



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

November 2018
LYONS, GA

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

The Co-Op World

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor can have a positive impact on my community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these local businesses, just as it is in Altamaha EMC.

Electric cooperatives like Altamaha EMC are as local and community centered as they come. Founded as a way

to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses in our community is the same feeling I get every day when I walk

into work at the co-op. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the community in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and



affordable electric service. It is an investment in our community and its members.

Because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community prospers. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs such as the Washington Youth Tour, Walter Harrison Scholarship program, Operation Round Up and many others.

I hope you view Altamaha EMC not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way!

—Romanous Dotson, CEO

Saving Energy in the Kitchen

BY BRIAN SLOBODA

The holidays are nearly upon us, which means many of us will be spending a lot of time in the kitchen. Whether you are considering replacing an appliance or simply looking for small ways to be more efficient, here are some tips to help you save energy—and money.

The refrigerator sits in the kitchen, quietly humming away to keep your food cold. Most people don't think about it that often—as long as it's working. A refrigerator typically runs for several years without any problems, but that doesn't mean it's performing at optimal capacity. Older refrigerators use more energy. Upgrading this appliance can bring a major return on your investment.

A new refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR label uses at least 15 percent less energy than nonqualified models, 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards and 40 percent less than the conventional models sold in 2001.

Cooking can expend a lot of energy, but there are ways to reduce energy use. Placing the lid on a pot of boiling water will trap heat and cause the water to boil faster. There is no need to preheat the oven when cooking a large piece of meat, like turkey or ham. You do need to preheat when baking smaller dishes.

If you are planning on using the oven for a long period—for instance, cooking one of those large pieces of meat—you might be able to turn down your home's thermostat during the colder months. The heat from the oven can raise the temperature in the kitchen and surrounding rooms. This is especially true if you are hosting a large group. Once your home begins to fill with people, the temperature will quickly rise.

Even after the meal, there are still ways to save energy. Make sure your dishwasher is full and on the right setting



before starting it. Many newer dishwashers have sensors that detect how clean your dishes are. When these auto cycles are used, they will clean dishes without wasting energy or water. The sanitize setting should be used sparingly because it is energy-intensive. It is also a good idea to make sure the filter at the bottom of the washtub is cleaned. This will help the dishwasher work at its optimal level.

One of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy in the kitchen is to replace existing lights with LEDs. They not only use less energy but also burn out less frequently. Plus, their costs have dropped in recent years, making them far more affordable. (Note: If you have linear fluorescent lamps, converting to LEDs may be too expensive to justify.)

By following these steps to practice efficiency in the kitchen, you could even save enough money to treat the family to dinner out a couple of times a year.

Brian Sloboda writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Check Your Washing Machine Hoses

Washing machine hose failures can be costly. Hose failures cause about \$150 million in damages to homes in the United States and Canada each year, according to State Farm insurance.

Take the time to inspect your washing machine hoses frequently, and replace them if necessary. Washing machine hoses are sold at most home and hardware stores. A new set costs only \$20 or so, and it can save you a lot more if the investment prevents a flood in your laundry room.

Some tips:

- When replacing hoses, straighten them out so they're free of kinks and tight bends.
- Leave at least four inches between the water connection and the back of the washing machine. This will reduce the chance that the hose will kink.
- Check hose connections to make sure they're secure, including the drain hose.
- Never leave the washing machine running while you're asleep or out of the house.
- Shut off hoses when you're not using them or if you're going to be away for several days.



Toombs County High School Receives GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award



From left, on the field for the pre-game presentation of the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award are Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC Manager of Marketing and Communications; Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO; Bill Benton, Toombs County High School Athletic Director; Jon Nelson, on-air talent for Georgia Public Broadcasting; Marissa Morris, Toombs County High School Principal; and Barry Waller, Toombs County Schools Superintendent.

When engaged in athletic competition, high school students have one goal: victory. But beyond wins and losses, one of the greatest lessons learned from high school athletics is the ability to compete with class and sportsmanship. Altamaha EMC congratulates Toombs County High School as one of the high schools in Georgia chosen for the 2017-2018 Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award.

“It is an honor to be selected as the region winner for this award,” says Tammye Vaughn with Altamaha EMC. “The characteristics of good sportsmanship are critical to the development of our young people as they transition into productive adults.”

Toombs County High School is recognized for demonstrating a high level of honorable behavior across all sports throughout the school year and among many groups, ranging from students, coaches, parents, spectators and offi-

cial. Because the award serves as a compliment to anyone involved with the school’s athletic events, it is not just for the school, but for the entire community.

“High school athletes have a lot on their plate,” says Vaughn. “But one of the most important things that these young people are responsible for is how they carry themselves. Creating the habits of exemplary sportsmanship now will go with them long after the final whistle blows and the scoreboard clock shows time has expired. It is one of life’s greatest lessons, one that will mold them into healthy and productive adults. We’re proud to be a part of such a wonderful award that honors outstanding high school athletes across the state of Georgia.”

To be considered for recognition, students, athletes, coaches, spectators and anyone else associated with high school activities must display respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility before, during and after competition.



Member RECIPES

Pumpkin Cornbread



- 1 cup flour**
- 1 cup cornmeal**
- 1 tablespoon baking powder**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom (use cinnamon or ginger if you prefer)**
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg**
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 cup pumpkin purée**
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil**
- 2 tablespoons molasses**
- 1/3 cup buttermilk (or milk)**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Whisk the dry ingredients together in a small bowl; try to smooth out any brown sugar lumps. Whisk the wet ingredients together in a larger bowl. Add the dry to the wet and mix until just combined. Turn into a buttered 9-inch spring form pan, spreading out evenly. Bake for 30-35 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for a few minutes in the pan, then remove and serve warm.

—From the kitchen
of Brenda Brantley



Scholarship Applications Now Available

Altamaha EMC is 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 composed of EMC directors and managers selects students who exceed in these areas and who struggle with college expenses. Eleven scholarships will be awarded statewide in early spring of 2019.

Students who apply for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program. They also must complete an application and write an autobiographical sketch that 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 \$202,500 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

Applications are available on our website at 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. Completed applications are due by January 31, 2019.



Certification for GATE Expires December 31— Time to Renew

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed House Bill 386 into law in 2012. Under this law, all agricultural producers must apply ANNUALLY to the Department of Agriculture in order to remain tax exempt. Current GATE certifications expire Dec. 31, 2018.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, all your Altamaha EMC accounts that are currently tax exempt will be taxed unless you provide us a copy of your 2019 GATE card. We must have this card on file before Dec. 31, 2018, in order for your accounts to be tax exempt on Jan. 1, 2019.

You can apply for the tax exemption certificate on the Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.georgia.gov. If you have questions about your certification, please contact the Department of Agriculture at 1 (855) 327-6829.

Thanksgiving Closing Notice

Altamaha EMC offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, for the Thanksgiving holidays. In the event of a power outage or other related problems, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling us at (912) 526-8181.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.