

After the Storm Could be a Charged Situation

As the summer storm season approaches, *Safe Electricity* would like to remind people of the increased electrocution risks that storms and flooding can cause, and offers safety tips to avoid serious injury or death when dealing with the aftermath of a major storm or disaster.

“The danger does not end when the storm does,” says Molly Hall, director of *Safe Electricity*. “People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. It’s wise to be cautious in any cleanup effort.”

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

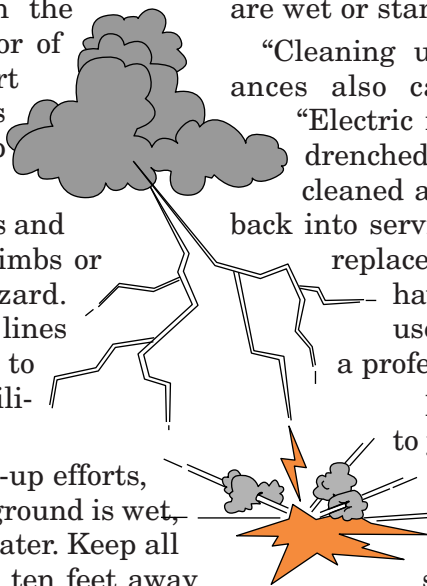
If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it’s raining or ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least ten feet away from wet surfaces.

“Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off,” said Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. “Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can’t reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at

the meter.”
Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

“Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks,” said Solomon. “Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.”

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And if you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what’s known as “back feed.” Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power. ■



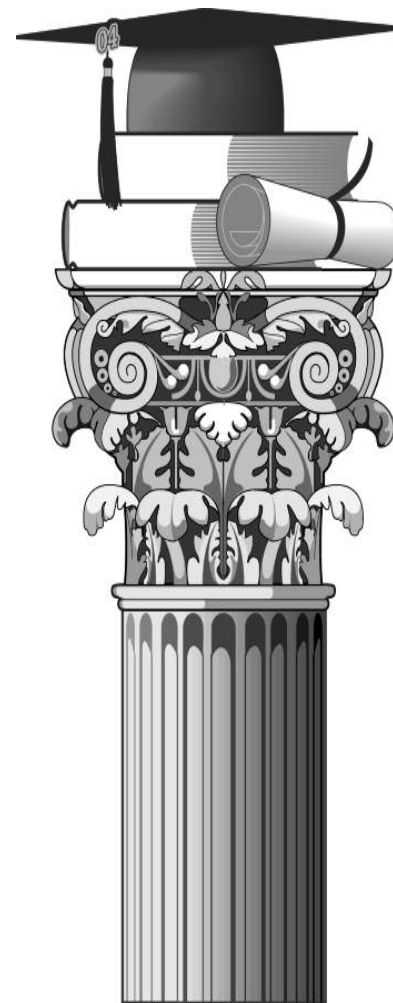
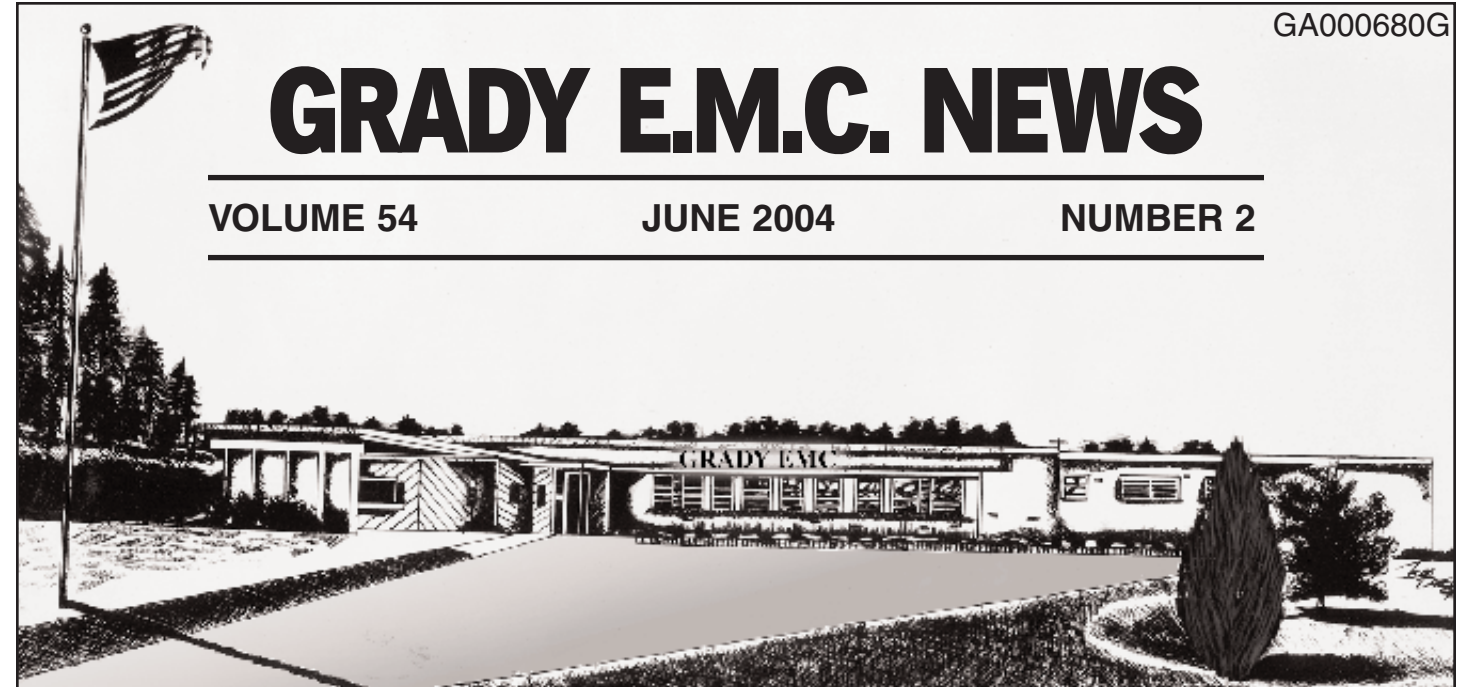
RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

