

# Manager's Comments

## A debt of gratitude to our military and its veterans

July 4th is one of the greatest holidays we celebrate during the year. Honoring our country's independence and those who have fought to maintain it and protect it, is nothing to take lightly. Barbecuing, fireworks and having the day off from work makes it easy to lose sight of the freedom we have.

During this 4th celebration we remember our soldiers who are protecting us now. Those in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, and those serving here at home deserve a debt of gratitude. This military salute would not be complete without thanking those who have previously served their country. Thank you to our soldiers and veterans.

We recently awarded Dustin Odom a \$1,000 scholarship. He is a graduate of Fruitdale High School, and will be attending Troy University this fall. Dustin is a well-rounded student with a resume full of leadership and community experiences. We are proud to grant him this scholarship. More than 45 students in our service area applied for this scholarship.

Clarke-Washington EMC is continually impressed with

our youth. We applaud you parents and teachers for encouraging our youth to reach for their dreams.

Only a month has passed since Relay for Life events wrapped up in our community. Still, I am overwhelmed

by the amount of money raised this year in Clarke County and Washington County. The public support is always encouraging as everyone gathers at the campsite events and fundraisers throughout the year for the American Cancer Society. Unofficially \$334,000 total was raised in Clarke County and Washington County this year.


Relay for Life is an example of how strong our small communities are when we focus on one cause. By each person giving a little, we have made a huge contribution toward the fight against cancer.

Have a great 4th of July.



**Stan Wilson**

is the General Manager/CEO of Clarke Washington Electric Membership Corporation



**Clarke-Washington EMC**


1307 College Avenue  
P.O. Box 398  
Jackson, AL 36545  
251-246-9081 (local)  
1-800-323-9081 (toll free)

Page 6  
Youth Art Competition

Page 7  
Scholarship Awarded

Page 8  
Summer Storm Safety

**To report  
a power  
outage, call  
1-800-323-9081.**

Cooperatives  
  
democracy in action

# Relay for Life 2007: Clarke County and Washington County

## One step closer to an “Everlasting Cancer Stopper”

More than \$334,000 was raised this year in Clarke County and Washington County for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life campaign.

Movies were the theme for this year’s campsites. Clarke-Washington EMC’s team chose their theme as the “Everlasting Cancer Stopper,” based on the movie “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

Clarke-Washington EMC sponsored events in Grove Hill, Thomsville, Jackson and Washington County, and constructed campsites at Jackson and Washington County’s Relay nights.

Clarke-Washington EMC has been involved with Relay for Life for many years. This is one of our favorite community events and we are proud to be a sponsor.



Above, Washington County Relay for Life, CWEMC Team: Aaron Carpenter, Denise Carpenter, Ronald Franks, Polly Odom, Stan Wilson, Jr. Carpenter, Bertha Carpenter, Anna Wright & Joe Hoffman

Jackson Relay for Life, CWEMC Team

---

## Right-of-way spraying a cost effective measure

Maintaining right of way is a very integral part of Clarke-Washington EMC’s line maintenance program. Our service area has some of the most wooded areas in the state and has the fastest growing timber anywhere.

Undergrowth spraying is a very cost saving measure of controlling right-of-way growth. Several hundred miles of line are being sprayed this summer on our system. We are constantly seeking ways to keep the power system in the very best condition and maintain this status at the most cost saving ways possible.



Right-of-way spraying crew work in Deer Park to help control undergrowth.

# Washington County Youth Art



Art is the creative interpretation of everyday life. Adults often forget that simple events are seen with more imagination and importance as a child. When a child expresses their life through story telling, writing or another art form, the innocence of their childhood is captured in a very colorful way.

The Chatom Women's Club is cherishing the artwork of Chatom's youth as they hold a Youth Art Competition each March for K-12 students in the Chatom schools.

The art competition categories are poetry and short story, photography and art created with various kinds of media: paint, charcoal, paper, etc. Many teachers select a theme such as Mardi Gras, plants, or insects to help their students focus on one subject for their artwork.

All entries are showcased around

the Washington County Library for the public to enjoy. Winners are selected by the Women's Club, and a dinner is held to honor the artists. The overall winners are framed and permanently put on display in the library.

The Washington County Library is an excellent supporter for local artists, and they do many events involving the arts throughout the year. A display case inside the library is often filled with artwork or an art collection of people from in and around the county. Recent displays have been handmade needlepoint items and an impressive collection of Depression glass.

Clarke-Washington EMC has recently discovered the amount of artistic talent found just in our service area. We are proud to be part of such a talented community that promotes the arts.

## 2007 Chatom Youth Art Competition:

K-1st grade: Art

Best in show: **Benjamin Jones**

1st place: **Grant Harvison**

2nd – 3rd grade: Short story

Best in show: **Hal Postma**

1st place: **Maci Jones**

6th – 12th grade: Art

Best in show: **Dylan Moss**

1st place: **James Chancey and Travis Baxter**

K-1st grade: **Short Story**

Best in show: **Eunessa White**

1st place: **Dawson Coaker**

4th – 5th grade: Art

Best in Show: **Landon Coaker**

1st place: **Brady Greene and Randall Coxwell**

6th – 12th grade: Short story

Best in show: **Kyle Pennington**

1st place: **DJ Williams**

1st place: **Danielle Boman**

2nd – 3rd grade: Art

Best in show: **Jazmine White**

1st place: **Jazmine White and Marion Younge**

4th – 5th grade: Short story

Best in show: **John Raleigh Hubbard**

1st place: **Peyton Deese**

## The Year of Alabama Arts

The Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel announces 2007 as the Year of Alabama Arts. It's a year long celebration of the artistic skills of Alabamians. The program encourages visitors and locals to spend time experiencing every form of art that Alabama has to offer.

