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Whatever it Takes: Honoring the Linemen of Altamaha EMC

By George McLendon, General Manager

As we approach Lineman Appreciation Day, I'm reminded of the remarkable dedication and sacrifices made by our linemen here at Altamaha EMC. Having walked in their boots before taking on the role of General Manager, I understand intimately the challenges and rewards of this vital profession.

My journey from lineman to General Manager has been one of profound respect for the men who brave the elements, day, and night, to ensure our community's power remains steady. It's a job that demands unwavering attention to detail, a commitment to safety, and a deep sense of duty.

The Danger

Linework is inherently hazardous; there's no sugarcoating it. Our linemen dance with high-voltage electricity daily, navigating a perilous landscape where the slightest misstep can have catastrophic consequences. Yet, they face this danger head-on, with a resolve born of rigorous training and a profound respect for the power they harness.

From apprenticeship to journeyman status, our linemen undergo years of training, accumulating countless hours of hands-on experience. But education doesn't stop there; it's a lifelong commitment to staying abreast of evolving safety protocols and cutting-edge technologies.

The Physical Demand

The physical demands of linework are as formidable as the dangers they confront. Climbing poles, maneuvering in cramped spaces, and lugging heavy equipment are all in a day's work. Yet, amidst the toil, there's a sense of purpose that propels them forward—the knowledge that

every task completed brings us one step closer to powering our community.

The Sacrifices

The life of a lineman is one of sacrifice, marked by missed celebrations, late nights, and the somber reality of bearing witness to life's most tragic moments. Yet, our linemen stand resolute, knowing that their sacrifices ensure our neighbors can find comfort in the glow of their homes during the darkest hours.

It's Worth It

But amidst the challenges and sacrifices, there's a bond that unites us—a camaraderie forged in the crucible of shared experiences. Altamaha EMC isn't just a workplace; it's a family, bound by a common purpose: to keep the lights on and the community thriving.

For me, there's no greater pride than seeing the impact of our work—the joy on a child's face as the lights flicker back to life, the gratitude in a neighbor's voice as normalcy returns after a storm. It's a reminder that, despite the hardships, our efforts are never in vain.

As members of this community, we understand firsthand the importance of our role. We live, work, and raise our families alongside our fellow citizens, sharing in their triumphs and trials. When the lights dim, we feel it too—and it's that shared experience that drives us to restore power swiftly and safely.

So, as we celebrate **Lineman Appreciation Day**, let us take a moment to honor the linemen of Altamaha EMC—the unsung heroes whose tireless dedication illuminates our lives, whatever it takes.

Peace of Mind when power outages happen

Altamaha EMC (AEMC) has partnered with Generac Power Systems, AMSCO, and GRESKO to offer our members peace of mind when unexpected power outages happen.

A permanently installed Generac home backup generator protects your home automatically. It runs on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel and sits outside, just like a central air conditioning unit. Whole-house generators are wired into your home's electrical system, backing up your entire home or just the most essential items. As soon as the power goes out, they start automatically to keep essential elements of your home running.

If you are interested in a whole-house generator, we will conduct an in-home consultation free of charge. Representatives from our authorized Generac installer, AMSCO, will discuss your backup

power needs and recommend the best standby power system. They will explain installation and help you choose where your generator should be installed. We will provide you with a written estimate; you have no obligation to buy.

If you are just interested in a portable generator, we have you covered. We offer portable generators as well as manual transfer switches. Using a transfer switch is the safest way to connect and use a portable generator. If you already own a portable generator, you can still have a manual transfer switch installed. Please contact us so



we can help you make sure your portable generator is connected correctly.

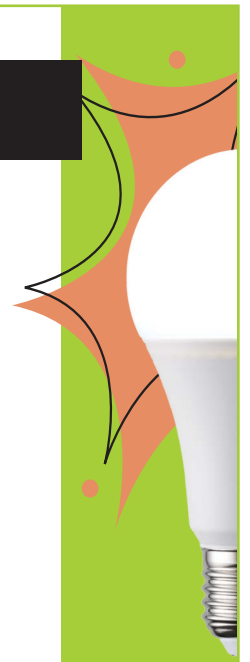
Call 478-315-0817 for more information about these services and financing options through our partnership with Go Energy Financial.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov





Altamaha EMC Foundation Board Member Barry Waller (left) and Tammye Vaughn present check to Loving Lyons Founder Pastor Joseph Akins.

Operation Round-Up Spotlight: Loving Lyons and Beyond

In the heart of Lyons, Georgia, amidst challenging times, a ray of hope shines brightly through the efforts of Loving Lyons and Beyond. This nonprofit organization, established in 2020, has become a beacon of compassion and community support, making a significant impact in Lyons and beyond.

Altamaha EMC Foundation recently extended a generous donation of \$2,500 to Loving Lyons and Beyond, recognizing the organization's outstanding dedication to serving the community. This support is a testament to the collaborative spirit that fuels positive change in our communities.

Loving Lyons and Beyond comprises a dedicated group of local residents driven by a shared passion for helping others. Their mission is simple yet profound: to give back and make a positive impact in the lives of those in need. Since its inception, the organization has rapidly gained momentum and support, touching the lives of countless individuals and families.

Through a variety of initiatives, Loving Lyons and Beyond addresses diverse community needs with compassion and effectiveness. From providing essential resources to those facing insecurity to organizing men's community fellowship sessions, the organization's efforts foster a sense of belonging and support within Lyons.

What sets Loving Lyons and Beyond apart is its remarkable ability to form partnerships and collaborate with other local organizations and businesses. By joining forces with churches, schools, and nonprofits, they amplify their impact and extend their reach, ensuring that support and resources reach those who need them most.

As the organization looks to the future, its vision remains steadfast: to continue serving the community and expanding its reach through fundraising events and donations. With plans to develop new programs and initiatives tailored to evolving community needs, Loving Lyons and Beyond aims to make an even greater impact in Lyons and the surrounding areas.

If you're inspired to get involved or support Loving Lyons and Beyond in their efforts, reach out to Joseph Akins at contact@lovinglyons.org. Your support can help sustain their valuable work and further their impact in the community.





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Member RECIPES

Creamy Nut Pie

INGREDIENTS

1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup flaked coconut(optional)
1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (also mini chips or other flavors work well)
1/2 stick butter
4 oz cream cheese, softened
7 oz can condensed milk
8 oz whip topping
Jar caramel ice cream topping
Graham cracker crust (I use premade)

DIRECTIONS:

In a skillet, lightly toast pecans and (coconut) in the butter. Set aside to cool. Using electric mixer, blend cream cheese, condensed milk & whip topping. Place in pie crusts. Top with toasted nuts (& coconut), then sprinkle chips. Drizzle caramel topping over the top pie (best with half or entire jar). Refrigerate at least 4 hours.
TIP: Can freeze pie as well. The pie cuts best if frozen. Top with more whip topping if desired.

-From the kitchen of Anita Shepherd

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.