



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC | Fiber

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## 86th Annual Meeting Highlights

A crowd of over 1,400 members gathered at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia on November 2nd for Altamaha EMC's annual meeting of the members. The beautiful warm weather helped make the event a huge success. A total of



1,410 members registered for the meeting. This sets a record for the most members to attend our annual meeting.



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 2021 meeting, and vote for three seats on the board of directors. After



casting their vote, each member was given an EMC bucket filled with goodies.

The business session of the annual meeting was broadcast on the radio for members to hear and on Facebook live as well. Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO, reported on the progress of the cooperative during the past year and discussed improvements made during the past year to improve service and reliability. Phil Proctor, Altamaha EMC contractor, gave members an update on the construction of the fiber network and

discussed future expansion projects. Jason Peacock of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co. reviewed the cooperative's financial reports showing the sound financial position of Altamaha EMC.

This year we had three districts on the election ballot- Districts 2,3, and 5. Mr. Drexel Braddy, of District 2, and Mr. Randall Morris, of District 3, were each re-elected to a three-year term. Mrs. Krista Anderson was elected to serve for District 5, which was previously held by Mr. Myron "Mike" Sweat. Mr. Sweat did not seek re-election after 33 years of service to Altamaha EMC. Everyone here at Altamaha EMC would like to thank Mr. Sweat for his years of service to our members.

The Burn Foundation of America was the charitable cause for this year's annual meeting. The Burn Foundation aids families of burn patients being treated at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta. This includes lodging at the Chavis House, daily meals, and transportation – all free of charge. In addition, the Burn Foundation assists patients upon their discharge with services related to their return to independent living. This includes medication, anti-scarring garments, and transportation for follow-up medical visits. Altamaha EMC members were able to donate money to this great cause after going through the registration tents.



Members were treated to peanuts, a cold drink, and ice cream as they exited the meeting. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's annual meeting a great success.

# 5 Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Altamaha EMC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check. Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

**1. Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you are home. When you are sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.



**2. Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

**3. Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

**4. Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

**5. Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks, and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.



If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 912-526-8181 and take advantage of our free home energy audits. Altamaha EMC's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.



# 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. Fifteen scholarships will be awarded statewide in early spring of 2023.

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 \$250,000 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

Applications are available for download on our website. You can also request an application by contacting **Will NeSmith** via email at **will.nesmith@altamahaemc.com** or call **912-526-8181**. **Completed applications are due by January 27, 2023.**

## Foundation Scholarship Applications Available

Four scholarships, worth \$1,000 each, will be awarded to local students in March 2023. 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 **Will NeSmith** via email at **will.nesmith@altamahaemc.com** or call **912-526-8181**.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in March 2023. **Completed applications are due by February 28, 2023.**



# G.A.T.E. Card Exemption Renewal Deadline

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 2022, you must renew your certification before December 31, 2022 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 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

## 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 23rd, December 26th, and December 30th. The drive-thru window at our Lyons office 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.

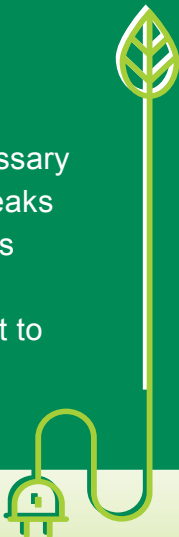
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

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



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# Member RECIPES

## Chocolate Chip Cheesecake

### Ingredients

3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese  
softened  
3 eggs  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 (16.5 ounce) rolls refrigerated chocolate  
chip cookie dough

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, beat together cream cheese, eggs, sugar, and vanilla until mixed well. Set aside. Slice cookie dough rolls into 1/3 inch slices. Arrange slices from one roll over bottom of a greased 9X13 baking dish; press together until there are no holes in dough. Spoon cream cheese mixture evenly over dough, top with remaining slices of cookie dough. Bake 45 to 50 minutes, or until golden brown and center is slightly firm. Remove from oven, let cool then refrigerate. Slice when chilled.

***-From the kitchen of Anne S. Hostillo***

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.