“Must-See Arts Destinations in

Alabama” is a brochure with information about events, art displays, artists and ways to spend 2007 enjoying the diverse art of our state.

More information is available at [www.800ALABAMA.com](http://www.800ALABAMA.com) or by calling the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel at 1-800-ALABAMA.

Some of the submissions for the Chatom Youth Art Competition held in March. The Chatom's Women's Club holds this event each year for students in the Chatom schools. The overall winner for this competition is permanently displayed in the Washington County Library.

Photography: Rebecca O'Neal

# Scholarship awarded to Fruitdale student

## Electric Cooperative Foundation awards \$1,000 scholarship to Dustin Odom who is attending Troy University this fall majoring in chemistry.

This summer college bound high school graduates are preparing for the fall semester as they attend freshmen orientations and register for classes.

Dustin Odom of Fruitdale High School is such an individual. He graduated with the class of 2007 in May and is soon to take a

giant step as he attends Troy University this fall. When he lands, his parents, Tammy and James Odom of Fruitdale, can breathe a little easier thanks to a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to Dustin by the Electric Cooperative Foundation and Clarke-Washington EMC.

Dustin has an impressive resume filled with volunteer experience, athleticism, academic achievement and leadership: Beta club presi-

dent, student council vice president, senior class reporter and co-editor on the journalism staff.

He was a member of the Fruitdale High School football and basketball team. Dustin was captain of the basketball team for three out of the four years he was on the team, and

selected as an All-County basketball player.

Other activities include the drama club, Future Farmers of America and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He is Who's Who Among American High School Students and Who's Who Among American High School Athletes. Odom represented Fruitdale last summer as he attended Boys State in Montgomery and the Ciba Chemistry Institute for two weeks in New York City. He attended the Alabama Rural Electric Association's Montgomery Youth Tour in March, where he represented Clarke-Washington EMC among other rural electric cooperatives in Alabama.

Outside of school Dustin is the Sunday school treasurer, helps with Summer Reading programs, and participates in clean-up days for his church and the local library.

He has maintained a 4.0 GPA while being involved in his school and his community.

The Electric Cooperative Foundation, Inc. was created by the electric cooperatives of Alabama in 1997. Their mission is to give back to the communities they serve by providing scholarships for qualifying high school seniors. The sole decisions as to whom is to receive the scholarship is determined by the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

This scholarship committee looks for well-rounded students in each rural electric cooperative. One scholarship for \$1,000 is awarded annually to the student who shows leadership, hard work ethics and a sense of pride for their community.

Scholarship applications are available beginning in January at the offices of Clarke-Washington EMC in Jackson and Chatom. High school seniors in Clarke County, Washington County and surrounding areas who are customer-members of Clarke-Washington EMC are eligible for the scholarship.



Fruitdale High School Principal Dr. Alfred Taylor joins Electric Cooperative Foundation scholarship recipient, Dustin Odom and his parents, Tammy and James Odom of Fruitdale, at the school's awards program.

# Summer Storm Safety

Practice electrical safety during summertime storms

Summer months bring long days of sunshine, but it is also a time for severe weather. Educate your family and yourself on electrical safety tips during the summer. Clarke-Washington EMC urges you to help your family become more knowledgeable about electrical safety during and after weather disasters.

Beware of electrical dangers associated with downed power lines, portable electric generators and electrical wiring or appliances that have been wet. These precautions can help keep you and your family safe from electrical hazards during and after disasters:

- Take care when stepping into flooded areas – whether indoors or out. Submerged outlets, electrical cords and downed power lines can energize water, posing a lethal trap.
- Stay away from downed power lines and anything touching them.
- If you see someone who is in contact with a downed power line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Instead, call 911.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.

- Have portable electric generators installed by licensed electricians to ensure it meets local electrical codes and is properly grounded.

- Keep the generator dry and do not operate it in enclosed or partially enclosed areas. Generators can produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide very quickly; consider using a carbon monoxide detector.

- Do not overload the generator and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions.

- Do not use electrical wiring or equipment that has been wet. A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment; a licensed electrician can inspect electrical systems.

- To avoid lightning strikes, go indoors during electrical storms and stay away from windows.

- If outdoors during electrical storms, do not use corded telephones except for emergencies.

- Avoid contact with water and plumbing during electrical storms.

- Don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not safe from lightning. Chained animals can easily become victims of lightning.

Information found from Electrical Safety Foundation International, ESFI



For more information on the pageant call 251.454.5886.

Sponsored by:  
Town of Chatom

Town of Chatom

## HomeTown Idol

4<sup>th</sup> of July 2007

The Town of Chatom will be hosting a July 4th Celebration at the Chatom Community Center, Wednesday, July 4 at 5 p.m. The stage will be bursting with local talent as our 2007 HomeTown Idol perform. Back by popular demand is the Miss Red, White & Blue Pageant, and the premier BMX bicycle stunt show in the world -- O.K. BMX. All kids' activities are FREE: face painting by BB the Clown, the rock wall, bouncy-joust, mini-olympic courses, t-ball and the bouncy slide. A variety of food booths will be on hand with your favorite 4th of July treats. The evening will end with a bang as the always spectacular fireworks show starts at 9 p.m. We invite you and your family to become part of this year's celebration. Admission is FREE. Parking transportation will be provided.