



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

FEBRUARY 2019

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

You're More Than a Customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." To a large degree, this reflects Altamaha EMC's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a MEMBER of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1936, Altamaha EMC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none. At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create Altamaha EMC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger

community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other community events, throughout the year. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as our HomePlus loan program and free energy audits. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Altamaha EMC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations and schools, and administer our Operation Round Up program. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future. **–Romanous Dotson, CEO**





TREUTLEN HIGH STUDENT ADVANCES TO STATE WIRING COMPETITION

Cody Graham, a member of Treutlen High School's FFA chapter, recently earned first place in the Area 4 Electrification Career Development Event (CDE) Competition. As the first place region winner, Cody received \$500 in scholarship money and earned the opportunity to advance to the State CDE competition in January where he placed in the top 12. Cody is the son of Brian and Melanie Graham of Soperton.

"This CDE allowed me the opportunity to learn about wiring and the electrical code, and to be able to practice in a safe environment. The knowledge and skills will be beneficial to me in the future," says Cody.

"We're very proud of Cody's accomplishment. The electrification CDE is a tough competition. We believe this EMC/FFA Electrification CDE is an opportunity to expand a student's knowledge, and maybe even help him determine a career path," says Van Henriott, Altamaha EMC Member Services Representative.

Each participant completes a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electric Code, a multiple-choice written exam, and gives an oral presentation describing necessary steps to complete a specific electrical task.

For more than 50 years, this unique educational activity has partnered FFA chapters with their local electric membership cooperative (EMC) to teach electrical wiring and interpersonal skills. The contest reinforces electrical wiring as taught in the vocational agriculture education program and expands the student's grasp of electric energy and the role of EMCs in Georgia's energy future. Any active FFA member who is in grade 10, 11, or 12 in the state of Georgia is eligible to participate and compete for scholarship funds to use at any college, university or vocational school in Georgia.

By offering scholarships to area and state winners, EMCs across Georgia give youth an added incentive to participate in the CDE. And the benefits don't stop when the contest ends. Their participation can play a huge role in propelling students forward into the future. Students develop a passion for wiring through CDE which inspires them to pursue degree programs and industry certifications in the electric and agriculture fields. Some have graduated with engineering degrees, while others have gone on to become agriculture teachers in local high schools, colleges and universities.

OPERATION ROUND UP MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Operation Round Up, a program that began in August 2017 at Altamaha EMC, provides assistance to charitable organizations and agencies in the seven counties in our service territory. All Operation Round Up donations are administered through the Altamaha EMC Foundation, an independent organization governed by a board of directors made up of community leaders. Each quarter, this board evaluates all applications for funding and determines how the funds will be distributed.

The Operation Round Up program is a great

example of how small change is making a big difference in the lives of so many in need. Pictured are the agencies who recently received funding from Altamaha EMC's Operation Round Up program.

Interested charitable organizations and agencies can apply for funding by completing the required application which can be found on Altamaha EMC's website at www.altamahaemc.com. The deadline to apply for the next round of funding is March 8, 2019. For more information, contact Tammie Vaughn at 912-526-2120.



Toombs Service Center received a grant to help fund the purchase of a work truck to be used for the collection of recycling materials and contract work. The mission of Toombs Service Center is to develop and provide the services needed to minimize the impact of mental illness, development disabilities and addictive diseases in the lives of the clients they serve. Pictured: June DiPolito (left), Pineland BHDD CEO, and Myra Henriott (right), Toombs Service Center Director, accept the grant.



A grant was awarded to Toombs County Family Connection to support the Backpack Buddies program. This program provides weekend food to students in need. The program was founded in 2016 and is completely funded through local donations. They serve 100 children in the Toombs County and Vidalia City schools. Pictured: Romanous Dotson (left), Altamaha EMC General Manager, presents the check for the grant to Paige Williamson (right), Toombs County Family Connection Director.



AT LEFT: Herrington Homestead, one of five Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, received a grant to help with restoration of facilities used for the daily recreation for the residents at the local campus. Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes provide a sanctuary for neglected and abused children. Pictured: Altamaha EMC Foundation Chairman, Mack Griffin (right), presents the grant check to Ken Tomlinson (left), Chairman of the Board of Herrington Homestead.



HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

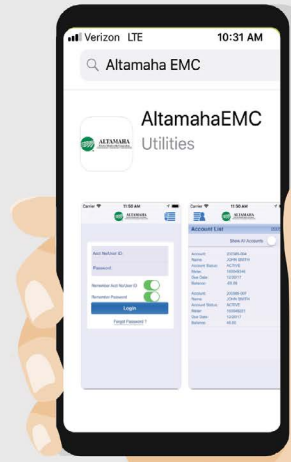
The offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019 in observance of Presidents' Day.

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.

Altamaha EMC now has a **free mobile app!**

ON-THE-GO ACCESS

- View usage
- Make a payment
- View account information



Scholarship Applications Now Available

Four scholarships, worth \$500 each, will soon be awarded to local high school seniors to help further their education. The scholarships are funded entirely by members' donations through Operation Round Up. Applicants must be a member of Altamaha EMC.



Applications are available on our website, www.altamahaemc.com. You can also request an application from any of our three office locations. The deadline to apply is April 26, 2019.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in May 2018. For more information, call Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov





Member RECIPES



Savory Slow Cooker Vegetable Chowder

½ cup chopped onion
2 cups chopped potatoes
1 cup chopped carrots
1 bell pepper, chopped
2 cups chopped fresh green beans
½ cup chopped celery
1 can creamed corn
3 cups vegetable broth
1 teaspoon dried parsley
1 teaspoon dried basil
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 cup reduced fat milk
2 tablespoons corn starch

Place the onion, potatoes, carrots, pepper, green beans, celery, creamed corn, broth, parsley, basil, and oregano in the base of a slow cooker. Cook on low for 6-7 hours or on high for 3-4 hours until potatoes are tender and cooked through. Season to taste with salt and pepper; depending on the saltiness of your broth, you may or may not need salt. Whisk together the milk and cornstarch until dissolved. Slowly add the milk mixture to the chowder and cook on high another 30 minutes until thickened. Serves four.

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.