

# Congratulations to the Graduates of the Class of 2008

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 '08, will now start doing the same and contributing to your communities and society. You have been equipped to handle the challenges, achieve your objectives, and become a productive individual.

Your families, friends, relatives, and educators have watched you grow and mature and are extremely happy for you and for your accomplishments. Grady EMC also takes pleasure in wishing you much happiness and success in whatever you try to accomplish.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### UTILITY POLE ATTACHMENTS CREATING UNSAFE LINEMEN WORKING CONDITIONS

Many of us probably don't think about nailing something to a utility pole. The purpose of this article is to respectfully request that we do not attach, and to remove any existing items, to Grady EMC's utility poles, such as political signs, advertising, posters, lights, basketball goals, satellite TV dishes or any other items.

These items present a definite and dangerous hazard to your linemen when they are called upon to climb these poles to restore power, to do maintenance work on lines or security lights, etc. Having to climb a pole is dangerous work. Adding attachments to these poles magnifies their danger level. ■

The Official Code of Georgia - 46-3-32 makes it unlawful for attachments to be made to utility poles. For those of us who have unknowingly created a safety problem, by attaching items to these poles, we would like to again respectfully request that you remove them for the safety of your linemen. As we are entering our summer season when thunderstorms, lightning, possible tornadoes or hurricanes, high winds, etc. bring on power outages, we ask that you look at poles in your area and remove them immediately.

Thank you for your assistance, understanding, and cooperation.

GA000680G



### Urgent - OUTAGE REPORTING PHONE NUMBERS CHANGING - Urgent

**Toll-Free 1-877-757-6060 Toll-Free**

**Local 229-377-6060 Local**



Grady EMC, in responding to our members' requests and needs, has in place NOW the ability to process a much higher volume of phone calls with regard to power outages. These new outage phone numbers will be utilized for individuals calling in single power outages as well as mass outages caused by severe thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, damaging winds, etc. **1-877-757-6060 OR 229-377-6060** This automated outage reporting system has been in place for some time. This enhancement works in conjunction with the increased capacity made available by your cooperative. **1-877-757-6060 OR 229-377-6060** These phone numbers are tied directly and dedicated solely for receiving and reporting outages to expedite the process of getting your power restored. When you call in, you will simply follow the prompts to report your outage and then simply hang up, allowing the next individual to place their call. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE. In case you don't know or have your account number when calling to report an outage, your meter serial number will also be recognized by the automated outage system allowing you to report an outage. **1-877-757-6060 OR 229-377-6060** With the importance of knowing your member account number with Grady EMC, we have provided a glow-in-the-dark magnet in this newsletter. **WE TRUST AND HOPE THAT EVERYONE WILL WRITE YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER IN THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THE MAGNET.** By placing the magnet on your refrigerator or wherever is convenient, you will have your account number in order to place your outage with the least amount of time and confusion.



**1-877-757-6060 OR 229-377-6060** We know that, in the past, members have called in and told us of downed lines, locations, etc. to be helpful in assisting us in locating a problem, helping to restore power quickly as pos-

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GRADY ELECTRIC  
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 270  
CAIRO, GEORGIA 39828

T. A. ROSSER  
President

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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

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Corporation



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

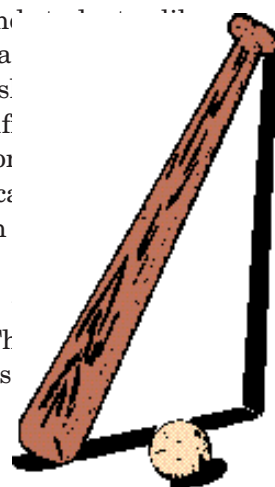
Grady EMC Wraps Up Another Year of GHSA sponsorship. The 2007-2008 school year had its share of ups and downs - and Grady EMC was there every step of the way. Thanks to our sponsorship of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA), Grady EMC had the opportunity to once again support the student athletes and coaches who make every season of high school competitions one to remember.

While we at Grady EMC are more than pleased to do our part, it is the coaches out there every day motivating our student athletes who deserve the real credit. As a way of repaying high school coaches for all their hard work, Grady EMC, along with 32 other Georgia EMCs, operated Coaches' Corner hospitality areas at championships throughout the season. Present at events such as the girls' track championship, state basketball finals, and cheerleading competition, the Coaches' Corner is a place where coaches can relax during a competition and enjoy a beverage, receive a free T-shirt, and learn about electric cooperatives.

One of the ways we helped support coaches was by partnering with Georgia Public Broadcast television some of the GHSA action. The state base in Gwinnett and Macon, the state football semifinals Georgia Dome and finals were broadcast live in addition to the competitions, GPB also broadcasts Sports Plus, a weekly program featuring high sports highlights.

