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Altamaha EMC Foundation Awards \$5,000 in Scholarships to Local Students

Through the generosity of our members and the Operation Round Up program, the Altamaha EMC Foundation is proud to award five \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors from across our service area. These students were selected for their academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to their future goals. We're honored to support them as they take the next step in their education!

Meet Our 2025 Scholarship Recipients:

Yadira Hernandez

A senior at Swainsboro High School, Yadira is the daughter of Mayra Yepe Hernandez. She's a STAR Honor Roll student and a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Yadira is also active in the Spanish Club, 21st Century Leaders Club, and spent two years performing with the marching band. This fall, she'll be attending Valdosta State University to pursue a career in optometry.



Aiden Harvill

Aiden is a senior at Vidalia High School and the son of Jason and Elizabeth Harvill. He's been a member of the National Honor Society for four years and is also involved in Beta Club, The Sound Tribe, Jazz Band, and Concert Band. Aiden participated in Greater Vidalia Youth Leadership and will attend Mercer University in the fall to pursue a career as a primary care physician. He will also represent Altamaha EMC this summer as one of our delegates on the Washington Youth Tour.



Jaxson G. Marion

Jaxson, a senior at West Laurens High School, is the son of Leccrescicia and Walter Marion. He's a member of Beta Club, FBLA, Dublin-Laurens Youth Leadership, the NAACP Youth Council, and Teen Court, and also played on the football team. Jaxson plans to attend Kennesaw State University to study computer science and become a computer engineer.



Jessica De Los Santos

Jessica is a senior at East Laurens High School and the daughter of Araceli Leonardo. She's a member of Beta Club, TSA, and serves as President of the Book Club. As part of her work-based learning course, she also works in the school media center. Jessica plans to attend Oconee Fall Line Technical College to study Radiology, with hopes of becoming an MRI technician.



Clayton Hood

Clayton is a senior at David Emanuel Academy and the son of Clay and Allison Hood. He serves as Senior Class Vice President, is on the Citizens Bank Advisory Board, and has played football, baseball, basketball, and track. He's also a dual enrollment student with Southeastern Technical College and East Georgia State College. Clayton plans to attend the University of Georgia in the fall to pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine.



Each of these students represents the values we're proud to support at Altamaha EMC—dedication, drive, and a heart for their communities. Congratulations to the 2025 Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarship winners!

Operation Round Up Spotlight: Supporting Local Schools and Students

Altamaha EMC is proud to support educational initiatives and student well-being through our Operation Round Up program. Thanks to the generosity of members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to fund meaningful projects that make a lasting impact in our communities. Two recent grant recipients—Treutlen County Schools and East Laurens Primary School—demonstrate how these small contributions can lead to big changes.

Treutlen County Schools: Meeting Essential Needs

We were honored to award \$1,000 to Treutlen County Schools to support students and families facing financial hardships. This funding will provide food and hygiene products, helping to ensure students have access to the basic necessities that support their well-being and academic success.

By addressing these fundamental needs, Treutlen County Schools is creating a more equitable learning environment—one where every child has the opportunity to thrive regardless of their circumstances. When students have access to proper nutrition and personal care items, their health, confidence, and classroom performance all benefit.

East Laurens Primary School: Growing Through Learning

Altamaha EMC also awarded \$1,000 to East Laurens Primary School for the creation of a garden and flower area designed for hands-on science learning. The grant will fund two raised beds and a bench, creating a sensory-rich outdoor classroom where special needs and second-grade students can explore plant life cycles, ecosystems, and sustainability throughout the school year.

This engaging space will offer more than just academic lessons. It will promote teamwork, creativity, and responsibility as students work together to care for the plants.

For special needs students, the garden also provides valuable sensory experiences that support cognitive and motor development.

Both of these impactful projects are possible because of Altamaha EMC members who choose to participate in Operation Round Up. Each rounded-up bill contributes to initiatives that help children and families in meaningful ways.

To learn more about Operation Round Up and how it benefits our communities, visit AltamahaEMC.com or contact our office.



STAY COOL. STAY EFFICIENT.

