

**ScholarSHIP and LeaderSHIP
Opportunities Available**

**CALL OR CLICK
BEFORE YOU DIG**

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

December 2012



Take the
High-Tech
Road

To Stay Warm This Winter



President/CEO
Randall Pugh

Beware of Phony Utility Worker Scams

Trust. Whether you believe it's earned or given freely, we can all agree that once it's broken, the costs are high emotionally and sometimes monetarily. When you see our name or logo, we hope trust comes to mind for you as well. However, if the person wearing that logo does anything suspicious, we encourage you to contact the proper authorities.

You may have seen news stories about people impersonating utility workers to gain access to homes or steal money. Here's what you need to know about us so that you don't fall victim to this scam.

1. Jackson EMC personnel should be able to show you a company-issued ID badge upon request.
2. Cooperative personnel should be driving a marked vehicle with the Jackson EMC logo. If it's an approved contractor working on behalf of JEMC, they should still have a decal that reads: **Contractor for Jackson EMC**. If not, call our office to confirm that they are doing work in the area.
3. Jackson EMC personnel shouldn't have to perform any repairs or work inside your home. If a meter is located in an addition to the home or basement, you will be contacted by phone. JEMC personnel will not come to your home without an appointment.
4. Jackson EMC personnel are NEVER allowed to take payment for your bill at your home. If you're asked for payment, be sure to call our office.
5. While you may receive prerecorded messages reminding you that your electric bill is past due, our employees will not contact you and request payment over the phone. You'll need to contact us to make payments or payment arrangements. If someone is impersonating JEMC or any

utility, ask to call them back and be sure you call the utility's number listed on your bill and not the number the person over the telephone gives you. It could be a phony number that rings back to the perpetrators.

6. Guard your license, electric account number and other details. You can make JEMC payments through a secured site. We'll never ask you to provide those details through email or fax.
7. Sign up for paperless billing. It's more secure than receiving paper statements because paper-based information and mail fraud are much bigger threats for identity theft.

In addition to protecting your identity from scammers who prey on utility victims, you should also protect your identity in the digital world. While Facebook, Twitter and other social sites keep us connected, simple precautions can keep our belongings protected. Now that the holidays are here, be sure your status updates don't indicate that you'll be traveling or away from your home. Save the photos and posts until after you return.

Now's the time to consider your home's security as well. EMC Security earns your trust each day with no contracts, hidden fees or confusing language. Whether you travel a lot or stay close to home, consider EMC Security's affordable monitoring service, which starts at \$16.95 a month.

Remember, if there's ever a question about whether you're dealing with a JEMC employee, close the door or end the call and contact our office to confirm. If someone is abusing our identity, we want to know about it so that we can alert our members to be on the lookout.

We wish you and yours safe and happy holidays. ▲

JEMCO news

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Jackson EMC Returns \$5 Million in Margin Refunds to Members

Cooperative membership comes with benefits. This year, approximately 180,000 Jackson EMC members will receive a margin refund.

Checks totaling \$5 million hit members' mailboxes this month. Revenues are refunded for a combination of years so both longtime and newer members benefit from their cooperative membership. This year, members with service in 1988 and 2011 were selected.

We're a not-for-profit, member-owned organization. At the end of each year, our board can return a portion of the revenues above the cost of doing business. The sum of the refund check is based on the amount each member paid for electric service during the years listed.



Has Your 'Ship Come In?

ScholarSHIP and LeaderSHIP Opportunities Available Applications are online now for Jackson EMC Scholarships.

Looking for Scholarships?

Traditional and non-traditional students are eligible to apply for the the A.T. Sharpton—Restricted Gainesville State College, A.T. Sharpton—Unrestricted (any accredited college, university or technical college in the U.S.) and the Walter-Harrison (restricted to Georgia colleges). Applications are accepted **November 12, 2012 through January 24, 2013.**

In Search of Leadership Opportunities?

In addition to a backstage pass to our nation's leadership process in Washington, D.C., the Washington Youth Tour delegate opportunity is a boost to scholarship applications and resumes.


Selected delegates will win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the Washington Youth Tour scheduled for **June 13-20, 2013.**

JEMC's delegates will join more than 1,500 highly talented, ambitious young people from across the country to experience our nation's capital and further develop their leadership skills. The tour was inspired by then Senator Lyndon Johnson at a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association meeting.

Delegates must be 16 years old by the Washington Youth Tour. High school sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply. There are four

delegate spots available. If you're interested, please see your high school counselor or guidance office for an application. **Applications are available through all high schools in the JEMC service area. Deadlines are set by each high school, so inquire today. For more information, visit www.jacksonemc.com/wyt.**

Not Old Enough to Set Sail?

