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Altamaha EMC Linemen Assist with Winter Storm Restoration in North Georgia

When a powerful winter storm brought snow, ice, and high winds to North Georgia, the resulting damage to power lines and poles left thousands without electricity. Among those stepping up to help restore power in the affected areas were our dedicated linemen from Altamaha EMC. Their efforts highlight the cooperative spirit that defines EMCs and the resilience of the communities we serve.

Altamaha EMC sent a crew to assist Amicalola EMC as they worked tirelessly to address widespread outages across their service territory. The storm's impact was severe, with broken poles, downed lines, and fallen trees creating dangerous and challenging working conditions. From icy roads to freezing temperatures, the restoration efforts required determination and teamwork.

Throughout the restoration process, the Amicalola EMC team provided regular updates on the progress being made. In one report, they noted encountering broken poles on Highway 282 near the Pleasant Gap Substation and in areas like Bent Tree and Rock House Road in Dahlonega. Crews also addressed downed lines in Cherokee County and dealt with obstructions like a car blocking access to an outage on Dickerson Drive

in Ellijay. Despite these challenges, progress was steady, thanks to the hard work and dedication of linemen and support personnel.

By the end of the storm response, power had been restored to nearly all members, with only a few outages remaining. Altamaha EMC's crew played an integral role in these efforts, working alongside Amicalola EMC linemen and contract crews to repair damage and restore service.

"We are so proud of our linemen who answered the call to help another EMC in need," said George McLendon, General Manager of Altamaha EMC. "Their commitment to safety, hard work, and the cooperative principle of helping others is inspiring."

The photos shared by our linemen paint a vivid picture of the conditions they faced, from snow-covered roads to broken poles and tangled lines. Despite these obstacles, our linemen worked with determination and

RESTORATION, continued inside.



Altamaha EMC Foundation

Operation Round Up Spotlight

The Altamaha EMC Foundation, through its Operation Round Up program, is proud to spotlight recent grants awarded to organizations that are making a meaningful difference in our communities.

Supporting Southeast Georgia Rural Community Network (SGRCN)

A grant of \$5,000 was awarded to the Southeast Georgia Rural Community Network (SGRCN), an organization dedicated to improving health outcomes and access to resources in Montgomery, Toombs, Treutlen counties, and surrounding rural areas.

Founded in 2014, SGRCN initially aimed to create the Southeast Georgia Rural Healthcare Collaborative to provide quality care to uninsured and underinsured residents. Over time, the mission expanded to address the broader factors affecting health and wellness. By reducing barriers, providing education, and promoting affordable wellness choices, SGRCN strives to empower families to make healthier decisions. The organization’s quarterly meetings foster collaboration among community partners, ensuring ongoing evaluation of needs and opportunities for impactful programs.

The Operation Round Up grant will help SGRCN continue its mission of creating healthier, more vibrant communities.

Granting Wishes with Make-A-Wish

The Foundation also awarded \$3,000 to Make-A-Wish to help fulfill life-changing wishes for children facing critical illnesses within the Altamaha EMC service territory. These wishes bring hope, joy, and strength to children and their families during difficult times. Whether it’s a dream vacation, a chance to meet a hero, or the creation of a special space at home, Make-A-Wish makes these heartfelt dreams a reality.

The Power of Small Change

These grants are made possible through Operation Round Up, where Altamaha EMC members voluntarily “round up” their monthly electric bills to the next dollar. That small change, pooled together, creates significant impact for local organizations that enrich the lives of our neighbors.

Thank you to our members who participate in Operation Round Up. Your generosity is helping create stronger, healthier communities and bringing smiles to children and families in need.



Wrapped in Savings

Keeping your home properly insulated is one of the best ways to improve energy efficiency while making your home more comfortable year-round. Insulation works like a warm jacket during winter, reducing heat loss, and a cooling shield in the summer, minimizing heat gain. Without proper insulation, your heating and cooling systems must work harder, which can drive up energy costs.

