

**You've Got the Goal,
Back it Up with Some Cash**

**WHY GOING
PAPERLESS SAVES**

JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

November 2012

When Old Man Winter Gets Grumpy,
GET PREPARED



President/CEO
Randall Pugh

Randall Pugh

Safety in Numbers

Falls, poisoning and fires are the top three causes of death in the home, respectively. In 2010, 47 percent of injuries occurred in the home according to the National Health Interview survey. Experts say many of these injuries and accidents are preventable, but we have to do our part.

Here are a few things you can do to ensure your family's safety.

- Install smoke detectors in each bedroom and sleeping area and carbon dioxide detectors on every floor in your home. If you didn't change your batteries when Daylight Saving Time ended a few weeks ago, now's the time to make the change and test your alarms.
- Check for overloaded extension cords and outlets to prevent fires or shock injuries. Now that the holiday season is here, many of us will put up holiday lights and yard décor. Be sure your outdoor extension cords and décor are labeled for outdoor use. Check for frayed cords, and be sure not to exceed the recommended wattage.
- Use caution when placing extension cords to prevent trips and falls. Be sure you don't put cords under rugs. This creates a fire hazard.
- Childproof your home if children live there or visit often. Cover outlets to prevent children from sticking objects or fingers in. Secure bookshelves, file cabinets and other furniture so that they don't tip over and fall.
- Check your ground fault circuit interrupters regularly. All major appliances should be grounded.

- Look for the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) mark on products that have been tested and approved for safety, especially for extension cords and holiday lights.
- Put medications on high shelves and out of children's reach or in cabinets with child safety locks. Check your drawers, purses and pockets to be sure there's no over-the-counter or prescription medicines within reach.
- Keep fire extinguishers in an easily accessible place and be sure to check their expiration dates.
- Practice fire drills and escape routes with the family in case of fire or other emergencies.

Back up your safety precautions with the security experts. If you don't have a security system, consider signing up with EMC Security. The service is affordable with packages starting at \$16.95 per month, and there's no contract. EMC Security also offers wireless services and the medical alert pendant so that monitoring is there even when you can't be.

Whether it's preparing for severe weather, preventing accidents or securing your belongings, doing something to ensure your safety today could prevent you or a loved one from being an injury statistic.

Enjoy this holiday season, and above all, be safe. ▲

JEMCO news

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Visit our Kids' Pages for Safety, Science and More

Start mousing around our kids' pages. Packed with science, games, activities and safety information, the Jackson EMC Kids' pages have everything for your kindergarten through sixth grade child.

Visit www.jacksonemc.com/kidspages for a variety of tools, videos and activity sheets. Once the safety section is completed, young members can print out their personalized Safety Certificate.

The pages aren't just for kids; there's something for parents and teachers as well. Teachers can access



free experiments and activities. The site supports Georgia State Performance Standards. Parents may enjoy the home inspection portals on home safety and energy efficiency.

We even have an Ask the Expert section. You can submit your questions about energy, and an expert will answer you. Mark the Jackson EMC's Kids' pages as your favorite, and visit repeatedly. ▲

You've Got the Goal,

Back it Up with Some Cash

Scholarship Applications Accepted Nov. 12, 2012-Jan. 24, 2013

If you're enrolled or preparing to enter college, you know the type of investment you'll need to cover tuition and other expenses. Higher learning doesn't come cheap, and fortunately, there are scholarships to help.

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 schools).

Who's Eligible?

- Entering freshmen or currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students attending an accredited college, university or technical college.
- Applicants who are part- or full-time students.
- Applicants must be members of Jackson EMC or the sons or daughters of a member and a resident of the home served by Jackson EMC.

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

Making the Most of Your Money

The estimated \$22,300 yearly total price (including tuition, room, board, books and fees) for the average public college takes nearly a third of the annual income of a typical family with college-aged kids, and costs are expected to increase by 3 percent each year. There are a few things students can do to minimize tuition costs.

