

JACKSON
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION™

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

JACKSON
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION™

A LINEMAN'S LIFE

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A
JACKSON EMC LINEMAN

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JACKSON EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS EMERGENCY FUNDING TO AGENCIES



SERVING OUR MEMBERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The past few weeks have certainly been challenging times for our country and our communities. Families, schools, businesses, healthcare providers and governments have responded like never before to the unprecedented challenges due to the spread of the coronavirus. We understand the response to COVID-19 has created hardships that many of us didn't think would happen just a couple months ago.

I want to assure you that your electric cooperative is here to serve you with the reliable electricity you depend on.

Early in the crisis, we turned to our pandemic response plan for our action steps to mitigate exposure of the coronavirus to our members and employees. As a result, we limited member access to our local offices to drive-thru service only. I drove to our local offices those first few days to visit with employees while sitting in my vehicle in the drive-thru lane. Even with a window between us, I was happy to see some smiling faces!

Beginning March 16, most Jackson EMC employees started working remotely. When we implemented measures to minimize exposure to the coronavirus, it meant our employees quickly uprooted their offices and made significant changes to their work processes – all without service disruptions to our members. We began strategically staffing our linemen to limit their potential exposure to the coronavirus to ensure reliable electric service. Like many of you, our employees also began helping their children with classroom assignments. I'm extremely proud of the "can do" attitude seen across our cooperative during these unprecedented times.

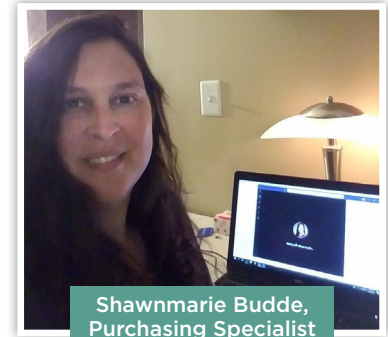
While our employees have been able to work remotely, many businesses that serve the public have had to close their doors temporarily. We know the response to COVID-19 has placed a hardship on



Nathan Bohannon, Residential New Development Advisor



Sayali Shinde, Engineer



Shawnmarie Budde, Purchasing Specialist

JACKSON EMC EMPLOYEES WORKING REMOTELY

many people in our community. As a member-owned not-for-profit cooperative, we operate in the best interest of our members. Because of that, we temporarily suspended disconnecting service for nonpayment of electric bills.

We're always sensitive to our members' ability to pay their bills. Every situation is different. Our customer service representatives are empowered to work with members to address individual circumstances. Please feel free to contact us if you need to make a payment arrangement.

With so many people staying home these days, your energy use is likely going up. Now is a good time to check your energy use by using the tools available through MyJacksonEMC. The MyJacksonEMC website or mobile app is the easiest way to check your energy use and offers many other easy-to-use functions, like reporting an outage and bill payment options. You can learn more at MyJacksonEMC.com.

Our emergency plan has served us well in overcoming previous challenges, like ice storms and a hurricane. Our experience in times of crisis shows us that the Jackson EMC family pulls together to do what's best for members and our community. It's always great to know that our employees will rise to meet any challenge.

Our goal in this unprecedented challenge is to provide you with reliable electricity and continue to provide you with a seamless customer service experience. At the same time, we want our members and employees to stay safe and healthy.

All the best to everyone and we will get through this together.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

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5 WAYS TO SAVE *Energy in the Laundry Room*

In many households, doing laundry is a regular routine. Among appliances in your home, your dryer is one of the highest energy users. So, it's worth taking steps to reduce energy use in the laundry room.

When it comes to doing laundry, follow these steps to help you save energy – and in turn, money – on your monthly electric bill.

USE AN ENERGY STAR®-CERTIFIED WASHER AND DRYER

Newer ENERGY STAR® washers use about 25% less energy than conventional models, and ENERGY STAR dryers use 20% less energy, according to energy.gov.

WASH WITH COLD WATER

Using warm water instead of hot water can cut a load's energy use in half, according to energy.gov. Using cold water will save even more energy. Cold water detergents can be helpful to ensure items get clean, and high-efficiency detergents (indicated by the "HE" symbol) should be used when required by the manufacturer.

WASH FULL LOADS

A washer uses about the same amount of energy regardless of the size of the load of laundry – so fill it up and wash full loads.

