



Walton EMC Named Oconee Business of the Year

Your cooperative has been named Business of the Year by the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at the organization's recent annual meeting.

The recipient is chosen from Business of the Quarter winners over the past 12 months.

"Our winner is always willing to sponsor chamber and community events," said Chamber President Kay Keller during the award presentation. "This year, they were major sponsors for our community's Fourth of July event, our Law Enforcement Appreciation event, donors of major grant money to our schools, a platinum corporate sponsor for our chamber and tonight's awards program sponsor. We honor Walton EMC for their commitment."

Walton EMC receives the Business of the Year award from the Oconee Chamber of Commerce. Pictured are, from left, Oconee Chamber Past Chair Joey Wilson, Walton EMC Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, Walton EMC Marketing Representative and Oconee Chamber Chair Cindy Haddon and Oconee Chamber President Kay Keller.

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.

Abbott, Kimberly; **Austin**, Allen D.; **Banks**, Jack; **Beckley**, Shellie; **Bell**, Michael R.; **Boost Mobile**; **Bowen**, Jehl; **Brandwine Homes GA LLC**; **Bridge Lease LLC**; **Carmichael**, David M.; **Castle Atlanta Holding LP**; **Chapeau**, Dawn M.; **Charles**, Jean; **Christ's Messengers**; **Coward**, Shawnetta; **Dupree**, Gary L.; **Elston**, Davina; **F9 Properties**; **Gray**, Michelle; **Gutierrez**, Nubis V.; **Hendrix**, Michelle M.; **Hernandez**, Prisciliano; **Heyward**, Rhonda J.; **Hunt**, John C.; **Johnson**, Precious; **Jones**, W.J.; **Kellogg**, Thomas C.; **Lacy**, Shamekia; **Lagarde**, Sarah; **Lawrence**, Jimmy; **Maghsoudi**, Farhad; **Martinez**, Norberto A.; **Misin**, Denis; **Molyneaux**, Liston; **Moubray**, Jordan; **Panosky**, Ricardo; **Phillips**, Napoleon; **Smith**, Jonathan L.; **Smith**, Doris L.; **Smith**, J.S.; **Snellville Transmissions, Inc.**; **Solomon**, Lottie A.; **Sosa**, Lilia G.; **Stringer**, Donna; **Taylor**, Damon; **Trotter**, Ronnie T.; **Watson**, Mark N.; **Willmont**, Andrew; **Yes Companies Exp., LLC**

Join us!

Walton EMC Charity Golf Classic

Wed., April 19
The Georgia Club

Registration at 7:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start at 9 a.m.

All proceeds benefit the Walton County Boys & Girls Club

More information:
770-267-2332 or kivie@waltonemc.com





Realite

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waltonemc.com

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THE Rundown

inside: latest operation round up grants
on the back: business of the year, unclaimed refunds, golf classic

Snellville Crews Aid Mitchell EMC Tornado Victims

Sunday, Jan. 22 was a rough day across South and Central Georgia. One of the largest tornado outbreaks on record devastated several communities, including a rare long-path tornado that traveled 71 miles at up to 1.25 miles wide.

That particular storm cut right through the heart of Mitchell EMC's territory, just south of Albany, Ga. At the height of the outages, 25 percent of the cooperative's accounts were dark, a huge number for a tornado. Usually, tornadoes are very localized storms and affect relatively small numbers of customers.

Walton EMC dispatched crews from its Snellville office to assist in restoring power. The first crews worked seven days at Mitchell EMC and were then relieved by new crews who worked another six days. In all, more than 250 visiting line technicians from across the state helped.

"I saw a trailer that was blown a mile and stuck up in a tree," said Journeyman Line Technician James Wise. "It's hard to believe something has that kind of energy. Some of the things we saw were really sad."

"The community took good care of us," added Journeyman Line Technician Jonathan Brooks. "We had people coming by all day long seeing if we needed food."

Sometimes there was so much tree damage that power lines were simply relocated and built from scratch.

"Everyone came together," said Wise. "Skin color, where you were financially or things like that didn't matter. Everyone was the same and everyone helped."



Walton EMC recently sent crews to assist with restoring power after the destructive Albany, Ga., tornado. Pictured are, from left, front row, Kevin Tanner, James Wise; second row, Kevin Underwood, Gary Power, Blaine Pulliam, John Wanek, Wesley Payton, Tommy Ledford; third row, Jared Smith, Jonathan Brooks, Ronnie Browning, Luke Davis and Jason Wright. Not pictured: Paul Nichols.

"I saw a trailer that was blown a mile and stuck up in a tree. It's hard to believe something has that kind of energy."

—James Wise, Journeyman Line Technician

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/emctv

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7
Contact 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. Johnny Allgood
Board Members Tommy Adcock, Billy Ray Allen, Warren Few, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor, Jim Whitley

Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, MCC
Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, MCC
Design by mPrint Design Studio

NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?
770.GAS.HEAT > walgas.com

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?
770.963.0305 > emcsecurity.com

©2017. 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.



exploring our LANDMARKS

How well do you know Walton EMC's service territory? Take a look around your co-op's 10-county area and you'll find some interesting, beautiful, historic and just plain cool spots. Some of the locations we choose may be hard to identify, but we think they're worth knowing about.

