

money matters

Heating bill assistance now available

If you qualify, you may be able to receive part of \$61 million allotted to Georgians in 2014 for home heating assistance through the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

There's help if you need it

LIHEAP FACTS:

- To receive assistance, your household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income level.
- The person applying must be responsible for paying for the energy cost of the primary home heating source and a U.S. citizen or legal alien.
- The assistance is generally a locally-issued check to the utility on your behalf.
- The amount varies and averaged \$330 last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale, Walton – Partnership for Community Action, 404-929-2500

Barrow, Clarke, Oconee – Ninth District Opportunity, 770-532-3191

Greene, Morgan – Overview, 478-453-4111

GATE card expiration approaching

The Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) card is a certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture that identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

If you are currently receiving a GATE sales tax exemption for services from Walton EMC, your card will expire on Dec. 31, 2014. To continue receiving this exemption, re-apply for the GATE certificate and submit it no later than Dec. 31, 2014. Copies of your renewed GATE card can be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

MAIL

Walton EMC
Attn: Connie Bentley
P. O. Box 260
Monroe, GA 30655

FAX

770-267-6479
Attn: Connie Bentley

EMAIL

cbentley@waltonemc.com

TO APPLY FOR OR RENEW A GATE CERTIFICATE

forms.agr.georgia.gov/gate
or call 855-FARM TAX
(855-327-6829)



Walton EMC recognizes and appreciates the contribution of agriculture to the wellbeing and security of our state and country.

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

Realite

Seasons Greetings!

THE *Rundown*

inside: scholarship fund
inside flap: exploring our landmarks
on the back: money matters

The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

DEC 2014

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

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QUICK GUIDE



IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

770.267.2505
waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

FIND US

Phone 770.267.2505

In person Monroe – 842 US Hwy. 78

Snellville – 3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Web waltonemc.com

Facebook facebook.com/waltonemc

Twitter twitter.com/waltonemc

YouTube youtube.com/user/emctv

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

Call Center > M-F, 7A-7P

Business Offices > M-F, 8A-5P



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NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?

770.GAS.HEAT > waltonemcgas.com

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?

770.963.0305 > emcsecurity.com

we're REFUNDING \$5 MILLION ...and you're probably included!

Look closely at your electric bill this month. You're probably getting a nice refund.

112,318 Walton EMC customer-owners – 91 percent – have a line item on their December bill indicating their amount of our latest capital credit refund.

refund facts

- This money is being returned because Walton EMC is a cooperative, a customer-owned business. It doesn't make sense to profit from ourselves.
- \$5 million is being returned to customer-owners who had an account with Walton EMC in 1987, 1988 and/or 2013.
- The refund is issued as a credit on your December bill. This method saves tens of thousands of dollars in printing and/or postage.
- The amount of your refund is based on the amount of your power bills.
- In all, Walton EMC has returned \$71 million to its customer-owners.

where are you? Unclaimed Refunds

Take a look at these Walton EMC customer-owners who discontinued service. We mailed refunds of deposits and/or membership fees, but the Post Office returned them.

If you know someone on this list, please have them contact us at 770-266-2519.

Aries Eco Auto Care; Buckley, Julian; Collins, Robert; CRE 2011 REO GA Retail LLC; Donaldson, Traci R.; Easley, Jonathan; Flanagan, Eleanor B.; Fortson, Roland; Galloway, Jarrett J.; Good Faith Mtg Resmac, Inc.; Griggs, Latanya; Haddad, Ayham; Hawthorne III, Edward L.; Howard, Steven; Ishaq, Amina; Keller, Joan; Key Property Service, LLC; Leverette, Rachel E.; Louis, Wismide; Mallard, Jamal R.; Mallette, Cecelia A.; McNair, Maria A.; Mentzos, Richard; Moon, Justin W.; Newman, Donna; Novoa, Ana C.; Ryko, Ross; Silver Bay Property Corp.; Tlaloc El Mexicano Restaurant; Verdell, Sunwha; Walden, Danny J.; Wallace, Franklin; Wideman, Sheila J.; Wilson, Jerry W.; Yohannan, Wilson K.

Walton EMC is ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Midsize Utilities in the South" –J.D. Power



Walton EMC received the highest numerical score among midsize utilities in the South in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study™. Study based on 104,460 online interviews ranking 30 providers in the South (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NM, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in July 2013-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.



exploring our LANDMARKS

Take a look around the 10 counties in your co-op's service area and you'll find some interesting, beautiful, historic and just plain cool spots.

