

AMICALOLA

BEACON

"Owned By Those We Serve"

March 2004

Booming Business on Highway 515

Over the past year Amicalola EMC has had a significant increase in commercial accounts along the Highway 515 corridor. One of our newest commercial accounts is the Lowe's store in East Ellijay. The slated opening date for the do-it-yourself store is April 2004. The Lowe's store represents a \$12.5 million investment in the community. In addition, the store will bring approximately 120 new jobs to the area. Lowe's will have 94,000 square feet of retail sales space under cover and an additional 23,000-square-foot garden center that will offer flowers, bushes, trees and garden supplies tailored to the

Fast Facts About Lowe's:

- First store opened in Georgia in 1968; currently has 39 stores in Georgia with stores under construction in Vidalia, Douglas and Valdosta.
- Employs approximately 140,000 people, including more than 6,350 employees in Georgia.
- In the midst of the broadest, most aggressive expansion plan in Lowe's history, they are opening on average two new superstores per week.
- Is the nation's 2nd largest appliance retailer, with more than 250 models in stock daily.



Lowe's store under construction in East Ellijay shown here in late January.



New Goody's under construction.

Georgia climate and lifestyle. The store will offer 32,000 products in stock with more than 400,000 products available by special order.

Goody's clothing store will be locating next door to Lowe's with a tentative opening date of May 2004. Goody's has 335 retail stores in 18 states and will be providing approximately 30 jobs to the area. Along with serving power to the Goody's store, Amicalola EMC will also be installing the exterior lighting in the parking area.

In Jasper, development of the land continues on Highway 515, and Amicalola EMC has added Goss Truck and Tractor, Mountain Beverage, RaceTrac, Sacketts Western Wear, Trouts, Super 8 Motel, Wendy's, Mountainside Medical Center and Mountainside Medical Buildings (North Georgia Primary Care, Georgia Urology, Dr. Vincent Molinari, Dr. Folsom Proctor, Jasper Physical Therapy and Hometown Home Health Inc.).

Director Profile: **Travis Cline**

Travis Cline, Captain of Clayton Volunteer Fire Department

Travis Cline, our newest member elected to the Board of Directors in October 2003, represents the members of Cherokee County. When asked what he likes most about being on the board of directors for Amicalola EMC, Travis says, "Serving the members of Amicalola EMC to ensure the most cost effective and highest quality of service is provided in supplying electricity to the members."

Travis currently resides in his hometown of Canton with his wife of eight years, Kelly, and their two children, Andrew and Madison. He received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Southern Tech and his master's degree in Business Administration from Kennesaw State University. Travis holds the position of Electronics Commodity Manager at Respirationics, Inc., where he has been employed since 1998. On the job, he is responsible for the strategic purchasing of more than \$100 million in electronics for Respirationics' homecare division.

Off the job, Travis is a member of the Cheatham Hill Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting and fishing and has the important role of serving as Captain of the Clayton Volunteer Fire Department. Travis has been a member of the fire department for 18 years.



Travis Cline serves as a new Director at Amicalola EMC.

Have you checked out our Web site lately?

Visit our Web site at www.amicalolaemc.com:

- Pay or view your bill online
- Print out a service application for power
- Print out wiring diagrams
- For directions, phone numbers and mailing addresses for our offices
- View our billing options and print out forms
- See our selection of security lights and pricing
- Read past issues of the "Beacon"
- Read our Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- Read our Annual Report
- Information on our Operation Round-Up Program
- Information on our surge protector
- Information on the water heater maintenance program
- Information on our ERC Loan Program for weatherization
- Energy tips
- Washington Youth Tour and Scholarship Programs
- ... and much more



Avoid Paying Late Fees With Our Draft Programs

Tired of paying late fees because you forgot to pay your bill again? Amicalola EMC has two options to avoid those late fees. Choose from either a bank draft or credit card draft. Your bank account or credit card will automatically be drafted each month for the amount of your bill and you never have to worry about paying a late fee.



For more information call customer service at (706) 253-5200 or visit us online at www.amicalolaemc.com, click on the Customers button and follow the Billing Options link.

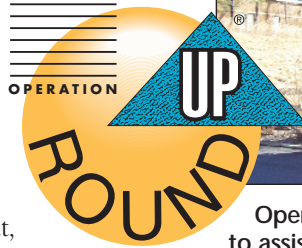
Operation Round Up[®], Helping Those in Need

Are you in need of some special assistance, or do you know someone else who has special needs or are you with an organization who is involved in helping others? This is the purpose of Operation Round Up—to help those in need by providing assistance with food, shelter, clothing, health needs and education. Amicalola EMC has been helping organizations and individuals with our Operation Round Up program since January 1999.

