



# Line Items

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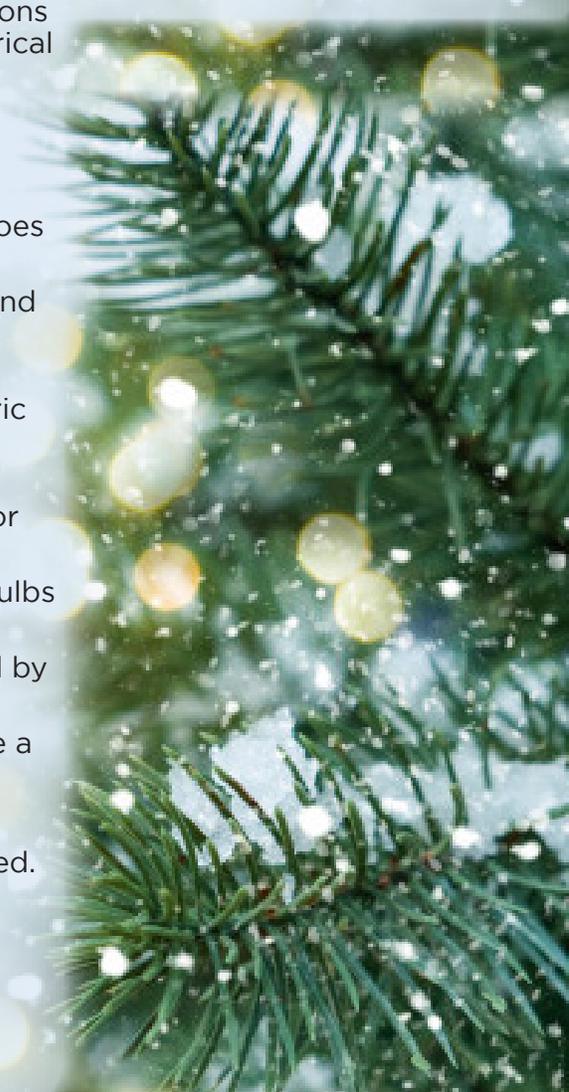
## STAY SAFE WHEN DECORATING THIS CHRISTMAS

Brightly lit Manger scenes alive with color, festive twinkling lights strewn in trees and on houses and glistening plastic sculptures of Santa Claus and his team of reindeer light up the nights for the young and old to enjoy this holiday season.

Such decorations help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the United States Fire Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations. Thousands visit emergency rooms across the country due to fall and electrocution accidents.

Excelsior EMC wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. Here are some tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:

- ❶ Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- ❷ Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firm such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL).
- ❸ Use lights certified for outdoor use, only outdoors. The same goes for indoor lights.
- ❹ Use LED lights when possible. They are more energy efficient and put off less heat than standard incandescent lights.
- ❺ Carefully inspect each light before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose, or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
- ❻ Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- ❼ Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- ❽ Do not connect more light strings together than recommended by the light string manufacturer.
- ❾ Do not overload extension cords - they can overheat and cause a fire.
- ❿ Use caution when decorating near power lines.
- ⓫ Always turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- ⓬ Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs for outdoor use can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.



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BRONSON BRAGDON  
Editor

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**When Your Power Is Off — Call**  
(912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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## Between the Lines

by  
Greg Proctor  
President/CEO

### Dedication

It's not the type of phone call you like to receive. "We've got a problem at the I-16 Substation," Howard Porter said. I soon learned that the switch that protects the main transformer at the substation had a defective part.

Howard immediately went to work coordinating our response to the situation. The defective switch would cause an extended outage for 2,300 homes and businesses in case of an interruption. Service-men Jessie Harshner and Rhett Youngblood were dispatched to make an immediate inspection of the power lines outside the substation to verify that there were no danger trees that could cause an outage. Howard contacted Georgia Transmission Corporation and Georgia Power Company representatives to coordinate a mobile transformer that would be needed to replace the defective part. Representatives from both companies went the extra mile to get it done ASAP.

The replacement part was delivered to the substation that night, and switching orders were written just in case the power were to go out before the mobile could be delivered. The next morning a joint planning meeting was held. Jessie Goodman assigned crew leader Chris Howell along with Justin Powell, Evan Johnson, Hunter Young, and Roy Roberts to install the mobile in the substation. The mobile arrived after dark, and crews worked into the night that chilly evening to make sure it was ready for the defective part to be changed first thing the next morning.

The repair went safely and smoothly, and the substation was returned to normal the next day just after lunch.

When you switch on the tree lights, prepare a cup of coffee or turn on the stove Christmas morning, think about the dedication that your Cooperative's employees demonstrate so that the power is there when you need it.

Dispatcher Jay Gibson will be at work on Christmas day, ready to answer your call and dispatch crews in the event of a problem. Matt Smith and Jonathan Hansen are on-call ready to respond from home in the event of trouble. Brittany Odom is ready to come into the office in case extra telephone help is needed. Bill Walden is the team leader coordinating the response in case of multiple outages. While these are the front-line people on Christmas day, the entire Excelsior EMC team stands ready to respond on Christmas and every other day of the year.

As you celebrate Christmas with your friends and family remember to be thankful for the men and women whose dedication ensures that the power is available for you to enjoy the season.

From everyone at Excelsior EMC, we extend our heartfelt best wishes to you and your family during this Christmas season. We remain sincerely grateful for our many blessings.



Every Member Counts

# RUSSELL MATHIS APPOINTED TO EXCELSIOR EMC BOARD

Excelsior EMC announces the appointment of Russell Mathis to its Board of Directors. Mr. Mathis will be fulfilling the unexpired term of Billy Hickman who resigned from his board position amid his campaign for the State Senate District 4 seat. Mr. Mathis will serve as Director from District 7 which encompasses the areas on the west side of Bulloch County including parts of Register, Portal, and the Westside Road area.

Russell Mathis was born and raised in Statesboro. He graduated from Bulloch Academy and went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Georgia Southern University. Mr. Mathis is currently a partner of BBWH Insurors in Statesboro.

When he is not working, Russell enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing, and spending time with his wife, Nikkia, and their two daughters, Caroline and Marybeth. The Mathis family attends First United Methodist Church in Statesboro.

Mr. Mathis is looking forward to serving you, our members, to the best of his ability as the newest member of Excelsior EMC's Board of Directors.



*In observance of the Holidays,  
Excelsior EMC offices will be closed:*

**Thursday, December 24, 2020**

**Friday, December 25, 2020**

**Friday, January 1, 2021**

Emergency personnel will be available by calling our  
24 hour dispatch center at (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123.

# Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires December 31

Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) is an agricultural sales and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

Producers must apply with the Georgia Department of Agriculture for this exemption. Re-application is done every three years. Members that qualify must provide Excelsior EMC a copy of their GATE card. Notification of an expired card will not be sent by Excelsior EMC. Producers are welcome to call and check the status of their card's expiration date. A good rule of thumb is when a producer pays a renewal fee to the State, a copy of the resulting updated card will need to be sent to Excelsior EMC.

Producers that have never received GATE can also apply. First time applicants to Excelsior EMC will need to provide a copy of their GATE card as well as an Excelsior EMC GATE form that can be picked up at either our Metter office or Statesboro office. Additionally we can email or fax the form by simply calling our customer service department at (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123. For more information or to renew visit [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov) or call 1-855-FARM-TAX.

**Please mail updated copies of GATE cards to:**  
Excelsior EMC; PO Box 297; Metter, GA 30439



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