



Line Items

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Of Excelsior EMC

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ELECTRIFY YOUR LAWN CARE

Summertime is here which means that grass mowing season is in full swing. If you plan to replace or upgrade your lawn care equipment, consider making the switch to cordless electric tools.

Thanks to lithium-ion battery technology, electric lawn care equipment now has the same power and performance without the downsides of gas engines.

WALK-BEHIND MOWERS

Dreading another summer of wrestling with your gas mower's pull-cord and an engine that's reluctant to turn over? One of the key features of electric mowers is their hassle-free push-button start.

A top-tier cordless electric mower, which can mow a half-acre lawn on a single charge, can be purchased for about \$300. The upfront cost of a cordless mower is more than a gas model, but the difference can be recovered in less expensive fuel and lower maintenance costs.

RIDING MOWERS

A number of new all-electric riding mowers entered the market in 2020. Expect to pay about \$2,200 for a basic battery-powered model with a 30-inch cutting deck or \$4,500 for a zero-turn model with all the bells and whistles.

Like walk-behind mowers, electric riding mowers pay for themselves with lower maintenance and operating costs. According to todaysmower.com, the average consumer can save about \$250 in reduced maintenance costs alone.

ROBOT MOWERS

Like robots that vacuum floors or clean pools, robot mowers allow a hands-off approach to lawn maintenance. They are best suited to small, simple yards that are relatively smooth and flat.

Robot mowers start at \$1,000. With all models, a wire must be buried in the lawn to define the perimeter of the area to be mowed.

TRIMMERS

A quality cordless electric trimmer can be bought for \$100 to \$200. When comparing models, consider the battery's life, charge time and power.

Rechargeable batteries for gardening tools, on average, run between 45 and 60 minutes. So, if you have a lot of space to trim, having a back-up battery is a good idea.

LEAF BLOWERS

Cordless electric blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver. Prices vary depending on power, battery quality and features, but you can buy a dependable model for about \$150.

When shopping for a cordless blower, consider the unit's cubic feet per minute, or CFM, which tells you the volume of air that comes out of the blower's tube. A higher CFM value translates to more clearing power.

With a little research, you'll be well on your way to winning the neighborhood's Lawn of the Month award - with less maintenance and hassle.



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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

Construction Update

The Board of Directors approved the 2021-2025 construction work plan at their meeting in March. A construction work plan evaluates the effect of forecasted growth on the Cooperative's distribution system and specifies system improvement projects that are required to provide and maintain adequate and reliable electric service to all members.

One of the main projects identified in the work plan is the need for additional transformer capacity at the Jimps Substation which is located adjacent to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center south of Statesboro. The substation voltage will also increase from 12 kV to 25 kV at the same time, thereby improving voltage levels and reducing losses along the circuits that it feeds. An additional circuit will be added, and load will be transferred from Langston Chapel Substation. This new circuit will improve reliability in the area, reduce the loading on the Langston Chapel Substation, and provide backfeed capability to the rapidly growing area near Publix and the Tormenta soccer stadium.

Our crews built over 29 miles of power lines last year, and we continue to see new requests for service each day. To complete the improvements specified in the work plan and keep up with the requests for new service, we need additional manpower and equipment. Pike Electric was the low bidder for the system improvement projects specified in the work plan. Pike has been in the electrical construction business for over 75 years and has performed work on our system numerous times in the past. We welcome the Pike team back to Excelsior EMC and look forward to working with them in the coming years.

Pike personnel and equipment arrived on June 21 and began work on the circuit that serves the Country Club Road, Golf Club Circle, Country Walk, and Dry Branch Village areas. These crews will be replacing poles, transformers, insulators, and other hardware over the coming months. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as crews will need access to poles near homes and in yards as we make improvements that will help to provide reliable service in the future.



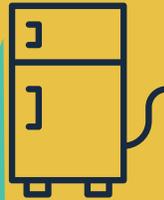
Every Member Counts

FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



1. Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



6. Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



2. Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



7. Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



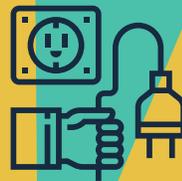
3. Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



8. Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



4. Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



9. Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



5. Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



10. SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

Safe Electricity.org® Learn more at:



American Spirit

Independence Day is a day to be celebrated by all Americans. On July 4th, communities throughout the United States of America will celebrate the American spirit and the freedoms that we were given. There will be beautiful red, white and blue ribbons, flags and banners strewn through the cities and countryside.

We at Excelsior EMC will proudly display our American Flag showing our gratitude for those who sacrificed for our independence and show our support of this great nation. We join the nation in saluting our independence. However, we are also always mindful of the potential hazards associated with overhead and underground power lines.

We encourage our members that choose to display flags, banners or ribbons, to do so safely. Please do not attach anything to Excelsior EMC poles. When standing flag poles high into the air, be aware of your surroundings and keep plenty of distance from overhead wires. Before digging the base of a flag pole, call 811 to verify no underground utilities are present. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

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