

# JEMCOnews

## BEHIND

## THE NUMBERS

The countless ways linemen help provide reliable electricity



APRIL 2021 | IN THIS ISSUE

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# A CALLING

**They say a picture is worth a thousand words. That was certainly the case with a recent photo that really touched me. And it wasn't just me that was moved by the photo - it garnered more than 20,000 impressions on our social media channels.**

The image was of one of our linemen returning from storm duty. He was receiving a tears-of-joy embrace from his young daughter, who was overjoyed to see her daddy come home. It welled up a lot of emotions in me about the sacrifices our linemen make in their chosen line of work.

For many linemen, it's not just a job or a career, it's a calling. It shows in their commitment to restore power in the most challenging conditions, rising to the challenges in the aftermath of hurricanes and ice storms. It's those times when linemen must say goodbye to their families to restore power. It's those times when prayers are lifted for their safety. It's those times when they lean on each other and rely on their hours of training and years of experience to get the job done. Their commitment and sense of service is second to none.

When people share stories about our linemen with me, it's often that service and commitment that impresses folks. I really enjoy receiving letters, emails and seeing social media posts from members sharing their experiences they have with our linemen. In February, we sent several linemen to help restore power to members of Southside Electric Cooperative in Virginia after a devastating ice storm. At the peak of the storm, more than 85% of Southside Electric's members didn't have power - many of them in isolated and heavily wooded areas. The conditions were hazardous and progress was slow as crews worked in remote areas.

Despite those challenges, our linemen rose to the occasion and exemplified the true spirit of cooperation. A Southside Electric employee shared how the Virginia cooperative was receiving phone calls from members complimenting the extraordinary work by "those guys from Georgia." Those "guys from Georgia" were our guys. The same linemen that come out to restore power here when your lights go out. They are true professionals and I'm proud of the linemen that serve Jackson EMC. As members of Jackson EMC, you can also take pride in knowing that our linemen are true ambassadors, whether they're here serving you or helping others in need.



These dedicated and highly-skilled professionals represent our cooperative well and they deserve the accolades that come their way. April is Lineman Appreciation Month. Any time you see a lineman this month, please join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. And if you want to see more heartwarming lineman photos like the picture I mentioned or even share a post of your own, please follow us on our social media channels.

**Chip Jakins, President/CEO**

## Thank a Lineman: Share Your Stories, Comments

**Linemen play a crucial role to keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses. Although their work is important 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, linemen are noticed most when storms affect the power distribution system. In times like these, when the lights go out, so do Jackson EMC's linemen.**

In April, utilities and their customers across the U.S. pay tribute to these highly-skilled professionals by showing their appreciation for linemen.

Jackson EMC members are encouraged to show their appreciation for linemen by using the hashtags #ThankALineman and #JacksonEMC this month on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Members can also share their appreciation for linemen by sending an email to [info@jacksonemc.com](mailto:info@jacksonemc.com), calling 1-800-462-3691, or sending a letter to Jackson EMC at P.O. Box 100, Jefferson, GA 30549.

We'll share your comments or stories with our linemen.



**REACH OUT TO US  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
TO TELL YOUR STORY.**



**#THANKALINEMAN  
#JACKSONEMC**

# Making The Switch

## TO ENERGY STAR®-CERTIFIED PRODUCTS CAN HELP YOU SAVE



For almost 30 years, ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances and electronics have offered homeowners a great way to reduce energy use and save on power bills. But how do you know which ENERGY STAR product is right for you?

Consider how you use appliances to meet your energy-saving goals:



Do you wash multiple loads of laundry a day? Investing in an ENERGY STAR-certified washer could save an estimated \$45 on your utility bill each year.



Bigger TVs use more energy than smaller TVs, but ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are typically 25% more energy efficient than conventional models.



Desktop computers can use a lot of electricity, but ENERGY STAR-certified models save energy. Until you can upgrade to an ENERGY STAR model, you may want to adjust the power management setting on your home computer by adjusting the “sleep” mode so it powers down when it has been idle for a few minutes.



New ENERGY STAR-certified products hit the market each year. Check out air purifiers, dehumidifiers, decorative lighting and other products. ENERGY STAR's products page provides detailed information, including buying guidance, for numerous products.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ENERGYSTAR.GOV/PRODUCTS](https://www.energystar.gov/products).





# BEHIND

## THE NUMBERS

### The countless ways linemen help provide reliable electricity

Jackson EMC linemen help keep the lights on for members 24/7, 365 days a year. That's a big job, considering Jackson EMC provides electricity to more than 240,000 meters across 10 counties in northeast Georgia.

In observance of April as Lineman Appreciation Month, we're highlighting numbers related to our power distribution system, and the linemen who build and maintain it.