SWITCH LOADS WHILE THE DRYER IS WARM

By doing back-to-back loads of laundry, you can take advantage of using the remaining heat inside the dryer for the next cycle, thus saving energy.

DRY RIGHT-SIZED LOADS FOR YOUR DRYER

If a dryer is too full, it will take longer for clothes to dry. Loads that are too small can also take longer to dry.



LOOKING FOR MORE WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY IN YOUR HOME? VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE](https://www.jacksonemc.com/waystosave).

A LINEMAN'S LIFE

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A JACKSON EMC LINEMAN

Talk to any lineman and one thing you're likely to recognize is the dedication it takes to excel on the lines. Along with building and maintaining power lines and equipment, linemen work day and night to restore power – sometimes in turbulent weather conditions.

For these highly-skilled professionals, being a lineman isn't just a job. It's a way of life.

JEFF CHANDLER JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

Jeff Chandler has always been interested in mechanics. When he joined Jackson EMC 22 years ago, Jeff not only wanted a long-term career, he also wanted an opportunity to experience hands-on learning.

Jeff enjoys building substations. Jackson EMC currently serves members throughout 81 substations. Since joining the cooperative, he's helped build about 35 of those stations. Over his career, Jeff has advanced to journeyman lineman – thanks to the opportunities to do the things he enjoys most.

When he's not on a bucket truck, Jeff can be found serving as a pastor at a Baptist church in Jefferson. His three children – ranging from ages 18 to 24 – know when duty calls, Jeff may have to leave. "My kids know whether I'm at church or out to eat, when the phone rings, I may have to leave to help."

“ I like building and rebuilding things, so I fell in love with lineman work. ”





QUAVIS MARBURY LINEMAN

After years in the manufacturing industry, including producing wire used for power lines and making parts for cars, Quavis Marbury became a lineman. His career at Jackson EMC began four years ago, after graduating from a lineman training school.

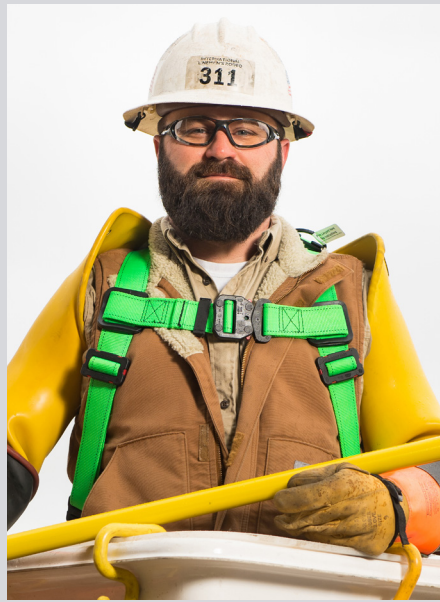
“ It’s been fun. I work with a bunch of great guys. I’ve learned a lot, especially from my crew leader, Dan Giles. He taught me a lot. We may joke around, but at the same time, every day, he’s teaching me something new. ”

Growing up in a small town near Auburn, Ala., Quavis was always interested in electricity. His family often drove by a power substation.

“As we drove by it every day, I used to tell my mom, ‘I’m going to be in there one day,’” he said.

Quavis said he enjoys many of the responsibilities of being a lineman – including helping to restore power during an outage – and serving alongside his fellow linemen.

“It took me a long time, but I finally got here,” Quavis said. “I had a long journey.”



CLAY PHILLIPS JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

Clay Phillips joined Jackson EMC when he was a youth apprentice at Jefferson High School. Over his 18-year career with the electric cooperative, Clay has advanced to journeyman – a position that requires at least seven years of training and experience as a lineman.

“You have to enjoy being outside and handling every element Mother Nature throws at you,” Clay said. “It’s going to be hot. It’s going to be cold. It’s going to be wet, and long days and long nights.”

As a journeyman, Clay has helped restore power in his community and served on co-op teams helping to restore power to areas hit hard by massive storms, such as Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Katrina.

“There was so much destruction [after Hurricane Katrina]. We were in the (area by the) lower Mississippi River, right above New Orleans. That was pretty memorable. We were there for 14 days,” Clay said.

At home, Clay enjoys spending time with his children, ages 11 and 5. He’s also competed in the lineman’s rodeo, an annual event in which linemen compete in a series of events in traditional linemen skills and tasks. In 2018, Clay was part of a journeyman team that placed as the top electric cooperative team at the International Lineman’s Rodeo.

