



# COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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## WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

By Anne Prince, NRECA

***“To move forward, you have to give back.”***

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Colquitt EMC to the community we serve. With Valentine’s Day approaching, we can’t think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural South Georgia many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members (that’s you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Colquitt EMC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for Georgia’s youth, such as the Walter Harrison and Colquitt EMC Scholarships or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. It means partnering with organizations like Future Farmers of America for Agricultural Electrification Career Development Event and other worthy programs. It means awarding teachers money for their innovative lessons and projects to energize students learning abilities with our Bright Ideas Grant Program.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower Colquitt EMC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Unclaimed Capital Credits
- Tips to Avoid Energy Scams
- Recipe: Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant Bake



## COMING SOON!

### COLQUITT EMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Colquitt EMC Scholarship Applications Available April 1 – June 15! Applicants must:

- Reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC Member
- Be enrolled in a college or technical college with campus locations/degree offerings within Colquitt EMC's service area.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Submit a complete application with two letters of recommendation, proof of enrollment and transcript.

Undergraduate and graduate students may apply. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible. Applications will be available at [colquitemc.com](http://colquitemc.com) April 1 and will be due June 15.

If you have any questions regarding the Colquitt EMC Scholarship, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.

### UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

In compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-12-236 of "The Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act" of Georgia, Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation is attempting to locate former members and heirs whose capital credit checks were issued December 1, 2019 for electrical service received in 1998, but which have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or have been otherwise unclaimed.

A current list of these members, with their last known address, is available to view on Colquitt EMC's Website. Please call your local office if you are listed. The last possible date to claim these funds is June 30, 2025. All funds not claimed by this date will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by Georgia Law (OCGA Section 44-12-236).

# HOW TO IDENTIFY A FAULTY HEAT PUMP

Hands down using an electric heat pump is the most energy efficient way to heat your home. When working properly a heat pump uses as little as a third of the energy of other heating systems but an equipment malfunction or wrong thermostat setting can undo all its savings potential.

Knowing the signs of a faulty heat pump is the best way to head off high heating bills. Use these tips to catch the problem and to know when to take action.

- **Be sure your thermostat is set to normal heat**

Most Heat pump thermostats have a second heating setting called emergency heat. It is usually marked as "EM HEAT" or "AUX HEAT". Accidentally setting your thermostat to these settings will more than double your heating bill.

- **Check for cold rooms.**

Low heat output and restricted air flow can make parts of your home uncomfortable. Check your air filter monthly for dust buildup and change at least every three months. Make sure your supply air vents are fully open and as much as possible keep interior doors open to facilitate balanced air flow throughout the house.

- **Check for ice buildup on the outdoor heat pump unit.**

If the outdoor unit of your heat pump looks like a block of ice it will be time to contact your heating and air contractor. A frozen heat exchanging coil usually requires professional help.

- **Check to see if the outdoor fan is not turning when the heat is on.**

Normally the outdoor fan is turning anytime the heat is running. If you are sure the heat is on and the outdoor fan is not call your heating and air contractor.

- **Compare your heating bill to last year's bill.**

If your current energy bill is significantly higher than last year's bill you may have a heating problem. The best way to catch a sudden increase in your electric bill is to setup "Energy Usage Alerts" on your Colquitt EMC account. "Energy Usage Alerts" notify you any day your energy use is higher than normal. Contact your local EMC office or visit our website at [COLQUITTEMC.COM](http://COLQUITTEMC.COM) and enter "alerts" in the search box for more information.



*BONUS TIP: Colquitt EMC provides free energy audit to its members that includes a basic heating and cooling inspection. Contact your local office to schedule one today.*

# EFFECTIVE WAYS

## To Lower Home Energy Use

You have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



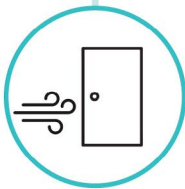
### Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Dept. of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



### Utilize Off-Peak Energy Times

Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher or washing clothing, during off-peak energy hours, when the demand for electricity is lower. Off-peak times are early in the morning or late evenings. By scheduling these activities during off-peak periods, you can help keep rates lower, reduce demand and relieve pressure on the grid.



### Seal Your Home

According to ENERGY STAR®, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



### Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*



# Recipe OF THE MONTH



## **Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant Bake**

### **INGREDIENTS**

¾ lb. ground sausage  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
10 large eggs  
½ cup packed fresh parsley leaves chopped  
2 scallions, thinly sliced  
½ cup packed grated parmesan or cheddar cheese  
8 large croissants, cut in half crosswise

### **DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Spray parchment paper with nonstick baking spray. Place sausage in a medium skillet over medium high heat. Add olive oil and cook, stirring until sausage is golden and cooked through, about 8 minutes. Remove sausage to a plate. In a large bowl, combine eggs and half-and-half. Whisk until smooth. Add parsley, scallions and cheese. Season with salt and pepper. Thoroughly dip croissant half into egg mixture and place on sheet pan. Repeat with remaining croissant halves. Shingling them to fit. If any additional egg mixture remains, pour on top of croissants. Top mixture with sausage pieces and transfer to oven. Bake until egg mixture is set and croissants are golden brown, about 18-20 minutes.

## Church of the Month



### **Grace Baptist Church**

1900 Golden Rd W • Tifton, GA  
Pastor Ronald Vice

### **Service Schedule**

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10 AM
Sunday Night Service	6 PM
Wednesday Night Service	7 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246 with your church's information or email [marketing@colquittermc.com](mailto:marketing@colquittermc.com). Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

## Bible Verse of the Month

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

~ Psalm 100:3