

Pancake makers you'll flip for

Though there's never a wrong day for making pancakes, here in Georgia the best time is National Blueberry Pancake Day on Jan. 28. Walton EMC has tracked down some great gadgets to help you celebrate the state's top fruit crop in style.

Get a griddle. Cook for a crowd with a Presto Ceramic 22" Griddle (\$53) that provides a larger cooking area, a totally flat surface and better heat control.

Fly solo. Make pancakes for one with the Dash Mini Electric Round Griddle (\$13).

Old school. The Lodge Pre-Seasoned Cast Iron Griddle (\$20) has excellent heat retention and distribution, a factor that helps it turn out great pancakes.

Make minis. The CAINFY Pancake Pan Maker (\$35) cooks seven silver dollar pancakes at once.

Go Dutch. Use the La Cuisine Pancake Pan (\$34) to make pancake balls, inspired by Dutch pancakes.

Have fun. Inject some whimsy into your pancake celebration with a set of Mickey Mouse Silicone Pancake Molds (\$20).

Create a masterpiece. Turn your pancake into a work of art with Presto's PanGogh Pancake Art Griddle (\$55) kit.

Grab one of these gadgets and some of those Georgia blueberries you put away last summer to make a memorable meal.

JAN. 28
National Blueberry Pancake Day



Presto Ceramic 22" Griddle



Dash Mini Electric Round Griddle



La Cuisine Pancake Pan



Presto PanGogh Pancake Art Griddle



POWERFUL GADGETS

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

JAN '24

- > underground utility boxes
- > giving blood
- > agriculture tax exemption
- > pancake makers

PLAN FOR A *powerful* YEAR

Mark your 2024 calendar to take advantage of programs, services and events that will help you save money, ensure safe and reliable electricity, and make the most of your Walton EMC membership.

JAN. **Curb Costs** Celebrate National Curb Your Energy Costs Day on Jan. 11 by watching our easy-to-follow home energy audit video (bit.ly/wemc_energyaudit) that reveals ways to save money and increase comfort.

FEB. **Research Rebates** If you're building a new home or upgrading an existing one, save on energy efficiency improvements with our rebates. Find details at waltonemc.com.

MARCH **Look Up Before You Cut** Trimming trees? Never prune trees within 10 feet of an electrical line. If an overgrown tree or shrub is threatening a power line, report it to Walton EMC at [770-267-2505](tel:770-267-2505) for a safe solution.

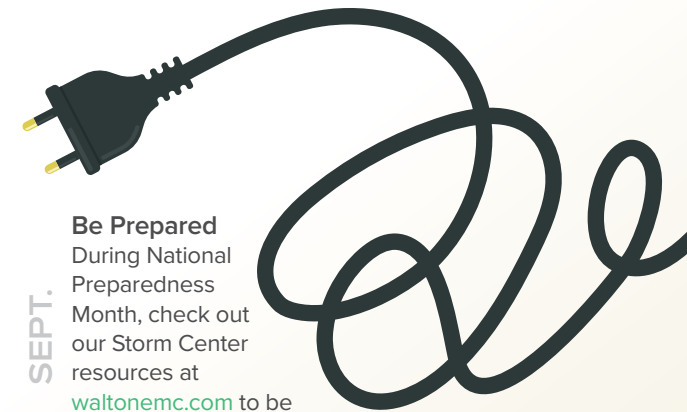
APRIL **Sign Up for Solar** Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 by signing up for Cooperative Solar, a renewable energy program that allows co-op members to purchase blocks of solar power to offset kilowatt-hours on their power bill. Details at waltonemc.com/solar-power-center.

MAY **Stay Safe** May is National Electrical Safety Month, a good time to double down on teaching everyone in your home how to stay safe around electric appliances, equipment and power lines. Find safety tips at waltonemc.com.

JUNE **Make the Meeting** Make plans to be on hand for the annual membership meeting on **Saturday, June 15**. We'll conduct business, vote on directors and give away lots of prizes.

JULY **Consider a Backup** If you've been thinking about installing a standby generator to provide backup power, midsummer is the perfect time to get it done. Ask about special deals and loans available to Walton EMC customer-owners by calling [770-267-2505](tel:770-267-2505).

AUG. **Download the App** Put the [myWaltonEMC app](#) on your phone to gain access to energy-tracking features and data that will help you monitor and control your power use all year long.



SEPT. **Be Prepared** During National Preparedness Month, check out our Storm Center resources at waltonemc.com to be ready in the event of an extended outage.

OCT. **Celebrate Co-ops** Join Walton EMC in celebrating National Cooperative Month. Your electric co-op is one of nearly 900 member-owned co-ops serving electric consumers across the U.S.

NOV. **Be a Good Neighbor** Support your neighbors and community by participating in Operation Round Up (waltonemc.com/community/operation-round-up), a program that "rounds up" your monthly bill to the nearest dollar and shares the donations with worthy organizations in our service area.

DEC. **Score a Scholarship** High school seniors living along Walton EMC's lines can apply for a Walton Electric Trust Scholarship of up to \$4,000 to further their education. Find guidelines and applications at waltonemc.com.

Scan here
FOR THE REALITE ONLINE



- Step 1 Point your phone camera at the QR code.
- Step 2 Tap the screen to access Walton EMC news online.

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

REALITE JAN 2024 VOLUME 74, NO. 1

quick guide

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT
[770.267.2505](tel: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
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Board Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ray Allen
Board Members Tommy Adcock, Dan Chelko, Stan Pitts, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor, Jim Whitley
Public Relations Savannah Chandler, Morgan Spivey
Design mPrint Design Studio

walton gas
NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?
[770.GAS.HEAT](tel:770.GAS.HEAT) or waltongas.com

emc security
NEED SECURITY SERVICE?
[770.963.0305](tel:770.963.0305) or emcsecurity.com

©2024 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.



