

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

Volume 67 March 2017 Number 1



The first six weeks of 2017 challenged many around our service area. Our hearts go out to those who have lost a loved one and possibly their home. These storms have affected many and we have worked diligently to restore our system as quickly and efficiently as possible despite these challenges. Our personnel have responded, as they always do, at a moments notice to the damaging storms we have encountered so far in 2017. In addition, we have been able to assist our neighbors, *Mitchell and Three Notch EMC*, following the storms that produced large and devastating tornadoes in the Albany area.

We want to **“Thank You”** for your patience and understanding as we have been affected by these storms which brought strong winds, lightning, and downpours. We understand the inconvenience of being without power and will work tirelessly to restore service to every member, every time. Our commitment to our mission is never more evident than during these challenges which is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to our members. We also thank the *Walton EMC, Jefferson Energy, and Irby Contract* crews who assisted us during

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Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @GradyEMC!



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CLAIRE CHASON

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 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 & AFTER

OFFICE HOURS

229-377-4182

1-800-942-4362

OUTAGE NUMBER

229-377-6060

1-877-757-6060

Published Quarterly,

Mailed to All Members of

Grady Electric Membership Corporation

Prescribed Burning Safety



Farmers, land managers and property owners will soon begin to use controlled burns to help reduce fuel buildup and decrease the likelihood of serious, hotter fires. Controlled burning stimulates the germination of some desirable forest trees, thus renewing the forest. Each year, Grady EMC has to replace poles throughout our service system as a result of fire damage. Poles that have been damaged by fire must be replaced and that cost is absorbed by that member. Please do your part in helping hold down costs at your cooperative. Thanks for your cooperation, help, and understanding.

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Don't forget to "spring ahead" and set your clocks forward on Sunday, March 12th!

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these recent storms. Again, Thank You—We appreciate our members and your support.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding our restoration efforts, please let us know. Remember to keep your account information updated so we can respond quicker to your outage and our automated system will recognize your telephone numbers and account information more accurately. We continue to upgrade and improve the automation of our electrical grid to provide increased levels of reliability but natural threats still cause faults and outages. Remember to call our outage number or access our online outage system to view our progress or enter an outage. In addition, we attempt to provide up-to-date information on our social media platforms and website.

Grady EMC is constantly exploring ways to improve our service to our members and become the best EMC in the state. We welcome the input of our members and will continue to focus on providing safe, reliable and affordable energy.



Dates of Interest

February 23—Washington Youth Tour Application Deadline

March 12—Daylight Savings Time Begins

April 16—Easter Sunday

**April —Lineman Appreciation Month
#thankalineman**

May 14—Mother's Day

**May 29—Memorial Day,
Grady EMC Office will be Closed.**

Home Energy Check-up

Use this checklist to examine your home's energy checkpoints & identify potential problems. Once you've completed the analysis, contact Grady EMC if you have any questions about improving your home's energy efficiency or scheduling a comprehensive energy check-up.

BIG TICKET ITEMS

Heating & Cooling Systems

- Is the ductwork airtight with no leaks?
- Are the ductwork joints connected?
- Are the ducts foil wrapped?
- Is flexible ductwork unrestricted?
- Has your filter been changed in the last month?
- Is your outdoor unit free of objects that can hamper air flow?
- Has your heating and cooling system been inspected by a licensed HVAC contractor in the last six months?

Water Heaters

- Is the water heater free of leaks?
- Is it wrapped with an insulating jacket?
- Is the temperature set no higher than 125 degrees?
- Are the water lines free of leaks?
- Are the water lines properly insulated?

Visit us online

www.GradyEMC.com

Look through our Frequently Asked Questions, Outage Map, Online Bill-Pay, and other Information

—Let us know what you think... contact@gradyemc.com

THE THERMAL ENVELOPE

Attic

- Is blown-in insulation at least 12-14" deep?
- Is batt insulation at least 10" deep?
- Is blown insulation evenly spread, covering the ceiling joists?
- Is insulation compressed by storage items?
- Does roof structure have both low and high ventilation?

Living Area

- Do you have double-pane or storm windows?
- Are gaps and crevices around windows and doors sealed with caulk?
- Does your fireplace have glass doors?
- Is the damper closed when fireplace is not in use?
- Is the floor insulated?
- Does the floor insulation have the vapor barrier (paper side) facing in?
- Do you have foam gaskets behind light switches and electrical outlets?
- Have you sealed holes around pipes in the kitchen and bathrooms?

The board, management and employees of Grady EMC appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns regarding your EMC. Input from our members plays a vital part in improving our service and helps us achieve our mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to Grady, Thomas and Decatur counties!



Under the Golden Dome—Policy Update

The Georgia Legislature is considering a bill (HB 260) that would create a specialty license plate honoring electric utility lineman. Proceeds from the sales of the plate will go to the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation, which provides assistance to families of burn patients being treated at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

State legislatures are also considering draft legislation which would give EMCs' statutory clarity to enter into broadband related services. In addition, they are considering numerous other incentives aimed at allowing broadband deployment in rural counties to assist in spurring economic development. Broadband has been deemed one of the largest barriers to entry for economic development in rural communities.

Grady EMC will continue to monitor and voice our support for legislation which will benefit our members and provide improved services to the rural members we serve. We appreciate Georgia EMC and local legislators for continuing to support the cooperatives across the state and specifically in southwest Georgia.



Notifying Georgia 811 before you do any mechanized digging is important for many reasons: your safety, and the safety of those near your digging project; preventing environmental damage and utility service interruptions; and, avoiding project delays, expensive repairs and legal problems. In Georgia, it's the law! For safety's sake, it's always best to notify Georgia 811 about any digging project you may have - even if your project is small.

Examples of homeowner digging projects include landscaping, fence installation, anchoring supports for decks and swing sets, planting trees, driving landscaping stakes into the ground, and installing a retainer wall.

2016 Patronage Capital Retirements— In 2016, Grady EMC retired approx. \$458,985.94 in patronage capital (capital credits) to eligible heirs of Grady EMC members.

Grady EMC refunds Capital Credits to qualified applicants of deceased members. If you would like more information on Estate Refunds, please contact Customer Service at 229-377-4182, who will gladly assist you with this process. Under the bylaws of your cooperative, each dollar of payment by a member in excess of the cost of providing electric services is an investment in the cooperative by the member. Capital credits are used by your cooperative for the expansion of the plant and facilities. It is, in effect, invested in poles, wire, transformers, substations and other property owned by the cooperative. The use of capital credits helps lower the cooperative's needs for borrowed funds and reduces the overall indebtedness of the cooperative.



Grady EMC and Irby Crew that assisted Mitchell EMC with recent storm restoration efforts. Pictured: Kyle Reagan, Eric Tyus, Kyle Henderson, Chris Howell, Christian Griffin, James Stuckey, Tony Hurst, Geoffrey Lawrence, Len Williams, Jeremiah Brinson, Robert Hudson, and Tyler Williams. In addition, Scott Taliaferro, Chad Morrell, Neal Hester, and Kirt Brown assisted.