

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Jackson Office

1307 College Avenue
P.O. Box 398
Jackson, AL 36545
251-246-9081

Chatom Office

P.O. Box 453
Chatom, AL 36518
251-847-2302

Toll Free Number

1-800-323-9081

Office Hours

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday-Friday
(Drive-thru Hours)

www.cwemc.com

Payment Methods

Payments can be made at our Chatom and Jackson offices with cash, checks, debit or credit cards

Our Customer Service Representatives can accept payments over the phone using a credit card or debit card

Local Pages Editor

Anna Wright



Enjoy the colors of the Christmas season

Red and green are the colors we often associate with this Christmas season. Homes are decorated with these colors and by the glow of a million Christmas lights the rural landscape turns into a Winter Wonderland.

For many companies, like Clarke-Washington EMC, red in addition to a recognizable Christmas color, has a new meaning this season.

The Federal Trade Commission has enacted a law called the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction (FACTA) Act of 2003 that requires businesses with covered accounts to have a written plan to protect its customers from potential identity theft. This plan is called a red-flag policy.

Electric cooperatives are included under the FACTA because of reports conducted showing that telephone and utility fraud is the second most prevalent form of identity theft.

What does this mean for you—protection of personal information!

In following this law, Clarke-Washington EMC has written our red-flag policy to ensure the protection of our customers, as we always have. Our policy will protect social security numbers, bill information and the address of service.

For each new account opened the person's name will be checked through a credit report program called Online Utility Exchange. If an identity has been reported stolen or if there is a credit report indicating a credit freeze, it will show a red flag. This will notify our office to obtain additional information from the customer.

We are looking at this as an opportunity to add protection for you and your family, and are stressing its importance to our employees.

Now back to Christmas!

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas. As we celebrate the season with gifts, dinners and other family traditions lets be sure not to forget the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you!



Stan Wilson

CEO/Manager of
Clarke-Washington Electric
Membership
Corporation

Local Christmas Parades

- Chatom: Saturday, December 6th
- Coffeeville: Saturday, December 13th
- Fulton: Saturday, November 29th
- Grove Hill: Thursday, December 4th
- Jackson: Friday, December 5th
- Millry: Saturday, December 13th
- Thomasville: Saturday, December 6th





At Chatom Elementary School, Connie Grimes' 2007 third grade class made Christmas ornaments out of recycled material for a science project. Here, she and some of her students gather around their tree on the last day of school in December.



Jana Elmore's 2007 fourth grade history class was assigned a project to create ornaments out of everyday items that represented Alabama's rich history. Here, Mrs. Elmore and some students show off their decorated Christmas tree on the last day of school in December.



Connie Grimes' third grade science project ornaments: Coke-can wreath with a Wal-Mart bow, smashed Coke-can snowman, light bulb snowman and a plastic Coke-bottle snow globe

By Anna Wright

Students in the third and fourth grades at Chatom Elementary School received a homework assignment to decorate their traditional classroom Christmas trees in an uncommon way last December.

Connie Grimes asked her third grade class to practice recycling by using its creativity to make Christmas ornaments out of items that ordinarily would go in the trash.

“The purpose of this project is to teach students about protecting the environment through conservation and recycling,” Mrs. Grimes said.

By taking items they use every day and their imagination, they each turned in original ornaments to decorate their class tree: light bulb snowmen, empty Coke-bottle ornaments, honey-bear-bottle snow globes, flattened Coke-can wreaths with a Wal-Mart-bag Christmas bow, Coke-can angels with coffee-filter wings, a star tree-topper made out of a meat tray and even a shot-gun-shell wreath.

“This was an effort assignment

where everyone in the class who participated received a 100 (for their grade),” Mrs. Grimes said. “I was so amazed at each ornament every child turned in for their project.”

Down the hall, around the corner and into the next building fourth-graders in Jana Elmore’s Alabama history class did some holiday history learning. Their assignment was to hand craft a Christmas ornament to represent Alabama’s rich history, which they had been studying all semester.

