



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

March 2026 • Vol. 47, No. 1

MUTUAL AID: MISSISSIPPI



When severe weather strikes, the strength of the electric cooperative network shines brightest. In the wake of Winter Storm Fern, which left much of western Mississippi coated in ice and facing widespread damage, a team of dedicated linemen from Excelsior EMC stepped up to support our neighbors at Yazoo Valley Electric Power Association.

A crew of six (pictured left to right) — Evan Johnson, Roy Roberts, Jamey Donaldson, Hagan Henry, Evan Durden, and Jessie Harshner — spent nine demanding days on the ground in Mississippi, working long hours in harsh, icy

conditions to help rebuild damaged infrastructure and restore service. Their efforts played a critical role in bringing power back to thousands of Yazoo Valley members during a time when reliable electricity was more important than ever.

Mutual aid is a cornerstone of the cooperative model. When one system is hit hard, others respond—not out of obligation, but out of a shared commitment to serve communities. It's a powerful reminder that our mission goes beyond poles and wires; it's about neighbors helping neighbors and ensuring no community faces a crisis alone.

We couldn't be prouder of how our crew represented Excelsior EMC, demonstrating professionalism, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to service. Their willingness to leave home, endure difficult conditions, and work tirelessly speaks volumes about the character of cooperative lineworkers.

At the height of the storm's impact, roughly 200,000 electric meters across the state were without power, including nearly 7,000 in Yazoo Valley's service area. While some outages were tied to transmission challenges, many required extensive distribution repairs—work that mutual aid crews helped accelerate.

To our linemen: thank you for your sacrifice, your skill, and your commitment to keeping the lights on—wherever you're needed.



Line Items

Joseph Jones
Editor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Anderson <i>Chairman</i>	Statesboro, Georgia
Wade Hodges <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Statesboro, Georgia
G.W. Johnson <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Twin City, Georgia
Jordy Carter	Metter, Georgia
David Cromley	Brooklet, Georgia
Amy Hendrix	Metter, Georgia
Russell Mathis	Statesboro, Georgia
Grady McCray	Metter, Georgia
Solly Trapnell	Statesboro, Georgia

Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Bill Walden
Executive Vice President

Howard Porter
Vice President, Engineering Services

Lindy Chester
Vice President, Finance and Member Services

Bronson Bragdon
Director of Marketing and Communications

Josh Holland
Director of Operations

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**When Your Power is Off – Call
(912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123**

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

LINE ITEMS (ISSN 1089-9987) is published monthly for \$1.00 per year by Excelsior EMC, 2574 Northside Dr West, Statesboro, GA 30458. Periodicals postage paid at Statesboro, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LINE ITEMS, P.O. Box 297, Metter, Georgia 30439

Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Right-of-Way Update

Vegetation is by far the greatest enemy of reliable power. Keeping trees and limbs out of power lines prevents outages. Excelsior EMC manages the growth of vegetation near power lines in two ways. Side-trimming crews use mechanical trimmers and bucket trucks to remove trees and limbs from the areas near power lines. Spray crews manage the vegetation underneath power lines by selectively spraying woody trees and shrubs that could grow into the power lines or hinder the work of crews as they perform routine maintenance and restore power during outages.

Our contractors are actively engaged in side-trimming activities at the I16-301 and Register Substations. These substations provide service to our members located in the Nevils, Claxton, Register, and Pulaski communities. The completion of this work is projected for April of this year. Following the completion of the side-trimming at the I16-301 and Register Substations, our contractors will proceed to the Metter Substation. This substation serves the Excelsior, Metter, and Aline communities. The trimming work at the Metter Substation is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Our contract spraying crews will begin their work in late summer and should finish before the first frost. They will be treating roughly 750 miles of right of way on the Clito, Southeast Bulloch, I16-301, Jimps and Pine Inn Substations. These areas include Clito, Middleground, Leefield, Nevils, Denmark, Claxton, Excelsior, Brooklet, Arcola, Lane's Church, Country Club, Turkey Trail, Southern Comfort, and Smith Creek.

Our goal is simple: Keep the trees trimmed back 15 feet from each side of a single-phase power line and 20 feet from each side a three-phase power line and keep the areas under power lines free from vegetation that interferes with crews as they maintain or restore power. While the goal is simple, achieving the goal requires hard work. We need your cooperation. Right-of-way work is often in places that are difficult to reach. It is also physically demanding. You can help us keep your power on by cooperating with our contractors when they are trimming or spraying in your area.

We have over 3,500 miles of primary power lines throughout our eight-county service area. It takes four years to complete a side-trimming cycle and three years to complete a spraying cycle. Your cooperation is essential and greatly appreciated as we strive to keep the lights on.



Every Member Counts

ROY ROBERTS PROMOTED



Excelsior EMC is proud to announce the promotion of Roy Roberts from Apprentice Lineman to Lineman. Achieving this milestone takes years of rigorous testing, hands-on field training, and an unwavering commitment to the craft — a true testament to Roy's hard work and dedication.

Now in his sixth year with Excelsior EMC, Roy has consistently demonstrated the skill, determination, and teamwork that define our line crews. We are proud of his accomplishment and look forward to watching him continue to grow and succeed in his career.

*Remember to
Spring Forward
One Hour!*
Daylight Savings
Time Begins
Sunday, March 8th.



New Face: **WILKES BLACK**



Excelsior EMC is pleased to welcome Wilkes Black as the newest member of our line crew, joining us in the Groundman position. Wilkes brings valuable experience from working with another utility and has completed formal lineworker training at Coastal Pines Technical College, giving him a strong foundation for success in the field.

We're excited to have Wilkes on the team at Excelsior EMC and look forward to seeing him grow and thrive in this role as he builds his career in the line trade.

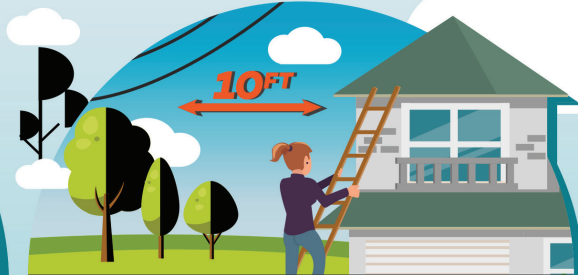
Home Electrical Safety

Always Look Up Always

Before starting **any** project, **be alert of where the power lines are located**, and know how high they are hanging. Whether you're working on the roof, trimming trees, or painting your siding, it's your job to be aware and to **alert others about nearby power lines**.



1. Locate **all** overhead power lines.



2. Stay at least **10 feet away** from all overhead power lines.



3. **Do not touch** anything in contact with power line.



4. Carry ladders and equipment **horizontally**.



5. Stay at least **35 feet away** from downed power lines and call 911.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT
STATESBORO, GA 30458