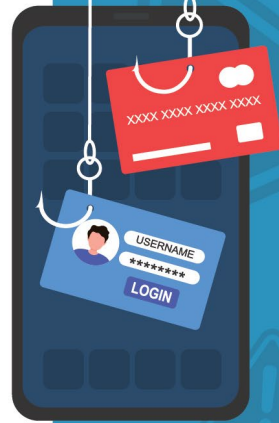
We're here to help you beat the summer heat. Take advantage of our efficiency programs and energy-saving recommendations designed to help you stay comfortable and cut costs all summer long.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



Call 811 Before You Dig – Protect Your Fiber and Stay Connected!

Spring and summer are perfect times to spruce up your yard—whether you're planting a new flower bed, installing a fence, or putting in a mailbox. But before you grab that shovel, there's one very important step you can't skip: Call 811 before you dig.

This free service helps homeowners avoid hitting underground utility lines—including fiber drops, which are the lines that bring high-speed internet to your home. Unlike other utilities that may be buried deeper, fiber lines are often just a few inches below the surface, especially near your home. That means even routine yard work like planting shrubs or small trees can easily damage them.

A cut fiber line doesn't just delay your weekend project—it can also interrupt your internet service, affecting everything from streaming and smart home devices to remote work and online school.

Why Call 811?

It's free. There's no cost to have utilities located

and marked.

It's fast. Just call at least two business days before you plan to dig.

It's safe. Avoiding underground lines keeps you and your family out of harm's way.

It prevents service interruptions. One small dig can cause a big headache if it cuts your fiber drop.

Once you call 811, local utility companies—including Altamaha EMC/Fiber—will mark the approximate location of underground lines in your yard. That way, you can dig safely and confidently.

Don't Let a Shovel Disconnect You

Whether you're building, planting, or just freshening up your outdoor space, calling 811 before you dig is a simple step that saves time, money, and frustration. Help us protect our fiber network—and your internet connection—by making the call. Your yard (and your service) will thank you.

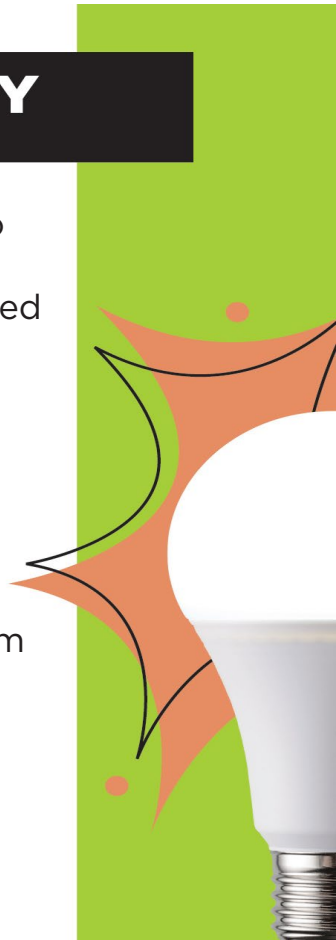
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: energy.gov



HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

All offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed
Monday, May 26th in observance
of Memorial Day.

In the event of a power outage or other emergency, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling us at (912) 526-8181 or 1 (800) 822-4563.



Member RECIPES

Cream of Brie Soup

INGREDIENTS)

4 tablespoons butter
1 cup onion, finely diced
1/2 cup celery, finely diced
1/2 cup carrot, finely diced
4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
6 cups chicken broth or chicken stock
1/2 cup half-and-half
2 teaspoons seasoning salt or
herbes de Provence
White pepper, to taste
1 teaspoon hot sauce
8-ounce wheel French brie with rind, diced
Finely chopped parsley and/or
diced apple, for garnish
Diced apple, for garnish
French bread, for serving



DIRECTIONS

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and add vegetables, cooking until softened, 3-4 minutes. Add flour and stir to coat vegetables. Cook while stirring for 3-4 minutes. Gradually whisk in chicken broth or chicken stock, stirring to prevent lumps, then add half-and-half. Whisk until smooth. Bring to a boil, then lower to a simmer. Add seasoning salt or herbes de Provence, white pepper, hot sauce and French brie. Stir until cheese is melted. Using an immersion blender, puree until smooth. Adjust seasoning. Garnish with chopped parsley and/or diced apple and serve with crusty French bread. Serves 6-8.

-Courtesy of Georgia Grown