

# RIGHT-OF-WAY PROGRAM PRODUCING BENEFITS

There is a saying that power lines and trees don't mix. We can either have electricity or trees. To some, this is a harsh statement and to some it is a known fact. With Grady EMC's right-of-way program, we are striving to provide the membership with the least amount of interruptible power brought on by trees and vegetation and at the same time conserve the environment when possible. As we second five year rotation of our right of way it is apparent that the program is achieving desired objectives by the reduced number of outages brought on by trees and by the length of the outages becoming shorter in duration. In order to accomplish this, the right-of-way policy requires up to a 30 feet right-of-way. Tree removal, tree trimming, and spraying of vegetation are the methods that are used in this program.

It is not Grady EMC's intention to inconvenience members with this program, as we realize most people would prefer not to have trees cut down or trimmed, just as we would if we were on our own property. However, at the same time, we have to realize that the sentence of this article is true. We simply can't have it both ways. There are possible alternatives that could be looked at such as, re-routing existing overhead lines, or going with an underground service. There are costs to the members if they elect to go this route, but they could be possible alternatives.

Some complaints from the membership in the past have been that they were unaware that this was going to be done or when

## Notes of Interest

### March 2002

- Mar. 1 - Walter Harris Scholarship applications due
- Mar. 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- Mar. 20 - Spring Begins
- Mar. 31 - EASTER

### April 2002

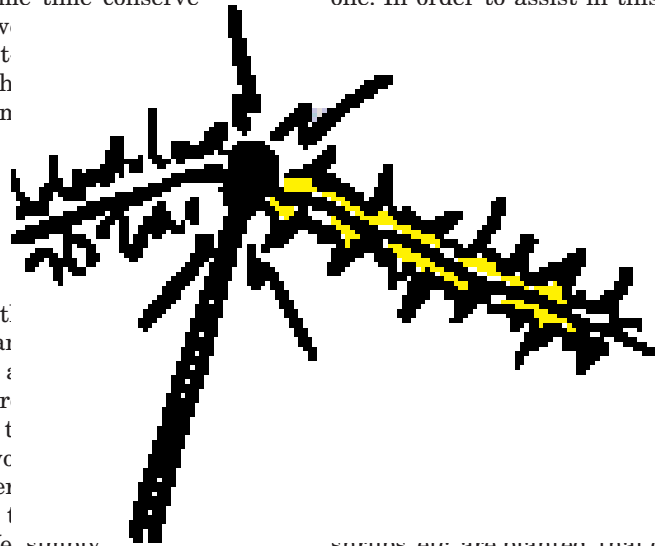
- Apr. 5 - Washington Youth Tour essays due
- Apr. 7 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Apr. 24 - Administrative Professionals Day

### May 2002

- May 10 - MOTHER'S DAY
- May 18 - ARMED FORCES DAY
- May 10 - MEMORIAL DAY (Observed)

or where it was going to be done on their property. Because of the approximately 2,600 miles of distribution lines and 16,000 members of Grady EMC, and with members working and not at home, and varying weather conditions and circumstances that can alter and change work plans, it is impossible to notify everyone. In order to assist in this matter, we will inform the member, on an annual basis as to the area these substations service territory. Hopefully, this will be an opportunity, if they have consent prior to cleaning of the right-of-way property.

FOR THE YEAR 2002, THE SOUTH BOSTON SUBSTATION COVERING SOUTH THOMAS COUNTY AND THE CLIMAX SUBSTATION COVERING THE NORTHERN PART OF AND GRADY COUNTIES WILL BE MAINTAINED.



