



\$78,033

Goes to Help Community from Operation Round Up

The Walton Electric Trust board of directors has been busy reviewing applications for Operation Round Up funds. Not one penny of what you give is used for administration.

ALS Association of Georgia

(entire service area) – \$10,000
Grant to assist families with medical expenses not covered by insurance.

Barrow County 4-H (Barrow) – \$4,200

Support for project SAFE (Shooting Awareness Fun & Education) to purchase the archery team an enclosed trailer.

Covenant Care Service

(Barrow, Clarke, Greene, Morgan and Oconee County) – \$1,250

Funds for The Adoption Option that provides counseling and support for mothers experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

Falcons Fury (DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County) – \$1,200

Grant to provide Christmas Gifts for clients in Phoenix Pass, a housing facility for homeless women and children.

Hudgens Center of Arts and Learning (DeKalb, Gwinnett) – \$5,000

Funds for their Healing Arts program that provides art care kits and scholarships to cancer treatment centers.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens (entire service area) – \$5,000

Assistance with their project that strives to break the cycle of homelessness.

Judy House Ministry (Gwinnett) – \$7,500

Aid for Reconciling the Disconnected, a transitional housing service and counseling program for men who are homeless or have been released from corrective programs.

Loganville Police Department (Walton) – \$3,000

Funds for D.A.R.E. kits for their fifth-grade drug resistance program.

Partnership for Families, Children and Youth (Walton) – \$500

Grant for their Navigating the Future workshop that educates parents, caregivers and teachers of special needs children.

Pilot Club of Monroe (Walton) – \$3,000

Supplies for the Brain Minder project that fosters awareness of brain safety for children and the elderly.

Pregnancy Resource Center of Walton (Walton) – \$6,686

Funds for office equipment.

Rainbow Community Center (Barrow, Clarke, DeKalb, Morgan, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) – \$2,000

Grant to install heating and air in their veteran's building.

United Way of Northeast Georgia (Oconee) – \$4,550

Assistance with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library project that provides every registered child under five with a free book every month.

Wishes 4 Me (entire service area) – \$10,000

Aid to provide services and housing for disabled and cognitively challenged adults.

Six Families (entire service area) – \$14,148

Funds to assist in dire emergency situations.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION ROUND UP? Go to the "Community" tab at waltonemc.com and click on the Operation Round Up link. Do it today!

Round Up Spotlight

Judy House Ministry

What if you found yourself homeless, with no identification, driver's license or job? This dire situation is where Judy House Ministry comes in.

"We provide a transitional program for men who are chronically homeless or have just completed incarceration," said Judy House's program manager Paul Epperson. "We provide both housing and counseling or connect our clients with those resources."

The ministry – that receives 40 to 60 requests monthly – sprang from a church small group. "Judy House was started by the Lord," said Ministry Director Dan Capobianco.



Shown, from left, are Judy House's Paul Epperson and Dan Capobianco accepting a \$7,500 Operation Round Up grant from Walton EMC's Kathy Joiner and Sarah Malcom.

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

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The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

FEB 2018

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

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THE *Rundown* } **inside:** winter storm benji, residential service charge changing **on the back:** operation round up

Arctic Blasts Affect Energy Bills

If you thought last month was colder than normal, you're right.

Repeated Arctic cold fronts brought wave after wave of frigid air to Walton EMC's service area. Just how cold was it?

For starters, the average high temperature for the first 18 days of the month was only 45 degrees. That's about 10 degrees cooler than normal. The lowest temperature during the same period was 14 degrees, with 12 of 18 mornings being below 26 degrees. The average low is 31.

That means it took a lot of heat to stay warm. The first 18 days of January required **more than twice** as much heating as the same time period in 2017.

That also means heating systems ran twice as much, sometimes for hours on end, causing consumers' energy bills to increase significantly. That's true no matter what fuel source – electricity, natural gas or LP gas – the heating system uses.

