

## DOING DOUBLE DUTY: Light Bulb Security Cameras

Adding another layer of home security can be as simple as screwing in a light bulb. Providing both illumination and discreet video surveillance simultaneously, light bulbs with built-in video cameras are an easy and inexpensive way to keep watch on the interior and exterior of your home.

Twisting the bulb into a standard light fixture provides the power the camera needs to function. Once it's screwed in, the wireless device works on your home Wi-Fi. Images from the camera can be remotely viewed on a computer or mobile device via an app.

Light bulb cameras with features such as motion detection, wide-angle object tracking, night vision, HD video capabilities and two-way audio start at around \$40 each. Since the bulb is an LED, it's also energy efficient.

Bulb cameras are widely available at electronics and home improvement stores.



## Don't let scammers TRICK you



Beware the tricksters! This is no Halloween prank. Con artists intent on stealing your money are posing as Walton EMC employees.

The Georgia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division reports an increase in scams targeting Georgia utility users, including Walton EMC customer-owners. Awareness is the best way to prevent these crimes.

**The most common utility scam goes like this:** A con artist posing as a representative of Walton EMC calls, claiming you have an unpaid balance and that unless you pay immediately — typically via a prepaid card or your credit card — the co-op will shut off service.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Your co-op will never call you threatening immediate disconnection. Customer-owners who are in danger of disconnection will receive notice on their bill. We will also attempt an automated courtesy call two days before disconnection.
- We will not call to ask for your credit card or bank information.
- Courtesy calls from Walton EMC concerning delinquent accounts are placed during normal business hours.
- Many scammers use spoofing technology to make the caller ID appear with a valid company name and/or phone number, even Walton EMC's.
- **If you are contacted by a suspicious person:**
- DO NOT give the caller any personal or financial information.
- Hang up and call the co-op at 770-267-2505 to report the incident.

Walton EMC  
Customer-Owned Electric Power

# realite

OCT '23

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## BATTERY STORAGE: What is it and how can it help the grid?

### NEW TECHNOLOGY COULD HELP SUPPLY ELECTRICITY DURING PEAK DEMAND

B-E-S-S. Have you heard of it? It stands for battery energy storage system, and one day it could help improve the reliability of the electric grid.

"Advancements in BESS technology have the potential to make the energy that Walton EMC delivers more reliable, affordable and sustainable," said Jeff Pratt, vice president of emerging technologies for Oglethorpe Power, a wholesale power supply cooperative that generates much of the electricity that is distributed to Walton EMC customer-owners.

In traditional electricity systems, power is generated, transmitted and distributed on demand, Pratt explained. Grid-scale batteries would allow for storage of electricity until it's most needed.

A battery storage system acts like a sponge. It can absorb energy when there is excess supply and then release it back onto the grid during peak demand periods, such as when people come home from work and turn on their lights and appliances.

Grid-scale battery storage systems can help ensure reliability during extreme weather events, such as

last December's arctic blast that triggered record-setting energy demand across the state. If unexpected power supply challenges occur, energy stored in batteries could be discharged to serve as a supplemental form of electricity.

Batteries could also help power suppliers meet future energy demands, especially as the industry transitions to using more renewable resources, such as solar. While solar is one of Georgia's lowest-cost forms of energy, solar facilities only generate power when the sun is shining. Solar's intermittent nature presents technical and economic challenges as it becomes a more significant percentage of an energy portfolio.

Electric utilities across the U.S. are closely following battery storage technology advancements as they evaluate their existing and expanding power supply needs. In North Carolina, 10 electric co-ops already have storage systems. Officials there declare the technology allows them to "enhance reliability and achieve cost savings" to benefit co-op members.

## EMPOWERING DREAMS: Walton EMC's Generosity Fuels Opportunity

The Walton EMC Charity Committee sets the wheels of progress in motion as it presents \$46,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Walton County. Using the funds to purchase additional transportation will pave the way for more students to participate in the program.

Together, we're driving positive change and expanding horizons for the youth of our community.

Photo from left to right: Kathy Ivie, Darlene Butler, Lynn Hill (Boys and Girls Club Director), Jeff Paul, Courtney Wray and Jennifer Broun.



Walton EMC  
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### 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

President and CEO Ron Marshall  
Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong  
CFO/Senior VP Finance Marsha Shumate  
VP Walton Energy and External Affairs Jim Bottone  
VP Engineering and Operations Tim Morris  
VP Power Supply Hudson Kingery  
Board Chair Michael Lowder  
Board Vice Chair Jason Sidwell  
Board Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ray Allen  
Board Members Tommy Adcock, Stan Pitts, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor, Jim Whitley  
Public Relations Savannah Chandler Morgan Spivey  
Design mPrint Design Studio

### walton gas

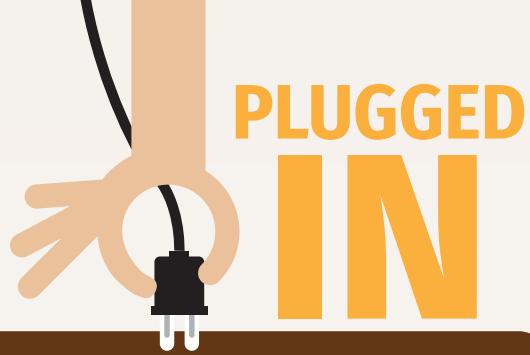
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### emc security

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?  
770.963.0305 or emcsecurity.com

©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: Why can't I place a sign on a power pole?