ENERGY SAVERS
DO A LITTLE, SAVE A LOT

Plug electronics into smart power strips to reduce stand-by energy use, which can account for **20% of your monthly electric bill.**



PLUGGED IN

Q: What should I do if I think an underground utility box has been tampered with?

A: If you see an open utility box, don't go near it and caution others to stay away, too.

The box you've spotted may or may not belong to Walton EMC. In addition to electricity, natural gas, sewer, water, communications and other services are delivered via underground cables and pipes in portions of Walton EMC's service area. Transformers and mounted utility boxes are where these underground utilities come to ground level for servicing or, in the case of electricity, to connect to high-voltage electricity.

Try to inspect the box in question from a safe distance. Look for a sticker that indicates the utility company's name. AT&T, Comcast, Charter Communications, Spectrum and Monroe Utilities are among the service providers that also have boxes in Walton EMC's service area.

If you fail to find a sticker, note the size and color of the box. A light green, 2-foot box or cylinder indicates a phone or cable television utility. Contact your communications service provider to report a problem.

A Walton EMC residential underground transformer is 4 feet square and about 2 feet high. It is dark green in color usually has a warning sticker on the front. If the utility box that concerns you matches this description, or you are unable to identify a box's ownership, call us at 770-267-2505 to report it. A co-op service representative will visit to ensure it is secured and safe.



Question answered by
Blake Chitwood
Project Engineer

Going for blood

CO-OP MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES KEEP THE TRADITION GOING

Walton EMC and the Red Cross have been teaming up to go for blood for as long as anyone can remember. That won't change in 2024, as the co-op's customer-owners and employees continue a tradition of giving life.

"Nobody knows when it started because it was so long ago," said Laurie Treadwell, Walton EMC personnel specialist and blood drive coordinator. The best guess is that the drives began in the 1960s.



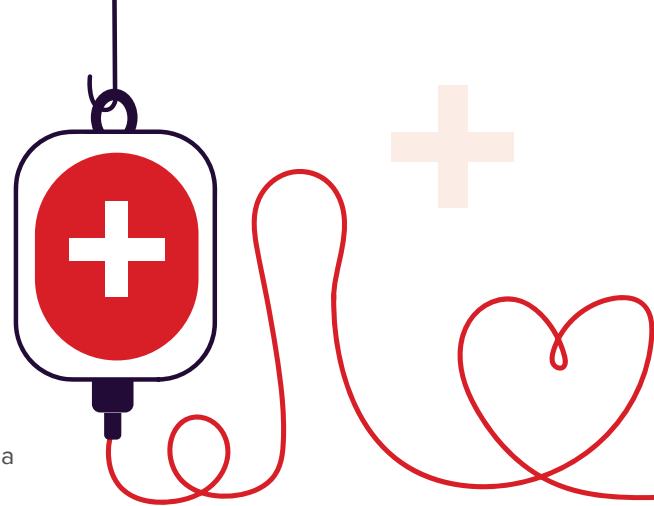
Darlene Butler

Walton EMC typically hosts five drives annually. It's a way the co-op demonstrates one of its core principles: caring for the community. Since Georgia Northeast Red Cross began keeping donation records in 2003, the co-op drives have collected 2,288 pints of usable blood.

Monroe resident Gary Mastrodonato, a Walton EMC member for 42 years, is among the regular donors. After the co-op's most recent drive last December, he has given 291 pints. It's a habit he developed while serving in the Army during the Vietnam War.

"An urgent base-wide plea for blood donations came from the hospital on post," he recalled. "I uncharacteristically volunteered. This was a great leap for me, a comfortable accounting clerk, leery of needles and sharp pencils."

JANUARY IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH



Gary Mastrodonato

Mastrodonato discovered that giving blood to help others made him feel good. "Wherever I have lived since then, one of the first things I did was start the donation routine," he said.

Darlene Butler, the co-op's director of finance, is another regular at the drive. At 136 pints given, she leads all co-op employee donors.

"It's something I can do for others that doesn't cost me anything but time," she said. Her O negative blood is the universal type needed for emergency transfusions and immune-deficient infants.

Walton EMC's first blood drive of 2024 is Feb. 15. A single drive typically yields 29 to 32 pints of usable blood, which is desperately needed, Treadwell said.

"The Red Cross currently has a critical need for blood donors, especially those with O types," she said. "Every gift of blood can help up to three people, so I encourage everyone to give whenever and wherever you can."

Potential donors can visit the Red Cross website to sign up for a nearby drive. To check appointment availability for the upcoming Walton EMC drive, contact Treadwell at ltreadwell@waltonemc.com.

Upcoming Blood Drives

Walton EMC Office, Monroe

FEBRUARY 15

APRIL 18

JUNE 20

More information:

Laurie Treadwell,
ltreadwell@waltonemc.com

Agriculture tax exemption

The Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) card is issued to farmers and producers who are exempt from state sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

To find out what has changed or apply for a GATE card, visit forms.agr.georgia.gov/GATE/

To continue receiving this sales tax exemption from Walton EMC, producers must submit renewed cards to us no later than Jan. 31.

Copies of your renewed GATE card can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the following:

MAIL: Walton EMC, Attn: Connie Bentley,
P.O. Box 260, Monroe, GA 30655

FAX: 770.267.6479

EMAIL: gatecardelectric@waltonemc.com

