

operation round up

Operation Round Up Boosts Local Charities by

\$163,572.80

Thousands of caring Walton EMC customer-owners who give an average of 50 cents a month are making a giant impact on those who do good works.

Lekotek of Georgia (Barrow, Clarke, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Rockdale) – \$3,000 for their learning program benefitting disabled children.

Food Bank of Northeast Georgia (Barrow, Clarke, Oconee) – \$10,000 for their mobile pantry to help needy families.

Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministries (Gwinnett) – \$15,000 for their emergency assistance program.

Place of Seven Springs (Gwinnett) – \$5,000 to help needy families with temporary housing, food and emergency needs.

Step by Step Recovery (Barrow, Clarke, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) – \$5,000 to provide services to people suffering from homelessness and addiction.

Action (Barrow, Clarke, Greene, Morgan, Oconee, Rockdale, Walton) – \$5,800 for meals for needy individuals.

The Ark (Clarke, Oconee, Walton) – \$7,500 for financial assistance to families at risk of homelessness.

Athens Nurses Clinic (Barrow, Clarke, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Oconee, Walton) – \$1,960 to purchase stethoscopes.

Boys & Girls Clubs of North Central Georgia (entire service area) – \$5,000 towards the purchase of a van for their teen center.

Family Promise (Gwinnett) – \$5,000 for their program to help keep families from becoming homeless again.

Gwinnett County Public Library (Gwinnett) – \$5,795 for equipment to go in the assistive technology center.

NG3 Organization (Gwinnett) – \$10,000 to expand their mentoring program to three new schools.

YMCA (Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Walton) – \$2,000 for their afterschool program.

20 local families – \$54,017.80 to meet urgent and emergency needs.

Want to help too? Sign up today at waltonemc.com/index.php/community/operation-roundup/

FEATURING

- Attendance Prize (thermometer and rain gauge)
- Door Prizes (including a recycled pickup truck)
- Entertainment
- Children's Activities
- Health Fair
- Ice Cream and Soft Drinks
- Exhibits
- Co-op Business Session

CHECK OUT THE MOST RECENT OPERATION ROUND UP GRANTS:

C 2 It (DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale, Walton) – \$5,000 for their autism, post-traumatic stress disorder and bullying prevention programs for children and adults.

Camp Kudzu (entire service area) – \$5,000 for their summer camp for children with type 1 diabetes.

Ceek to Fulfill (Rockdale) – \$1,500 to assist young people in earning their high school diploma or GED.

Georgia DECA Foundation (entire service area) – \$2,000 for their student partnership program.

Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services (Gwinnett) – \$5,000 for the Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute.

Hi-Hope Service Center (Barrow, Gwinnett) – \$10,000 to assist speech-impaired clients with communication skills.

COMING NEXT MONTH...

The **79th** Walton EMC *Annual Meeting*

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH AT 9 A.M.
Walton County Agricultural Education Center, Monroe

Watch your postal mail next month for the official notice, prize coupon and other information.

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

Realite

MAY 2015

The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

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

EMC LEADERS
CEO Ronnie Lee
Sr. VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong

Sr. VP Engineering & Operations Ron Marshall
Sr. VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow
Sr. VP Finance Marsha Shumate
Board Chair Dan Chelko
Board Vice Chair Michael Lowder
Board Sec./Treas. Tommy Adcock
Board Members
Billy Ray Allen, Johnny Allgood, Warren Few, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor, Jim Whitley

Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, MCC, CCC
Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, MCC
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THE *Rundown* } **inside:** DIY tips, Introducing new directors
on the back: 79th Annual Meeting details

CO-OP REACHES SAFETY MILESTONE!



Considering all the work orders Walton EMC employees complete in a year, it's quite an accomplishment to go that entire time without a single accident requiring time away from work.

Add to that all the miles those employees drive – close to 1.6 million – and that feat becomes even more amazing.

As of this March, the employees of your cooperative went an entire year without any lost-time accidents.

“Walton EMC has a culture of safety,” says Loss Control Director Larry Thompson. “It’s my goal to have every employee return home to their family at the end of every workday with no injury.”

Thompson credits raised awareness as one factor in reducing accidents.

