

# HEADS UP!

Awareness is key to avoiding dangerous contact with overhead lines

When it comes to safety around high voltage power lines, Brad Adcock has two words of advice: Look up.

Brad, the director of safety and training at Walton EMC, is on a mission to communicate this message to anyone working near the lines that deliver co-op electricity to consumer-owners' homes and businesses.

"Doing just this one thing — looking up — could prevent so many accidents involving power lines," he said.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates there are approximately 400 high-voltage electrical fatalities in the U.S. each year. These injuries occur mostly in occupational settings and are the fourth-leading cause of workplace-related traumatic death.

There are also at least 30,000 non-fatal electrical shock incidents per year, a few of which involve exposure to high voltage electricity. High voltage shock victims typically experience serious burns, heart damage and cellular damage that can contribute to a lifetime of health problems.

Whether it's on the job or at home, observe these guidelines to stay safe around power lines:

- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times.
  - Assume all power lines are energized. You can't tell if a wire is "live" simply by observation.
  - Don't raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires and ropes will conduct electricity.
  - Carry ladders and other pieces of equipment horizontally.
  - Follow the 1:4 rule: For every 4 feet between the ground and the peak of the ladder, set the ladder feet out 1 foot.
  - Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call Walton EMC to repair them.
  - Never touch or go near a person or equipment that is in contact with an overhead power line.
  - If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to the ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together.
- If your work takes you outdoors, remember Brad Adcock's words of advice — look up — to prevent contact with an overhead electrical line.

“Doing just this one thing — looking up — could prevent so many accidents involving power lines”

— Brad Adcock, director of Safety and Training

Walton EMC  
Customer-Owned Electric Power

# realite

## Walton EMC Annual Meeting Successful Despite COVID-19

We're all familiar with drive-through restaurants, drive-through banks and drive-through pharmacies. Las Vegas even has a drive-through wedding chapel. Now Walton EMC can add its Annual Meeting to the list of drive-throughs.

Out of concern for the health and well-being of the cooperative's customer-owners, Walton EMC's board of directors voted to modify the 2020 event and take care of necessary business by allowing customer-owners to participate from the safety of their vehicles.

From 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, more than 1,400 participants — a number typical of a regular year — did just that. In addition to voting for directors and approving the minutes of last year's meeting, those driving to the headquarters office received the traditional bucket of gifts.

Directors re-elected without opposition included Farmington District Director Michael Lowder and Good Hope District Director Tommy Allgood. Incumbent Centerville-South Snellville Director Dan Chelko was also re-elected after facing a challenge from Ken Rempe.



Walton EMC Consumer Services Director Sherry Horvieth electronically registers one of over 1,400 customer-owners who took part in the modified 2020 annual meeting. The meeting is held to allow customer-owners to elect the cooperative's board and participate in other business.

— continues inside

Walton EMC  
waltonemc.com

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### quick guide

#### IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

770.267.2505

waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

#### WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

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

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

### find us

Monroe 842 US Hwy. 78

Snellville 3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Web waltonemc.com

Facebook facebook.com/waltonemc

Youtube youtube.com/emctv

### emc leaders

CEO Ronnie Lee

COO/Senior VP Engineering and Operations  
Ron Marshall

Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong

Senior VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow

CFO/Senior VP Finance Marsha Shumate

VP Walton Energy and External Affairs  
Jim Bottone

Board Chair Dawn Taylor

Board Vice Chair Michael Lowder

Board Secretary/Treasurer Dan Chelko

Board Members Tommy Adcock, Billy Ray Allen,  
Johnny Allgood, Jason Sidwell, Sam Simonton,  
Jim Whitley

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Greg Brooks, MCC

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### emc security

#### NEED SECURITY SERVICE?

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©2020. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 131,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.



# Walton EMC Annual Meeting

- continued from front



Aerial view

Employees, along with a committee of customer-owners who oversaw the director election, took precautions when interacting with drivers, including wearing masks and gloves and using hand sanitizer.

“We know this was quite a different event than what our customer-owners are accustomed to,” said CEO Ronnie Lee. “I appreciate their flexibility and adapting to this unusual situation brought about by the pandemic. Hopefully the meeting will be back to normal in 2021.”

“We can’t thank the deputies assisting us from the Walton County Sheriff’s Office enough,” said COO Ron Marshall. “They did a great job of managing traffic and keeping everyone safe.”

After the meeting, 200 names were drawn from those who registered to receive a \$50 electric bill credit. See [waltonemc.com](http://waltonemc.com) for a complete list of winners.