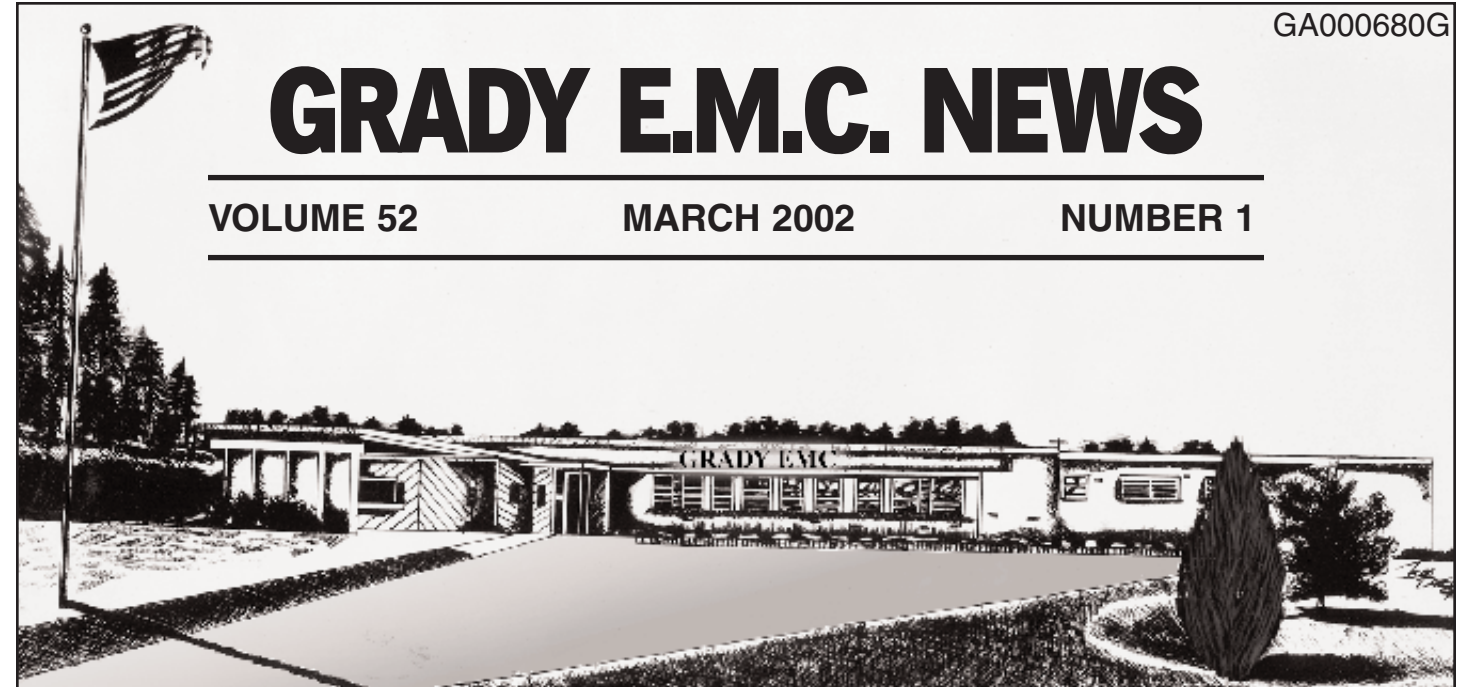
size that as new trees, bushes, shrubs, etc. are planted, due consideration be given to the right-of-way policy before planting or landscaping occurs to eliminate this potential problem.

Grady EMC would like to thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation as we continue in our right-of-way program to keep your lights shining as much as possible. ■



## In just a short time,

farmers, plantations, and individuals will begin to do some control burning. Whether in your yard, field or woods, Grady EMC would like to bring to your attention that we have had to replace several electric distribution poles as a result of permanent damage brought on by fire. We understand how this type of accident can happen and we are asking you to take EXTRA PRECAUTIONS this year in order to prevent this from happening. Not only does this create a potential safety problem by weakening the integrity of the pole and possibly causing it to break; but also, creates an unnecessary cost to you for having the pole replaced. Please do your part in helping hold down costs at your cooperative. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, help, and understanding.



# GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

VOLUME 52

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NUMBER 1

No census is needed to tell us that our State's population exploded during the past decade. A 26 percent growth spurt put our overall population at more than 8.1 million. Nearly four million of those citizens depend on electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) and the services we deliver, reliably, every day.

Still, some folks wonder aloud if the co-op isn't an "obsolete business relic" from another era. It may not surprise you that such comments are coming mostly from investor-owned utilities, the same utilities that were unwilling to string electric wire to rural areas of the State years ago because they didn't believe it would be profitable.

Time has proven them wrong, and time has made the EMCs an essential partner in the communities they serve.

Today, as investor-owned utilities are closing down local offices, centralizing customer service in massive call centers, and even dispatching repair crews from far off locations, isn't it great to know that when you call your EMC, you may be talking with someone in your area!

