

Learn something new

If you're suffering from cabin fever or crave a mental challenge, learning something new can be the ideal wintertime pick-me-up. From art to zumba, there are plenty of free or low-cost educational courses and workshops available within Walton EMC's service area.

GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

All you need is a library card to sign up for free, six-week online GALE courses to learn about subjects such as real estate investing, photography, sign language, interior design and guitar.

WALTON COUNTY UGA EXTENSION SERVICE

Find courses and resources for learning gardening, food preservation, financial management and nutrition.

MONROE-WALTON COUNTY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Budding writers can hone their skills at the free Write-In on Sunday afternoons. Free introductory lessons are offered for some visual arts classes.

WALTON COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTERS

Three locations offer free weekly classes for tai chi. Low-cost fitness courses are also available for zumba, line dancing and yoga.

OCONEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library's digital Knowledge City features short courses in business, finance and computing. Expert presentations on a variety of topics are scheduled each month.

OCONEE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

Try your hand at painting, pottery, drawing, metalcrafting and more. Fees apply.



ENERGY SAVERS DO A LITTLE, SAVE A LOT

Hands off the thermostat. Keep your heat set at 68° in the winter for significant energy savings. Use emergency/auxiliary heat mode only in a genuine emergency.

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

FEB '23

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STAR QUALITY

WALTON EMC SERVICE AREA IS POPULAR FOR TV, MOVIE LOCATIONS

Thanks to its rural character and well-preserved small towns, Walton County and its neighbors are always ready for their close-up when television and movie production companies come calling. Familiar historic landmarks, main streets, businesses, farms and even country lanes have made cameo appearances in some recent productions.

Among the locations taking a star turn in recent TV shows and movies:

- The distinctive Walton County Courthouse is featured in "A Jazzman's Blues" on Netflix.
- Season 3 of the popular Netflix show "Sweet Magnolias" regularly shoots scenes in Social Circle.
- Loganville's Main Street and Town Green were transformed into the fictional town of Deerfield, La., for the Apple TV+ series "The Big Door Prize."
- Scenes for Marvel Cinematic Universe's "Echo" were shot at the Great Walton Railroad in Social Circle.
- "Jerry and Marge Go Large," a Paramount+ movie was filmed in downtown Social Circle in 2021.
- Walton EMC commercial member Kent Rock Manor near Walnut Grove doubled as the fictional Salvatore Boarding School for The CW's "Legacies" series.
- The Pastures of Rose Creek, a Watkinsville farm owned by Walton EMC customer-owner Will Breedlove and family, is at the center of "Full Count," a faith-based feature film.

BE A FILM LOCATION!

Want to see your home, business or property considered for a TV or movie location? Visit georgia.org/industries/film-entertainment/georgia-film-tv-production to apply. If approved, your property will be added to an online database referenced by TV/film location scouts.



With the addition of a faux deer statue, set dressers turned Loganville's Town Green into the fictional Deerfield, La., for a new comedy series for Apple+ streaming service.



Businesses along Loganville's Main Street were transformed into the fictional town of Deerfield for the upcoming comedy series "The Big Door Prize."

Photos courtesy City of Loganville.

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

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quick guide

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walton gas

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©2023 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.

PLUGGED IN



Q: Does Walton EMC have any rebates for improving the energy efficiency of my home?

A: Your co-op offers hundreds of dollars in rebates for energy efficiency upgrades at residential properties. For instance, there's a \$200 rebate for replacing a fossil fuel model with an electric water heater or electric heat pump in an existing home. If you're building a new home, you could qualify for up to \$1,000 in rebates for installing underground wiring and electric comfort appliances. To learn the requirements to qualify for a rebate, visit any Walton EMC location or check waltonemc.com/residential/rebates.



Question answered by
Pete Ervin
Member Services Specialist

Operation Round Up grants put \$181,280 in communities

Your Operation Round Up program has been pouring out funds to great organizations that fill vital roles in our communities. Without these groups and their work, many of our neighbors would have nowhere to turn during these trying times.

