



# The LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

March 2024

Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

## Clearing the path to reliability

**T**rees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Washington EMC strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

### Reliability

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes

see Washington EMC/Georgia Right-of-Way crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, so we are better able to prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventive maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact.

### Safety

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

### Affordability

As a co-op, Washington EMC always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other veg-



**Wendy Sellers**  
*President/CEO*

etation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help, too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let us know by calling (478) 552-2577.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability.





An electric membership corporation

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Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

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#### OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

#### PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577

Long distance (800) 552-2577

#### 24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power interruption  
please call:

Local (478) 552-2577

Long distance (800) 552-2577

#### BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.

Sparta, GA 31087

*Closed on Thursday*

100 W. College St.

Wrightsville, GA 31096

*Closed on Wednesday*

#### Convenient bill pay options include:

##### Drive-thru payment window

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

##### Pay your bill online

[www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com)

##### Use the free Washington EMC mobile app

Look for WEMC in the

App Store or Android Market.

##### Pay by phone

(478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577



THANK YOU!

## Tune up your A/C system

**H**ot weather is still a couple of months away, but it's not too early to think about whether your central air-conditioning unit can make it through one more summer.

Spring is the perfect time to call a qualified service technician to give your central air conditioning system a once-over. Why wait until the middle of July for it to break down when you can have an expert tell you now if the unit is going to make it through the summer?

You should have your A/C checked at least once a year, and as soon as the weather begins to warm up in the spring.

A tech will make sure it's running efficiently—which will help save you money in the long run—and that it's not in need of any repairs that could leave your family sweltering indoors when the weather is at its midsummer peak.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleanings. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

# Why waste energy?

According to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy efficiency include:

**1. Buying oversized heating and cooling appliances.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are too big. HVAC sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills, than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.



**2. Ignoring leaks.** When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most efficient, most expensive system won't perform at peak if heated or air conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

**3. Neglecting to insulate.** Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space, as well as walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.

**4. Skipping fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or air conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity, but they can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in a room where one is running.



  

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## WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH FAIR 2024

MARCH 9, 2024  
10 AM TO 1 PM

AT WASHINGTON EMC HOME OFFICE  
at 258 North Harris Street, Sandersville, GA 31082

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT  
Health Screenings, Education, Resources  
and more!



# LEVEL UP YOUR INTERNET!

Get a fast, reliable connection that keeps up with you from Connect.

Connect, powered by Washington EMC, will bring you:



Fiber-fast speeds



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Unlimited data, no caps or throttling, ever



Affordable monthly pricing

## What are you waiting for?

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