- Meet with an academic advisor to plan your required courses. Try to take electives that will support various majors, just in case you change your mind along the way. Having to take additional prerequisite courses can extend your matriculation beyond four years.
- If you're in high school, take advantage of the Advanced Placement programs that allow you to take college courses while still in high school or take the tests to exempt some courses. You could finish college in less than four years, and save yourself some tuition money as well.
- Research scholarship and grant opportunities. Meet with your school counselors, search the Internet and check with your college's financial aid department.
- Look for opportunities to work while you get valuable resume building experience. For instance, if there's a part-time opportunity in the chemistry lab and you're a biology major, there's an opportunity to make money, learn the field and have something for the resume. ▲

WHEN OLD MAN WINTER GETS GRUMPY,

GET PREPARED

Winter weather is unpredictable. In an instant we can go from beautiful blankets of snow to strong winds and ice-laden power lines. When severe weather strikes, are you prepared?

Winter weather is unpredictable. In an instant we can go from beautiful blankets of snow to strong winds and ice-laden power lines. When severe weather strikes, are you prepared?

Implementing a few safety tips will help you and your family prepare before the storm.

- **Stock up on water, medicines, nonperishable and baby foods.** Our last winter storm closed many businesses and stores for a couple of days. Dangerous road conditions made traveling to open locations even worse. Having what you need stored away for emergencies helps.
- **Stock your emergency supplies kit with the following:**
 - Rock salt to melt ice on walkways.
 - Sand to help prevent slips and falls.
 - Snow shovels or snow removal equipment.
 - Blankets and clothing to help keep you warm if the power goes out.
 - Heating fuel or dry wood for the fireplace.
- **Keep your freezer door closed.** If power goes out, your freezer's contents will stay cool longer.



- **Minimize travel.** If you have to travel, be sure your car has a disaster supplies kit.
- **Establish a family communications plan.** Designate an out-of-town point of contact for family members to check in with their location if the storm impacts telephone lines and cell tower reception. Make sure each member knows how to contact each other, and the plan for reconnecting if you're separated during the storm.
- **Bring pets and companion animals inside during severe winter weather.** For livestock, be sure they are in a covered place with adequate drinking water.
- **Listen to a weather radio or monitor the weather on a battery-operated Wi-Fi-enabled device such as a laptop or tablet.** Try to reserve your phone's battery life in case family members need to reach you or you need to contact emergency services.



Five Steps to Power Restoration

When severe weather strikes, our line crews and staff go into action answering outage calls and making power line repairs. Here's a quick view of how it all comes together.

1. Big lines, big numbers. Transmission lines and towers are reliable and rarely get damaged. When they do, they get attention first because they serve tens of thousands of people.
2. We check our local substation to see if the problem is there or if the transmission line supplying the substation is damaged. Substations serve thousands of members, and our job is to get power restored to as many members as possible.
3. If the substation is clear, we then check the main feeder (three-phase) lines coming out of the substations. These lines carry electricity from the substation to groups of members, such as a town or housing development.
4. Once the main feeders are on, we can start to work on the taps or single-phase lines that carry power to utility poles and underground transformers outside homes and buildings. Line crews follow this power restoration sequence to get the largest number of members' power back on in the shortest amount of time.
5. Sometimes damage occurs on the service line between your home and the transformer on the pole. This explains why your power is out and your neighbor's isn't. If you have damage to the service line at or past the meter base or weatherhead, you'll need to call a licensed electrician to make the repair. Be sure to call us to disconnect the service before your electrician begins the repair.

To quickly report outages, be sure to set up your Account Profile online at www.jacksonemc.com. When major storms and outages occur, follow us on Facebook and Twitter for storm restoration updates: www.facebook.com/jacksonemc or www.twitter.com/jacksonemc.  