*For a Jackson EMC lineman, training is part of the job. Linemen participate in ongoing training, such as this one at our training facility in Oakwood, to enhance their skills and practice safe techniques.*



# 182,156

**POWER POLES**

across the cooperative with

# 81

**SUBSTATIONS**



# 24,331

**COMBINED HOURS**

of overtime worked by  
Jackson EMC linemen  
in 2020



# 135

**JACKSON EMC LINEMEN**  
with

# 1,924

**COMBINED YEARS**  
years of service



# 154

**EQUIPMENT ITEMS,**

including excavators,  
trailers, forklifts, etc.  
operated by Jackson EMC



# 30

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF POUNDS**

of equipment linemen  
carry when working  
on top of a pole



# 4

**AVERAGE HOURS**

it takes for linemen to  
replace a broken power pole



# 7

**YEARS OF TRAINING**

to become a  
journeyman lineman.



# 14,458

**MILES OF POWER LINES**

with

# 6,703

**MILES ON OVERHEAD LINES**  
and

# 7,755

**MILES UNDERGROUND**



# 250

**TIMES JACKSON EMC LINEMEN**  
**TRAVELLED OUT-OF-SERVICE AREA**

to restore power in other  
areas, including fellow  
cooperatives, in the  
past 5 years



# 104

**JACKSON EMC TRUCKS**

bucket and digger/  
derrick trucks drive a  
combined average of

# 115,597

**MILES PER MONTH**

## OPERATION ROUND UP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

**\$80,000 in grants**

during its February meeting,

### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000 | Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry, Inc.,** an emergency food bank for residents of Lawrenceville and Dacula in Gwinnett County, for its Emergency Assistance Program to purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

**\$15,000 | Neighborhood Cooperative Ministry, Inc.,** for its Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides a four-to-five-day supply of food to needy residents in the Norcross area of Gwinnett County, to purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

**\$15,000 | Mending the Gap, Inc.,** a Lawrenceville-based nonprofit

organization serving the basic needs of low-income seniors, to help purchase a freezer, refrigerator, toiletries, groceries and storage space and shelving for food storage for its Save Our Seniors Project, which delivers a monthly care package of nutritious food, personal care items, cleaning supplies and toiletries.

**\$15,000 | Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, Inc.,** a Stone Mountain nonprofit organization that helps individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury to regain employment and life skills, to provide rehabilitation services for adults from Gwinnett County who are permanently disabled due to traumatic brain injury.

**\$10,000 | CHRIS 180 (Creativity, Honor, Respect, Integrity and Safety),** Gwinnett Counseling Center, with a mission to heal children, strengthen families and build community, to assist children, teens and families receive counseling in order to heal

from traumatic events, build resiliency skills and thrive.

**\$7,500 | Rainbow Children's Home,** a Dahlonega shelter for abused and neglected girls serving all counties in Jackson EMC's service area, to help fund programs that go beyond the basics of food, clothing and shelter to provide services such as substance abuse treatment, independence and wellness training, and family reunification services.

**\$2,500 | Spirit of Joy Food Pantry,** located in Flowery Branch, which distributes food to those in need in Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, to purchase food.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION).

## COMMUNITY IMPACT: AMERICAN RED CROSS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Groceries and hand sanitizer weren't the only things in short supply when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the nation in March 2020. The American Red Cross faced a severe blood shortage after an unprecedented number of blood drives were canceled during the pandemic.

"As the pandemic grew, we saw blood drive cancellations grow at an alarming rate," said Joe Vella, regional philanthropy officer for the American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia. "This impacted patients who needed surgery, victims of car accidents or other emergencies, and patients suffering from cancer. Healthy individuals were needed to give blood to help patients counting on lifesaving blood throughout the pandemic."

With 40% of the nation's blood supply provided through the American Red Cross, the organization takes pride in the fact that it provides a safe and efficient blood supply to fill the nation's needs, he adds.



The American Red Cross received one of 32 grants to nonprofit organizations responding to the pandemic in spring 2020. The local chapter that serves Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties received a \$10,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation for biomedical services for blood collection.

"While the coronavirus pandemic has grabbed ahold of us and thrown us into a frenzy, the work of the Red Cross to fill its day-in, day-out mission continues," Vella said. "The \$10,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation is a significant sum that we didn't have for biomedical purposes, and we are doing what we can to assure a safe and available blood supply."



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [REDCROSS.ORG/LOCAL/GEORGIA](http://REDCROSS.ORG/LOCAL/GEORGIA) AND SELECT THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA CHAPTER.



## Brownie and Caramel Trifle



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 brownie mix package
- 1 (5.1-oz.) package vanilla pudding
- 1 cup sugar
- 5 Tbsp. butter, cubed
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 (16-oz.) tub whipped cream
- 1/2 cup walnuts, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup dark or milk chocolate, finely chopped

“This is one of those rich and creamy desserts to enjoy and finish off a special meal. The best thing about this trifle is that it can be made a day before serving.”  
— ARIA KHAN, NORCROSS



### DIRECTIONS:

Prepare brownies according to package instructions. When brownies are cool, cut into bitesize chunks; set aside. Prepare vanilla pudding according to package instructions; set aside.

To prepare caramel sauce, put sugar in a heavy saucepan on medium heat; stir until sugar melts. Add butter and keep stirring. Remove from heat and mix with heavy cream.

