

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

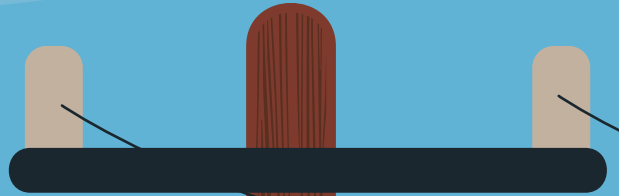
A CLIMBING CAREER

The Climb from
Apprentice to
Journeyman

THE JOURNEYMAN
THE LINEMAN
THE APPRENTICE

APRIL 2023 | IN THIS ISSUE

AREA HOMEBUILDERS HONORED WITH RIGHT CHOICE™ AWARDS
MARKING SAFE SPOTS TO DIG
COOPERATIVE SOLAR PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS





DEEP DEDICATION

If you've read this column for long enough, you know that we respect and admire the people whose job it is to keep the lights on in our community. The linemen who represent Jackson EMC are some of the finest in the country. They go above and beyond to serve our members with their dedication and professionalism. As they say: when the lights go out, so do they - any time of day throughout the year.

This month, though, is especially important for linemen. It's Lineman Appreciation Month, when we take an extra moment to reflect and appreciate the work they do. The next time you flip a switch to turn on the lights in a dark room, power up your phone or enjoy a show on TV, you can remember the people who power your cooperative. The work they do every day - even in difficult weather conditions - is truly remarkable and commendable. Thank you to our linemen!

In the past few months, our linemen have also helped fellow cooperatives restore power to their members after significant storms. Most recently, our linemen helped Covington-based Snapping Shoals EMC. That co-op had more than 200 power poles broken after a strong storm. Last fall, a group of Jackson EMC linemen volunteered to help Lee County Electric Cooperative in Florida restore power after Hurricane Ian. The damage caused by the hurricane was extensive. Some of our linemen, who have helped restore power after previous hurricanes, said it was the worst they've seen.

I was proud when a veteran lineman and safety trainer from another co-op working alongside our crews shared his appreciation for Jackson EMC's crews. "In my 32 years in the electric utility business, I have never seen a bunch of guys work as efficiently and safely as your men," he wrote. "Everyone at

Jackson EMC should be extremely proud of each and every one of these men. They are indeed the best I've ever seen!"

We know that we can count on linemen to rise to the occasion when needed. We're grateful to have some of the top professionals in the industry who have a big heart for people in their community. Thank you to our lineman - for what you do for us every day!

Have a story to share about how a lineman helped you? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

CHIP JAKINS
President & CEO

MARKING SAFE SPOTS TO DIG

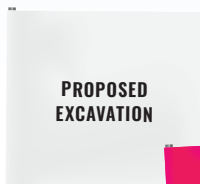
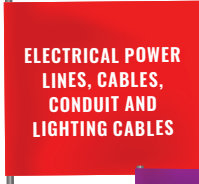
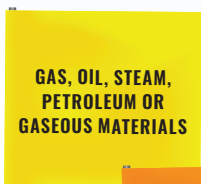


April is Safe Digging Month. If you plan on doing any digging on your property, make sure you "Know What's Below" and contact Georgia 811 before you break ground.

Digging into an underground power line could not only disrupt electrical service for you and nearby homes - it could deliver a lethal shock.

When you contact Georgia 811, local utilities, including Jackson EMC, will be contacted and will mark the areas where underground utilities are located. Once marked by the appropriate flags or paint color, you can dig safely.

Be safe by calling 811 or visiting georgia811.com to submit a free request at least two business days before digging.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/DIG.

AREA HOMEBUILDERS

Honored with Right Choice™ Awards

Area homebuilders who construct new homes to the exceptional standards for energy efficiency and comfort of Jackson EMC's Right Choice™ new home program were recently recognized for their efforts.

Right Choice homes are built exclusively in Jackson EMC's service area. To earn the Right Choice designation, homebuilders must meet higher standards for energy efficient new homes.

"Homebuyers want a new home that's energy efficient and comfortable," said Christy Queen, Jackson EMC's director of residential marketing. "What makes Right Choice new homes unique is that they're built from the ground up by industry experts with exceptional construction standards focused on energy efficiency. Jackson EMC works closely with participating Right Choice homebuilders from the design phase, home testing and to the completion of construction."



Jackson EMC recently honored several builders with a Right Choice Builder of the Year Award. They included (L-R), EMC Homes, platinum class, represented by Wade Riley; TBG Residential, multi-family class, represented by Olivia Buckner; and O'Dwyer Properties, gold class, represented by Jonathan Wagner. Not pictured: Century Communities, diamond class.

Each year, Jackson EMC recognizes homebuilders with best-in-class awards and several Community Spotlight awards in four categories based on the number of Right Choice homes completed in a year.

The Builder of the Year award recognizes the effort and excellence of a company and its team. The Leadership Award recognizes a builder's or superintendent's individual efforts. The Community Spotlight Award honors Right Choice builders whose dedication to energy efficient construction has had a tremendous impact on the Jackson EMC community.