**A:** Attaching items to an electric pole is dangerous for you and also life-threatening to the Walton EMC professional line workers who maintain your electricity. Unauthorized pole attachments also violate the National Electrical Safety Code. When you post signs or attach items like basketball hoops or lights to a pole, you're at risk of exposure to thousands of volts of electricity pulsing overhead. Staples and nails embedded in poles can snag the safety boots line workers wear when they climb poles. Foreign objects can also tear their protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock in the event of an accident. For your safety and the safety of those who keep the power flowing, never attach items to power poles. Always stay at least 10 feet away from utility lines.



## ENERGY SAVERS DO A LITTLE, SAVE A LOT

Replacing any incandescent bulb used more than one hour per day with a LED bulb can reduce lighting costs by

# 50-80%

# Operation Round Up puts another \$95,080 into communities

Taking an active role in demonstrating the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community," the customer-owners of Walton EMC are sharing \$95,080 to support area organizations and their projects.

Co-op members participating in the Operation Round Up community assistance program voluntarily round their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. The resulting change — an average of 50 cents per month per contributor — rolls into a charitable fund to support local charities, needy individuals and service organizations. The giving program has distributed more than \$8 million since it began in 1998.

### The Walton Electric Trust Board met and approved the following grant awards:

**Anders Soccer Club Youth Outreach, \$1,000.** Community impact soccer camps for children. *Clarke and Oconee counties*

**Comics Appreciation Project, \$1,500.** Share-Care Books project that provides graphic novels to children during medical or family crisis. *Barrow, Clarke, Oconee and Walton counties*

**Georgia Options, \$5,000.** In-home assistance for people with disabilities. *Barrow, Clarke, Dekalb, Gwinnett, Morgan, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton counties*

**Goodwill of North Georgia, \$12,500.** Transportation stipends for jobseekers. *All of Walton EMC service territory*

**Heirborn Servants Inc., \$4,000.** Transportation assistance for single, low-income mothers. *Barrow, Clarke, Dekalb and Gwinnett counties*

**YMCA of Winder, \$5,000.** After-school care program. *Barrow County*

**Emergency assistance for three individuals, \$29,080.**

Organizations receiving funds from Walton EMC's unclaimed capital credits account are:

**The Cancer Foundation Inc., \$15,000.** Financial assistance program covering basic living expenses and treatment for cancer patients. *All of Walton EMC service territory*

**Eagle Ranch, \$7,000.** Counseling sessions for at-risk children and their families. *All of Walton EMC service territory*

**StepByStep Recovery, \$15,000.** Housing for individuals and veterans suffering homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse. *Gwinnett County*



Heirborn Servants Project Manager Tiffany Castro, left, accepts an Operation Round Up donation from Walton EMC Communications Specialist Morgan Spivey. The funds will help to provide transportation for single mothers and trafficking victims.

## Going the distance

"It all comes back to my mom, who is my hero," says Jon Lewis, founder of Winder-based Heirborn Servants, which teams with area nonprofits to help low-income, single mothers who are survivors of trauma.

The organization's Give Rides program provides safe, reliable transportation for getting women and their children to the places that matter. Lewis knows first-hand the difference the gift of a car made when his own mother was struggling to raise five children on her own.

A car from Give Rides helped Carla escape a physically abusive relationship and regain her independence. Casey, a human trafficking victim, receives rides to and from recovery meetings. For Betty, a recovering addict and mother of a physically/mentally disabled son, a gifted car enables her to attend recovery meetings and get her son to doctor appointments. She's also giving back by providing rides to others.

By mid 2023, Give Rides had gifted 105 vehicles and over 7,882 Lyft rides. A \$4,000 grant from Walton EMC's Operation Round Up community assistance fund will provide more rides for women in Barrow, Clarke, Dekalb and Gwinnett counties.

"Everyone knows someone who is a single mom or trauma survivor. The women we serve could be your sister, aunt, friend or neighbor," said Tiffany Castro, Give Rides program manager. "Through the gift of transportation, they can go the distance."



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Use the QR code to learn about Operation Round Up. The program is a simple and rewarding way for our customer-owners to raise money for local charities, needy individuals and service organizations. Every customer-owner's donation helps those in need. Walton EMC covers all administrative costs of the program.

## Information About Your Walton EMC Payments

We have updated our automated calling system that allows customers to make payments over the phone. If you use this service, please ensure your credit card or banking information is current by visiting: [billing.waltonemc.com/onlineportal/Customer-Login](http://billing.waltonemc.com/onlineportal/Customer-Login). Customers can easily make one-time payments or set up automated payments on this page.

