

FALL TO-DO:

Outdoor Lighting

Outdoor lighting isn't just for the summer months. When the days grow shorter, our homes sit in darkness longer, making exterior illumination even more important.

Exterior lighting enhances safety and security around the home. Plus, it adds beauty and curb appeal, making a nice sight to come home to each evening.

Now is the time to add outdoor lighting to your fall to-do list. To put your home in the best light, consider illuminating these areas:

- **FRONT ENTRY** – Provide a warm welcome after dark. You'll want to light the front steps, as well as door lock and house numbers.
- **SIDE AND REAR ENTRYWAYS** – Illuminating side and rear entries to the house (also exterior walls with easy access windows) can discourage prowlers and thieves.
- **STEPS AND WALKWAYS** – These areas are frequently neglected, but are also important to avoid accidents in dark locations.
- **DRIVEWAY** – Highlighting your driveway with light can improve safety and security. It also adds to your home's curbside appeal.
- **GARAGE** – Ample lighting over the garage will enhance both safety and security, particularly when other lights are not on.
- **YARD** – Discourage intruders and vandals with a Walton EMC LED security light.

This month's Walton EMC blog features tips and ideas for accomplishing a do-it-yourself outdoor lighting project. Read it at waltonemc.com/index.php/blog.

Learn more about outdoor lights available from the co-op at waltonemc.com/index.php/home/outdoor-lighting.



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.

Big Frog of Athens; Bowen, Bradley J.; Clerkley, Ryan; Espinal, Elizabeth; Fencing Star Academy; Friend, Paul; Gilmer, Donta C.; Harrison, J.P.; Haynes, Ashley; Herring, Sandra; Hong, Jaewon; Hopkins, Ben; Huff, Carol J.; Kahng, Hyung; Kang, Gyeong G.; Kim, Hyun J.; King Raheem's; Lyrberg, Allison B.; MacDougald, Levin; McMichael, Marquita R.; Mendoza, Javier; Middleton, Nile; Munz, Stephan G.; Nguyen, Diane T.; Odugbesan, Olusoji O.; One Main/Financial, Inc.; Osayande, Bola O.; Patterson, Sparkle A.; Perez, Catalina; Petterson, Catherine; Prickett, Mary L.; Richardson, Oliver; Ruiz, Alexis; Savage, Monique; Schuett, Ana; Solomon, Nicola Y.; Wilson, Leonard

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

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THE *Rundown* }

inside: brookwood high Broncos, tracking electricity use
on the back: outdoor lighting ideas, unclaimed refunds

DOUBLE DUTY

Land occupied by solar farm also used for agricultural production

The solar farm that provides electricity to Facebook's Newton Data Center is now a farm in every sense of the word.

POWERING FACEBOOK

When Facebook decided to build its Newton Data Center, the social media giant chose Walton EMC as the power supplier. One of the deciding factors in picking your co-op is that we could meet the company's desire for 100 percent renewable energy to power the facility.

Walton EMC then partnered with Silicon Ranch, the leading provider of solar energy to Georgia's co-ops, to build and deliver some of that renewable

energy. Their resulting 1,200-acre solar farm is located in Early County, which is primarily an agricultural community.

REGENERATING THE LAND

Typically, the land occupied by solar panels becomes fallow – once cultivated land that now lies idle. In most solar facilities it's mowed occasionally, but that's about it.

It's different at Silicon Ranch's Early County solar farm, the company's first new build site to incorporate their holistic Regenerative Energy platform.

—continued on flap

SILICON RANCH IS PARTNERING WITH LOCAL FARMERS AND RANCHERS TO MANAGE GRAZING ANIMALS, NATIVE PLANTS, POLLINATOR HABITAT (FOR HONEY BEES AND THE LIKE) AND WILDLIFE AT THEIR SOLAR SITE.



The solar facility supplying power to Facebook's Newton Data Center is also being used for regenerative agriculture by providing grazing for sheep and cattle.