“ I love the competitiveness of rodeo. And the comradery of the guys. We’re all pretty close. It’s a way for your family and friends to see you work, too. ”



TAYLOR HOUSER APPRENTICE

Taylor Houser says when he comes home in his work truck, his six-year-old son reminds him of his desire to be a lineman someday. “That’s what he says he wants to do when he grows up,” Taylor said.

“ I tell him it’s a good job and a good career. There are so many opportunities at Jackson EMC for linemen to move up the ladder and move into other things. ”

After graduating with an associate’s degree in finance, a family friend recognized Taylor’s strong work ethic and convinced him to consider a position at an electric cooperative. After five years at other Georgia electric cooperatives, Taylor joined the team at Jackson EMC two years ago.

“I’ve learned everywhere I’ve gone in my career,” said Taylor, who also participated in a lineman training program.

Taylor says as a lineman, you’ve got to put members first: “When that call comes in, you’ve got to be ready to pick up the call and go to work.”

When he’s not working, Taylor enjoys spending time with family, including fishing and hunting with his son.

COMMUNITY IMPACT: JEFFERSON LIONS CLUB



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vision disability is one of the most prevalent disabling conditions among children.

"If a child can't see well, it limits what they can see in the classroom," said Jimmy Mock, president of the Jefferson Lions Club.

Historically, Lions Club chapters across the U.S. have been focused on sight conversation and vision improvement. The Jefferson chapter has been providing those services through education, vision screenings, supporting payments for eyeglasses and exams, and other functions.

Now, the club has a new tool available to screen children for vision impairments – a portable device that quickly determines if a

child should be referred to a vision doctor for additional care. The Jefferson Lions Club recently received a grant for \$7,304 from the Jackson EMC Foundation to purchase the spot vision screener for its Kidsight USA program in Jackson County.

In about 30 seconds, a trained volunteer with the spot vision screener can learn if a child is at risk for one or more of six vision impairment – including nearsightedness, farsightedness and blurred vision. The device looks like a camera and can be easily operated by volunteers.

"This device will tell in a few seconds if a child or anyone else may need to get an eye appointment," Mock said.

The Jefferson Lions Club plans to coordinate vision screenings with elementary schools and preschools in Jackson County. Based on results from other Lions Club

chapters using the device, an estimated 10-15% of children may be referred to an eye doctor.

The volunteers are not eyecare professionals and don't offer a diagnosis, Mock said. Following the screening, the volunteers will provide a report to help educate parents about potential eyecare decisions for their child.

The grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation is allowing the Jefferson Lions Club to implement the new program with the vision screening device, according to Smith. Lions Club chapters in Athens and Statham have been offering the program.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEFFERSON LIONS CLUB, VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/JEFFERSON-GALIONSCLUB.ORG/](https://www.facebook.com/JEFFERSON-GALIONSCLUB.ORG/)

OPERATION ROUND UP®: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

As a result of growing community needs in response to the COVID-19 health emergency, the Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors held a special meeting on March 31 to review applications for emergency support. The board awarded a total

\$140,757 IN SPECIAL GRANTS

to area organizations:

\$10,000 | **Food Bank of Northeast Georgia**, in Athens, to help provide emergency food assistance in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, and Oglethorpe counties.

\$10,000 | **Georgia Mountain Food Bank**, in Gainesville, to help provide emergency food assistance in Hall and Lumpkin counties.

\$10,000 | **Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry** to help provide emergency food assistance in Gwinnett County.

\$10,000 | **St. Vincent de Paul Flowery Branch** to help provide rent, mortgage and food assistance in Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$10,000 | **St. Vincent de Paul Gainesville** to help provide rent and mortgage assistance in Hall County.

\$10,000 | **St. Vincent de Paul Jefferson** to provide rent and mortgage assistance in Jackson County.

\$10,000 | **St. Vincent de Paul Lawrenceville** to help provide rent and mortgage assistance in Gwinnett County.

\$10,000 | **Salvation Army – Athens** to help provide emergency housing and food assistance in Clarke, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

\$8,857 | **New Path 1010** to provide emergency food assistance to Barrow County seniors, Project Adam residential treatment program clients, and students.