Helping Our Neighbors in the Tough Times

Jackson EMC is a Project SHARE partner, a program that supports people in emergencies and crises. When our neighbors need help with utility bills, food and clothing, or items that don't fall under the Jackson EMC Foundation, they can apply for emergency assistance through The Salvation Army's® Project SHARE program.

Because we're partners, you can participate by adding a \$1, \$2 or \$5 contribution to your bill each month. The amount you choose will be automatically added to your electric bill and you can discontinue at any time. Contributions are allocated for assistance in the county where the donation was made, so you know you're helping people in your community.

Jackson EMC members and employees donated \$45,083 to Project SHARE in 2011.

You can sign up for Project SHARE online. Visit us at www.jacksonemc.com and log in to your Account Profile. If you haven't created an Account Profile, now's a good time. You can view your billing history, report outages and more.

You can also sign up for Project SHARE on your November bill insert. Simply complete the form and return it with your bill payment.

For more information on Project SHARE, call 1-800-25-SHARE (74273). ▲



operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation Awards Nearly \$70,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$69,693 in grants during their September meeting, including \$68,000 to organizations and \$1,693 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to the Gwinnett Housing Resource Partnership in Duluth, to help pay childcare expenses for homeless families in the Transitional Housing Program, so that adults can seek and gain employment to help them make permanent lifestyle changes.

\$10,000 to St. Vincent de Paul - St. Monica's Conference in Duluth, to help provide Gwinnett County families and individuals in need with funds for emergency shelter, rent, food, medical needs, transportation, clothing and general assistance.

\$10,000 to St. Vincent de Paul - St. Michael's Conference in Gainesville to help provide Hall County families and individuals in need with funds for housing assistance, including rent, mortgage payments or temporary housing when needed.

\$10,000 to Tiny Stitches, Inc. in Suwanee, which uses a network of volunteers to make handmade tote bags filled with a 37-item layette which are donated to mothers in nine North Georgia counties who have little or nothing for their newborns.

\$7,500 to For Her Glory, a Gainesville agency that provides breast cancer patients with items that are not covered by insurance, such as wigs, bras, compression sleeves and gloves.

\$5,500 to Place of Seven Springs, a Snellville non-profit which provides food and emergency assistance to Gwinnett County residents in need, to provide funds for food and non-narcotic prescription medicine.

\$5,000 to the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta to fund the Girls Excelling in Middle School program, which encourages

adoption of healthy lifestyles and avoidance of risky behaviors, at Sweetwater, Moore and Richards Middle Schools in Gwinnett County.

\$5,000 to Teen Pregnancy Prevention in Gainesville to help fund the "Choosing the Best Journey" program, which takes the messages of healthy futures, decision making and abstinence to ninth grade health classes in Hall County and Gainesville City Schools.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$1,693 to help purchase a hearing aid for a **hearing-impaired woman**.


THE GREAT PAPER ESCAPE GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

Two lucky members will get ENERGY STAR® rated appliances thanks to the \$2,500 Great Paper Escape shopping spree grand prize.

Since its Earth Day launch, the Great Paper Escape awarded two lucky members who signed up that week a \$100 gift card. All paperless billing members (previous and new) were entered into the final drawing for one of two \$2,500 ENERGY STAR® appliance shopping sprees.

Tracy McClung of Braselton and **Rose Kimani** of Duluth won the chance to shop at our partner stores for the appliances, including big-ticket items such as HVAC units and water heaters, that will make their homes more energy efficient. "We congratulate our grand prize winners, and thank all our paperless billing members for helping us reduce our postage costs and do something good for the environment by reducing

the amount of paper we use," says Randall Pugh, Jackson EMC President/CEO.

You can still do something good for the environment and sign up for paperless billing. Each month you'll receive an email letting you know that your bill is ready for viewing. It's quick, convenient and most of all, secure. You can see a complete list of our The Great Paper Escape winners and sign up for paperless billing today at www.jacksonemc.com/paperless. 



smartconnections

Why Going Paperless Saves

Switching from paper bills and checks to electronic billing and payment can save money, save the environment, save time and save you from identity theft.