Georgia's EMCs are integral partners with the communities they serve. Electric co-ops are designing industrial parks, lighting Little League fields and sponsoring community beautification efforts. Some of us are collecting and delivering food for families in need.

There is hardly a civic club in Georgia whose members don't include at least one EMC employee. We partner with local schools to provide scholarships and youth development

**LOCAL OFFICE,** opportunities such as 4-H and FFA. For 36 years, we have sponsored the highly acclaimed "Washington Youth Tour," offering students from every corner of the State an opportunity to meet their elected leaders and get a first-hand view of how their government works.

Georgia's EMCs are working closely with the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, the Department of Community Affairs, local chambers of commerce and development authorities to bring new jobs and capital investment to our state.

**LOCAL PEOPLE,** Over the past three years alone, Georgia's electric cooperatives have coordinated over 150 visits by businesses interested in locating or expanding their operations. More than 40 of these companies chose Georgia, many of them deciding to locate in the heart of EMC service areas. These companies have invested millions of dollars in facilities and equipment, creating thousands of new jobs in the process.

The investor-owned utilities look with envy on our coverage area (now more than 73 percent of Georgia's land area!). And although suburbia has come to many EMC areas, we still serve an average of only 10 customers per mile while investor-owned utilities serve about 35 and city-owned utilities serve 47 customers per mile.

**LOCAL SERVICE** by Thomas A. Rosser, General Manager. Yes, it is expensive to install and maintain electric service to less densely populated areas. But we do it, and by careful management we are able to keep our rates competitive.

A "relic?" Hardly! But if we were, we'd be the most essential "relic" in the lives of the people we serve. ■





GRADY ELECTRIC  
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 270  
CAIRO, GEORGIA 31728

T.A. ROSSER  
General Manager

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### OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
Drive Thru – 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
MONDAY thru FRIDAY  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS,  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

### BUSINESS and SERVICE CALLS

DURING and AFTER  
OFFICE HOURS  
377-4182  
TOLL FREE  
SERVICE NUMBER  
1-800-942-4362

Published Quarterly,  
Mailed to All Members of  
Grady Electric Membership  
Corporation

Once a year, high school students are selected to represent the electric cooperatives in Georgia to represent our state as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour. Grady EMC will again sponsor three delegates (one delegate from each of our prime service counties of Decatur, Grady, and Thomas Counties) to attend this leadership tour. Delegates selected will be rising seniors and will join with over 1,000 delegates from across our state. Delegates selected do not have to be members of Grady EMC. This is an incredible week—all expenses paid—that is fast-paced, up-close, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see with your own eyes sites and people at the center of our government's top-notch tour of our nation's capital including

with state and national leaders and leadership training, as well as visiting all the major sights. A banquet, in your honor, will start things off the first night in Atlanta, spend a day in Atlanta touring the Capitol, participating in CNN's Talk Back Live show, and then flying to Washington, D.C. Some of the highlights include cruising down the Potomac River on a dinner/dance cruise, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery, touring the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol, the National Cathedral, Ford's Theater, the Smithsonian Museums, and so much more.

Information packets regarding the contest have been submitted to the high schools. Students who are interested in applying should start the process now. Delegates selected must be enrolled in the Junior class and be at least 16 years of age at the time of the tour. Each school has a designated WYT coordinator to work with the students. The dates for this year's tour are June 13th thru June 20th. Completed contest essays must be received at Grady EMC's office no later than April 5th, 2002.

Students of Grady EMC employees are ineligible to enter the Grady EMC contest; however, these students are eligible to enter the WYT contest sponsored by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, the statewide organization.

The purpose of this tour is to promote and enhance leadership skills and to educate youth on all aspects of rural electrification in order to promote a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives. GOOD LUCK to all participants.

# RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Electrification Administration Statement of Nondiscrimination

Grady Electric Membership Corporation has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, all requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, all requirements under the Americans Disabilities Act of 1990 and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, of solely by reason of such person's disabilities or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's disabilities, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates, conditions and extensions of service, admissions or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Vickie L. Peak.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feel subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act, by the Americans Disabilities Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the office of the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250; The Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture of the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## GEORGIA EMCS KICK OFF GROUNDBREAKING OF 4-H PAVILION

In July 2000, Georgia's EMCs announced they would contribute \$240,000 to be used for a new and improved Pavilion at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2002 with an anticipated completion date sometime in 2003.

