AUGUST 2026

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Altamaha EMC/Fiber Sponsors Future Leaders

Last month, three local students sponsored by Altamaha EMC/Fiber joined young leaders from across Georgia for the 2026 Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference, held July 6–10 at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington.

Representing Altamaha EMC/Fiber were Jocelyn Harvill of Vidalia High School, Hartley Williamson of Montgomery County High School, and Khloe Patterson of Montgomery County High School. The students joined approximately 30 other high school students from across the state for a week focused on leadership development, teamwork and learning more about the cooperative business model.

The Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference is designed to help students develop valuable leadership skills while giving them a firsthand look at how cooperatives serve their members and communities. Throughout the week, students participated in interactive workshops, team-building activities and leadership sessions designed to strengthen communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

A highlight of the conference included visits to Walton EMC in Monroe and Godfrey Dairy in Madison, where students learned how cooperatives operate in both the electric and agricultural industries. Students also participated in outdoor activities, including a high ropes course, mud course and slip-and-slide challenge, which encouraged teamwork and trust among participants.

Inside the classroom, students completed personality assessments, practiced public speaking and worked together to create and operate their own mock cooperatives. At the conclusion of the conference, each team presented its cooperative concept, demonstrating the creativity, leadership and teamwork they developed throughout the week.

“Investing in programs like this is an investment in the future of our communities,” said Will NeSmith of Altamaha EMC/Fiber. “These students are tomorrow’s leaders, and it’s inspiring to see how they embrace the cooperative spirit of collaboration and service.”

The cooperative model is built on the principles of member ownership, community involvement and democratic decision-making. Opportunities like the Youth Leadership Conference help students understand the important role cooperatives play while encouraging them to become active leaders in their schools and communities.

To participate in the conference, students must have completed their freshman year of high school, demonstrate leadership potential and be selected by their local cooperative.

Altamaha EMC/Fiber is proud to support opportunities that prepare the next generation of leaders and provide students with experiences that will benefit them for years to come.



Ohoopee Regional Library System – Toombs County Libraries

Thanks to the generosity of members who participate in Operation Round Up, the Ohoopee Regional Library System recently received a $3,000 grant to support educational opportunities and lifelong learning throughout the communities it serves.

The grant funds will be used to provide reading incentives and resources for a variety of programs offered through the library system. These programs are designed to encourage literacy, foster creativity, and provide engaging educational experiences for children, teens, and adults. From summer reading initiatives to community programs and special events, these resources help make learning accessible and enjoyable for residents of all ages.

The Ohoopee Regional Library System is dedicated to connecting communities with information, ideas, and opportunities for lifelong learning. Serving multiple counties across southeast Georgia, the library system provides access to books, digital resources, educational materials, technology, and programs that enrich the lives of area residents.

The library system's mission is to provide quality library services that promote literacy, support education, preserve knowledge, and enhance the quality of life for the communities it serves. Through its branches and outreach efforts, the Ohoopee Regional Library System strives to create welcoming spaces where individuals can explore, discover, and grow.

By investing in reading incentives and program resources, the library system will be able to continue inspiring a love of reading and providing meaningful opportunities for learning and community engagement. These efforts help build stronger communities by encouraging curiosity, supporting academic achievement, and creating opportunities for people of all ages to connect and learn together.

Operation Round Up grants are made possible through the generosity of participating members who voluntarily round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. Those small contributions add up to make a big difference, helping support organizations that strengthen the communities we serve.

Altamaha EMC is proud to partner with the Ohoopee Regional Library System and support its mission of promoting literacy, lifelong learning, and community enrichment throughout our service area.

Ohoopee
REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH



August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality–helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

August 11 is 811 Day: Call Before You Dig to Protect Fiber and Other Utility Lines

Did you know that a single shovel in the wrong spot could knock out your internet or power and possibly cause serious injury? August 11 is recognized across the country as a reminder to always call 811 or submit a ticket online before you dig. Whether you are planting a tree, installing a fence or starting a backyard project, using 811 is not only smart and safe, it is also the law and completely free.

Altamaha EMC encourages all members to contact Georgia 811 before digging to help prevent utility damage, service interruptions, costly repairs and potential harm to yourself or others. This is especially important when it comes to fiber. Our fiber drops, which are the fiber lines that run from the road to your home, are often buried just a few inches below the surface. That means something as simple as digging with a shovel in your yard could cut your fiber line, knock out your internet and lead to expensive repairs. But when you contact 811 first, utility companies are notified and send professional locators to mark underground lines so you can dig safely.

Here is how the 811 process works. First, at least three business days before you plan to dig, go to www.Georgia811.com or call 811. You will need to provide some basic information including your contact details, the location on your property where you plan to dig, the nearest intersecting street, specific directions to your property, the type of work you are doing, the date you plan to start and how long you expect the project to take.

