



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

OCTOBER 2018

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

Cooperatives See the Future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smartphone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Altamaha EMC is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led.

October is Nat-ional Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique. Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC CEO, explains that, “Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.”

Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric co-ops, like Altamaha EMC, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means investment in our communities through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, Walter Harrison

Scholarship, Operation Round Up, community solar and many other areas.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op.

Right here in our seven-county service territory, we partner with the chambers of commerce, development authorities, and city and county governments to support economic growth.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to
power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Escape Plan Can Save Family During Fire

Installing smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors on every floor of your home and replacing their batteries twice a year are important first steps to keeping your family safe in case of fire. But when that unexpected alarm sounds, your children can panic.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13, so it's a good time to focus on the importance of preparing your family before an emergency strikes. Plan for what everyone should do in case of a fire or gas leak.

Here's how to get started:

- Draw a map of the house's floor plan and outline the best escape route. Teach your children what to do if a doorway is blocked by fire. Create alternate routes from each room, especially from the child's room or



from areas of the house without easy access to the outdoors.

- Agree on a meeting place outside the house so the family will immediately know when everyone is safe.
- Kids can memorize the familiar fire-safety slogan "Stop, drop and roll," but words alone won't keep them safe. Have children act out the moves. Then make a practice run through your escape routes and demonstrate to children how they should crawl and stay low to the ground to prevent smoke inhalation.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the house, and show children how to use it. Still, remind them that their safest action is to escape as quickly as possible.



- Keep a cellphone in a visible and easily accessible place in case of emergencies. That way, you can get out of the house and then call 911.
- Don't waste time grabbing documents or keepsakes. Keep important or irreplaceable items, such as birth certificates and photo negatives, in a fireproof box or a safe deposit box at the bank.



Downed Power Lines: Always a Risk

You teach your children not to mix water and electricity in the bathroom, kitchen and laundry room. But when a storm knocks down power lines, do your kids know to stay far away from them?

Here's what your family needs to know:

- If someone comes into contact with electricity, do not touch that person or anything the person is touching. Instead, call 911. If the source of electricity is an appliance, grab the plug—not the cord—and pull it out of the outlet. If you cannot safely remove the

plug, turn off the power at the fuse or circuit breaker.

- If an electric wire falls on your car, do not get out of the car. You are safe inside your vehicle because your tires conduct electricity. Electricity seeks the quickest path to the ground—through the outside of the car, through the tires and into the ground.
- Not all power lines are insulated, so they are never safe to touch. When a wire falls to the ground, it may still be live, even if you don't see sparks. Call 911 and your electric cooperative if you see a

downed wire. Warn others to keep their distance.

- Wood is a poor conductor of electricity, but it is still a conductor, especially when wet. Do not use a wooden ladder near a power line. If a ladder begins to fall into a power line, don't grab it. Let it fall, and call your electric cooperative.
- Only pure rubber is an insulator, and most household products aren't pure rubber.
- Don't try to handle electric emergencies at home yourself; call a professional.

Operation Round Up Dollars Awarded

Operation Round Up, a program that began in August 2017 at Altamaha EMC, provides assistance to charitable organizations and agencies in the seven counties we serve. 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 your small change is making a big difference in the lives of so many in need.

Pictured are the five agencies who received the first round of 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 our website. The deadline for the next round of funding is December 7, 2018. For more information, contact Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120.



The Southeastern Technical College Foundation was awarded a grant to fund student scholarships. These scholarships help build stronger communities by developing a skilled workforce.



The Mercy Ministries is a faith-based organization aimed at providing holistic healthcare to those in need in our local community. They provide medical and dental services for the uninsured, low-income population that are ineligible for Medicaid. They currently serve about 500 patients. The funds they received will be used to purchase an echocardiogram machine and a vital-signs monitoring system.



The Sunshine House received a grant to help fund the purchase of needed forensic interview equipment. The mission of The Sunshine House is to provide prevention, intervention, and aftercare services to all child victims of abuse, non-offending parents, agencies, and professionals within the Middle Judicial Circuit.



The Refuge Domestic Violence Shelter provides safe emergency shelter and services to victims and their children hurt by domestic violence and sexual assault. The grant money awarded to The Refuge will help fund their youth summer program.



A grant was awarded to Rachel's House Pregnancy Resource Clinic to help fund the purchase of office supplies and equipment to meet HIPPA compliance laws. Rachel's House is a Christian ministry whose mission is to equip pregnant women to make life-affirming decisions regarding their pregnancies.

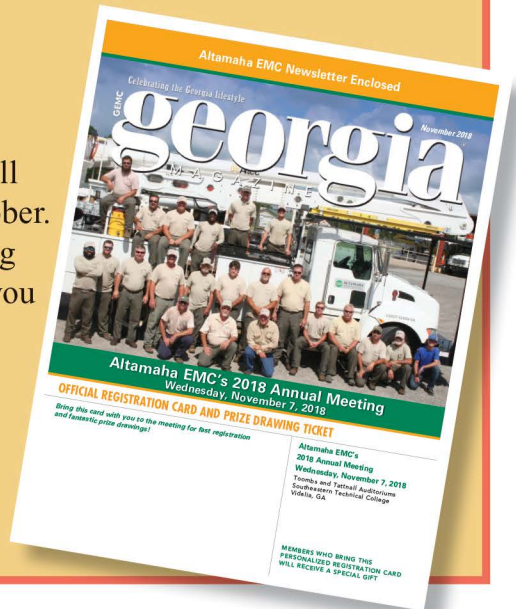
Mark Your Calendars

Altamaha EMC Annual Meeting of the Members

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 • 2:30 PM
Southeastern Technical College • Vidalia, GA

Your complimentary copy of *Georgia Magazine* will arrive in your mailbox during the last week of October. This magazine will have a special cover wrap giving you all the details of the annual meeting. Be sure you remove the registration card and door prize ticket from the front cover and bring it with you to the annual meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

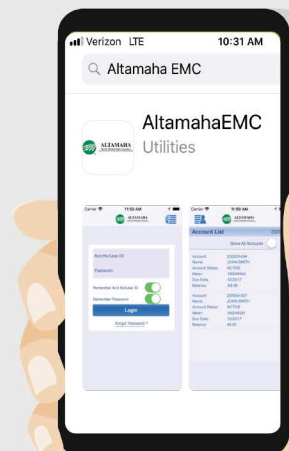
Source: energy.gov



Altamaha EMC now has a
free mobile app!

ON-THE-GO ACCESS

- View usage
- Make a payment
- View account information





Member **RECIPES**



Easy Sweet Potato Casserole

1 (29 oz) can sweet potatoes, drained
1/2 cup salted butter, melted
1/3 cup milk
3/4 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 eggs, beaten

For the topping:

5 tbsp. salted butter, melted
2/3 cup brown sugar
2/3 cup flour
1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, mash the sweet potatoes and stir in melted butter, milk, sugar, vanilla extract and beaten eggs. Stir until well combined. Pour sweet potato mixture into a 2-quart (8-inch square) baking dish. In a bowl, combine the melted butter, brown sugar, flour and chopped pecans. Use a fork or your fingers until mixture becomes small crumbles. Sprinkle crumbles over sweet potato mixture. Bake uncovered for 30-40 minutes until topping is golden brown. Let casserole cool for at least 15-20 minutes before serving. This is important as the casserole will set up as it cools.

—From the kitchen of Carmen Brantley

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.