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



This retired store building now spends its days watching over a busy intersection.

email your guess with the subject line "MARCH LANDMARKS CONTEST" no later than April 5 to landmarkscontest@waltonemc.com for your entry to qualify.

LAST MONTH'S LANDMARK: This interesting labyrinth is located just beside the Snellville Senior Center.

JANUARY WINNER: Donna Sisley of Lawrenceville.

The all-volunteer Walton Electric Trust board has been hard at work reviewing requests for Operation Round Up funds. Here are the latest grant disbursements:

Angel House of Georgia

(Gwinnett, Rockdale) – **\$3,000**

Project: Angel Fund Program that assists women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Chosen for Life Ministries

(Clarke, Oconee) – **\$4,000**

Project: My Name Matters that provides newly placed foster children with a monogrammed duffle bag, pillowcase and towel.

Creative Enterprises

(Barrow, Gwinnett, Rockdale, Walton) – **\$500**

Project: Jobs for All Who Want One, a program that teaches independence to individuals with disabilities.

Extra Special People

(entire WEMC territory) – **\$5,000**

Project: ESP 360, an afterschool program for children with special needs.

Georgia DECA Foundation

(entire WEMC territory) – **\$1,500**

Project: Friends of Georgia DECA Partnership that identifies future career paths and mentors students.

Hi Hope Service Center

(Barrow, Gwinnett) – **\$5,000**

Project: Communication Everywhere that assists developmentally disabled adults with communication support.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens

(Barrow, Clarke, Oconee, Walton) – **\$5,000**

Project: IHNA Extended Network Program, a shelter for homeless families with children.

It Won't Happen to Me

(Barrow, Gwinnett, Rockdale, Clarke, Morgan, Walton, DeKalb, Newton) – **\$2,000**

Project: Aims to reduce teen traffic violations and deaths from car crashes.

Judy House Ministry

(Barrow, Clarke, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale, Walton) – **\$7,500.**

Project: A transition home for homeless men who are incarcerated or under community supervision.

Loganville Community Ministry Village

(Barrow, Gwinnett, Newton, Walton County) – **\$10,000**

Project: Professional Scholarship Program that provides mental health services for those in need.

Marrow Man

(entire WEMC service area) – **\$8,000**

Project: Epic Battle campaign to support organizations that recruit blood marrow donors and host bone marrow donor drives.

Oconee County Extension 4-H

(Oconee) – **\$3,500**

Project: Cloverleaf, Junior and Senior Project Achievement.

Prevent Child Abuse Athens

(Clarke, Oconee) – **\$2,500**

Project: Parent education and support in preventing child abuse.-

Walton County Helping Hands

(Walton) – **\$4,800**

Project: Christmas for Children that provides gifts for underprivileged children.

operation round up

Round Up Spreads \$118,967 Throughout Community

Wishes 4 Me Foundation

(Gwinnett) – **\$2,500**

Project: Wishes 4 Me Expansion that removes barriers in Wish 4 Me Foundation homes.

YMCA of Athens

(Clarke, Greene, Oconee, Walton) – **\$5,000**

Project: Youth Scholarship Program for children in afterschool programs.

Youth Entrepreneurs Georgia

(DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale) – **\$2,500**

Project: A hands-on, elective high school course and alumni program that promotes character development and business leadership.

Thirteen families throughout Walton EMC's service area received **\$46,667** for emergency needs.

SPOTLIGHT: Marrow Man

"Men, purpose your fear!"

Those simple words inspired DeDe Harris to turn anxiety over her son Trevor's medical condition into a disease-fighting superhero.

"My kids were watching 'Pirates of the Caribbean' while I was cleaning house," said DeDe. "That scene of the movie caught my attention; God spoke to me."

Trevor had been diagnosed with Fanconi anemia, a rare disease treated with bone marrow transplants.

During 20-hour round-trip rides to Cincinnati for treatment, the Harrises came up with the Marrow Man concept to raise awareness for bone marrow donations and to explain Trevor's condition to children.

"We found there's not a lot of kid-focused materials," explains DeDe. "Blood disease is very abstract to children. We were trying to find something Trevor could grab hold of and understand."

Marrow Man's Epic Battle campaign includes unconventional methods – comic books, displays and other materials – to reach potential blood marrow donors. One of the campaign's target groups is college students, who are the prime age to be bone marrow donors.

"No parent wants to feel helpless when their child is in need," said DeDe. "The Marrow Man program has been very empowering to us."



MARROW MAN

Walton EMC's Operation Round Up recently presented the Marrow Man Epic Battle campaign with \$8,000 to increase blood marrow donation awareness. Shown are front row, from left, Marrow Man creators Sable Harris, Trevor Harris; back row, Wade Harris, DeDe Harris, with Walton Electric Trust board members Brenda Brown and Don Hardison.



WANT TO HELP?

Go to the "Community" tab at waltonemc.com and click on the Operation Round Up link.