The diamond class category includes companies that have built more than 50 Right Choice homes during the year. Platinum class awards honor companies that build 10-49 homes Right Choice homes during the year. Gold class awards recognize builders who built fewer than 10 Right Choice homes during the year.

This year, a new category, multi-family class, was added to honor builders who have built apartment projects of any size using Right Choice's energy efficiency standards.

The following list of winners includes the location where they are currently building Right Choice homes:

BUILDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

DIAMOND CLASS Century Communities
Barrow, Jackson and Banks counties

PLATINUM CLASS EMC Homes
Jackson County

GOLD CLASS O'Dwyer Properties
Gwinnett County

MULTI-FAMILY CLASS TBG Residential
Barrow County

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

DIAMOND CLASS Ricky Underwood
Clayton Properties Group, Inc.
Jackson, Hall and Gwinnett counties

PLATINUM CLASS Andy Gaddis
Paran Homes, Jackson and Gwinnett counties

GOLD CLASS Stephen Goodman
Beltan Properties, Gwinnett County

MULTI-FAMILY CLASS Myron Sterling
Brand/Oxford Properties, Gwinnett County

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Adams Homes AEC, Jackson County

Banks Crossing Partners 1, Banks County

Brand Properties, Gwinnett County

Century Communities, Barrow, Banks and Jackson counties

Clayton Properties Group, Inc. DBA Chafin Builders, Jackson, Gwinnett and Hall counties

Creekside Homebuilders Group, Jackson County

EMC Homes, Jackson County

MB Endeavors, Jackson and Hall counties

Paran Homes, Jackson and Gwinnett counties

Piedmont Residential, Hall County

Pulte Grou, Hall County

Smith Douglas Homes, Barrow County

Sterling Residential, Jackson County

Worthing Southeast Builders, Gwinnett County



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JACKSON EMC'S RIGHT CHOICE NEW HOME PROGRAM, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/RIGHTCHOICE](https://www.jacksonemc.com/rightchoice).

A CLIMBING CAREER

The Climb from Apprentice to Journeyman

Our highly-skilled and knowledgeable line crews provide you with safe, reliable electric service. You may see them in the community installing new power poles and equipment, maintaining our system or restoring power after a storm. The skills they develop and experience they receive helps ensure our members are in good hands for years to come.

Do you know what it takes to become a lineman at Jackson EMC? It takes years of classroom instruction, training and hands-on experience to reach an advanced role called a journeyman lineman. In fact, starting as an apprentice and becoming a journeyman lineman takes 7 years to attain.

At Jackson EMC, beginners – called apprentices – join our team with the opportunity to receive paid training and on-the-job experience. Apprentices can become linemen, followed by journeyman linemen. As they learn and grow through our lineman training program, they could earn college-level credentials for the electric industry.



APPRENTICE

What Does an Apprentice Do?

An apprentice is an entry-level position that assists and learns from experienced co-workers. Apprentices learn how to climb poles, frame and set poles, maintain certain equipment on poles, install security lights and more.

How Can an Apprentice Advance to Lineman?

Apprentices study the basics of line work while learning best practices, safety techniques and industry-standard procedures. Jackson EMC's Lineman's Training Program requires apprentices to study 200 modules and on-the-job training taught by experienced linemen. Apprentices take multiple exams as their performance is continually evaluated.

INTERESTED IN A CAREER AT JACKSON EMC?
LEARN MORE ABOUT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT
[JACKSONEMC.COM/CAREERS.](https://www.jacksonemc.com/careers)



LINEMAN

What Does a Lineman Do?

Linemen perform more complex tasks, such as working safely around energized power lines, installing transformers and setting poles in energized areas. They also operate bucket trucks and may assist instructing apprentices while under the supervision of a journeyman lineman.

How Can a Lineman Advance to Journeyman Lineman?

Jackson EMC linemen continue their classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

What Does a Journeyman Lineman Do?

A journeyman lineman is an advanced position that includes supervising apprentices and linemen. They are the lead crew person on job sites and may coordinate activities with contractors, builders and members. Journeymen linemen direct the day-to-day activities of a crew, such as new construction, replacing equipment and maintenance work.

How Can a Journeyman Lineman Advance in Their Career?

Along with their experience, journeymen linemen must also complete coursework and certification in safety leadership. Once they become a journeyman lineman, they receive certification from the U.S. Department of Labor and the American Council of Education (ACE). They have the opportunity to seek a position as a crew foreman, who oversees multiple line crews.

\$79,550 IN GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded \$79,550 in grants during a recent meeting, including \$69,550 to organizations and \$10,000 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$20,000 to Hope Haven of Northeast Georgia, Athens, which serves adults with developmental disabilities in Banks, Barrow, Clarke and Jackson counties, for the community access kitchen expansion, including plumbing, electrical and appliances.

\$15,000 to Gwinnett-Walton Habitat for Humanity, to provide an HVAC unit, interior trim, doors, cabinets, flooring and vanities for a house in Gwinnett County.