You may be thinking, “What do I have to do to see if I qualify for this help?” It’s simple. Drop by one of our offices to pick up an application, fill it out, and return it to our office. The Operation Round Up board meets quarterly and at that time reviews applications based on need of assistance.

Amicalola EMC’s customer participation makes Operation Round Up work. Monthly power bills of our participating customers are rounded to the nearest dollar. The cents are placed in the Operation Round Up fund and are then given back to those who need it most. The amount added to your bill is so small that those giving the money don’t even notice it. But the people who are helped by those pennies definitely notice what our customers are doing to help them.

Will you help too? If you are a customer and currently do not participate in the Operation Round Up program but would like to, simply call our customer service department at (706) 253-5200 to sign up. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. The more cents we add to Operation Round Up each month, the more



Operation Round Up has donated more than \$13,000 to assist the Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in Jasper.

people we can help.

One of our most recent recipients of funds from the Operation Round Up program is a local high school student in our service area who has the degenerative disease muscular dystrophy. A few months ago he had some serious complications due to the disease and almost died. He spent about a month at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta where they had to put in a tracheotomy in order to help with his breathing. He is back at home now with his friends and family. The extent of his limitations is very painful. He can only move his fingers and head, and bending his legs and body can be very painful. Thanks to the contributions of Amicalola EMC’s customers, Operation Round Up was able to send a contribution to help with his extensive needs.

During the January Operation Round Up meeting, funds were also given to:

- A Pickens County foster child who is in need of major dental work not covered by Medicaid.
- A Cherokee County man with inoperable lung cancer and his wife who has had two heart surgeries received help for medical and housing expenses.
- A Gilmer County woman to assist with medical expenses.
- A Gilmer County man who had back surgery received assistance with medical expenses.
- A Cherokee County woman with the sole income of Social Security to assist with repairing heating and air system.
- A Gilmer County woman who is the caretaker of her disabled husband to assist with housing expenses.
- A Lumpkin County woman to assist with medical expenses.
- Two separate Pickens County women who lost their homes due to fires.
- A Gilmer County man who was severely burned to assist with housing and medical expenses.
- Pickens County Certified Literate Community Program to assist with GED exam fees for less fortunate individuals.
- Gilmer High School Science Department to assist with consumable supplies for students.
- Sequoyah Regional Library System to assist with the purchase of books printed in large type for patrons with vision limitations (Ball Ground, Pickens County and Gilmer County public libraries).
- Appalachian Chapter of Administrative Professionals to assist with their scholarship program for Pickens, Gilmer, Cherokee and Dawson counties.
- Hill City Elementary School to assist with building an outdoor classroom.
- Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center to purchase computers.
- Appalachian Cattleman’s Association to assist with their scholarship program for Cherokee, Pickens and Gilmer counties.

Tune up energy inefficiencies

Just as your car needs a tune-up every few thousand miles, your home deserves one twice a year—spring and fall.

Before summer beckons you to crank up your air conditioner, ask a qualified technician to make sure it's in good working order and ready for another steamy season.

Then get to work cleaning up the energy inefficiencies that can make your summer electric bills soar.

- Remove the glass globes or lenses from your overhead lights, and wash them in warm, soapy water. Buildup of dust and dirt dims the light from the bulbs they cover.
- Vacuum or brush the dust from your refrigerator condenser, which usually sits beneath the bottom grille. And take a peek at your owner's manual to learn how old your unit is. If it's starting its second decade, it's time for a new, energy-efficient model that will burn only half the electricity that the old unit consumes.
- As you pile up the dirty dishrags and rinse the cedar smell from your stored-away spring clothes, avoid running the washer or dryer unless you have a full load.
- Replace filters in your central air-conditioning system and in all window units.
- Buy a dehumidifier so you can run it during the summer to reduce energy costs.
- Apply caulk or weather-stripping around windows so they don't let your cool, conditioned air escape.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utility Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject of the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Patricia B. Evans, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above, and/or may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Do We Have Your Correct Phone Number?



When you receive your bill, please double-check it to make sure your phone number is listed correctly. This information is important because of the way it relates to our automated outage reporting system.

When you call in to report an outage and the automated system picks up, it requests that you enter the phone number of

the location where the outage is occurring. It then takes your phone number and associates it with your account and notifies the dispatcher of an outage at your location. If your phone number is incorrect, the match cannot be made.

Please take a moment to check the phone number listed on your bill, and if it is incorrect, contact Customer Service at (706) 253-5200.