



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC | Fiber

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**Powering Lives.
Empowering Communities.**

Our mission is to serve. Our priority is you.

Growing Up Co-Op

I love the feeling of being able to walk into my favorite locally owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, products, and labor can make positive impacts on my community. The spirit of main street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in Altamaha EMC.

Electric cooperatives 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 (or IOUs), 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 when I walk into work at the co-op every day. 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. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

You see, Altamaha EMC is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably, and reliably, we return it back to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is great!

And because we are owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs such as Operation Round Up, Washington Youth Tour and various scholarship programs.

I hope that you view Altamaha EMC not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. If you are interested in learning more about how we keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by the co-op or give us a call. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way too!

—Romanous Dotson, CEO

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. 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.**





Four Ways to Save Energy in the Kitchen

Ah, the kitchen. It's undeniably one of the most-loved rooms in our homes. It's where we gather with family and friends for our favorite meals and memories. But like most of us, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves, and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they are not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they will reflect heat better. When it is time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge does not have to work harder to cool warm food.

Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

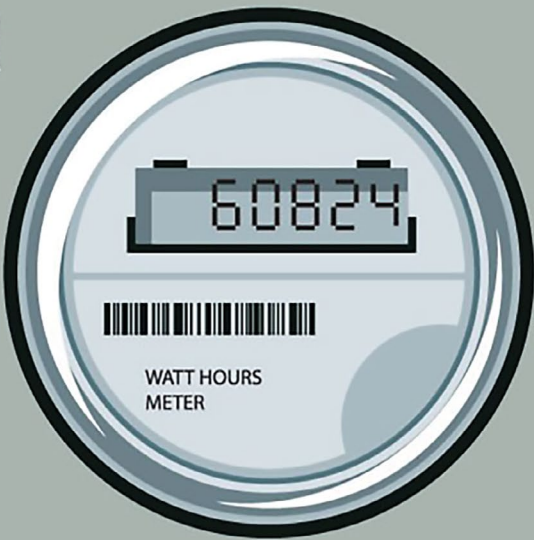
Bonus tip: The best way to save energy is to not use it. Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe. Your sweet tooth (*and energy bill!*) will thank you.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you will be well on your way to energy savings. Contact us to learn about additional ways you can save energy and money at home.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.



If you know of or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.

Thanksgiving Closing Notice

Altamaha EMC will be closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for the Thanksgiving Holidays. 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 other related problems, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report power outages by calling us at 912-526-8181 or 1-800-822-4563. You can also report power outages by using our mobile app!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days. If your home is heated through warm air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



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Member RECIPES

Scrumptious Banana Pudding

Ingredients

2 packages of instant banana pudding
1 package vanilla instant pudding
1 8oz. sour cream
1 13oz. cool whip
6 cups of milk
3 lbs. bananas, sliced
1 large box of vanilla wafers

Directions

Mix puddings, sour cream, cool whip, and milk together in a bowl. In a large 13x9x2 dish, alternate layering the following: pudding mixture, sliced bananas, and vanilla wafers. Repeat layering and serve with a dollop of cool whip. Great for big crowds!

***-From the kitchen of
Joyce O'Neal***

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.