RECENT GRANTS

Adults Pushing Forward, \$1,000. Self-sufficiency education for displaced youth. *Newton, Rockdale and DeKalb counties.*

Angel House of Georgia, \$5,100. Assistance to women overcoming drug or alcohol addiction. *All of Walton EMC territory.*

Books for Keeps, \$5,000. Summer reading books for low-income students. *Clarke County.*

Burn Foundation of America, \$7,500. Supplies and services for burn patients. *All of Walton EMC territory.*

DIVAS Who Win Freedom Center, \$10,000. Intervention, education and advocacy for female survivors of addiction, prostitution and sex trafficking. *Barrow, Clarke, Oconee, Walton and Rockdale counties.*

Family Promise of North Fulton and DeKalb, \$10,000. Homelessness program. *Fulton and DeKalb counties.*

First Book Club 165, \$7,525. Books for low-income status elementary school. *Gwinnett County.*

Helping Mamas, \$10,000. Car seats and portable cribs for low-income families. *Barrow, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale and Walton counties.*

Hi-Hope Service Center, \$10,000. Medications/prescriptions for adults with intellectual disabilities. *Gwinnett County.*

Hope Haven of Northeast Georgia, \$5,500. Defibrillators for group homes housing adults with developmental disabilities. *Clarke, Oconee and Walton counties.*

Love.Craft Athens, \$6,000. Creativity and job skills programming for adults with developmental disabilities. *Clarke, Oconee and Walton counties.*

Mercy Health Center, \$6,500. Healthcare services for low-income and uninsured people. *Clarke, Barrow and Oconee counties.*

Monroe Walton Center for the Arts, \$9,000. Healing Arts program. *Walton County.*

Prevent Child Abuse Athens, \$5,000. Parenting classes. *Clarke and Oconee counties.*

Skye Precious Kids, \$7,200. Medical equipment for children with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities. *All of Walton EMC territory.*

Walton County Master Gardeners Extension, \$5,500. Greenhouse. *Walton County.*

Words of Comfort Ministries, Inc., \$8,400. Tutoring for foster children. *Gwinnett County.*

The board approved assistance to two families totaling \$14,955.

Funds from the Walton EMC unclaimed capital credits account provided:

Faith in Serving Humanity (FISH), American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia, Atlanta Community Food Bank and StreetWise Atlanta, \$52,500. Emergency food, shelter and medical needs.



operation round up report

Fostering futures

Each year, more than 400 children "age out" of foster care in Georgia. One in five of them will be homeless after age 18. Seventy-one percent of the women will be pregnant by age 21. Sixty percent of the men will have spent time in jail by age 24.

Lydia's Place, a recent Operation Round Up grant recipient, is working to turn the tide on these grim statistics — one student at a time.

The Watkinsville nonprofit serves students age 17-24 who have experienced foster care or homelessness. It provides housing, utilities and counseling to young adults while they pursue higher education.

The program houses 20 students at a time. While attending school and holding down a job, each participates in a mandatory two-year curriculum to learn independent living skills such as financial management, conflict resolution and basic housekeeping.

The \$5,000 ORU grant will help Lydia's Place care for one student for five months, said Kelly Brannen, executive director. "It costs about \$12,000 a year — about \$1,000 each month — for each student to go through our program. This gives them a warm, safe place to live and counseling, so these students can leave us to go on to a better life."

"Our goal is to launch them into adulthood," she said, sharing numerous success stories that prove the program works.

Above: Walton EMC's Operation Round Up (ORU) program presented Lydia's Place with a \$5,000 donation to help serve young adults who have experienced foster care or homelessness. Pictured left to right, Savannah Chandler, Walton EMC; Debbie Fowler, ORU board member; Kelly Brannen, Lydia's Place executive director and Henry Hibbs, ORU board member.

WANT TO HELP?

Go to the "Community" tab at waltonemc.com and click on the Operation Round Up link. Every customer-owner's donation helps those in need. Walton EMC covers all administrative costs of the program.



Re-visiting the rice cooker

Rice cookers aren't just for making rice. Plug in this seldom-used electric appliance to discover some of its hidden cooking talents.

- 1 MAKE A HOT BREAKFAST.** To make oatmeal or other hot cereals, add a little less milk or water than you would for stovetop cooking (and some chopped nuts and dried fruit if you want).
- 2 COOK AN EASY, ONE-POT MEAL.** If your machine came with a steamer rack, use it to cook cut vegetables as well as shrimp, fish fillets or chicken breasts.
- 3 SLOW-COOK SOUPS, BEANS OR STEWS.** Give your rice cooker enough liquid and time, and it will create long-simmered dishes without scorching or boiling over.
- 4 POACH FRUIT.** Make healthy desserts of fruit simmered in juice, wine or maple syrup. You can also prepare applesauce and other fruit sauces.



Meta, Walton EMC & Silicon Ranch partner for new solar projects

Meta Platforms, Inc. (formerly the Facebook company) has announced plans for three new large solar projects in Georgia.

Walton EMC recently signed contracts with Silicon Ranch on behalf of Meta for three new solar facilities totaling 560 megawatts. The contracts are part of the electric cooperative's agreement to supply Meta with 100 percent renewable energy for its data center in Staton Springs, Georgia. Silicon Ranch will work with Walton EMC to deliver projects in each of the next three years to support Meta's operations.

Read the full story at waltonemc.com.