

PLUGGED IN



Q: Why does Walton EMC ask for a forwarding address if I move off of co-op lines?

A: That's a timely question since this issue of the Realite includes an announcement about this year's capital credits distribution. As a cooperative, Walton EMC operates on a not-for-profit basis. Any excess revenues, known as capital credits, are refunded to you based on the amount of money you spent with the co-op. These capital credits are held on account — sometimes for a few years — until Walton EMC's financial condition permits a distribution. These refunds are returned as a credit on the power bill of current co-op customer-owners. For those no longer living along co-op lines, a check is mailed to your forwarded address. If that address isn't current, and we are unsuccessful in locating you, the unclaimed capital credit refund goes into a scholarship fund provided for by Georgia law. A forwarding address is also required to refund deposits when service is discontinued.



This question answered by
Amy Clark
Accountant I

DEADLINE JANUARY 31



BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school senior or incoming college freshman
- 21 years old or younger
- Your home served by Walton EMC (electricity)
- Scholarship used at accredited college, university or vo-tech school
- Complete criteria, rules and instructions on the application

WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Community involvement
- Strong work ethic
- Success in extracurricular activities
- Triumph over obstacles and hardships

LEARN MORE: bit.ly/WEMCScholarship

Up to 32 \$4,000 scholarships will be given!

Q: Where does the money for these scholarships come from?

A: From unclaimed capital credit refunds. After all attempts to find the owners are exhausted, the money goes into a fund provided for by Georgia law. No Operation Round Up donations are used for scholarships.



Season's Greetings

FROM THE WALTON EMC FAMILY

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

DEC '22

- > unclaimed refunds
- > where holiday memories grow
- > holidays the co-op way
- > walton emc trust scholarship

CAPITAL CREDIT Refund

BECAUSE YOUR CO-OP OPERATES AT COST, EXCESS REVENUE IS RETURNED.

how capital credits work

- 1 Walton EMC tracks the amount of money you spend with the co-op each year.
- 2 At the end of each year, we determine if there are excess revenues (co-ops call these margins).
- 3 Walton EMC allocates these margins to your capital credit account based on the amount of money you spent with us that year.
- 4 We hold this money to retire debt, prepare for emergencies and keep the cooperative financially sound.
- 5 When Walton EMC's financial condition permits, your board of directors decides to retire, or pay, some of your capital credits.
- 6 You receive your capital credit refund.



fast facts

TOTAL RETURNED THIS YEAR

\$8 MILLION

YOU'LL GET MONEY IF YOU HAD AN ACCOUNT IN YEARS

1999, 2018, 2020

HOW:

BILL CREDIT LESS THAN \$500
OR **CHECK** \$500 OR MORE

WHEN: **EARLY DEC.**
THROUGH **EARLY JAN.**

ALL-TIME TOTAL REFUNDED

\$134 MILLION

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

REALITE **DEC 2022** VOLUME 72, NO. 12

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
Twitter twitter.com/waltonemc
Youtube youtube.com/emctv

our leaders

CEO Ronnie Lee
COO 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
VP of Engineering and Operations Tim Morris
Board Chair Dawn Taylor
Board Vice Chair Michael Lowder
Board Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ray Allen
Board Members Tommy Adcock, Johnny Allgood, Dan Chelko, Jason Sidwell, Sam Simonton, Jim Whitley

Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, MCC

Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, MCC

Design mPrint Design Studio

walton gas

NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?
770.GAS.HEAT or waltongas.com

emc security

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?
770.963.0305 or emcsecurity.com

©2022 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 135,000 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 770-266-2507.

Aaron, Donald; Abrego, Pedro; Alfa One Emissions; Anau, LLC; Andrade, Martir; Assan, Pascual; Atlanta Rightway Realty, LLC; Atlas Capital, LLC; Bacchus-Lynch Adult Daycare; Blakeslee, Hobart; Blankson, Elsie; Bowman, Timothy; Brandywine Homes USA, LLC; Brown, Jimmy; Brunner, Wesley; Buckner, Polly; Bunn, Charlie; Burdian, Scott; Caldwell, Brian; Cambridge, Ronald; Castle, Sarah; Chaco, Jose; Chambers, Michael; Collins, C; Cooper, Chantel; Dadswell Jr, David; Desai Properties; Eckert, Angelique; Eilets, Asia; Ergle, Deborah; Ezekiel, Ashtyn; Fawnfield Properties, LLC; Fluker, Scott; Frozen Moments Media; Gert, Lisa; Gonzalez, Pablo; Goolsby, Melinda; Graveline, Richard; Green, John; GT Auto Parts And Service; Hall, Elaine; Hernandez, Ranti; Hicks, Tamika; HP Georgia 1, LLC; HPA II Borrower 2020-1, LLC; Jenkins, Kenneth; Jimenez, Alexis; Jones, Justin; Jones, Gale; Joyner, Earvin; Kelly, Andrena; Lanier, Amy; Loganville Apartments, LLC; LSF9 Master Participation TR; Luckie, Jonathan; McCoy, Vertis; Membreno, Fernando; Mendez, Eder; Mobile Golf Cart Medic; Montgomery, Danielle; Montgomery Street Homes, LLC; My Home Builders, LLC; Nelson, Maxwell; Offerpad, LLC; Owens, Debra; Parker, Oscar; Patterson, Deborah; Peters, Ronnie; Pitts, Ashley; Poore, Richard; R C G Snellville, LLC; Ramic, Mejra; Ramos, Cleiton; Richards, Ladonna; Samu, Margaret; Shakti 300, LLC; Smith, Annie; Snow, Lari; Steele, Kereen; Strickland, Shera; Thackston, Ryan; Thangavadivel, Danuja; Tran, Kevin; Victory Motorsports LLC; VSP Atlanta; Wakulsky, James; Williams, Jameci; Williamson, Mary; Wright, Tashae; WSHRC SFR Bella View Home IX; Zenebe, Esirom; Zepeda, Jackie.