June 10th thru 17th are the dates for this years Washington Youth Tour. Grady EMC’s super delegates this year are Trinity Frazier from Bainbridge High School, Jennifer Christie from Thomasville High School, and Emilee Connell from Cairo High School. They are rising seniors in their respective schools and will be exceptional delegates for the 2004 experience as they represent themselves, their schools, communities, parents, friends, and relatives. They have already started their experience by learning about rural electric cooperatives, their role in bringing electricity to rural America and how they differ from other electricity providers.

The youth tour is a dynamic, fast-paced, fun, educational experience that will last for seven days but will provide them with a lifetime of friendships and memories. The tour starts out in Atlanta with a banquet conducted in their honor for being chosen as their EMC’s

delegate. It will proceed into several visits including CNN, the Governor’s Mansion, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, etc. They will then depart for Washington on Saturday morning and spend five nights there. They will be able to see and get hands-on, up close and personal with the city and the people that is the heartbeat of America. Congressional delegation luncheons with their representatives, visiting the Supreme Court, National Cathedral, White House, Arlington Cemetery, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, various embassies, visiting all the war memorials and monuments are just a small portion of what they will encounter. There is always room for fun like a dance cruise down the Potomac River, dining at places like Hard Rock Cafe, Planet Hollywood. Interspersed with all this activity are various leadership exercises and sessions designed to further challenge, stimulate, and educate the already highly motivated individuals.

Grady EMC is pleased to sponsor Trinity, Jennifer, and Emilee and offer our CONGRATULATIONS to them.



Congratulations to the Graduates of the Class of 2004

We know this is a day that you have looked forward to for a long time. Your hard work and efforts have finally been rewarded.

The friends and classmates that have preceded you in graduation are now moving on with their lives, whether furthering their education, or entering the workplace. You, the Seniors of 04 now start doing the same and contributing to your communities and society. you have been equipped to handle the challenges, overcome the objectives and become a productive individual.

Your families, friends, relatives, and educators have watched you grow and mature and are

DOING BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE WHOM YOU KNOW AND TRUST. GRADY EMC... PROVIDING SERVICE THAT SHINES. GRADY EMC "Your local cooperative with access to the world's power."