For younger family members who aren't old enough to take advantage of our scholarship and leadership programs, help them log on to our Kids' pages. Our kids' pages offer interactive learning for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Visit www.jacksonemc.com/kidspages for a variety of tools, videos and activity sheets. 

How to Apply

See your high school counselor, check our website at www.jacksonemc.com/scholarships or visit North Georgia Community Foundation's website at www.ngcf.org.

DEADLINE: Completed applications are due to North Georgia Community Foundation by 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2013.

Mail Applications to:

Scholarships Manager
North Georgia Community Foundation
615-F Oak Street, Ste. 1300
Gainesville, GA 30501
For questions: (770) 535-7880, ext. 226
or email cflack@ngcf.org

Take the High-Tech Road

To Stay Warm This Winter

Your eyes may not see, but your body can feel cold drafts that interrupt your warm and cozy evenings. Consumers are taking charge of their home's comfort and going high-tech to uncover where they're losing energy and money.

A Right Choice™ Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® audit comes with the technology, equipment and expertise that's worth the low-cost investment. From the infrared thermal cameras used to spot where hot air is escaping to sophisticated airflow tests, the high-tech audit provides scientific analysis of how your home's energy efficiency stacks up.

The United States Defense Department first used infrared thermal cameras to help soldiers see enemies at night. Large businesses used the technology to locate overheating equipment or leaking roofs in factories. Now this technology

is used during your high-tech audit. With the ability to see behind your walls, cold spots are identified and recommendations to correct them are provided for you the same day.

The blower door test and airflow measurement feed data to a computer program that's been personalized with your home's measurements and features. Technicians leave you with a detailed analysis of your home's energy use, complete with prioritized recommendations so that you can decide which areas you want to address first.

The audit takes approximately three hours to conduct, and starts at \$350.



Check out the incentive program to help offset audit costs:

- Jackson EMC offers up to \$400 in incentives for energy efficient improvements.
- Save energy, save money. You could save between 20-30 percent on heating and cooling bills each year.

Stay Warm This Winter, Call Us Today

Call 1-800-462-3691 to schedule your high-tech audit today. It's worth the investment, and the scientific analysis provides you the information you need to take control of your energy bill.

Check Out Our Do-It-Yourself Energy Efficiency Tips Online

Visit us online to watch videos and get tips on how to check your home's energy efficiency. Our energy analyzers and calculators will get you started. Visit www.jacksonemc.com/analyzer.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

Jackson EMC is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the following: the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended; Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, as amended; Section 42 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended; 41 CFR Part 60-300, and other protected veterans; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor, OFCCP which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission, or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is William P. Ormsby, Manager, Corporate Administration. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250, and the Director, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. ▲

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation Awards Nearly \$82,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$81,965 in grants during their October meeting, including \$73,000 to organizations and \$8,965 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to the Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center to provide child forensic interviews of child sexual abuse victims, which can include duplication of testimony and evidence for law enforcement, child protective services and the courts, as well as follow-up exams for at risk children to protect against and treat sexually transmitted diseases resulting from their victimization.

\$15,000 to Rainbow Village, a Duluth nonprofit that helps families in domestic or economic crisis rebuild their lives, to provide residents of its transitional housing case management to develop comprehensive self-sufficiency plans and contracts, and evaluate their progress in meeting family financial plans and goals.

\$11,000 to Gainesville Action Ministries

a network of more than 20 Hall County congregations that work to prevent homelessness by providing emergency financial, food and clothing assistance, and children's services, to help provide rent assistance, a financial workshop and GED test fees.

\$10,000 to Family Promise of Gwinnett County

for its Family Mentoring Program, which assigns trained volunteer mentors who work one-on-one over an extended period of time with low-income families that have overcome homelessness to help them manage stresses that can disrupt their lives and lead to recurring homelessness.

\$7,500 to the Banks County Senior Center

to help fund the Home Delivered Meals program, which allows older citizens who are homebound to maintain independence and dignity,

while receiving nutritious meals, additional wellness services and opportunities for social contact.

\$5,000 to Rock Goodbye Angel, a nonprofit serving Hall and Gwinnett counties, to help provide a support system and peer support network for women and families who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth, perinatal or neonatal death.

\$4,000 to Prevent Child Abuse-Athens, a grassroots organization focused on ending neglect and abuse, to offer the First Steps primary prevention program that offers support, parenting education and community referrals to new parents to help them with the challenges of parenting.