While many older homes may lack sufficient insulation, even newer homes can benefit from upgrades. Adding insulation and sealing air leaks may not be the least expensive home improvement, but it can deliver some of the greatest long-term savings. Proper insulation can significantly enhance your home's comfort by maintaining consistent indoor temperatures, reducing drafts, and improving air quality.

Common areas of the home to insulate include attics, ceilings, crawlspaces, unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located in unconditioned spaces. The type and amount of insulation required will depend on your home's specific needs and location. For homeowners in our area, resources like energy.gov/insulation or your local home improvement store can provide guidance on recommended insulation levels, also known as R-values, based on climate zones.



It's important to understand how insulation is measured. R-value indicates how well a material resists heat flow, and higher R-values mean better insulating performance. Factors such as the climate, the type of heating and cooling system you have, and the areas of your home you plan to insulate will determine the R-value you need.

Insulation is available in a variety of materials, including fiberglass rolls, spray foam, and cellulose made from recycled materials. Each type has unique benefits, so consulting with a professional can help you choose the best option for your home, budget, and climate. A professional can also ensure the insulation is installed correctly for maximum effectiveness.

At Altamaha EMC, we encourage our members to make energy-efficient choices that reduce costs and improve quality of life. Upgrading your home's insulation is one of the smartest investments you can make in your home's energy future. With the right insulation, you can enjoy lower energy bills and a more comfortable home year-round.

Winter Storm Restoration Continued from Front

efficiency to ensure that homes and businesses could once again have power.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our linemen for their dedication and to the members of Amicalola EMC for their support and patience during this difficult time. This effort is a testament to the strength and solidarity of the EMC network, where helping neighbors – near or far – is part of who we are.

To the Altamaha EMC linemen who braved the cold and ice to assist Amicalola EMC, we thank you. Your hard work exemplifies the best of our cooperative values. Thank you for representing Altamaha EMC with excellence and for making a difference when it mattered most.





Deadline Approaching for Foundation Scholarship Applications

Deadline Approaching for Foundation Scholarship Applications Four scholarships, worth \$1,000 each, will be awarded to local students this spring. The Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarship program was founded to help local students further their education. The scholarships are funded entirely by members’ donations through Operation Round Up. Applicants must be a high school senior and live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member. Applications are available on our website, www.altamahaemc.com. You can also request and application from any of our four office locations. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in March 2025. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2025.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energy.gov





Member RECIPES

Georgia Grown Elote (Mexican Street Corn)

INGREDIENTS)

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 whole ears yellow corn, unshucked
5 tablespoons mayonnaise, separated
3 tablespoons sour cream
2 teaspoons freshly squeezed lime juice
Salt and pepper, to taste
4 tablespoons cilantro
1/3 cup crumbled queso fresco
Cilantro leaves, for garnish
1/2 lime, cut into 4 wedges



DIRECTIONS

Combine cayenne pepper, smoked paprika, chili powder and 1/4 teaspoon of salt in a small bowl and set aside. Prepare a charcoal grill for medium-high heat or preheat a gas grill. Shuck corn, leaving the tough woody stem to serve as a handle on the end of each ear. Using 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise, brush each ear, including the handle, and season with additional salt. Grill corn, turning frequently, for about 10 minutes or until fully cooked and charred in some places. Remove corn from heat and season each ear with chili powder mixture. Transfer corn to a serving dish. To make the cilantro-lime crema (optional): In a small bowl, stir together sour cream, the remaining 3 tablespoons of mayonnaise and lime juice. Season with salt and pepper. Using a sharp chef's knife, chop cilantro and crush with the flat of the blade to create a paste. Add crushed cilantro to sour cream, mayonnaise and lime juice mixture. Spoon cilantro-lime crema evenly over the top of each ear of corn. Sprinkle with crumbled queso fresco and chili powder mixture. Garnish with cilantro leaves and serve with lime wedges. Serves 4.

-Courtesy of Georgia Grown