



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC



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

## Rural Fiber Broadband is Now a Reality

Since Senate Bill 2 was signed into law by Gov. Brian Kemp in 2019, Altamaha EMC has been planning for the day when we could announce to our members and local communities that we are answering the call to provide a solution to the broadband challenges in our rural communities. That announcement was made on October 29th at an official ceremony attended by state and local officials and members of the local community.



Public Service Commissioner Jason Shaw spoke on the importance of rural broadband.



State Senator Blake Tillery helped us celebrate our progress.

This announcement marked a turning point in the history of Altamaha EMC.

In 1936, Altamaha EMC was chartered because a group of forward-thinking citizens recognized the need for electric service to be extended to the rural areas of Southeast Georgia. Much like those rural electric pioneers, Altamaha EMC's board of directors and management team are now faced with an opportunity to provide a service to the people in our communities who have a desperate need for access to high-speed internet.

The harsh reality of COVID has shed even more light on the digital divide in rural Georgia and we are determined to help bridge that gap.

Reliable high-speed internet is critical when it comes to access to medical care, keeping in touch with our loved ones, allowing students to do schoolwork from home, and for those people who are now working from home due to the changes related to the pandemic. The growth

and future of businesses in our rural area depends on access to dependable internet service.

The \$29 Million project will include almost 1,500 miles of fiber lines from 12 distribution nodes allowing us to connect high-speed fiber broadband service to members in Toombs, Montgomery, and portions of Tattnall, Treutlen and Laurens counties.

Construction of the backbone to provide high-speed fiber optic internet service to our area has already begun. We currently have 10 homes and businesses connected as test cases. Our plans are to start connecting services by the end of 2021. As we build the fiber backbone, we will send a mailer to our members notifying them that our service will soon be available in their area.

You can stay informed of our progress by checking our website at [www.altamahaemc.com](http://www.altamahaemc.com) and on our Facebook page.



Pictured (L-R): Brett Williams, Altamaha EMC Director; State Senator Blake Tillery; Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO; Bob Youmans, Altamaha EMC Board President; Public Service Commissioner Jason Shaw; Randall Morris, Altamaha EMC Board Vice-President; Brandon Braddy, Altamaha EMC Director.



Members of the community, along with state and local elected officials, attended the fiber announcement ceremony.

# 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Highlights

This year marked 85 years of service to our members. On November 3rd, we had 1,132 members register for our 85th annual meeting at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. This sets a record for the most members to attend our annual meeting.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, the meeting was conducted in a drive-thru format where the attendees drove along the designated route to register for the meeting, cast their vote to approve the minutes of the 2020 meeting and vote for three seats on the board of directors. Each member was given an EMC bucket with prizes.

The business session of the annual meeting was broadcast on the radio for members to hear. Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO, reported on the progress of the cooperative during the past year. Bryan Isgett of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co. reviewed the cooperative's financial reports showing the sound financial position of Altamaha EMC.

Directors Brett Williams, Danny Shepherd and Dean Gowen were reelected to a three-year term on the board.

Joe Waters, Ricky Coleman and Nancy Hodges retired this past year and were recognized for their years of service to Altamaha EMC.

Shriners from the Quint Shrine Club accepted donations from the attendees. All donations were given to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Greenville, SC to benefit the patients and their families.

Members were treated to peanuts and a cold drink as they exited the meeting. Thank you to everyone who helped make our 85th annual meeting such a huge success.



These precious dogs came along for the ride to our 85th annual meeting.



Members of the local Quint Shrine Club raised money to benefit the Shriners Children's Hospital in Greenville, SC.



AT LEFT: Altamaha EMC employee Maria Sanchez assisted Mike Edenfield with his registration for the meeting.

BELOW; Linemen Andrew Bishop and Rhett Carroll helped load the prize buckets into the members' vehicles.







# Scholarship Opportunities...

## Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications Now Available

Altamaha EMC is currently accepting applications for the **Walter Harrison Scholarship**, a program sponsored by Georgia's electric cooperatives.

The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. Factors for consideration include grade point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors, and financial need. A scholarship committee comprised of EMC directors and managers selects students who exceed in these areas and who struggle with college expenses. Fourteen scholarships will be awarded statewide in early spring of 2022.

Students who apply for the scholarship must live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member. Applicants must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program. They also must complete an application and write a biographical sketch which provides a preview of their future plans.

Created in 1985 by the board of directors of Georgia EMC, the scholarship pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program. Since 1985, Georgia's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$150,000 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

Applications are available for download on our website. You can also request an application by contacting Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120 or via email at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com). **Completed applications are due by January 28, 2022.**

## Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

Four scholarships, worth \$500 each, will be awarded to local students in March 2022. The **Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarship** program was founded in an effort to help local students further their education. The scholarships are funded entirely by members' donations through Operation Round Up. Applicants must be a high school senior and live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member.

Applications are available on our website, [www.altamahaemc.com](http://www.altamahaemc.com). You can also request an application by contacting Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120 or via email at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com).

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in March 2022. **Completed applications are due by February 28, 2022.**

# HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

*The board of directors, management and employees of Altamaha EMC extend to you and your family our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!*

*In observance of the holiday season, the offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed December 24th, December 27th, and December 31st. The drive-in window at our Lyons office only will remain open for the convenience of our members.*

*In the event of a power outage or related problems, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling (912) 526-8181 or (800) 822-4563.*

## GATE Card Exemption

If you are currently receiving a GATE sales-tax exemption, please check the expiration date on your card immediately. If your card expires at the end of 2021, you must renew your certification before December 31, 2021 in order to continue receiving the exemption.

You can apply for, or renew, the tax exemption certification on the Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov). If you have questions about your certification, please call the Department of Agriculture at 1-855-327-6829. We must have a copy of your GATE card in order to apply the exemption to your accounts. A copy of your GATE card can be sent to:

Altamaha EMC, ATTN: Sharon Rauton  
PO Box 346  
Lyons, GA 30436



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

#### Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



**ALTAMAHA**

Electric Membership Corporation  
Community Owned • Community Built • Community Builder





# Member RECIPES

## Slow Cooker Chocolate Lava Cake

### Ingredients

6 tablespoons salted butter  
1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup whole milk  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 large egg yolk  
1 cup granulated sugar, divided  
9 tablespoons unsweetened  
cocoa powder, divided  
1 1/2 cups hot water  
1/3 cup packed light brown sugar

Microwave butter and chocolate chips in a microwave-safe bowl on high 1 minute. Stir mixture until combined. If needed, microwave an additional 15 seconds. Stir in flour, milk, vanilla, baking powder, salt, egg yolk, 2/3 cup granulated sugar, and 3 tablespoons cocoa powder just until incorporated. Spread evenly in a 4-quart slow cooker coated with cooking spray. Stir together hot water, brown sugar, and remaining 6 tablespoons cocoa powder and 1/3 cup granulated sugar until combined. Pour over batter in slow cooker. Do not stir! Cover and cook on HIGH about 2 hours until top is set and browned. Turn off slow cooker and let stand 30 minutes before serving. Top with whipped cream or ice cream. Sliced strawberries or raspberries also make a delicious topping.

*From the kitchen of Amber Mosley*

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.