



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

APRIL 2019

*The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation*

**Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall**

## EASY PAY OPTIONS

To make paying your electric bill easier and faster, we offer a variety of payment options for our members. Choose the one that works best for you. All payment options are available at no extra charge.

### **AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT & CREDIT/DEBIT CARD DRAFT**

Have your monthly bill automatically deducted from your checking account or charged to your credit/debit card every month.

### **ONLINE BILL PAYMENT**

Pay your monthly electric bill with the ease of your home computer. Simply logon to [www.altamahaemc.com](http://www.altamahaemc.com) and click on the Pay Bill link. Online payments can be made using your checking account (E-check) or your credit/debit card.

### **PAY-BY-PHONE**

Using our simple and easy to use automated phone service, you can pay your bill using a credit/debit card or e-check. Remember to have your electric account number available when you call.

### **MOBILE APP**

Altamaha EMC now offers a free mobile app. You can view usage, check account information and make payments using this app.

### **NIGHT DEPOSIT BOXES**

For added convenience after normal business hours, payments can be dropped in the night deposit boxes at our Lyons, Soperton, Swainsboro and Dublin offices.

### **LEVELIZED BILLING**

Levelized billing brings your highest bills down and your lowest bills up to about the same level each month. The levelized bill will be based on your average energy use for the most recent 12 months. The bill amount will not be the same each month but will increase or decrease slightly as your usage pattern changes. The real benefit to you will be to prevent extreme fluctuations in payments due to seasonal increases and decreases in power used. Call our office today for more information.

### **PAYMENT KIOSK**

All four office locations have a payment kiosk. The kiosk accepts cash, credit/debit cards and checks. The kiosks are available 24 hours a day. The kiosks do not give change.

### **PAY IN PERSON**

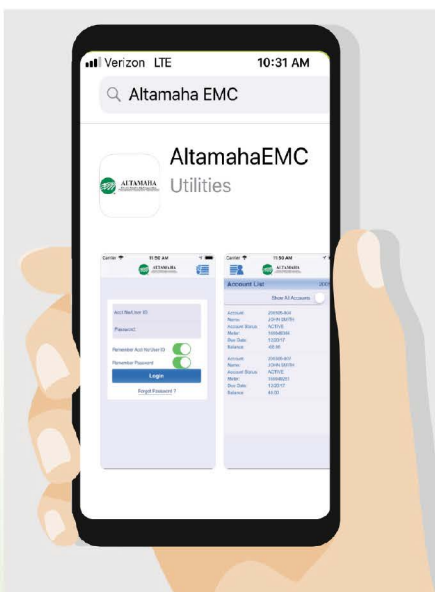
Our Lyons, Soperton and Swainsboro offices are open for your convenience from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday. The Dublin office is open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.

All four locations have a drive-thru window. As an added convenience to our members, the drive-thru window at our Lyons office is open until Midnight Monday-Friday.

### **MAIL YOUR PAYMENT**

Your monthly electric bill contains an envelope that you can use to mail your payment to Altamaha EMC.

For more information on any of our convenient payment options, call us today at 912-526-8181.





# What to Do When a Member Passes Away

When the unfortunate passing of a member happens, family members have many issues to address. One of the least of those often can be what to do with their loved one's Altamaha EMC account.

Frequently, widowed spouses or their children leave the account in their deceased loved one's name. This is understandable, but it may overlook one of the unique benefits of being a member of Altamaha EMC. The estate of the member may be entitled to the capital credits owed to the account.

Keep in mind that only the account holder can accrue capital credits. While listing a spouse on your account may allow them to access information for that account, it does not mean the capital credits are accruing in both names.

Capital credits are paid to the estate of a member upon the member's death. Capital credits accrue only through the date of death of a member.

In order to receive payment, a representative of the estate must come to our office and provide a copy of the death certificate. A check for the accrued capital credits is issued within 4 – 6 weeks. It is important to claim the capital credits once a member dies and change the name on the account to a living survivor so capital credits will begin accruing in the new person's name.

We understand how trying dealing

with the loss of a loved one can be.

Our staff will work with you to make the capital credit process as easy as possible. For additional information, please call our office at 912-526-8181.

## How Capital Credits Work

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

**1** Altamaha EMC tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

**2** At the end of each year, Altamaha completes the financial reports and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.

**3** Altamaha allocates the margins to members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during the year.

**4** When a member passes away, a representative of the estate can apply for a refund of the capital credits that have accrued.

**Altamaha EMC has retired \$7,766,067.00 in capital credits to members.**

## Celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year. The first Earth Day was a "teach-in" focused on engaging thousands of students on a sunny, spring day in 1970 to help address the environmental crises of the day. Today, Earth Day is a global day of action and is celebrated in over 190 countries to raise awareness of ideas to support a happy and healthy planet. Here are a few ideas for Earth Day activities:

### Do Something Small

Replace your light bulbs with more energy-efficient ones. Drop off clothes at the local recycling center. Learn how to compost. Every small action can have a ripple effect into something much larger.