During the groundbreaking for the facility on December 8, Georgia EMC President/CEO A. Paul Wood spoke before a crowd of approximately 1,000 4-H'ers, county agents, volunteers and donors. "It's important to support our youth in Georgia," Wood said. "The EMCs know that 4-H is a leader in Georgia and does a fantastic job of training and preparing our kids for future leadership responsibilities."

Arch Smith, Executive Director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation and Associate State 4-H Leader, introduced a number of guests including Tri-County EMC CEO C. Hill Bentley and Chairman Tom Thompson, Flint EMC Vice President of District Operations Fred Jarrell, plus former 4-H officers and 4-H Foundation members.

In a show of appreciation and unity, approximately 800 students lit candles and made a candlelit trip around the 4-H cloverleaf circle to the auditorium. According to Georgia 4-H Foundation member Jill Walton, the concept of the pavilion began as a small idea but soon blossomed because of help from others.

The \$240,000 EMC contribution was part of the "Pledged for Life" capital campaign created in 1997 by the Georgia 4-H Foundation which strives to raise a total of \$4.7 million for

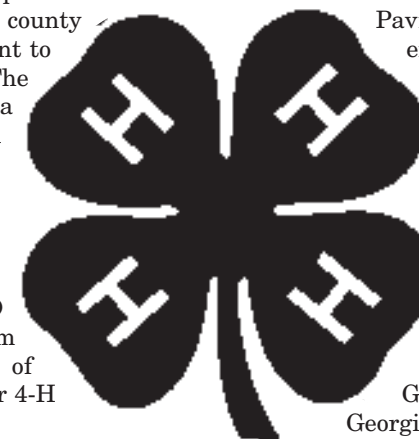
improving Georgia's 4-H Centers. The EMCs became involved when 4-H members offered to raise money for renovating the pavilion (one of six at Rock Eagle 4-H Center). Georgia EMC President and CEO Paul Wood, who also serves as a trustee for the Georgia 4-H Foundation, enlisted the assistance of the state's EMCs.

The new facility, to be named "The EMC Senior Pavilion," will feature a full-service kitchen, enclosed banquet/conference room and boat dock.

4-H'ers raised \$25,000 for the pavilion by holding sock hops, offering "teens for hire" (for yard work or cleaning), hosting carnivals and talent shows, making and selling T-shirts and conducting a two-hour road block during which they asked for donations. One student donated proceeds from his lawn-care business.

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state's 42 electric membership corporations (EMCs), including Grady EMC; Oglethorpe Power Corporation and Georgia Transmission Corporation.

Collectively, Georgia's 42 customer-owned EMCs provide electricity and related services to 3.7 million people, nearly half of Georgia's population, across 73% of the state's land area. Georgia's 42 electric membership cooperatives now serve more customers than any other state network of EMCs in the nation. ■



### GRADY EMC TO CONTINUE CONSULTING SERVICES IN 2002.

Grady EMC will, as part of its on-going energy conservation program to our members, provide free consultative services in 2002. These services will cover new construction energy saving techniques, existing residential construction (conventional and manufactured home) energy saving measures, and introducing any new technologies that become available in the marketplace for our members. These services will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis and will be handled through the Member Services Department. We are pleased to provide this benefit as another no-charge service to our members and hope you will take advantage of it if the need arises.

### 2002 REBATE SCHEDULE

Beginning January 1, 2002, the following rebate schedule will go into effect for our membership. Note: all rebates will be applied as "credits" to the respective member's account.

1. Conversion from gas heat to a 12.0 SEER rated energy efficient heat pump .....\$200
2. Conversion from a gas water heater to an electric water heater .....\$100
3. Conversion from a gas stove/range to an electric stove/range - member will present a copy of the invoice for the new stove/range and an EMC representative will verify installation of the unit .....\$100

## Call Before You Dig



Anyone planning  
to dig:  
Call 72 hours  
before you dig.

It's the Law.



### Have the following checklist ready before you call:

- County, City or Township
- Location of Work - Street Address
- Date / Time of Excavation
- Start Time of Excavation
- Caller's Name
- Contractor / Contact Number
- Contact Person / Additional Information

Call: 1-800-282-7411