The LAMPLIGHTER
Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC
September 2026
Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

Electricity brings everyday value

When it comes to electricity, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there—and that's how it should be because you are a member of Washington EMC and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. Because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value electricity provides.

For a few dollars a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Washington EMC is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice from our employees or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available to help. Our website and Facebook page are other good resources for energy efficiency situations. A quick search of our Facebook posts will provide up-to-date reminders or common ways to help with your home or business's energy efficiency and hence, control your monthly bill.



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

Washington EMC is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community—not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power—so you can make the most of every energy dollar.



WashingtonEMC
A Member-owned Electric Cooperative

An electric membership corporation

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Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

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SANDERSVILLE 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 outage or pay by phone, 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 WINDOW
319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PAY ONLINE
Visit *www.washingtonemc.com* and click the "Pay Now" button to pay your bill online.

SMARTHUB APP
Download, sign up and use the free SmartHub app and web portal online at *www.washingtonemc.com/smarthub*.

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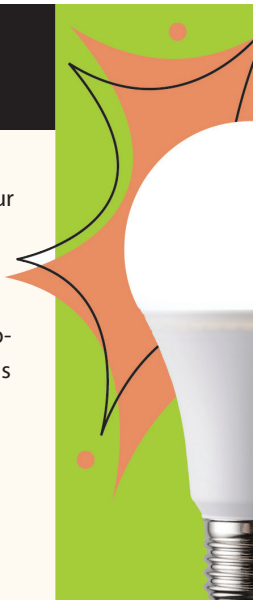
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ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH



September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Aim for a great dove season while keeping Georgia connected

As dove hunting season kicks off across Georgia, electric membership corporations (EMCs) across the state, including Washington EMC, are reaching out to hunters to help keep communities powered and connected, and fellow hunters safe, as they enjoy the hunt.

Doves love to perch on utility lines, and while they may seem like easy targets, taking a shot near electrical equipment can unintentionally cause safety risks for hunters and costly equipment damage for EMCs.

Fire risks and electrocution hazards can occur if power lines are shot and damaged, putting hunters in harm's way. To prevent inadvertently striking utility lines, hunters are encouraged to scout their hunting spots ahead of time and take note of any power lines or electrical equipment nearby, especially in wooded areas where visibility might be limited.



FIREFLY FIBER BROADBAND AND CENTRAL VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



ISTOCK.COM / DINESH KUMAR

In addition to safety concerns, damage to power lines and fiber-optic cables can result in service disruptions. Fiber-optic cables, which deliver high-speed broadband internet across Georgia, are especially delicate. A single errant shot can shatter the tiny glass fibers inside, requiring repair crews to spend eight hours or more carefully splicing hundreds of fibers to restore service. Similarly, damage to power lines can leave homes and businesses without electricity.

"We try to warn about this every hunting season, but fiber repairs are tedious and can be very expensive." says Kevin Morris, Chief Operating Officer at Washington EMC. "It's just best not to point and shoot anywhere near the overhead lines."

It's worth noting that Georgia law* prohibits damaging electrical equipment, with potential criminal charges and financial liability for repairs. A little extra caution can go a long way in avoiding these issues.

By aiming responsibly away from utility lines this dove season, hunters can safely enjoy their favorite pastime while helping keep communities powered and connected.

**Code O.C.G.A. § 16–7 22(b)(2): Georgia law states that anyone who "knowingly and without authority and by force or violence interferes with the operation of any system of public communication, public transportation, sewerage, drainage, water supply, gas, power or other public utility service or with any constituent property thereof" could face criminal charges and/or be held liable for repair costs.*

DOVE-HUNTING SEASON DATES

According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the 2026-27 official dove-hunting dates are as follows:

- **September 5-October 11, 2026**
- **November 21-November 29, 2026**
- **December 19, 2026-January 31, 2027**



For the latest information about dove hunting in Georgia, visit *georgiawildlife.com/migratory-bird-info*.

Unclaimed capital credits

Last date to claim a capital credits check is September 30, 2026

Were you a Washington EMC member from 1999-2000? If so, you may have funds to claim.



Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credits checks were issued August 31, 2020, but have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or otherwise remain unclaimed.

A list of member names and instructions for claiming these funds is posted online at *www.washingtonemc.com*. This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for review during regular business hours.

The last date to claim these funds is September 30, 2026. If they are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by law.

To claim a refund or submit a question about this notice or the list, contact Washington EMC at (478) 552-2577.

Holiday office closure



Washington EMC's offices will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. For emergency services, please call 800-552-2577.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27



Plan now to attend the 89th Annual Meeting of Washington EMC



DATE

Registration and voting will be held Tuesday, October 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a brief business meeting being held from 4-4:30 p.m. at the headquarters in Sandersville.

WALK-IN MEETING

Washington Electric Membership Corp. will be holding our 89th Annual Meeting of Members as a walk-in style meeting. Members may walk in and vote at any of our three offices.









ATTENDANCE GIFT AND BILL CREDITS

Each member who participates in our walk-in Annual Meeting will receive a $10 bill credit and attendance gift, and be entered into a drawing to be one of 25 lucky members to receive a $100 credit on their energy bill.

GRAND PRIZE
$500
CREDIT ON YOUR POWER BILL



ATTENDANCE GIFT:
CHARCUTERIE BOARD WITH LID