To assemble trifle, use a deep bowl or serving dish. Spread half of brownie chunks in bottom of serving dish. Pour half of pudding over brownie chunks. Spread half of whipped cream on top of pudding. Generously drizzle half of caramel sauce. Sprinkle half of walnuts and chocolate pieces to add a crunch to the trifle. Repeat those steps. Cover the trifle with a cling wrap and place in refrigerator for at least 4 to 6 hours before serving.

SEND US YOUR BEST RECIPES: RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO:  
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549  
FIND MORE RECIPES AT WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES.

## Before You Dig,

# CONTACT GEORGIA 811

Whether you're a homeowner taking on a do-it-yourself yard project or a professional excavator preparing for your next big job, you'll need to contact Georgia 811 before you dig.

Because important utility lines may be buried underground, it's essential that you notify Georgia 811 before beginning any mechanized digging in order to prevent damage to underground equipment and harm to people. Requests can be submitted by calling 811 or visiting georgia811.com.

When you contact Georgia 811, the organization will contact local utilities — who have 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) to come to your dig site to locate and mark their underground equipment. Each utility uses a different color flag to designate the location of their equipment. For example, red flags are used for underground power lines. After each utility has marked its lines, you will be advised if it's OK to dig.

Wondering if your project is big enough to warrant a request to Georgia 811? In those cases, it's recommended you call Georgia 811.

Georgia 811's website includes safety information including how to prepare for your dig and safe digging practices. For excavators and building contractors, the website includes Georgia laws and policies related to safe digging and proper marking standards.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO CONTACT GEORGIA 811, VISIT **GEORGIA811.COM** OR CALL 811.

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

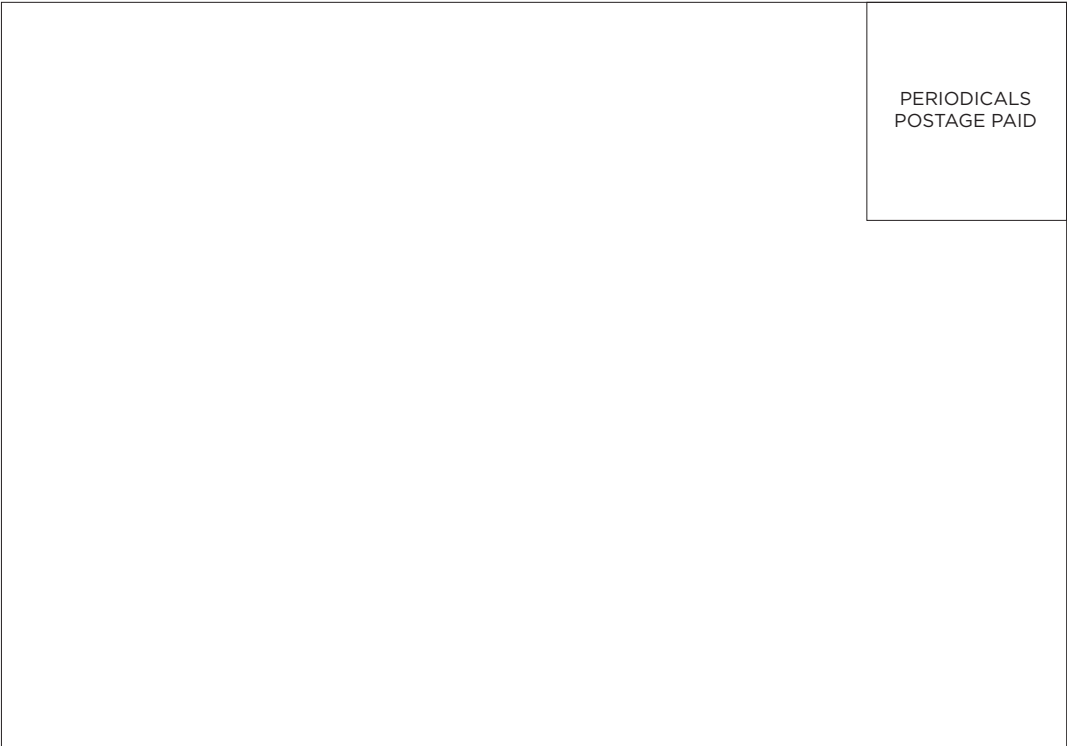
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(706) 367-5281

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Lawrenceville, GA  
(770) 963-6166

**EMC SECURITY**  
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(706) 543-4009



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[jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com)



## Our Contractor Network Helps You **Select Qualified Professionals**

**If you're looking for a contractor to make energy efficient improvements to your home, but don't know where to start your search, we can help.**

The Jackson EMC contractor network connects members with qualified contractors to make HVAC, insulation and weatherization improvements. Contractors who wish to become a part of this network receive specialized training from Jackson EMC.

Members interested in low-interest financing from Jackson EMC for energy efficient improvements are required to use a participating contractor from our network. Members who want to receive a Jackson EMC rebate for energy efficient improvements recommended by a home energy evaluation also must use a participating contractor.



**To learn more about the contractor network, including qualifications, contact a Jackson EMC Residential Energy Advisor at 1-800-462-3691.**

**To view our list of participating contractors, visit [jacksonemc.com/contractors](http://jacksonemc.com/contractors).**