Save Money

- The costs of postage and checks for paying bills can add up to more than \$100 per year. You can avoid those costs by making payments electronically, either using online bill pay through your bank or credit union or by automatic drafts from banks or credit cards.
- Automatic online payments help you avoid late fees and damage to your credit score.
- Paperless billing also saves money for your billers. For example, Jackson EMC spends nearly \$1.2 million a year to mail paper bills. Since Jackson EMC is a cooperative, any reduction in costs will benefit all our members.

Save the Environment

PayItGreen.org estimates that, including such costs as making paper, printing checks and mailing, paper checks use more than 674 million gallons of fuel and add more than 3.6 million tons of greenhouse gases to the environment.

Save Time

- The average consumer saves 2.5 minutes per bill or about 30 minutes a month by paying electronically instead of with checks.
- Electronic billing and payment also saves the time it takes to keep track of paper bills. Your account information can be accessed online 24 hours a day.

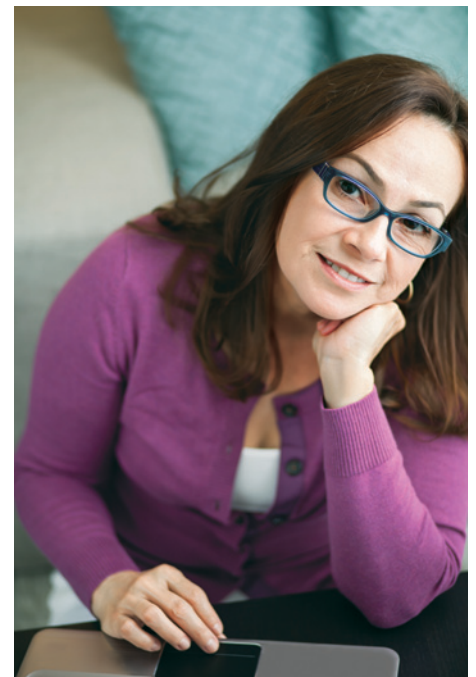
Save Yourself from Identity Theft

While many people are afraid that online transactions are more vulnerable to fraud and identity theft, in fact almost 85 percent of fraud and identity theft comes from paper transactions such as lost or stolen checks and bills.


Going Paperless Is Easy

These days, most companies you regularly receive paper bills from offer e-bills instead. It's usually simple to sign up.

To sign up for electronic billing from Jackson EMC, sign into "My Account" and choose the "Paperless Billing" option. You can set up an automatic bank draft payment



in your account profile or use the online bill pay service of your bank or credit union to pay electronically. You can also pay online with a credit card for a fee.

Go paperless today and see how easy it is to save with online billing and payments. 

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District Manager

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.

Stuffed Portobello Mushrooms

Ingredients:

4 large portobello mushroom caps, stems and gills removed	salt and ground black pepper to taste	¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon reduced-fat Italian salad dressing	1 (10 ounce) bag of fresh spinach, chopped	¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1 egg	¼ cup chopped pepperoni	4 tablespoons seasoned bread crumbs, divided
1 clove garlic, minced		

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Brush both sides of each portobello mushroom cap with Italian dressing. Arrange mushroom on a baking sheet, gill sides up. Bake mushrooms in the preheated oven until tender, about 12 minutes. Drain any juice that has formed in the mushrooms. Beat egg, garlic, salt and black pepper together in a large bowl. Stir spinach, pepperoni, Parmesan cheese, 3 tablespoons mozzarella cheese and 3 tablespoons bread crumbs into the eggs until evenly mixed. Divide spinach mixture over mushroom caps; sprinkle mushrooms with remaining 1 tablespoon mozzarella cheese and 1 tablespoon bread crumbs. Return mushrooms to the oven. Continue baking until topping is golden brown and cheese is melted, about 10 minutes more.