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
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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DOUBLE DUTY

—continued from front

Silicon Ranch is partnering with local farmers and regenerative ranchers to manage grazing animals, native plants, pollinator habitat (for honey bees and the like) and wildlife at their solar farm. These elements will work together for many benefits:

- Improved soil.
- Improved air and water quality.
- More diverse animal and plant life.
- Trapping carbon in the soil.
- Job creation.
- Stronger rural economies.

Simply put, farmers will pasture grazing animals, starting with sheep, inside the solar facility. The waste generated from these animals returns to the soil, building valuable organic matter.

Farmers will refrain from tilling the soil and also plant native cover crops to establish a healthy grassland ecosystem. Traditional farming methods, like using commercial fertilizer and heavy tillage, deplete the soil's organic matter.

As solar power grows in use, the industry will eventually be responsible for managing 6 million acres of land.

LEARN MORE

siliconranch.com/regenerativeenergy

MORE THAN THE SCORE

COMMUNITY AND CO-OP CONTRIBUTE TO BRONCOS' SUCCESS

When the lights come on in Brookwood Community Stadium, they spotlight more than just the score of a Broncos football game.

"For our student athletes and fans, 'Friday night lights' means football, marching band performances, cheerleaders, food and drink, and most importantly, community pride," said Kevin Dopson, Brookwood High School's athletic director.

Broncos football has enjoyed exceptional community support since the Snellville school's opening in 1981. Despite being one of Georgia's largest high schools, there's a small town community feel surrounding Brookwood, said Dopson.

"One of the things I can always count on, and our players and our coaches can count on, is the tremendous following from the Brookwood community," he said.

Electricity from Walton EMC literally provides the "Friday night lights" for games.

The Broncos play under four banks of lights, each having 20 1,500-watt bulbs.

"There's just no way we could play a Friday night football game without the assistance and the power that Walton EMC gives us," Dopson said.

Walton EMC also lights up the scoreboard, powers the stadium sound system, keeps concessions food hot and cold and runs training room equipment.

Dependable electricity powers the essentials of education in Brookwood's classrooms, too. "A tradition of excellence," the Gwinnett County school's motto, is apparent in academics as well as athletics.

For the last two years the school has claimed the most Georgia Scholars, a recognition honoring the state's most outstanding seniors in academics and community service. Fifty-seven seniors graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average last spring.



Brookwood High School is one of the 60 public and private schools in northeast Georgia powered by electricity from Walton EMC. The school's football program was featured in Walton EMC's 2018 annual report video now showing at youtu.be/VFjThM8Dfmo.

The school's Science Olympiad team has won the state championship nine consecutive years. Three Brookwood athletic teams claimed state championships in 2018–19.

It's no coincidence that about 2,000 of Brookwood's 3,600 students participate in athletics, said Dopson.

"We're committed to fostering an environment for student athletes that builds a foundation for academic success and teaches leadership. Then, winning championships follows that," he said.

DID YOU KNOW?

Walton EMC member services representatives are often asked, "What's the best way to track my electricity use?" Fortunately, there are a variety of free and low-cost solutions for those who want to save both energy and money. Here are just a few:

Energy Cost Calculator is a free mobile device app that calculates the usage and cost of energy per day, week, month and year based on consumption per hour and hours of usage per day. Calculated values and results can be shared to social media, email, messages and other sharing apps.

Energy Use Calculator (energyusecalculator.com) is a free online solution offering simple electricity usage calculators for home appliances.

Etekcity Smart Plug (\$33/pack of 4) is one of many similar plugs on the market that users can put between an appliance and outlet to track power usage. The plug sends energy usage information to a mobile app, which can also be used to remotely turn the appliance on and off.



Old-fashioned Math is a basic way to determine how much power an appliance uses. Here's how to calculate:

- Find the wattage on the label usually affixed to the back or base of an appliance.
- Multiply wattage by hours used each day.
- Divide the result by 1,000.
- Multiply your answer by the number of days you're measuring.
- Multiply by the cost of electricity per kWh (10 cents is a good average).