



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

## Conexon fiber update

**A**s we look forward to a very exciting year, I am thrilled to share with you the achievements that have defined our journey in 2023. This past year was filled with milestones and achievements that help position us as a leading provider of high-speed fiber internet services in collaboration with Conexon Connect.

At Washington EMC, we understand the transformative power of reliable, high-speed internet access, and our dedication to closing the digital divide remains resolute. In 2023, we continued our ambitious fiber-optic network expansion, reaching even more rural areas and underserved communities.

In the spring of 2023, Connect,

powered by Washington EMC, celebrated connecting its 1,000<sup>th</sup> member.

In addition to this tremendous milestone, we are proud of all our EMC has achieved on this community-transforming project to date:

- We built more than 1,750 miles of fiber line across seven counties—Washington, Johnson, Laurens, Baldwin, Hancock, Warren and Glascock—by the end of 2023.
- We connected more than 2,800 members before 2024.
- We are beginning construction in Riddleville and Kite substation feeders/circuits in the first quarter of 2024, as the fiber hut installations for these circuits have already begun.
- We expect to complete our network build by the end of 2024.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we are excited about the journey ahead and the continued growth of our EMC. Our members are an integral part of this journey, and our dedication to offering high-speed internet services through Connect, powered by Washington EMC, is solely driven by the aim to meet your needs. We are working diligently to ensure all our members have access to faster, more reliable and more affordable fiber technology as quickly as possible.

Fiber-fast internet packages start as low as \$49.95 a month for speeds of up to 100 Mbps. Multigigabit speed is also available for our power users for \$79.95 a month for 1 gig, or \$99.95 for 2-gig service. HD-quality voice service is also available starting at \$29.95 a



**Wendy Sellers**  
*President/CEO*

month, and Conexon Connect has partnered with DIRECTVSM to offer more streaming service packages to fit any budget.

If you have not already, we encourage you to check your availability and sign up at [www.connectsignup.com](http://www.connectsignup.com). You can also call the Conexon Connect Customer Care team at (844) 542-6663, Monday through Sunday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (CST), or by email anytime at [info@conexonconnect.com](mailto:info@conexonconnect.com).

Washington EMC and Conexon remain committed to providing members with access to world-class, high-speed internet service. We hope you and your families had a warm and wonderful holiday season, and we wish you all the best in 2024. Know that we truly appreciate your patience as we continue our broadband journey and look forward to connecting more customers this year.

Thank you for your support and trust in Washington EMC. Feel free to reach out anytime with questions or concerns.





# Community news

An electric membership corporation

258 N. Harris St. • P.O. Box 598  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Email: [wemc@washingtonemc.com](mailto:wemc@washingtonemc.com)

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

Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mildred W. Jackson,  
*Chair, Tennille*

Mike Beckworth,

*Vice Chair, Harrison*

Mike McDonald,

*Secretary/Treasurer, Warrenton*

Brenda English, *Milledgeville*

Billy Helton, *Warthen*

Jeff Lacksen, *Sparta*

Ken Vickers, *Wrightsville*

## 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



Washington EMC loves to give back and participate in our community. This year, we once again supported our local toy drives. We are proud of the communities we serve and proud to assist in these worthwhile programs.



In December, Washington EMC had a great time hosting a fourth-grade class from Brentwood School. The demonstration on electricity and the safety required to keep the power flowing was a big part of the discussion.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



BEST BETS FOR

# Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

## UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

## ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



## USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



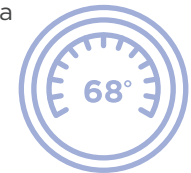
## MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT



Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

## LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



## Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Pie Bars

*Courtesy of Georgia Grown*

### Crust ingredients

- 8 ounces unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

### Topping ingredients

- 3/4 cup sorghum syrup
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar
- 2 farm eggs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 ounce bourbon
- 2 1/2 cups pecan pieces
- 4 ounces chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9x13-inch baking dish with parchment paper and spray with cooking spray.

Brown butter in a pan, about 5-8 minutes over medium-high heat. Allow to cool for 5 minutes. In a large bowl, combine browned butter, sugar, vanilla and salt. Mix together. Gradually stir in flour until mixture is crumbly and begins to stick together. Press into the bottom of prepared pan and bake for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, whisk sorghum syrup, brown sugar, eggs, melted butter, vanilla and bourbon together in a medium bowl. When crust has finished baking, remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips and pecan pieces evenly over the crust. Pour sugar mixture over pecans and chocolate, and spread evenly and gently with a spatula over the crust. Return to oven and bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cover with foil, then return to oven and bake 10 minutes longer. Remove from



COURTESY GEORGIA GROWN

oven and allow to cool. Chill in refrigerator for 2 hours, then cut into bars and serve. Makes 9 dessert-sized bars or 18 snacking bars.

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit [www.georgia-grown.com](http://www.georgia-grown.com).

## *Don't Let Your Internet Break Your Heart!*

With fiber internet from Connect, your connection will be unbreakable.

### *Connect fiber internet will allow you to:*

- Video chat with loved ones near and far.
- Stream your favorite movies seamlessly.
- Experience buffer-free online gaming.
- Online shop with no lag.
- ***And more!***



Check availability at  
[www.conexonconnect.com](http://www.conexonconnect.com),  
call (844) 542-6663  
or scan our QR Code!