### Get Smart About the Issues

Do you care about your local park or supporting the bees in your home ecosystem? Today is a great day to read up on the environmental issues your city or town is grappling with—everything from clean water and air to biodiversity.

### Get Outside and Celebrate

Enjoy what we do have right now—possibly at an outdoor concert? Don't forget to bring your own picnic with biodegradable plates and utensils!

### We All Have Only One Earth

Regardless of the science and policy debates, we all can agree that we do love this one Earth we get to share. So why not take some time to think about how you can make a difference. A lot of people doing small things will add up to big things.

*All Altamaha EMC members who visit our office on Monday, April 22nd will receive a free Earth Day gift!*



# Operation Round Up Grants Presented



The Altamaha EMC Foundation recently presented 6 grants totaling \$25,000. As part of Altamaha EMC’s Operation Round Up, members are given the option of donating to worthy causes in our local service area. Participating members’ power bills are “rounded up” to the next highest dollar amount, and those donations are administered by the Altamaha EMC Foundation. The Foundation Board is comprised of community leaders from the counties that Altamaha EMC serves.

Operation Round-Up Board Chair Mack

Griffin states, “As members of the Trust Board, we take the requests we receive very seriously. We go through each application, and we have good conversations with our grantees so that we are sure they are the most deserving of the funding, but it’s not an easy task and it’s not one we take lightly.”

Interested charitable organizations and agencies can apply for funding by completing the required application which can be found on our website. The deadline for the next round of funding is June 7, 2019. For more information, contact Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120.



**Brewton Parker College** received a grant for \$5,000 to help fund the construction of a quad of male dormitories at the college.



**The Community Men in Action** group was awarded a \$5,000 grant to fund projects for families in need and to help fund the annual Ray Fuller and Robin Matthews Scholarships.



A grant check was issued for \$5,000 to Emanuel Coalition for Culture/Economic Development. These grant funds will be used in the preservation of The Historic Dixie Theatre. The theater will house a full-service arts center, an art gallery, and educational/community meeting space. The theater will also feature a stage and equipment for live performances, as well as regular showings of first-run feature films.



**The Voice of Grace Dream Center** received a \$5,000 grant to help provide appliances for the newly constructed multi-purpose building at the Dream Center campus. The mission of the Voice of Grace Dream Center is to address drug and alcohol addiction in women 18 years of age and older. The outcome of the program is to return women to their families and society equipped to live a drug-free lifestyle.

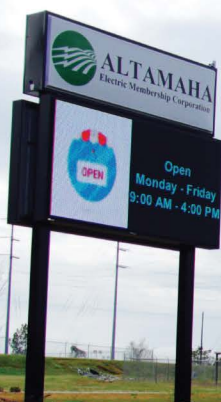


Honored with a \$2,000 grant was the Toombs County Extension for their 4-H program. These funds will be used to help students Southeast District Junior/Senior Project Achievement at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.



A grant for \$3,000 was presented to East Georgia Fellowship of Christian Athletes to help fund scholarships for students and coaches to attend FCA camps.





# OUR DUBLIN OFFICE IS NOW OPEN

679 ED BECKHAM ROAD – EAST DUBLIN

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM • MONDAY – FRIDAY

**NIGHTDROP AND KIOSK AVAILABLE FOR  
AFTER HOURS PAYMENTS**

**912-526-8181**

## Prevent scalds from **hot** water

Showers that are too hot, steamy food cooking on the stove and coffee that hasn't cooled can scald someone in your home. People are scalded when hot liquid or steam damages one or more layers of their skin. Children and senior citizens are more likely than anyone else to become scald victims.

*Here are seven ways to prevent scald injuries at home:*

1. Turn pan handles toward the back of the stove.
2. Plug small appliances into outlets on the wall next to the countertop where you use them so the cords don't drape across the room or land on the floor.
3. Install grab bars and non-slip bath mats in tubs and showers so anyone who falls can quickly get up and out of the aim of water that may be too hot.
4. Turn down the water temperature on the water heater. It only takes five seconds for 140-degree water to scald a healthy adult. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends 120 degrees as the maximum safe residential water temperature.
5. Add anti-scald valves onto showerheads and faucets.
6. When you finish your shower, turn the faucet to the "cold" position so the next person won't encounter hot water by surprise. For dual-control faucets, turn the cold-water knob on first and off last.
7. Supervise children while you're cooking and at their bath time.





# *Member* **RECIPES**



## **Garden Pea Pasta**

### **Ingredients:**

8 ounces pasta  
2 cups peas (fresh or frozen)  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
½ cup red bell pepper, chopped  
1 cup celery, chopped

### **Dressing:**

1 cup mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon white vinegar  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon pepper

Cook pasta according to package directions. Two minutes before pasta is done, add the peas. Drain well. In a large bowl, combine the pasta, onion, red pepper and celery. In a separate bowl, whisk the mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Pour over pasta mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for one to two hours before serving. Optional: Stir in one tablespoon fresh basil (minced) or one teaspoon dried basil.

*– From the kitchen of Anita Shepherd*

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.