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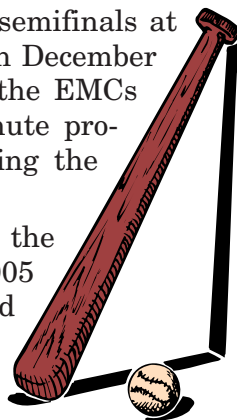
Grady EMC Congratulates the Georgia High School Association, Its Coaches and Student Athletes

With the close of the 2003-2004 school year approaching, Grady Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) thanks all Georgia High School Association (GHSA) coaches in Decatur, Grady and Thomas Counties for contributing to the success, discipline and enthusiasm of our local high school student athletes. We appreciate the time and effort you have provided to your students, knowing you have gone well beyond what is expected in many cases.

Over the past year, Grady EMC, along with 26 other EMCs in Georgia, have hosted Coaches' Corner hospitality booths at high school athletic events, including girls' softball, cross country, football, basketball, cheerleading and boys' and girls' track. The Coaches' Corners offered coaches the opportunity to refresh during their teams' competition and learn about their local EMC.

Georgia EMC partnered with Georgia Public Television (GPTV) to televise live broadcasts of the GHSA football semifinals at the Georgia Dome, two GHSA football finals in December and basketball finals in March. In addition, the EMCs and GPTV sponsored *Prep Sports+*, a 30-minute program aired Friday nights and Saturday during the school year, highlighting sports plays.

Grady EMC looks forward to sponsoring the GHSA State Championships in the 2004-2005 school year. We hope that our students and coaches enjoy their summer vacation and rest up for next year's school year and exciting season of competition. ■



Stay Healthy
For Life!

If you are a woman 40 years of age
or older, you may qualify for

Free Women's Health Tests



Rural Cancer Education & Screening Project

For more information please talk
with your doctor or call your local
Health Department at (229) 377-2992

GRADY EMC DONATES TO GEORGIA'S USO

Georgia's 42 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs), including Grady EMC, Georgia Transmission Corporation and Oglethorpe Power Corporation recently donated \$3,000 to the United Service Organization (USO) of Georgia, a charter affiliate of the USO World Organization.

Either through direct services or information and referral, the Georgia USO provides military personnel crisis intervention services, transportation referral assistance, emergency food, temporary lodging referral assistance, family holiday events and a hospitality center with children's area, among many other services.

Georgia is home to 13 military installations, and officials of the state's electric cooperatives recognize the sacrifice made by military service personnel.

"We owe such a debt of gratitude to the men and women who are fighting to keep us safe at home," says Georgia EMC President/CEO A. Paul Wood. "This donation was a token of our appreciation and a way to let them know that their courage has not gone unnoticed."

The check presentation, to honor the state's military personnel and Georgia's congressional delegation, was a highlight of the May 2-5, 2004 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

During the four-day event, more than 200 EMC managers, directors and staff representing 33 EMCs met with members of Congress to brief them on federal issues critical to the success of electric co-ops in Georgia and across the U.S.

The purpose of the annual conference is to encourage lawmakers to protect the needs of EMC consumers who might be adversely impacted by electricity legislation pending in Congress. While many areas of concern to EMCs have been addressed, some critical issues regarding new federal regulations remain, and if unresolved, could lead to higher rates for EMC consumers.

Key issues in the 108th Congress include a permanent exemption for utility service vehicles from hours-of-service regulations, national energy policy, Rural Utilities Service funding, re-authorization of the Disaster Mitigation Act and changes to the Clean Air Act.

The \$3,000 USO donation will be earmarked to assist military personnel in the state. The USO of Georgia, because of its strategic location in Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, assists thousands of military personnel annually.

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state's 42 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corporation and Georgia Transmission Corporation. Through this statewide network, the 42 customer-owned EMCs provide electricity and related services to 3.9 million people, nearly half of Georgia's population, across 73 percent of the state's land area. ■



Poles Aren't For Posting

Having a yard sale? Try advertising it in the local paper instead of on the local utility pole.

It seems everything but linemen are hanging from utility poles these days. You can find bird houses, signs, basketball goals, satellite dishes and even a deer stand. This creates a virtual maze for the linemen to climb and service the lines.

The stuff hanging on the power poles can hinder a lineman's ability to do their job. The nails

and staples used to post announcements could catch a boot causing the climber to fall or puncture an insulated glove, creating a chance for electrocution. Not only does it endanger a lineman's life but, also violates some local ordinances.

Also keep landscaping and fencing several feet away from the utility poles, as not to obstruct the crew. ■