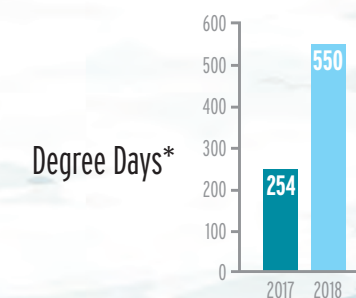
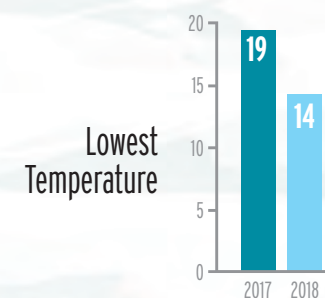
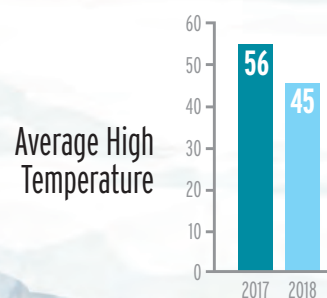
For electricity, heating can be as much as 60 percent of the total bill. For natural and LP gas, that figure could rise to as much as 80 to 100 percent.

"Consumers should not be surprised when their energy bill covering January is up significantly," said Greg Brooks, Walton EMC spokesperson.

USE THESE TIPS TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF THE ARCTIC CHILL:

- Make sure your home is properly insulated and weatherstripped. The most cost-effective place to add more insulation is the attic. Caulking gaps in the outside of your home is also an economical energy fix.
- Open blinds and drapes facing south during the day to take advantage of solar heating.
- Keep exterior doors closed as much as possible.
- Wear heavier clothing indoors, like a jogging suit or thermal underwear and socks. That allows you to keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. Every degree lower can save three to five percent in heating costs.
- Help your heating system. Change filters regularly and don't block vents with furniture or rugs.
- Sign up for Walton EMC's leveled billing. Leveled billing spreads costs from higher months throughout the entire year.
- Get detailed information on daily energy use by using the resources at mywaltonemc.com.

BY THE NUMBERS JAN. 1 – JAN. 18



*Degree days is a measure of heating or cooling required for a specified time period. The more degree days, the more heating or cooling required to stay comfortable.



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

YouTube youtube.com/emctv

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

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

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



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770.GAS.HEAT > walgongas.com

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?

770.963.0305 > emcsecurity.com

©2018. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 125,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

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.

Akeridge, Thomas F.; **Amos**, Lee; **Bell**, Salina; **Bethea**, Michael; **Broadland Property Group**; **Craig**, Dwight L.; **D.R. Horton**; **Dennis**, Reneca D.; **Dusansky**, Richard; **Emerald Management, LLC**; **Fennell**, Rene S.; **GG Enterprise, LLC**; **Gary**, Jalesa J.; **Greene**, William; **Harris**, Tavonne; **Hill**, Aaron; **Homeowners Advocacy Group, LLC**; **Jameson**, Edwin T.; **Jameson**, David; **Jolly**, Carol L.; **Let's Rideshare, LLC**; **Liberian Association**; **Locklin**, Eric; **Marceau**, Anthony; **McCullough**, Corey; **Mitchem**, Sarah R.; **Nettles**, Jane M.; **New Progressions**; **Oise**, Esther; **Parks**, Danielle E.; **Patel**, Devendra; **Pathlight Property Management**; **Puello**, Mariangelica; **Saint-Aubin**, Marie; **Slava**, Rosado R.; **Skinner**, Wanda E.; **Sutton**, Wendell G.; **Turner**, Damon; **Wachter**, Jessica

Walton EMC Helps Battle Winter Storm Benji

It wasn't officially winter, but Winter Storm Benji packed quite a punch for areas west of Atlanta on Friday, Dec. 5. Included was the service territory of GreyStone Power, an EMC headquartered in Douglasville.

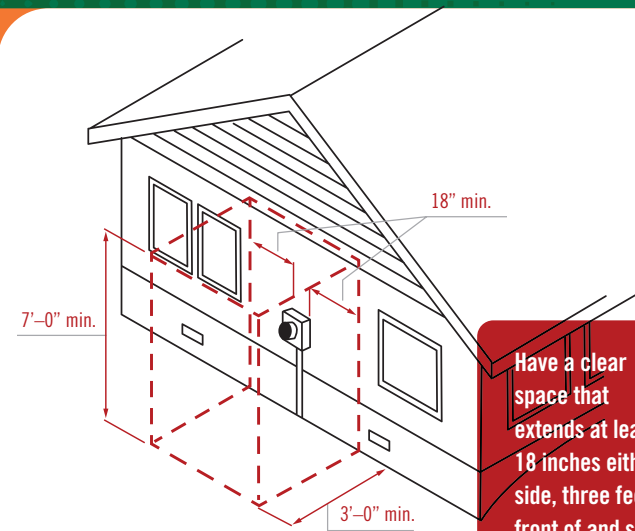
Half of Greystone's customer-owners were without power at the height of the storm. The damage was second only to Hurricane Opal in 1995.

