



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2025

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE



Each year, Colquitt EMC sponsors high school students to participate in the Washington Youth Tour. This top-notch leadership experience and tour of Washington, D.C. includes meetings with state and national leaders and leadership training, as well as visits to all the major sights. Participants join over 1,400 other students from around the nation – all expenses paid – for one incredible week in our nation’s capital.

This year’s Washington Youth Tour will be held June 13-20, 2025. Students who are chosen as finalists will be interviewed by a panel of judges for the final phase of the selection process. Three students will be chosen to represent Colquitt EMC on the 2025 Washington Youth Tour. Applicants must: Reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC Member, be at least 16 years old and a current high school junior or senior, hold a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and provide a copy of their transcript (official or unofficial accepted) and two letters of recommendation.

Applications are due February 1, and are available at colquitemc.com/washington-youth-tour. For more information, please contact Sonya Aldridge at (229) 985-3620 ext.1225.

WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP

Colquitt EMC participates in Georgia EMC’s Walter Harrison Scholarship program. This program was created in 1985 by the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors to honor the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in bringing electricity to rural areas of Georgia.

The recipients of the Walter Harrison Scholarship are based primarily on academic achievement and financial need. The scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000, may be used for undergraduate studies at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university in Georgia, including vocational schools. To be considered, students must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete the application, and write a two-page autobiographical sketch with reference to future plans and goals. Colquitt EMC will only accept scholarship applications from students that reside in the home of a Colquitt EMC member or the home of a Colquitt EMC employee.

Applications are due February 1 and are available at colquitemc.com/walter-harrison-scholarship. For more information, please contact Sonya Aldridge at (229) 985-3620 ext.1225.



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ATTIC ACCESS: A SMALL OPENING, A BIG PROBLEM

Attics can provide valuable storage space for items not used frequently. They can house air conditioning and water heating equipment, and they are usually the home's main conduit for wiring, plumbing and air distribution systems. A pulldown stair or a hatchway provides access to an attic's bonus features but if they are in poor condition can present a big problem.

Perhaps the attic's most important role is to shield a home against the extremes of summer's heat and winter's cold. While a thick layer of insulation covers most of the ceiling and provides a good heat barrier, a small opening with little or no insulation can significantly reduce the overall effectiveness of the whole insulation system. A pull-down attic stair with no insulation allows 30 times more heat transfer per square foot than a properly insulated ceiling. A single uninsulated attic hatch can increase an attic's heat transfer by 20% or more. This can lead to higher energy bills and discomfort in your home, especially in areas near the attic access.

Strategies to fix the problem include.

- Replacement of the old attic pull-down stairs. Be sure the replacement comes with preinstalled weatherstripping with an integrated insulation value of at least R-10.

(Marwin manufacturing produces a model that meets these specifications and is available through local building supply stores.)

- Replacement of the old attic hatch cover. Be sure the replacement comes with preinstalled weatherstripping and at least an R-30 value.

- Add a Pull-down Attic Ladder Cover. Models are available with insulation values as high as R-38.

- Adding weatherstripping and R-38 batt insulation to an existing attic hatch.

A well-sealed, well-insulated attic access is a small but crucial part of a whole-house energy efficiency strategy. By addressing this often-overlooked area, you can take a significant step towards lower energy bills and a comfortable home.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door (unless that is a verified bill payment method used by your utility company), texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options—online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

*Source: Utilities United
Against Scams*



SECURITY LIGHT INSPECTIONS

Osmose

Members, Osmose, contracted by Colquitt EMC, is inspecting security lights across our service territory. Contractor's vehicles will be identified by a placard stating "Contractor for Colquitt EMC" along with the contractor's logo. All work will be performed outside at the security light, and no one from Osmose will request to enter your home or business. Inspections will take place December 2024 to March 2025.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Valdosta State University invited local electric utilities to participate in the coin toss at the Blazers' Football Playoff game on December 7 to honor those who restored power following Hurricane Helene. Pictured is Jason Boykin of Colquitt EMC and President Richard Carvajal.

Recipe OF THE MONTH



Creamy Cajun Chicken Pasta

INGREDIENTS

2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves,
cut into thin strips
4 ounces linguine, cooked al dente
2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
2 tablespoons butter
1 thinly sliced green onion
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tablespoons chopped sun-dried tomatoes
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon dried basil
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
GARNISH: 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS

Place chicken and Cajun seasoning in a bowl and toss to coat. In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté chicken in butter or margarine until chicken is tender, about 5 to 7 minutes. Reduce heat add green onion, heavy cream, tomatoes, basil, salt, garlic powder, black pepper and heat through. Pour over hot linguine and toss with Parmesan cheese.

Church of the Month



Bemiss United Methodist Church

4879 Bemiss Road • Valdosta, GA 31605
Rev. Jerry Hudson

Service Schedule

Connections Sunday Class	10 AM
Sunday Worship	11 AM
Wednesday	6 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@colquittemc.com. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

And he who was seated on the throne said, "behold, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

~ Revelation 21:5