Where holiday memories

GROW



Walton EMC members **Walter and Delores Lee** annually welcome families to their Greenbriar Creek Tree Farm to choose and cut Christmas trees.

Those living in and around Oconee County know that finding the perfect Christmas tree involves driving southwest of Watkinsville along Old Bishop Road to Greenbriar Creek Tree Farm.

For nearly 20 years, Walter and Delores Lee have been welcoming families to their farm to choose and cut their own fresh tree.

"We've been having some of the same families coming every year since we opened," Walter said.

It takes about three to four years to grow the ideal Christmas tree. But the hard work of planting and maintaining the trees is well compensated by the joy of seeing families as they choose their special tree, Delores said.

"We want this to be a place where people bring their children to run and play," she said.

The Lees offer Murray, Carolina Sapphire, Blue Ice and Green Giant cypress along with fresh-cut Fraser firs from North Carolina. Trees are available in heights from 6 feet and up.

BEFORE YOU VISIT

Greenbriar Creek Tree Farm is scheduled to be open through Sunday, Dec. 18 — or while the supply of fresh trees lasts. Check the farm's website (greenbriarcreek.com), Facebook page or call 706-340-3763 for directions and hours of operation.

Delores greets every customer and provides a short safety lesson before giving them a saw to cut their tree. For those who'd rather a pro do the job, farm personnel are happy to oblige.

Though acquiring a tree is central to the experience, the Lees encourage guests to stay for a while and enjoy the outdoors. They can climb aboard a wagon for a hayride through the farm, an opportunity that usually provides a variety of wildlife sightings.

"We're not just selling Christmas trees, we're helping families create memories," Walter said.

Holidays, the co-op way

SHOP WALTON EMC MEMBER BUSINESSES FOR THE PERFECT PRESENT

Stressed out while searching for ideal gifts to please family and friends? Along Walton EMC's lines there are many businesses offering products and services sure to please those on your list. Here are some of our top picks.

PALETTE PLEASERS

- **Stone Mountain Pecan Company, Monroe**
stonemountainpecan.com

This family-owned store has you covered with pecans, dried fruits, candy and gift tins.

- **Six Figs Farm, Good Hope**
sixfigsfarm.com

The Antonisen family offers jams, jellies and caffeine-free teas made from produce grown on their farm.

- **Stripling's General Store, Bogart**
striplings.com

Give a basket loaded with Stripling's signature, Georgia-made food products.

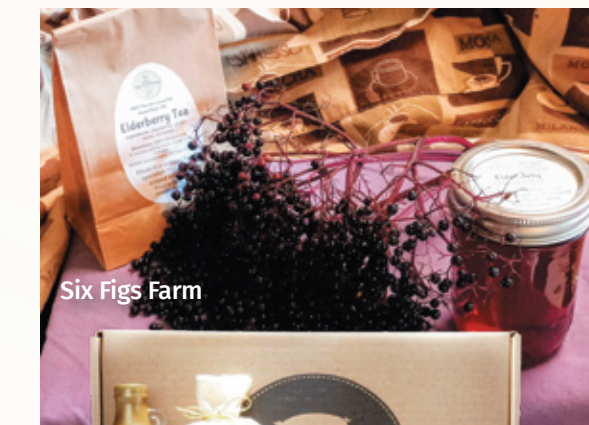
HIDDEN GEMS

- **Ivy Mist Candle Company, Monroe**
ivymistcandles.com

Richard and Stacey Beasley handcraft their decorative jar candles, body lotions, soaps and shower gels.

- **Family Tree Garden Center, Snellville**
thefamilygardentreecenter.com

This family-owned store offers a holiday shop, unusual home décor and in-house engraving.



Six Figs Farm



Stripling's General Store

- **Soap Lily Bath Co., Loganville**
soaplily.co

Vanessa Garofalo personally makes her soaps, scrubs, creams and lotions in a variety of seasonal scents.

- **Farm 441 at Thomas Orchards, Bishop**
farm441ga.com

Owners Jeff Campbell and Taylor Jenkins offer unique gifts and gourmet items made locally.

KID STUFF

- **Serenity Creek Equestrian Center, Monroe**
serenitycreekequestriancenter.com

Instead of another toy, give the kid in your life the experience of a supervised pony ride. Optional grooming lesson included.

SHOP CO-OP

The ideal gift for many on your list may be as near as your local Walton EMC office.

- Electricity Gift Certificate. You'll need the recipient's complete address.
- Cooperative Solar Block. Each block is only \$25 a month with no long-term commitment.
- Outdoor Security Light. For only \$8 a month, you can brighten a loved one's holiday.



Family Tree Garden Center



Soap Lily Bath Co.