\$8,000 | **Madison County School District** to help provide food for its weekend backpack program, and for the installation of a SmartBus WiFi system that will provide Internet access to students who are digitally learning at home.

\$5,000 | **Banks - Jackson Food Bank** to help provide emergency food assistance in Banks and Jackson counties.

\$5,000 | **Community Helping Place**, in Dahlonega, to help provide emergency food assistance in Lumpkin County.

\$5,000 | **Lumpkin County Family Connection**, in Dahlonega, to help provide emergency food for its Backpack Buddy Program.

\$5,000 | **Salvation Army – Gainesville** to help provide emergency housing and food assistance in Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$5,000 | **Salvation Army – Gwinnett** to help provide emergency housing and food assistance in Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$3,600 | **Commerce City Schools** for the installation of a SmartBus WiFi system to provide Internet access to students who are digitally learning at home.

\$3,000 | **Jefferson City Schools** for the installation of a SmartBus WiFi system to provide Internet access to students who are digitally learning at home.

\$3,000 | **Mending the Gap**, in Lawrenceville, to provide emergency food assistance to Gwinnett County senior citizens.

\$3,000 | **Norcross Meals on Wheels**, for emergency food delivery to Gwinnett County senior citizens.

\$2,800 | **Jackson County School System**, for the installation of a SmartBus WiFi system to provide Internet access to students who are digitally learning at home.

\$2,500 | **Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church Food Pantry** to provide emergency food assistance in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties.

\$1,000 | **Happy Sacks**, in Duluth, to help provide emergency food for its weekend backpacks for needy children in seven local schools.



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

WAYS TO SAVE

Energy This Summer

Warmer weather is on the horizon. Cooling your home during the spring and summer can make up a large portion of your energy costs. With many people at home now, being smart about saving energy can help you save on your monthly bill, too. Stay cool and save energy with these no-cost tips:



KEEP BLINDS AND CURTAINS CLOSED

During the summer, heat from the sun can warm up your house faster when blinds and curtains are open. Closing your blinds and curtains can act like a layer of insulation to reduce heat in your home.



UNPLUG DEVICES OR APPLIANCES NOT IN USE

When devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet, but turned off or in standby mode, they can still consume electricity. Unplug those appliances or devices to save energy.



SET YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 78 DEGREES

Using a programmable or smart thermostat will also help you save energy.



RUN FANS COUNTERCLOCKWISE IN THE SUMMER

Running fans counterclockwise in the summer will circulate cooler air. When no one is in a room, turn fans off to save energy.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Chicken and Rice Bake



Submitted by Angel Smith, Gainesville

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups rice
- 3 cubes or scoops of chicken bouillon
- 1 stick butter
- 2 large cans chicken breast (drained and separated with fork)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 large can cream of mushroom
- 1 small can cheddar cheese (can be substituted with cream of mushroom or cream of chicken)
- 1 16 oz. container of sour cream
- 6 cups shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook rice per package directions with the chicken bouillon. Drain chicken and separate with a fork adding salt and pepper to taste. Stir the stick of butter into the rice then add chicken, sour cream, cream of mushroom and cheddar cheese soup. Mix well before spreading into a 13x9 baking dish. As an option, add a little extra sour cream, butter or milk to make it a moist mixture. Salt and pepper to taste, spread in dish and top generously with shredded cheese. Bake for 30 minutes. Optional: Broil for an additional 2 minutes to brown cheese.



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.

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JACKSON EMC'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We know our members may be facing challenges due to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Jackson EMC is focused on the health and well-being of our members, employees and the communities we serve. Take a look at Jackson EMC's response to COVID-19:

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

As always, members who need to make a payment arrangement may call Jackson EMC at 1-800-462-3691. Members are encouraged to pay what they can to avoid a larger bill amount later.

DRIVE-THRUS OPEN

Jackson EMC's offices remain open for drive-thru service only on Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WAYS TO PAY

Members are encouraged to use the MyJacksonEMC mobile app or website to pay their bill, view their energy use or report an outage. More information is available at MyJacksonEMC.com. Members can also pay their bill via an automatic 24/7 system by calling 1-888-228-9166.

For more information, visit jacksonemc.com/waystopay.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
JACKSON EMC'S RESPONSE
TO COVID-19, VISIT
[NEWS.JACKSONEMC.COM/
CORONAVIRUS](http://NEWS.JACKSONEMC.COM/CORONAVIRUS).