

# BEACON



 Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

*"Owned By Those We Serve"*

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## Comments from the CEO



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

### Find ways to save with co-op energy efficiency programs

**A**s a member of Amicalola EMC, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy efficiency programs offered by us. Because we are a not-for-profit organization, our goal is to provide safe, reliable power at the most affordable price for our members. This means helping you save money on your monthly electric bill.

So, how does practicing efficiency habits save you money? It's common sense that if you use less electricity, your bill will be lower.

But there's more to it than that. Amicalola EMC purchases electricity, in part, from Oglethorpe Power, a local generation cooperative. When electric use is high, we pay peak demand charges for the electricity we purchase. By incorporating energy efficiency into your daily routine, you are helping to reduce the demand for electricity, thus lowering its overall cost. And as a co-op, we pass these savings directly on to you! Let's take a look at other ways you can save.

Basic energy efficiency practices, like caulking around windows and doors, turning off lights when you leave the room and using a programmable thermostat are great ways to start saving.

Monitor your energy use with the Home Energy Suite, available at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) under Energy Saving Tools. By using this free service, you can keep tabs on when your

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**WHERE ARE YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS GOING?**

We have FREE online tools to help you find ways to **save energy and money.**

Visit [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) and click on **Energy Saving Tools**

 Home Energy Calculator  Appliance Calculator  Home Energy Library  LIGHTING CALCULATOR

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# Bright Ideas returns!

**T**eachers, do you have a fun and innovative classroom project in mind, but just don't have the budget to make it happen? We can help!



It's time to submit your bright ideas! The Bright Ideas teacher grant program is designed to recognize and reward classroom teachers who are willing to provide a creative learning experience for students. Georgia certified teachers at elementary, middle, high schools and private schools in the Amicalola EMC service area are eligible to apply.

Amicalola EMC's Bright Ideas program has awarded almost \$250,000 to area teachers since 2010. This could be the year you turn your bright ideas into classroom cash!

**For more information on Bright Ideas, scan this QR code with your smartphone.**



*All funding is provided with unclaimed property in accordance with O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.*



Mountainview Elementary teacher Dale Alsbrook (Gilmer County)



Meghan Whitlock of Blackburn Elementary (Lumpkin County)



Hill City Elementary teacher Ginny Perren and her students (Pickens County)

## Bright Ideas 2016 Timeline

- Aug. 1** ..... Applications accepted
- Aug. 31** ..... Early bird deadline
- Sept. 9** ..... Final deadline to apply

**All grants awarded in October**

# Move Over for Linemen

## New law adds protection for utility linemen

**A**micalola EMC linemen, as well as all utility linemen in Georgia, have now joined the ranks of law enforcement, public safety and transportation personnel who will be better protected thanks to a new law signed in April by Gov. Nathan Deal.

“I was proud to sign the Move Over for Linemen bill ...,” said Gov. Deal. “This bill will help the selfless linemen and women in Georgia go home safely to their families after working around the clock to keep our lights on, even in extreme weather conditions.”

House Bill 767 requires any



motorist approaching utility linemen at an active work site, as indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights, to change lanes or reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted speed limit. Any motorist who does not change lanes or drop their speed to avoid the utility workers can be fined up to \$250 per incident. The new bill, which became effective July 1, applies to all types of utility workers, including electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications workers, right-of-way crews or utility contractors.

# Use caution near electrical equipment

**A**s you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, please remember to exercise caution near electrical equipment.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

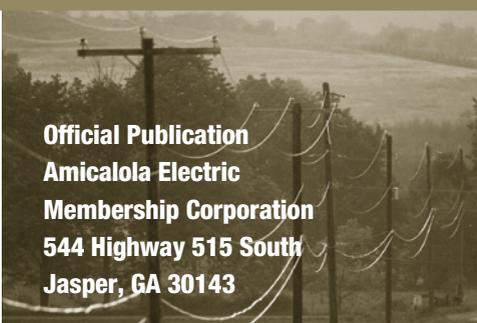
Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call 706-253-5200 or your local Amicalola EMC office.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled

toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment. Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Your safety is important to us. We hope you will share information about electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun!



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Todd Payne, *President/CEO*

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### TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:

**Outage Hotlines**  
706-253-0359  
706-276-0359  
706-864-0359

**Amicalola Electric**  
**Membership Corporation**  
544 Hwy. 515 South  
Jasper, GA 30143  
Telephone: 706-253-5200

[www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com)

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# Find ways to save with co-op energy efficiency programs,

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energy use is high, which appliances use the most electricity and other details about your energy use. This information is easily available right at your fingertips.

When you use electricity is just as important as *how much* you use. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the mornings and in the evenings—when most people are either getting ready for their day or returning home. Remember that peak demand charge? This can be avoided by lowering energy use during on-peak hours, when electricity is in high demand.

Amicalola EMC offers free home energy audits. Our energy expert can assess air leaks, insulation gaps and other common problems that

## Want a lower electric bill?



**D**id you know as a member of Amicalola EMC, you have access to FREE energy efficiency programs and services that can help you save on your electric bill? Take a look at our Home Energy Suite at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) for ways to save.

cause homes to use more energy than required. We can tell you more about the latest technologies for heating, cooling and lighting in a home, including heat pumps, LED lights and more.

Amicalola EMC is proud to offer these energy efficiency programs

for our members. As you can see, there are many ways to save, and we want to be your trusted energy resource. For more information or to schedule your free energy audit, contact Amicalola EMC at 706-253-5200 or your local Amicalola EMC office.

## Are we holding your money?

**A**micalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit refunds were issued in 2010 (for electric service received in 1989), but have remained unclaimed. A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is now available for review. You may access it at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), by clicking on the Capital Credits tab on the homepage, or at any local Amicalola EMC office.

The last day to claim these funds is Aug. 31, 2016. After a mandatory waiting period, any unclaimed capital credit refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

—Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)