠ Cause lights to flicker during high winds.
- ⚠ Get weighed down with ice and cause issues.

Proper pruning techniques are used to preserve tree health, although sometimes a tree must be removed. This is a last resort, but it can be necessary if there are:

- ⚠ Fast-growing trees directly under power lines.
- ⚠ Trees that are leaning into lines.
- ⚠ Trees that are declining, cracked or split.

Unobstructed power lines make it easier and safer for utility crews to repair or service lines.

✓ Power companies trim trees to better serve you.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org