

Snapping Shoals EMC Illuminator

A Monthly Newsletter for Snapping Shoals EMC Members September 2023



SSEMC Partner Provides Quality, Local Service

With the Dog Days of Summer behind us, it's a good time to take stock of your natural gas service.

All natural gas providers in Georgia sell the same basic product, but they certainly are not the same. If your home is on Atlanta Gas Light's pipeline system, you choose who provides the service. If the product and the delivery system are basically the same, how do you choose a provider? Consider the quality of service, the consistency of value and the community spirit of the provider. We think Walton Gas distinguishes themselves in each of these areas. 4625579

Snapping Shoals EMC doesn't take the creation of a partner program for our members lightly. We created a partner program with Walton Gas because they share our values and principles. We trust Walton Gas to deliver.

The track record of Walton Gas over the last 20 years is excellent, having been recognized multiple times as the leader in customer satisfaction. They always offer a great rate — not just to attract new customers, but for existing customers too! Their customer service team is right up the road, not in South Carolina, Ohio, Florida or Texas. 4569083

In the natural gas market, choosing a provider can be challenging. With promotional and "discounted" offers, you need someone you can trust. Walton Gas is looking out for you with no tricky one-month "Introductory Rates," hidden payment fees or a high customer service fee with them. No gimmicks at all, in fact - just real value and local customer service.

It's easy to switch your service from another provider to Walton Gas. It only takes a few minutes. Visit walgongas.com/snappingshoals or call a Walton Gas representative at 678-639-3277 to sign up. Join the Walton Gas family today!

Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are now available for the 2024 J.E. Robinson Memorial Scholarships and the Bradley K. Thomas Scholarships. Each scholarship is worth \$2,500. Applications are available online at www.ssemc.com. Full details, instructions, deadlines and eligibility requirements for each scholarship are included with the applications.



4 KEY FACTORS That Impact Energy Bills

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must first be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This monthly charge covers cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service.



Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. You have control over how much energy you use, which can ultimately help manage your monthly costs.

Visit www.ssemc.com/energy-advice for ways to reduce your energy consumption and save on your bills.

Rewarding

Each fall, Snapping Shoals EMC awards grants to teachers from the schools that the electric co-op serves in Rockdale, Newton, Henry and DeKalb counties through the co-op's Bright Ideas program. The grants, which are allocated from the co-op's unclaimed capital credit funds, are designed to help teachers who wish to extend educational opportunities and activities for students by developing student interests and abilities. 4508406

Teachers have innovative ideas about how learning can be made more exciting, effective and interesting and how curriculum can be expanded to meet the needs of particular groups or individual students; however, resources are sometimes not available for special instructional opportunities. The Snapping Shoals EMC Bright Ideas grants are designed to assist teachers in the planning and implementation of these ideas.

Teachers interested in applying for a Bright Ideas grant should contact their county's Board of Education.



Winning Project Helps Students Aim for Sky

Newton College and Career Academy Science Teacher Kemily Pattilo was a recipient of the Snapping Shoals Bright Ideas Grant for the 2022-23 school year with her project "Up, Up, and Away! Applying gas laws to design and build hot air balloons." 4599316

For the project, students learned about the properties of gases, including that gases impart pressure, have a weight, and decrease in density as temperature increases. One of the activities the students completed involved using small scale bell jars, which were purchased with the grant funds, to determine the weight of air and to observe that the boiling point of water changes with changes in gas/air pressure. 4478912

Students also worked in groups to build hot air balloons. Each group was given large sheets of tissue paper to design their balloon, which required a great deal of planning, critical thinking and collaboration for each group. The materials needed to build and launch the hot air balloons were purchased with the grant funds.

According to Ms. Pattilo, "Every student was engaged and excited to complete this project. Now that we have the "big-ticket" items needed to do this project, it will be a project we complete every year!"

At left, NCCA students Kailyn Sorrell and Sydney Flynn with their balloon for the "Up, Up, and Away! Applying gas laws to design and build hot air balloons" winning Bright Ideas project from teacher Kemily Pattilo.



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If your Snapping Shoals EMC account number is hidden in this issue of The Illuminator, call us at 770-786-3484 within the next month and you could win a \$50 credit on your bill.

The Illuminator is a monthly newsletter published for Snapping Shoals EMC members.

Report an outage, pay your bill and manage your account with the mySSEM app.



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Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.