“Students displayed child-like creativity and skill using mostly recycled materials and objects of nature for the project,” said Mrs. Elmore.

Teachers, parents and fellow students were thrilled by the ornaments created by the students and how well the entire class represented Alabama’s history.

There were pink camellias, several state flags, yellow-hammer birds, football favorites, several ornaments representing Alabama’s agricultural business with pecans and cotton, and even Washington County’s for-

estry industry with pinecones and tree limbs.

Students gave oral presentations explaining how their ornament represented Alabama’s rich history, and their creative process of making the ornaments.

As a science project for third graders and a history project for fourth graders students turned in their projects to the delight and awe of their teachers.

Both classes learned to look at trash, our state history and Christmas ornaments in a new way.

These teachers assigned each project to meet the required state standards for their respective classes, and to give students a hands-on-learning experience where they could actively learn, instead of just reading about science and history from afar.

Due to the deadline schedule for Alabama Living, this article was written and photographed in December of 2007. Jana Elmore now teaches at Leroy High School.

Students at Chatom Elementary School create charming ornaments with reused and recycled items

o Christmas Tree, How Lovely are Your Branches



Jana Elmore’s Fourth Grade Alabama History class ornaments: lime-juice-bottle Alabama Flag, seashell Christmas tree, pinecone Rudolph the-red-nosed reindeer and a pinecone angel.

Keep the holidays safe & bright inside and out

Decorating your home for the holiday season is one of many great traditions. But an essential part of stringing the lights and putting up the tree is to keep electrical safety in mind. Here are simple tips that everyone can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

- Avoid overloading electric circuits by verifying the limits of your fuse or circuit breaker panels to know what your home can safely handle.
- Don't connect too many strings of lights together and plug them into a single outlet.
- Make sure there's a bulb in each socket of your holiday lights. If a bulb is burned out, leave it in until you have a replacement. Immediately replace any broken bulbs that have exposed filaments.
- Check for frayed, cracked insulation and damaged plugs on extension cords.
- Never force a three-pronged plug into a two-hole outlet or extension cord.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, around furniture legs or across doorways.
- Keep your natural tree well watered to prevent bulbs from igniting dry branches. Always check to make sure an artificial tree is nonflammable.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, your home's walls or other firm supports using insulated staples, or run them through hooks to protect lights from wind damage. Do not nail, tack, pinch, nick or stress wiring.
- Outdoor lighting should have insulated electrical cords and be plugged into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter-protected receptacle only. Keep all plugs and connectors off the ground to help keep them away from water.

By following these tips, your holiday season can be safe and bright for the whole family!

Cool off your Christmas tree with LED lights

Cool things off this Christmas by replacing your holiday lights with LEDs — light-emitting diodes. They're cool to the touch, so they don't heat up your tree branches.

Christmas trees account for 200 fires every season, estimates the U.S. Fire Administration. Well-watered trees don't ignite as easily as dried-out, brittle branches, which can catch fire within seconds of contacting a hot light bulb, an overheated wire or an open flame.

Decorative LEDs are more energy efficient, last up to 50,000 hours and feature a nearly unbreakable epoxy plastic coating.

Newer versions come in all shapes, sizes and colors. And although they're more expensive than regular strands, they'll last far longer.





Clarke-Washington EMC lineman, David Bryant attaches a conduit bracket to a power pole.

Maintenance continues as the year ends

Throughout this year Clarke-Washington EMC has been spotlighting our maintenance plan by showing photographs of our employees completing these tasks around our service area.

Some of the photographs have shown crews spraying vegetation around the rights of way, cutting down dead trees and cleaning up after the wind damage from our (thankfully mild) severe-weather season.

By highlighting this important area of work, we want to show our members that Clarke-Washington EMC is always on the line to complete these jobs around the area. We believe it keeps our promise of providing reliable electricity to members of our cooperative, at a good value.

Safety is another component of cooperative work we emphasize due to the nature of the environment when working with electricity. The old saying that “practice makes perfect” applies to practicing safety measures while on the job.

Our employees have won numerous awards for their serious attitude toward keeping themselves, each other and our members safe.