\$3,000 to the Madison County Youth Leadership Development Program, which uses instructional

materials from the University of Georgia's Fannin Institute to teach Madison County High School students skills that will allow them to be effective leaders, for a ropes course at Camp Mikell Blue Ridge Outdoor Center and instructor/participant manuals.

\$2,500 to Spirit of Joy Food Bank in Flowery Branch to purchase food for the more than 30 families they serve in an average month.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,500 to install a wheelchair lift for a **disabled woman**.

\$3,115 to replace a heat pump for a **senior citizen**.

\$1,800 to help replace a new heat pump for a **disabled woman**.

\$550 to help purchase a lift chair for a **disabled man**.

YOU CAN NOW CALL OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

Planning home improvement, preparing for a landscaping project or installing a fence or deck, you can now create a work order with Call Before You Dig online. Georgians can call 811 to schedule utilities to mark underground lines before digging, and now the service is available through a web ticket process.

Notify Call Before You Dig online at www.georgia811.com/quiktik.aspx. Here's how it works:

Step 1: Complete the eTicket questions online.

Step 2: Your eTicket is submitted to a Georgia 811 customer service representative.

Step 3: You'll be called or emailed if the representative has questions about your eTicket.

Step 4: You'll receive a confirmation email that your request has been processed, along with a list of all the utilities contacted regarding your request. Your request is processed within 12 business hours if received (M-F). You'll

be able to dig once you receive a copy of your completed eTicket.

Step 5: Georgia law requires that you wait until the date on your eTicket before mechanized excavation can begin. To ensure your safety, it's also recommended that you wait until you receive clearance for any digging project.

NOTE: The person who will be digging needs to submit the eTicket request. For example, if you've hired a contractor or landscaping company, they will need to complete the eTicket for the work.



Step 6: If Georgia 811 is unable to reach you, they'll wait 24 hours for you to respond. If they don't hear from you, they'll consider your request null and void and you'll need to start the process again.

For questions, call 811 or submit questions to homeowner.eticket@georgia811.com.

smartconnections

Get Your Moisture in Check

If you have signs of excess moisture in your house such as mold, mildew, musty odors or condensation on the inside of your windows, your crawlspace may be the culprit, even if it seems dry.

Traditionally, crawlspaces have been vented to remove moisture, and any insulation was installed under the floor between the crawlspace and the house. Research has shown that unvented crawlspaces with sealed and insulated foundation walls and proper groundcover provides better moisture control in warm humid climates.

During summer, when warm humid air contacts cooler surfaces, such as the bottom of the floor, floor joists and duct work, the moisture in the air condenses on the cool surfaces. In addition to increasing moisture in the house, this moisture can eventually damage wood. In winter, the foundation may be colder than the crawlspace air, creating condensation. In humid environments, fiberglass insulation installed under the floor can absorb moisture, reducing its effectiveness.

A better approach is an unvented crawlspace with sealed and insulated foundation walls and groundcover. An unvented or encapsulated crawlspace has closed and sealed vents and insulated and sealed foundation walls. A heavy-duty vapor barrier with overlapped and sealed seams covers the exposed earth. Exterior doors are

insulated and weather-stripped. Gaps in the foundation wall and between the foundation and the framing are sealed to keep out humid outside air. Because there is no outside ventilation, any type of combustion appliance such as a gas furnace should have an outdoor air supply and be vented to the outside.

Insulation choices include closed-cell polyurethane spray foam, rigid foam insulation or insulation batts. Whatever type of insulation is used should meet code requirements for that type of installation.

An unvented crawlspace saves energy, because it more effectively seals out outside air and reduces heat and cooling losses from ducts. It also decreases the chance of frozen pipes. For new construction, builders can use products that offer both foundation structure and insulation.

While crawlspace encapsulation is generally a job for a licensed contractor, there are do-it-yourself materials available for the handy homeowner. For detailed information about unvented crawlspaces, go to www.crawlspaces.org.

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PERIODICALS
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www.jacksonemc.com

what's cookin'?

Cooperative **Cooking**

Each month *Jemco News* features recipes which represent the people and products of Jackson EMC. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Jackson EMC area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to:

Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549

Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Jemco News* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.

Peanut Butter Crispy Treats

Ingredients:

- 1 cup white corn syrup
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ stick of butter
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 5 cups Rice Krispies®

Instructions:

Bring syrup, sugar and butter to a slow boil (don't want a bubbling boil, just hot enough to melt the ingredients). Stir in peanut butter. Remove from heat and add Rice Krispies. Use tablespoon to drop onto wax paper or line nonstick pan with wax paper and spread mixture evenly. Allow to cool and cut into squares. Treats will harden as they cool.