After your ticket is submitted, Georgia 811 notifies all utility companies in your area. Each company will send a professional locator to your site to mark their underground lines using paint or flags. Each color of paint corresponds to a different type of utility. These marks show you exactly where it is safe to dig and where you need to use caution.

Once the utility lines have been marked, you can view the responses from each company in the Positive Response Information System, also known as PRIS. This online system shows you which companies have marked their lines or confirmed there are no utilities in your digging area. Always check the PRIS system before you begin any digging. If something is missing or you are unsure, call 811 again and Georgia 811 will re notify the necessary utility companies.

If all utility members have responded and there are no visible signs of unmarked utilities, it is safe to begin digging. However, if you are using heavy machinery, be sure to understand the tolerance zone. This is the designated space around each marked utility line where you must proceed with extreme care to avoid accidental damage.

At Altamaha EMC, we know how important it is to stay connected. Accidentally cutting a fiber line not only affects your home, but it can also disrupt service to your neighbors. By calling 811 or submitting an online ticket before you dig, you are helping protect yourself, your property and your community.

This August 11, and every day, remember to call 811 or visit www.Georgia811.com before you dig. It is free, easy and the safest way to start any outdoor project.



Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

Altamaha EMC will hold its 2026 annual meeting at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Official notice of the time, date and place will be provided to each member in advance of the meeting. Director elections will be held at the annual meeting for District 1, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Toombs and Tattnall Counties; District 3 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Montgomery County and District 4 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Emanuel County. The following is a summary of the provisions of the cooperative's bylaws pertaining to the process for the election of directors:

Section 3.03 Qualifications of Directors.
Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election. Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence. May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the cooperative. May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the cooperative. May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office. May not have been convicted of a felony.

Section 3.04 Nominations by Nominating Committee.
The Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee comprised of independent members of the cooperative. The nominating committee meets not less than sixty five (65) days prior to the annual meeting and nominates one or more candidates for the directorships that are to be filled at the annual meeting. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and the meeting date for the committee will be provided to the members prior to their meeting and shall be posted at the cooperative's headquarters.

Section 3.05 Nominations by petition.
Other nominations for director elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than one hundred (100) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than forty five (45) days prior to such meeting.

Section 3.06 Posting of the notice of nominees.
The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

Section 3.07 Restrictions on Other Nominations.
Except in the event that all candidates nominated by the nominating committee and petition are deceased, or withdrawn in writing from candidacy prior to the election, no other nominations shall be in order.

Section 3.08 Election procedures.
Directors shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members from the applicable voting district, or those authorized to vote for them pursuant to Section 2.05 of these bylaws as set out below, at the meeting in which the election is to be held. Should two or more candidates tie for the highest vote, then run-off ballots shall be taken among them.

Section 2.05 Representation of Members.
Unless it is made to appear otherwise by writing executed by the member and filed with the Secretary or his designate prior to a meeting of the members, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the primary residential abode of the member, who presents himself or herself to the Secretary, or his designated registrar(s), prior to a meeting of the members, as a representative of such member, shall be deemed to act and vote for the member he purports to represent and in as full and ample manner as if the member had been present and personally acting at the meeting. The presence of the member purported to be represented by such person shall, however, revoke the authority hereby created and only the member shall be entitled to act and vote at such meeting. Except as is expressly provided for herein, no other person shall have the authority to represent, act or vote for any member at a meeting of the members.

Section 2.07 Credentials and Election Committee.
Section 2.07 of the bylaws provides for a committee of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) independent members to oversee the nominating, registration and election processes and to resolves disputes relating to same.

2026 Nominating Committee: **The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on August 14, 2026. This committee consists of the following members: Bruce Herndon, Melvin McBride, Dustin Carter, Barry McDonald, Harold Ricks, and Scott Livingston.**



Member RECIPES

Roasted Pears with Crisp Topping

INGREDIENTS

12 whole pears
1 cup water, divided
1/2 pound oats, rolled
1/4 pound all-purpose flour
1/4 pound brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
5 ounces (10 tablespoons) unsalted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

GEORGIA grown

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Thoroughly wash fresh pears. Cut pears in half and, using a melon baller or small spoon, remove the cores. Place pears, cut-side-up, in 2 large baking dishes. Add 1/2 cup water to each baking dish. Cover pears and bake for 30-40 minutes or until they are fork-tender. Combine oats, flour, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, butter and vanilla. Mix until crumbled into pieces the size of peas. Top pears with topping and bake an additional 20 minutes or until topping is crunchy. May be served warm or chilled. Yields 12 servings.

-Courtesy of Georgia Grown