DECADES OF INNOVATION: 2000s

A LOOK BACK AT THE MILESTONES THAT POWERED 90 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Though electric utilities weren't deregulated in the 1990s, the possibility sparked new ideas that directly benefited Walton EMC's members.

It prompted the cooperative to build power-generating plants to meet members' peak demand for power. In partnership with a large generating company, Walton EMC built the Doyle Generating Plant in 2000.

In 2001, Walton and 15 other Georgia EMCs formed Green Power EMC, the Southeast's largest renewable energy program. The co-op also opened a new Watkinsville Operations Center that year.

Walton Gas, a wholly owned subsidiary of the cooperative, began marketing natural gas statewide in 2002. It has since been recognized several times by J.D. Power for having the highest customer satisfaction among residential natural gas providers.

Automated meter reading, a major technological innovation, came in 2007. The system transmits meter readings to the co-op's billing system over existing power lines, saving money and improving accuracy.

Honoring its pledge to care for the community, Walton EMC ended the decade by establishing two college scholarship programs. The Walton EMC Engineering Leadership Scholarship, awarded through the University of Georgia College of Engineering, encourages education in fields that support the electric utility industry. Nearly 900 Walton Electric Trust scholarships totaling more than $3.85 million have rewarded students who have overcome significant obstacles.



In 2008, Walton EMC apprentice line technician Ryan West beat 228 competitors from four countries to become world champion apprentice lineman at the 25th annual International Lineman's Rodeo.



In 2008, Walton EMC underground crews completed more than 1,000 jobs without a single utility cut, earning their second straight Golden Backhoe Award and the Lester Feathers Award from the Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council. Front, from left: Brian Terry, Adam Simmons, Arthur Thomas, Jacob Brooks, Ryan Mitchell and Larry Lawson. Back: Larry Johnson, Jerry Miller and Tommy Maddox.

NOVEMBER 2026

REALITE

Walton EMC 90 Years 1936–2026



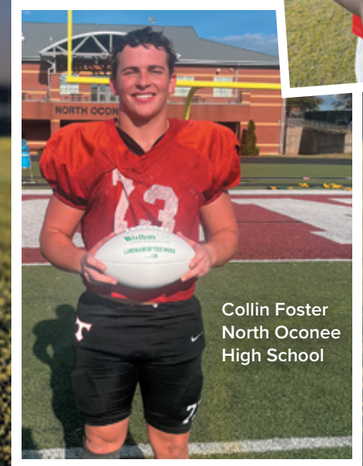
DeShawn Eyongorock
Monroe Area High School



Cooper Davis
Social Circle
High School



Klaiton "Truck" Jackson
Loganville High School



Collin Foster
North Oconee
High School



Champ Carr
South Gwinnett
High School

LINEMEN OF THE WEEK

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

REALITE **NOVEMBER 2026** VOLUME 76, NO. 11

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

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

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Senior VP Engineering and Operations Tim Morris
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©2026 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 145,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.



Digging this fall? Don't skip the call.

Planning some fall landscaping or backyard projects? Keep your plans safe and on track.

PLAN Contact 811 at least 3 days before you dig.

WAIT Crews will mark underground utility lines for free.

DIG Carefully dig around marked areas to avoid costly damages and outages.

MERRY & BRIGHT

Twinkle Tour 2026

FIND: Must-see holiday lighting displays within Walton EMC's service area.

- Homes
- Neighborhoods
- Businesses
- Churches

NOMINATE: **waltonemc.com/merryandbright**

You'll need a street address, property owner's name and dates/times the display is illuminated.

SEE: Walton EMC's Facebook page for this year's Merry & Bright list.



INVESTING IN **YOUTH**

Walton EMC is strengthening students, classrooms and schools

Walton EMC is connecting local students with opportunities that can power them toward a better future.

"The resources we put toward youth development programs like the Washington Youth Tour and EmPOWERment classroom grants are a long-term investment in our community," says Jennifer Broun, Walton EMC's community and youth coordinator. "These programs and others help to mold future community-focused leaders and citizens."

Each year Walton EMC invests thousands of dollars in programs benefiting young people across the co-op's 10-county service area. The commitment reflects Walton EMC's dedication to the Seventh Cooperative Principle: Concern for Community.

School EmPOWERment Grant

Teachers and schools use grants to purchase books, computers, equipment and supplies to enhance learning. In the most recent distribution, $366,164 was awarded to 55 local public and private schools. Over $3.3 million has been awarded since the program's inception. School principals may submit up to three applications that are evaluated based on need and student impact.

Application Period: Nov. 2–Dec. 11, 2026

Apply: waltonemc.com/youth

Washington Youth Tour

High school sophomores and juniors can apply to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 17–24, 2027. Students meet with congressional delegates, visit national monuments and connect with youth leaders nationwide in this weeklong leadership development experience.