Watch a video on the meeting at [bit.ly/2020\\_am](http://bit.ly/2020_am)

# CO-OP IN THE CLASSROOM

Throughout Walton EMC’s service area, Christmas comes early when co-op representatives deliver School EmPOWERment Grants to classrooms in early December. The grants, which provide classroom-level funding for educational programs and projects, are one way the cooperative invests in the students, teachers and 75 schools within its service area.

“Providing a reliable electric system is paramount at Walton EMC, but we’re also dedicated to maintaining vibrant, sustainable communities,” said Jennifer Broun, the co-op’s community and youth representative. “The EmPOWERment grants benefit education, which contributes to the quality of life here in northern Georgia.”

Walton EMC handed out grants totaling \$360,338 in 2019. Those disbursements bring the four-year grant total to more than \$1.4 million.

Many of the 81 grants presented last year are helping educators teach the key subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics — popularly known as STEM. For instance, a

\$4,949 grant helped Jennifer Haynes, a K-2 STEM teacher at Morgan County Primary School, purchase robotics kits. Second graders will use them to learn computer coding skills.



**TOP:** Carver Middle School’s agricultural education program benefitted from a grant that will allow students to get hands-on experience with animal care and feeding.

**BOTTOM:** Jacob Aaron, a second grade student at Morgan County Primary School, uses robotics kits purchased with a Walton EMC EmPOWERment Grant to learn computer coding and problem skills.

“Coding is great for teaching how to follow directions, problem solve, communicate and persist in a difficult task,” the teacher said.

Her students, most of them only 8 years old, learn to build their own robots and then program them to perform specific tasks.

“If the robot does not do what the student wants it to do, then the student must debug the code and try again and again, until the robot performs the movement,” she said.

Coding and robot building provide challenging STEM coursework necessary to prepare today’s students for a future world that is heavily reliant on technology.

“Our students love them!” Haynes added. “Thank you so much Walton EMC, for your grant made this purchase possible for our students!”



Cooper Elementary used its \$4,000 grant to fund the school’s Community of Readers project. Close to 1,000 books and magazine subscriptions were bought for classroom libraries.

The recent round of EmPOWERment grants also support numerous literacy programs benefitting students of all ages. At Cooper Elementary in Loganville, a \$4,000 grant funded the Community of Readers project. Nearly 1,000 books and magazine subscriptions were purchased for all of the school’s K-5 and special education classrooms, giving every student in the school access to new reading materials.

“The teachers and students have loved the books they got,” said Aimee Litt-Ward, literacy coach and reading teacher at the school. “The goal is to give students opportunities to read

## ATTENTION, TEACHERS

Walton EMC offers educational grants to schools and classroom teachers for a myriad of uses that further instructional programs. Any public school located within Walton EMC’s service territory is eligible to apply. Private schools can apply as well if they are served by Walton EMC electric service.

Due to the uncertainty from COVID-19, this year’s grant program is on hold. Walton EMC is considering alternate application deadlines and presentation dates as well as expanding excepted uses of the grant money to accommodate the changes in instruction and school operations that educators are currently experiencing. Your principal will receive details as soon as they’re available.

something alongside a buddy and collaborate, much like a book club.”

The first books were distributed during Read Across America week in early March, just before schools were forced to transition to remote instruction.

“Many of these books went home with students during the shelter-in-place,” Litt-Ward said. “The books gave students a way to step back from their digital work and have some reading material in their hand.”

## 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 770-266-2507.

**Alcocer**, Nehemias; **Artham** Realty, LLC; ATL2-SF, LLC; **Banks**, Maurice; **Beautiful** Brows, LLC; **Blake**, Javier; **Clyde**, David A.; **Conway**, Benjamin; **DR** Homes; **Dennis**, Jessica; **Dious**, Brandon; **Donnelly**, Michael K.; **Freeman**, George; **Gardner**, Griffin; **Gerdes**, Ryan; **Hackett**, Sabriya A.; **Hamilton** & Assoc.; **Ibrahim**, Fariha H.; **Jackson**, Jazmond; **JKH** Properties, Inc.; **L7** Entertainment Collective; **McGee**, Judah; **McMorris**, Holly; **Morris** Wiltshire, LLC; **Mun**, Sung B.; **Porterfield**, Charles; **Price**, Yolanda; **RCM** Fund 1 Owner, LLC; **Riddick**, Erica; **Rodriguez**, Andres R.; **Ryan**, Jack; **Sachs**, Linda; **SKA** Realty Service, LLC; **Smith**, Brooke; **Smith**, Rochelle; **Southern** Styles Salon, Inc.; **Victoral**, Garn; **Vining**, David; **Webb** Gin Property, LLC; **West**, Jr., James; **Woodall**, Anna; **Yes** Companies Exp, LLC; **Young**, Cedric