



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

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MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

Being a member of the Cooperative has many benefits such as low rates and excellent service. We strive to deliver top-notch service to each individual member as if you were an owner of the company, because you are! To become a member of Excelsior EMC, a membership fee must be paid when applying for electrical service. Just recently, we were given an up-close look at an original receipt for a membership fee that was paid just 3 years after the Cooperative was founded.

While paying his electric bill, Mr. Edward Rich of Pembroke presented his grandfather's (Marcus D. May) original receipt for his membership fee which was dated September 29, 1941. Excelsior EMC was still working to extend lines throughout our service territory during this time, and Mr. May wanted to have power extended to his farm in southern Bulloch County.

In the 1930's, rural farms struggled to keep pace with businesses in town due to the availability of electricity. Cooperatives like Excelsior EMC were established to bring electricity to rural areas. Farmers like Mr. May would "sign-up" with the Cooperative by paying a membership fee. This would solidify the farmer's intent to have electricity built to their farm.

Once power was built to rural farms, it allowed farmers to utilize electric equipment like the electric honey extractor Mr. May had on his farm. Mr. May was a beekeeper by trade and kept over 1,000 colonies of honeybees. He would collect the honeycomb trays and place them into the honey extractor that would then spin fast enough that the centrifugal force would extract the honey from the trays. He would then collect the honey in barrels and take them to market by horse and wagon.



Pictured is Edward Rich and Harriet May Rich with Marcus May's electric-powered honey extractor. Once the honeycomb trays were placed vertically in the extractor, they would be spun fast enough that centrifugal force would force the honey out of the trays and it would drain out of the bottom of the extractor and into barrels.



Pictured is Marcus May's original receipt for the \$5.00 Excelsior EMC membership fee he paid on September 29, 1941.

Electricity also allowed radios to bring news and entertainment to rural areas. Mrs. Harriet May Rich, Marcus May's daughter, says she remembers that as children they looked forward to listening to the radio at the end of the day to learn about what was going on in the rest of the world. It wasn't always pleasant, however. This was during World War II and Mrs. Rich said she vividly remembers some very tense times in front of that radio listening to critical war broadcasts with her family.

Mrs. Rich and her family have purposefully kept Mr. May's electric account active since it was established in 1941, making it one of the longest standing active accounts on Excelsior EMC's system. We appreciate the May family for sharing with us this heirloom and these memories. Excelsior EMC is proud to have been part of bringing electricity to rural areas. As with the May family, electricity brought efficiency, convenience, and radio to farms throughout rural America.

Line Items

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

Thankfulness

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations, and lots of festivities. Right here in southeast Georgia, we look forward to many annual Christmas traditions. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to spending more time with family and friends. Even with the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect.

As we begin to do so, I've listed a few things that stand out from this year.

Dedicated Employees - We spend a lot of time talking about outages, transformers, poles, trees, right of way, and wire. However, none of those things work without dedicated employees to keep them going. I am thankful for the dedicated men and women who work each and every day to keep the lights on and continuously strive to improve how we serve you.

Safety - Safety is our highest priority, and we were able to work another year without a lost time accident.

Favorable Weather - We have been blessed to be spared from a major storm thus far this year, our outage times are down, we had abundant rainfall this summer, and crop yields and prices are strong.

Economic Activity - We had another productive year. We've added 392 new accounts and built 32 miles of power line over the last 12 months. While prices for everything have increased in the latter part of the year, we still should have a solid year financially.

America - We are a blessed nation. Even with political parties that can't seem to find anything to agree upon, we enjoy the freedoms that many simply do not have. So, we persevere, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.

The Directors and employees of Excelsior EMC wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Every Member Counts

Happy (and Safe) Holidays

TIPS TO PROTECT YOU, YOUR HOME, AND YOUR LOVED ONES

COOKING

- Use turkey fryers outdoors. Do not overfill fryer pots with cooking oil – the oil spill will splash out onto the burner and blaze.
- Keep kids out of the kitchen and away from hot appliances and dangerous utensils.
- Make sure flammable items like potholders and dish towels stay away from stove burners.
- Do not leave stoves and ovens unattended.
- Use good food safety practices to prevent foodborne sickness.

DECORATING

- Do not overload electrical circuits. Modern LED decorations use much less power and allow the connection of many more strings to the same outlet.
- Try not to use extension cords. If you do, do not run them under rugs or across walkways.
- If you use a live tree, check the water level every day.
- Keep dangerous or fragile ornaments and decorations out of reach of kids.

SECURITY

- Have a neighbor accept package deliveries or have them sent to your workplace if you're not home.
- Be wary of unknown or unexpected people coming to your door. They could be checking to see if anyone is home for burglary purposes.
- Think before you post travel plans, Christmas vacation photos or expensive gifts on social media.
- Do not leave empty boxes from expensive electronics on the curb for others to see.
- Have an alarm system and security cameras installed.

SHOPPING

- Do not leave gifts in plain sight. Lock them in your car's trunk.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash, just the credit cards that you will use.
- Shop in groups and avoid being alone.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Season's Greetings

The directors and employees of Excelsior EMC wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our offices will be closed Dec. 23rd, 24th, and 31st.

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 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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