Application Deadline: Dec. 11, 5 p.m.

Testing: Feb. 1 or Feb. 9, 2027

Interviews: Week of Feb. 15, 2027

Apply: waltonemc.com/youth

Walton EMC Scholarship Fund
Walton Electric Trust, Inc.

Up to 32 scholarships of $4,000 each are awarded to high school seniors and incoming college freshmen (21 or younger, with no more than 15 hours of college credit). Winners are selected by overall evaluation. Technical and vocational students are strongly encouraged to apply. Finalists receive a $1,000 scholarship.

Application Period: Oct. 26, 2026–Jan. 22, 2027

Apply: waltonemc.com/trustscholarship

Walton EMC Engineering Leadership Scholarship

The program awards five renewable $10,000 scholarships to UGA College of Engineering students who maintain permanent residency in Walton EMC's service area. Current engineering students and high school students accepted as engineering majors may apply.

Deadline: Feb. 28, 2027

Apply: engineering.uga.edu/students/undergraduate/scholarships/

Walter Harrison Scholarship

High school seniors and undergraduates attending any accredited vocational school, two- or four-year college or university in Georgia may apply for a $1,000 scholarship provided by Georgia's electric cooperatives. Selection is based on academic achievement and financial need.

Deadline: See waltonemc.com/youth for 2027 deadline.

Lineman of the Week

During football season, Walton EMC proudly recognizes exceptional high school linemen who exemplify excellence on the field and in the classroom. Nominated by their coaches, these student-athletes set the standard for dedication and teamwork.

View winners: waltonemc.com/youth or scan code



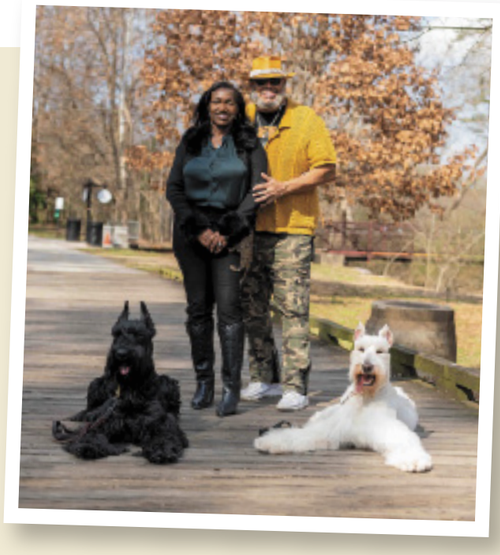
LEARN MORE:
waltonemc.com/youth

Dogs help disabled vets

At the Lilburn home of Blake and Sheila Rashad, Veterans Day is celebrated with a bark. The Army veterans operate Top Dogg K9 Foundation, a nonprofit that provides free, highly skilled service dogs to military veterans with disabilities.

"A service dog can completely change a veteran's life," says Blake, nicknamed Top Dogg. He uses his experience with a military K-9 unit to train dogs that help veterans manage physical disabilities and psychological challenges such as post-traumatic stress disorder. The foundation has paired more than 450 dogs with veterans.

Learn more: topdoggk9.org



Walton EMC customer-owners Blake and Sheila Rashad, founders of Top Dogg K9 Foundation, hope to pair more highly trained service dogs, like T'Challa and Nanuk, with disabled veterans.

WALTON EMPLOYEES OFFER

Helping Hands

Walton EMC employees are putting the Seventh Cooperative Principle — Concern for Community — into action. Through Walton EMC Helping Hands, an employee-led community service committee, they're providing hands-on assistance to area nonprofit organizations.

"We have a direct stake in helping our neighbors thrive because Walton EMC is locally owned by those we serve," said Sara Beddington, committee chair and marketing representative.

Walton team members recently pitched in on a home construction project led by Athens Area Habitat for Humanity. Twelve employees collaborated to lay a foundation for flooring, build window frames and seed the lawn.

"It was fun and a great team-building experience," said Kacey Malcom, senior data processing specialist. "We were all working together for a common good cause."

In September, Helping Hands volunteers spent time at the Ronald McDonald House at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Arthur M. Blank Hospital. They assembled laundry kits for families staying at the House, which provides free lodging for those with hospitalized children.

"This was a very fulfilling opportunity," said Haley McGee, gas company specialist.

The Walton County Senior Citizens Center and Faith in Serving Humanity (FISH) will also have visits from Helping Hands volunteers before the year's end.



Tassie Kirven, consumer services director, left, helps Marcy Freeman, member services specialist, build a window frame as 12 Walton EMC volunteers assisted with a homebuilding project of Athens Area Habitat for Humanity.