That's when the cooperative principle "cooperation among cooperatives" came to life. GreyStone sent a request for Walton EMC crews to assist with extreme damage from the unexpected snow wallop.

"The snow was heavy and wet," said Walton EMC Line Crew Supervisor Kevin Tanner. "I saw 13 inches in some places.

The weight easily brought down trees, limbs, power poles and wires. A single pole can take up to four hours or more to replace. All of GreyStone's customers were restored by midnight the following Tuesday.

After a surprise snowstorm, Walton EMC sent crews to assist GreyStone Power with their restoration efforts. Shown are, first row from left, Jacob Brooks, Blaine Ogle, Jared Smith, James Daniel, Kevin Tanner, Greg Pannell, Ryan West and Mike Beck. Second row, Jacob McNary, John Spence, Jonathan Brooks, Bradley McCallister and Preston Roberts.



Meter Access Still Critical

Have a clear space that extends at least 18 inches either side, three feet in front of and seven feet from the ground around the meter base.

Although meter readers don't visit your home or business every month as they did in the past, giving Walton EMC a clear path to your meter is still important.

With the advent of automated meter reading, we now read your meter remotely through our power lines. But there are still instances when we need to access your meter.

Our employees still inspect the electrical service and its associated parts – including the meter – on a routine basis. It's also important that access to your meter is unhampered in case of storm damage or an emergency, like a house fire.

Please keep trees, vines and shrubs, trimmed away from your meter. Don't place building materials, yard tools or other debris in front of, or around that same area.

You should also avoid blocking access to the meter with fences or locked gates. Contact us before any construction activities that might obscure your meter.

Have a clear space that extends at least 18 inches either side, three feet in front of and seven feet from the ground around the meter base. See the diagram above for more information.

Current Location Inspection Areas

HB Next, a Walton EMC contractor, is currently inspecting the electric services of homes in these areas:

- Snellville
- Loganville
- Lilburn
- Rosebud
- Centerville
- Rockdale County
- DeKalb County

On arrival, the technician will attempt to make contact at your door. If no one is home, you'll get a door card informing you of the visit. Generally, the inspection will take less than 15 minutes.

Contact us at 770-267-2505 if you have questions concerning Walton EMC contractors.



Inspectors are finding hazards like this rusted meter base. Walton EMC then notifies the customer-owner to take corrective action.



Residential Service Charge Changing Feb. 1

One of the charges included in your monthly bill is a base service charge.

The base service charge only partially covers the fixed costs of delivering your electric service. The service charge does not include the cost of electricity.

Among these fixed costs are building and maintaining power lines; responding to outages; reading your meter; generating, delivering and processing your bill; buying and maintaining the equipment used in keeping your power flowing; and performing other tasks necessary to ensure reliable electric service.

We're adjusting the service charge so it more accurately reflects the actual fixed costs it's designed to cover. Currently, some of the fixed costs of servicing your account are recovered through the energy charge or, in other words, what you pay for electricity. We are moving to more accurately allocate these costs, both fixed and energy, to their true sources.

Overall, this change will affect your bill very little. Your cooperative has some of the most favorable rates in the state and country. Because we're a cooperative, we'll never charge you more than it costs to deliver your electric service.

If you're over 65 and have a household income of less than \$15,000, please call us at 770-267-2505 to apply for our Senior Citizen-Low Income Assistance discount.

TYPE OF SERVICE	OLD CHARGE	NEW CHARGE
Residential	\$23.00	\$25.00
Residential TOU	\$23.00	\$25.00
Residential PrePay	\$23.00	\$25.00

For more information service charges, please watch bit.ly/wemc_servicecharge