“Employees are noticing more hazards,” says Thompson. “If you’re able to recognize a hazard, you should be able to avoid it.”

Safe work habits benefit both employees and customer-owners in several ways. Most important and obvious is avoidance of human pain and suffering.

Accident prevention also saves money by reducing medical bills and damaged equipment costs, among others.

“It takes everyone,” says Thompson. “Whether you work on a power line or behind a desk, we all have a role to play in working safely.”

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.

These five soldiers standing Freedom Watch represent our nation's role in military actions during the current and past century and how America served as the linchpin to protecting freedom.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

Email your guess

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

LAST MONTH'S LANDMARK: This ever-flowing fire hydrant stands next to the 9/11 memorial outside the Monroe Fire Department at the corner of South Madison Ave. and East Washington St.

FEBRUARY WINNER: Mike Davidson of Lilburn.

©2015. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 122,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.



We all like to do for ourselves when we can. Besides a sense of pride from a job well done, tackling a do-it-yourself project can save a few bucks.

But when it comes to electrical DIY, make sure you're aware of all the possible dangers.

"The consequences from bad electrical work are much greater than something like installing shelving," says Walton EMC Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks.

"If you make a mistake cutting a shelving board, maybe your shelves don't look quite as good or maybe you have to buy another board. If you make a mistake with an electrical project, it can result in fire or electrocution."

Protect your home and family from electrical hazards by hiring a qualified, licensed electrician for any electrical work.

If you decide to undertake a home electrical project yourself, heed these important safety tips:

- Never attempt a project beyond your skill level. If you're not sure, get professional help.
- Don't cut corners with materials or take shortcuts in workmanship.
- ALWAYS turn off power to the circuit you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the service entrance panel.
- Test any wires before you touch them with a circuit tester to make sure the power is off.
- Unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter with every power tool anytime you're working outdoors or in a damp location.
- Always have your work inspected to make sure it's done correctly.

Long-time Directors Retire, Replacements Appointed

Two long-serving members of your co-op's board of directors recently announced their retirements.

Both Mary Ann Hartman of the Five Forks-North Snellville District and Bobby Williams of the Mountain Park District left office earlier this year.

Hartman has lived in Gwinnett County since 1972 and was first elected to the board in 1980. Soon after election, she completed a specialized course for electric co-op board members designed to prepare them to be effective and efficient in their role.

One of Hartman's greatest concerns is for the environment; she has always been an ardent supporter of the co-op's green power efforts. During her board tenure, she held the offices of secretary/treasurer, vice chair and chair.

Dawn Taylor has been appointed to fill Hartman's unexpired term. Taylor is an attorney who practices and lives in Lawrenceville. She is married with two children and has

lived in Gwinnett County since 1997. Currently serving as president of the Brookwood Schools Foundation, Taylor has volunteered for many activities and groups in the Brookwood schools community.

Williams grew up in Mountain Park and graduated from Snellville High School in 1955. Walton EMC was just beginning to experience the boom in growth taking place in Gwinnett County when he was elected to the board in 1980.

Besides serving the Walton EMC board as secretary/treasurer, vice chair and chair, Williams also held offices on the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation and Southeastern Electrification Council boards.

Billy Ray Allen has been appointed to fill Williams' unexpired term. Allen is a business owner who resides in Mountain Park. A Gwinnetian since 1971, Allen is married with five children and 11 grandchildren. Allen is an active member of the North Georgia Two-Cylinder Club.



Mary Ann Hartman



Dawn Taylor



Bobby Williams



Billy Ray Allen

Don't Leave Us in the Dark Make sure Walton EMC has correct information.

Reporting a power outage is easier than ever with our mobile app. The key is making sure we have your current phone number on file.

Our mobile app finds you by either your account number, phone number or meter number. We always know your account and meter numbers, but we depend on you for a current phone number.

If we don't have your current phone number, the app won't be able to find your account. That means you'll have to call us to report your outage – a process that's still efficient – but not as quick as using the mobile app.

Look at the top portion of your monthly bill to see the number we have on file for your account. If it's not correct, call us at 770-267-2505.

Walton EMC's mobile app is a quick and easy way to report power outages. Make sure we have your current phone number on file.

