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.”

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, tornades 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 offering us 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.”


The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

The Rundown

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 kvie@waltonemc.com

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

©2017 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperatives focus on service, not profit. We serve more than 125,300 accounts in Athens-Clarks, Barrow, DeKalb, Devere, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Stone, Elberton and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

Donna Watson, Mark N. Trotter, Smith, Lottie A.; Solomon, J.S.; Sosa, Transmissions, Inc.; Phillips, Smith, Ricardo; Doris L.; Napoleon; Smith, Denis; Norberto A.; Misin, Martinez, Jordan; Moubray, Shamekia; Lawrence, Jimmy; Lagarde, Sarah; W.J.; Jones, Lacy, Johnson, Kellogg, Hernandez, Prisciliano; Heyward, Properties; Nubis V.; Davina; Michelle; Gutierrez, Dawn M.; Dupree, Coward, Messengers; Chapeau, Atlanta Holding LP; Carmichael, David M.; Lease LLC; Michael R.; Bowen, Mobile; Jehl; Boost Bridge Homes GA LLC; Austin, Banks, Jack; 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.

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LANDMARKS

win a prize worth knowing about. It may be hard to identify, but we think they’re cool spots. Some of the locations we choose are interesting, beautiful, historic and just plain fun. If you can 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.

Last Month’s Landmark:

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

JANUARY WINNER: Donna Sisley of Lawrenceville.

This one-word favorite 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.”

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.

How 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.

Tell a friend! 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.

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 (Clare, 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: HIHI 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.

Wishes 4 Me Foundation (Gwinnett) – $2,500
Project: Wishes 4 Me Expansion that removes barriers in Wish 4 Me Foundation homes.

YINCA of Athens (Clarke, Greene, Oconee, Walton) – $5,000
Project: Youth Scholarship Program for children in afterschool programs.

WANT TO HELP? Go to the “Community” tab at waltonemc.com and click on the Operation Round Up link.

Round Up Spreads

$118,967
Throughout Community

Wishes 4 Me Foundation
(DeKalb, Gwinnett, Rockdale) – $5,200
Project: Wishes 4 Me Expansion that removes barriers in Wish 4 Me Foundation homes.

YWCA of Athens
(Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, 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.

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

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