How well do you know Walton EMC's service territory? Some of the locations we choose may be hard to identify; some may be easy. But all are worth knowing about.

Guess the location of this scene found somewhere within the 10 counties of Walton EMC's service territory and you could win a prize. We'll draw from the winners of all correct guesses for a \$25 gift card.



This old pump is located across the street from the only business of its kind in Northeast Georgia. Search the photo for a clue of its product.

Email your guess

to landmarkscontest@waltonemc.com with the subject line "DECEMBER LANDMARKS CONTEST" no later than Jan. 5. Entries that do not follow these guidelines will be disqualified.



LAST MONTH'S LANDMARK:

Elder Mill Covered Bridge is 100 feet long and spans Rose Creek in Oconee County. Built in 1897, it's one of only 13 functional covered bridges left in Georgia. It originally spanned Calls Creek and was moved in 1924.

©2014. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 123,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.



BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- High school senior or incoming college freshman
- 21 years old or younger
- Your home served by Walton EMC (electricity)
- Scholarship used at accredited college, university or vo-tech school
- For complete criteria, rules and instructions, download the application

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Dedication to community
- Strong work ethic
- Extracurricular involvement
- Triumph over obstacles and hardships

Up to 32
\$4,000
scholarships
to be given!

Q: Where does the money for these scholarships come from?

A: From unclaimed capital credit refunds. After all attempts to find the owners are exhausted, the money goes into a fund provided for by Georgia law. No Operation Round Up donations are used for scholarships.

Apply Now! The application deadline is January 30.
Get the application at waltonemc.com

Walton EMC employee honored for breast health efforts

Kathy Ivie, Walton EMC community specialist, is the 2014 recipient of the Randi Passoff Spirit Award presented for leadership and service to the breast health community in Georgia. The award was announced at the recent Atlanta 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer.

"Kathy Ivie was an easy choice for our highest honor," said Kimberly Goff, producer of the walk that raised \$1 million this year to benefit breast cancer programs throughout Georgia. "Her leadership, dedication and compassion exemplify what this award is about."

Ivie was commended for leading her co-workers in fundraising for the walk since 2010. Walton EMC employees have contributed more than \$120,000 raised through the co-op's annual Charity Sporting Clays Shoot and Charity Motorcycle Ride as well as other activities planned and conducted by employee volunteers. Ivie also captains a large team of fellow employees who participate in the 30-mile, Atlanta 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer each October.

"It's gratifying to know that every dollar we've raised stays here in Georgia and helps our fellow Georgians," said Ivie. "Because concern for community is one of the principles that distinguish the cooperative way of doing business, it's powerful to know that what my co-workers and I are doing directly helps our neighbors."



Walton EMC's Kathy Ivie, left, receives congratulations from Atlanta 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer coordinator Kimberly Goff on being named recipient of the organization's Randi Passoff Spirit Award.

Line tech makes strong showing at national competition

Walton EMC Apprentice Line Technician Ben Campbell placed sixth in the EMC division and 25th overall at the recent International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City.

Since its 1984 inception, the event has grown from 36 competitors to more than 200 journeyman teams and 250 apprentices.

The rodeo helps line technicians maintain a focus on safety, provides an opportunity for recognition and also gives the public a setting to learn about electric utility work.

Campbell faced five events including a written test, CPR demonstration, two climbing challenges and a mystery event revealed at the rodeo. He first competed in the Georgia rodeo and advanced to the national competition following a good showing.

"Kansas is a whole other animal," explains Campbell, a first year competitor. "There are more rules and many linemen get point deductions because of mistakes. The goal is to work fast without losing control."



Ben Campbell



holiday lighting tips

- **Save lights and time.** If you're lighting a tree outside that can only be seen from the street, decorate only that side.
- **Try lighting unexpected places for more interest.** Suggestions: porch columns, bird bath, stair bannister.
- Use bare spaces on walls to **make a shape or spell out a message with lights.**
- If you want to light a place where there's no power, **consider battery-powered mini lights.**
- **Don't use lights rated for indoors outside and vice versa.** Indoor lights may not be waterproof and outdoor lights may operate at higher temperatures.
- **Avoid overloading circuits and use extension cords wisely.**

LED vs. INCANDESCENT

LED Lights

- use less energy (allows more strings to be connected together)
- are more durable and last longer
- provide more vibrant colors
- cost more up front

Incandescent Lights

- provide a warmer color of light
 - are cheap to purchase (almost to the point of being disposable)
 - consume more energy
 - burn out quicker
- 