



# Line Items

The Official  
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## LOCAL STUDENT COMPETES IN AREA EMC/FFA WIRING CONTEST



*Braylon Burke prepares to give his speech demonstration portion of the contest, worth 10% of the overall score. While standing in front of a panel of judges, Braylon explained the wiring problem presented, how the problem had been wired, and the materials / pertinent National Electrical Code guidelines used for the assigned wiring problem.*



*Braylon works diligently to complete the wiring skill portion of the contest, which is worth 60% of the overall score. Students had 90 minutes to complete the skills portion, with most contestants finishing with only minutes to spare.*



Braylon Burke recently competed in the EMC/FFA wiring contest, held at Treutlen County High School in Soperton on January 10th, 2023. The competition is designed to promote electrification programs for agriculture students. Braylon is the son of Chris and Stephanie Burke and is a junior at Southeast Bulloch High School.

Sponsored by the Electric Membership Corporations of Georgia, including Excelsior EMC, the EMC/FFA wiring contest is a program of the Agricultural Education division of the Georgia Department of Education, organized as a Career Development Event by local FFA chapters. Participants can win scholarship funds to use at any college, university or vocational school in Georgia.

Any active FFA member enrolled in a 10th, 11th or 12th grade high school agriculture education class is eligible to participate. Chapters are limited to two contestants per chapter. The top two individuals in each area contest will advance to compete in the state competition. The wiring contest contains three primary components: a practical wiring exercise, a problem-solving exercise requiring the students to interpret and apply the National Electric Code, and a speech demonstration activity.

The FFA is a national organization of more than 850,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education program in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education program in public schools. Its mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Braylon Burke on a job well done at the Area IV EMC/FFA wiring contest!

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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

### *Beat the Peak*

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Excelsior EMC is expected to deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply--regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Excelsior EMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities typically pay more for electricity during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper--like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.



Every Member Counts

# NEW FACES AT EXCELSIOR EMC



*Will Collins*

Will Collins joins the Excelsior team as our new Marketing and Communications Specialist. Will has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and an MBA from Georgia Southern University. Upon the completion of his master's degree. Will was recently commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the Georgia Army National Guard where he will serve as a Field Artillery Officer. Before joining Excelsior, Will spent four years as a teacher and coach at Bulloch Academy. In Will's role with Excelsior, he will serve the Cooperative by assisting members and promoting the safe and efficient use of electricity and available energy management and conservation programs.



*Crystal Cross*

Crystal Cross has been hired as our new Member Services Manager. Crystal has spent the last 16 years in banking with her most recent role being a Treasury Management Services role. Crystal's prior experiences will help her lead Excelsior's Member Services team. In Crystal's role with Excelsior, she will supervise our Member Services team where she will strive to provide excellent service to each Excelsior EMC member.

Will and Crystal are excited to have the opportunity to uphold Excelsior EMC's high standards of service. Please help us welcome them to the Excelsior EMC team!

## CELEBRATING 27 YEARS OF SERVICE: JAMES MCNEELY'S RETIREMENT



*James McNeely and family at his retirement supper.*

James McNeely began his career with Excelsior EMC on April 17th, 1995, as a meter reader. In 1998 he was promoted to Apprentice Lineman and then promoted to Lineman in 2004. In March of 2012, James was promoted to Lead Lineman where he stayed for only nine months before his final promotion to Construction Crew Leader in December. James served the rest of his time at Excelsior in this role.

We will surely miss James' sense of humor and willingness to help with any task at hand. Join us in thanking James for his 27 years of service to the Cooperative!

James, we wish you the very best in your retirement.

# SETTING UP ACCOUNT NOTIFICATIONS FOR PEACE OF MIND

With the busyness of life, it's easy to have tasks such as monitoring your electric account slip your mind. Online notifications and alerts through our Excelsior EMC app or website are a great way for you to keep up with your account. Whether it be a period of abnormally high usage or forgetting to pay your bill for the month, the ability to create reminders is an extremely useful resource.

Excelsior EMC encourages members to take advantage of our Alerts and Reminders feature which has the capability to send out various notifications concerning your account(s). These notifications consist of a Due Date Reminder, Past Due Date Reminder, Account Profile Change, Returned Check Alert, Payment Confirmation, High Energy Usage Alert, and Arrangement Installment Due.

These notifications can be sent out through text message, email, voice alert, or push notification (for smartphone users only) at the discretion of the member. If you have the Excelsior EMC smartphone app, you can easily select the notifications that you would like to receive as well as how you would like to receive them. If you do not have the smartphone app, you can call in to our office at (912) 685-2115 and our Member Services department will be happy to assist you to ensure that you receive the notifications of your preference.

The screenshot shows the 'Alerts & Reminders' section for account 68670-002. Under the 'Due Date Reminder' heading, there is a 'Remind me' field set to '7' days before. Below this are four notification options: 'Text Message' (off), 'Email' (on), 'Push Notification' (on), and 'Voice Alert' (off). Under the 'Past Due Date Reminder' heading, there is an 'Alert me when due date has passed' field. Below this are four notification options: 'Text Message' (on), 'Email' (off), 'Push Notification' (off), and 'Voice Alert' (on).

The screenshot shows the 'Alerts & Reminders' section for account 68670-002. Under the 'Payment Confirmation' heading, there is a 'Send me a confirmation when a payment is submitted.' field. Below this are four notification options: 'Text Message' (off), 'Email' (on), 'Push Notification' (off), and 'Voice Alert' (off). Under the 'High Energy Usage Alert' heading, there is an 'Alert me when my daily energy usage reaches' field set to '\$ 5.00'. Below this are four notification options: 'Text Message' (on), 'Email' (off), 'Push Notification' (on), and 'Voice Alert' (off).

*Shown above are various alerts on the Excelsior EMC smartphone app which can be customized to notify the member to their preference.*



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