

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

*"Owned By Those We Serve"*

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## Fourth of July office closing



Amicalola EMC offices  
will be closed Friday,  
July 4,  
in observance of  
Independence Day.

## Comments from the CEO

### We're here to help you save

**W**hen summer heats up, our electric bills tend to increase as air conditioners are working overtime, driving up home energy consumption. Amicalola EMC is your local not-for-profit electricity provider, and we are committed to helping you beat the heat without breaking the bank.

As the temperatures get hotter over the next few months, we want to make sure you know about some energy-saving offerings designed specifically with you in mind. By taking advantage of these programs and services, you can manage your summer energy consumption and costs.

#### Levelized billing

When you sign up for Amicalola EMC's levelized billing plan, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With levelized billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to budget and manage, especially during seasonal fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Levelized billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs.

#### Home energy audit

Amicalola EMC offers free energy audits of your home to identify areas where energy is wasted and provide recommendations on ways to improve efficiency and lower your monthly bills. You can also visit our website at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) > Energy & Safety > Energy Saving Tools to

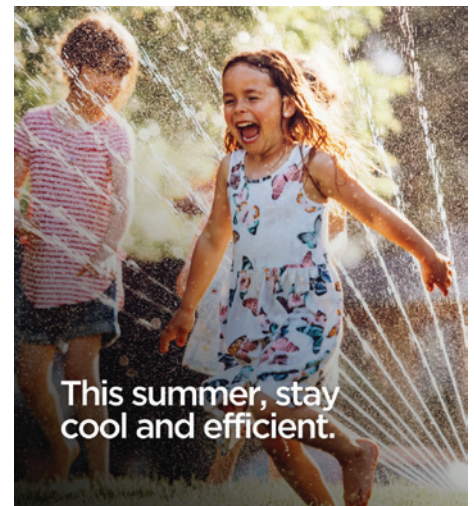
use our Home Energy Suite. This is an interactive tool where you can conduct a virtual energy assessment of your home, learn some basics about electricity and more.

#### You have the power

Small actions combined can have a big impact on summer energy bills. The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. Ceiling fans can also help you feel cooler, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC



# Walter Harrison Scholarship winner

**A**micalola EMC is proud to announce the 2025 recipient of the Walter Harrison Scholarship: Grayson Ludington from Pickens High School.

This scholarship was named in honor of the late Walter Harrison who was a pioneer in rural electrification. Grayson competed against 77 other students from across Georgia for the scholarship, and 17 recipients were chosen based on their academic achievements, extracurricular activities and their service to the community. As this year's winner, he will receive \$1,000 in addition to the scholarship he was awarded by Amicalola EMC.



Grayson Ludington



## Great news for teachers: Bright Ideas is back!

**T**he Bright Ideas teacher grant program has returned, and we're excited to support educators who are bringing innovation and creativity into their classrooms.

Georgia-certified teachers at public and private elementary, middle and high schools within the Amicalola EMC service area are invited to apply.

If you have a bright idea for engaging your students, this could be the year it becomes a reality!

Let your creativity shine—we can't wait to see your ideas!

*Funding for Bright Ideas is made available through unclaimed property in accordance with O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.*

### Important dates for 2025 applications:

- Aug. 1** ..... Applications open (online only).
- Aug. 30** ..... Early bird deadline. Submit by this date for a chance to win a gift card.
- Sept. 6** ..... Final application deadline.
- October** ..... Grant recipients announced.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to learn more and apply.





# Operation Round Up awards over \$24,000 in April 2025



- Act Together Ministries
- Angels on Horseback Inc.
- Dawson County Wee Books Program Inc.
- Ferst Readers of Pickens County
- Good Shepherd Recovery House
- Goshen Valley Foundation
- Mountain Wisdom Inc.
- MUST Ministries Inc.
- North Georgia Veterans Helping Veterans
- Operation Appreciation Inc.
- RM Moore Elementary School STEM Academy

Qualifying individuals received donations for medical bills, clothing, food, shelter and home repairs.



## Last day to claim capital credits refunds

**A**micalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credits refunds were issued in 2019 (for electric service received in 2001), but have remained unclaimed.

Former members may call any local Amicalola EMC office Monday through Friday during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see if a refund is available.

The last possible date to claim these refunds is Aug. 31, 2025. If funds are not claimed by this date, funds will be donated for approved uses



as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.

## Hot water maintenance program



Let us keep you in hot water! For just \$3.49 a month, we will repair or replace your water heater. Please call 706-253-5200 for more information.



# Staying safe around power outdoors

**P**laying outside is a healthy and fun part of childhood, but it also comes with potential electrical hazards that aren't always obvious. From power lines to outdoor outlets and electric tools, children need to understand how to stay safe around electricity outdoors. Here's a guide to keep kids protected while they enjoy the great outdoors.

## Why outdoor electrical safety is important

Unlike indoor spaces where outlets and wires are easier to child-proof, the outdoors often includes hidden dangers like underground cables, overhead power lines and exposed electrical equipment. Children may not recognize these hazards, especially when they're playing, climbing or exploring new areas.

## Key outdoor electrical safety tips for kids

### 1. Stay away from power lines.

- Never touch or go near a downed power line—even if it looks inactive.
- Keep kites, drones and balloons away from overhead wires.



- Teach kids not to climb trees that are near or touching power lines.

### 2. Avoid electrical boxes and transformers.

- Warn children not to sit, play or hide near pad-mounted transformers (often a big green box found in neighborhoods).
- Do not open or tamper with any outdoor electrical cabinets or equipment.

### 3. Keep electrical devices away from water.

- Don't use radios, phones or other electrical gadgets near pools, sprinklers or puddles.
- Electric lawn equipment and power tools must be kept dry.

### 4. Be cautious with outdoor outlets.

- All outdoor outlets should be covered and weatherproofed.
- Make sure kids know not to plug or unplug anything without adult supervision.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on all outdoor circuits.



### 5. Watch for warning signs.

- Teach kids to recognize and respect warning signs like "High Voltage" or "Keep Out."
- Encourage them to report any unusual sounds, sparks or smells near electrical areas to an adult immediately.

## Outdoor safety reminders for parents

- Regularly inspect your yard for exposed wires or damaged electrical boxes.
- Supervise younger children, especially near utility poles or while using outdoor equipment.
- Keep tools and extension cords stored safely out of reach.