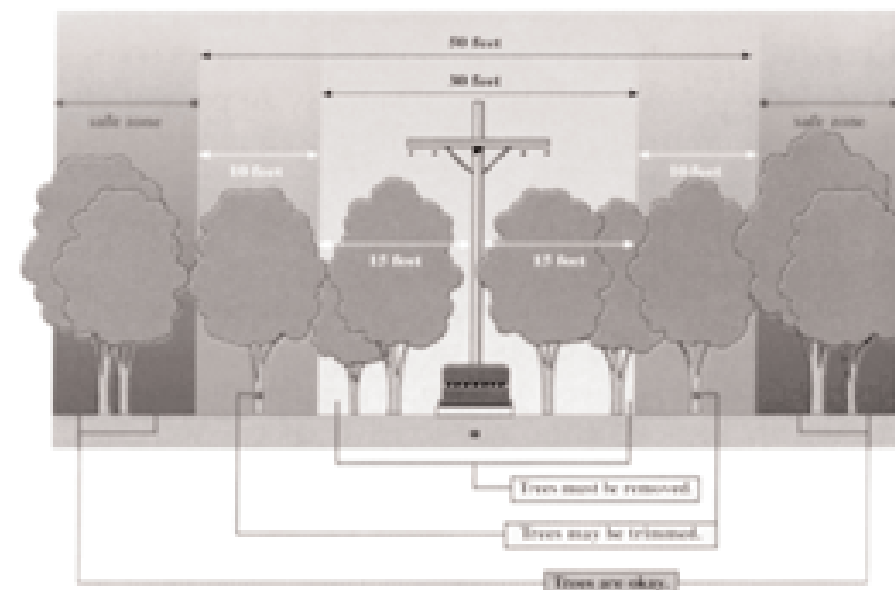
The newest addition to the sponsorship is Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award. The awards program recently honored high schools that demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship during the 2006-2007 school year. Winners for this school year (2007-2008) will be announced at the end of summer.

Grady EMC believes that our sponsorship is another way of working with youth, of believing in and supporting their future, which is another way we demonstrate our commitment to community. ■



For those who have not verified your 911 addresses, please call in immediately to your customer services department. This information is critical in responding to your needs in a timely manner in cases of emergency. Having this correct information tied to your account prior to the storm season approaching will be a tremendous help for you and your cooperative. Any 911 addresses that have lot numbers must have the lot number included as well.

## Help Your Co-op - Plan Before You Plant



Trees are not the only threat to electric distribution lines, but they are the leading cause of power interruptions, both prolonged and momentary. That's why Grady EMC regularly trims trees that could interfere with electrical service and create safety hazards. We maintain our rights of way, as the drawing above indicates, to be in compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code and the Rural Utilities Service, as required.

A significantly growing problem is that of trees being planted near or under power lines. If you're planning to plant, you can assist us-as well as help keep the power on and everyone else safe-by following some simple guidelines:

**Evaluate your landscaping:** Trees and shrubs are enticing to children who like to play in hedges, climb trees, etc. Before you plant, make sure that accidental contact with power lines cannot be made.

**Keep electrical devices accessible:** Don't allow shrubs and other landscaping to obstruct transformers, switch cabinets, pedestals and other electrical related devices-Grady EMC needs access to these things to maintain them. Also, don't plant over an underground utility facility because the cable or pipe may require maintenance, which in turn requires digging (thereby ruining plant roots). Plant 10 to 15 feet from these devices.

**Keep your distance:** plant large trees at least 35 to 40 feet from the center of the pole line. This permits 10 to 15 feet of clearance for mature trees with a branch spread of 40 feet in diameter. New small trees and shrubs can be planted within 35 feet of power lines, but they should not exceed 15 feet in height. Trees that should not be planted near power lines are tall or fast-growing varieties such as pine, poplar, oak, maple, sweet gum, wild cherry, privy hedge, Leyland Cypress, Bradford pear, cedar or hemlock.

Remember, before you do any digging, Georgia law requires that you call the new, federally mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number, 811, to have underground lines located.

Carefully selected and placed, a tree can provide your family with many years of enjoyment without threatening your electric service. It can even help you conserve energy by providing shade in the summer and serving as a wind-break against cold winter winds. So, plan before you plant. Then enjoy your work for years to come. ■

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sible. Please understand that all Grady EMC personnel have been very thankful and appreciative to you for those efforts. We still want you to provide us with that information as you have been doing; however, this information should be left in a voice message after completing your outage report on the automated system. By using the automated voice message, your helpful information will still be received and used in a much more efficient manner. Utilizing these new outage phone numbers will allow more calls to be received and processed in a shorter period of time. This allows the automated outage reporting system to do what it is intended to do, to rapidly identify the effected area so we can dispatch personnel directly to the problem.

**1-877-757-6060 OR  
229-377-6060**

Grady EMC's business phone number will not change. The 229-377-4182 will stay in place to accommodate your daily, routine business calls for the cooperative. However, please understand that attempting to use this number to report an outage will only delay your information from getting entered into the outage reporting system.

As always, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. It is your cooperative's mission and desire to provide us all with the lowest cost, highly reliable, and least amount of interruptible power available. ■