\$10,000 to Angel House, to provide entrance and program fees at the Gainesville recovery residence for women throughout the Jackson EMC service area with alcohol and/or drug addiction.

\$10,000 to H.O.P.E., Inc. (Helping Other People Be Empowered) in Duluth to help low-income single parents in Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties with childcare and housing, enabling them to attend classes and earn a college degree.

\$10,000 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace—Belmont Chapter in Belmont for supplies to build 40 fully furnished twin beds for children ages 3-17 who have inadequate sleeping situations without beds in Hall County.

\$4,550 to Barrow County Sheriff's Office, for Project Lifesaver, a search and rescue program, operated by public safety agencies for at-risk individuals who are prone to wandering.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$5,000 to provide an HVAC unit for a senior citizen.

\$5,000 to provide a roof replacement for a senior citizen.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT,
VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation)

Community Impact



Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission

The Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission thrift store provides free clothing, food and household items to those in need.

"We help anybody, it doesn't matter where you're from," said Joe Padilla, co-founder of Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission. "If they can come through the door, we'll help them."

Primarily serving Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties, Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission has remained a staple in Buford for 11 years. As word-of-mouth has traveled among churches, law enforcement officers and schools, many community members in need rely on Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission for basic necessities. In 2022, they helped 1,154 people in need.

Joe and his wife, Elva, are co-founders and do most of the work to keep the organization up and running, and volunteers and grants are a great help. A recent \$15,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation will help pay rent for the thrift store facility.

"We are just trying to get people in need back on their feet," said Padilla. "We want them to feel valued."

For more information about Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission, visit sites.google.com/site/eyesoflovelighthousemission.

SOLAR MADE EASY



cooperative
solar
From JACKSON EMC

Cooperative Solar Program Available to Members

Looking for a way to use solar energy without installing solar panels on your roof? Jackson EMC's Cooperative Solar program makes it easy for you to get solar energy, even if you rent your home.

Jackson EMC co-owns off-site solar facilities with 37 other Georgia electric cooperatives through Green Power EMC. Those facilities generate clean, renewable energy and send it to the Jackson EMC power grid.

Victor Johnson, a member in Danielsville, said signing up for Cooperative Solar was quick and easy: **"We are so pleased that we're able to participate in a solar energy program, as our house in the woods would not work well for rooftop solar panels. We were already in the Jackson EMC Green Power program, so switching to Cooperative Solar was the right thing to do."**



"For us, the cost of solar was comparable to what we were already paying for our monthly power bills, plus we get the added benefit of knowing that we're doing something that benefits our community and where we live – it's a win-win scenario for everyone"

VICTOR JOHNSON
Member in Danielsville, GA

Sign Ups

Cooperative Solar is available on a first-come, first served basis. There's no long-term commitment and you can discontinue your solar energy commitment at any time. If you leave the program, you must wait a year to rejoin and Jackson EMC cannot guarantee there will be availability at that time.

Pricing and Energy Production

Solar energy blocks are \$23 each per month. Residences served by Jackson EMC are eligible to sign up for up to three blocks.

The kilowatt-hours produced by your solar energy block in each calendar month will offset the same number of kilowatt-hours on your bill. If your solar energy block produces more kilowatt-hours than you use during your billing period, you'll receive a credit for the excess. On average, each solar energy block is expected to produce approximately 200-225 kWh per month. For reference, the average Jackson EMC household uses 1,200 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month.

Billing

You will be billed \$23 monthly for each block of solar electricity. You will be informed of any price change at least 30 days in advance.

To learn more about Cooperative Solar, or to sign up, visit jacksonemc.com/renewables or call us at 1-800-462-3691.

YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

JACKSON EMC OFFICES

1000 Dawsonville Highway
Gainesville, GA
(770) 536-2415

85 Spratlin Mill Road
Hull, GA
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road
Jefferson, GA
(706) 367-5281

825 Buford Dr
Lawrenceville, GA
(770) 963-6166

EMC SECURITY

55 Satellite Blvd., NW
Suwanee, GA
(770) 963-0305 or
(706) 543-4009

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID



@JacksonEMC



jacksonemc



JEMCTV1



jackson_emc



Jackson EMC

jacksonemc.com

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Mini Chicken Pot Pies



“ This recipe is one of our newest favorites. As a new mom, I love finding meals that allow me to spend more time with my family but also provide something tasty for all that sit at our table. ”

BRITTANY MENDOZA, *Jefferson*

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 12 oz. bag of frozen vegetable medley
- 2 cups chicken, cooked
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. black ground pepper
- 2 16.3 oz. cans of biscuits
- 1 10.5 oz. can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup of cheddar cheese, shredded
- Choice of oil to coat the muffin tin

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine vegetables, chicken, onion powder, garlic powder, cream of chicken, cheese and ground pepper in a large bowl. Coat the muffin tin and mold one biscuit into each cup, forming a small bowl. Fill biscuit bowls with the chicken mixture. Place in the oven for 12-15 minutes.

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: jacksonemc.com/recipes.