

Out with the Old, In with the New  
*How a HomePlus Loan Can Help*

ANNUAL MEETING  
NOTICE TO MEMBERS

# JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JEMCO EMC MEMBERS news



## LEARNING That STEMs from the Sun

**15 middle schools competed for top honors  
with their solar-powered cars at Road Atlanta**



President/CEO  
Randall Pugh

## 75 Years of People. Power. Progress.

This year's Annual Meeting marks a milestone year for us – 75 years of providing reliable, affordable power. We're celebrating our heritage and all that we've experienced in 75 years that has made us what we are today.

On June 27, 1938, Jackson EMC was chartered to provide electric service to the rural communities that didn't have electricity. Together, neighbors, friends, farmers and businesspeople would contribute and help gather the \$5 membership fee necessary to join the cooperative. Seventy-five years later, membership remains \$5, but a few things have changed along the way.

Jackson EMC now serves 10 counties and serves nearly 210,000 meters. Although we're the largest cooperative in the state and the second largest in the country, our electric rates remain 17 percent below the national average and 11 percent below the state average.

In next month's issue of *Jemco News*, you'll see the financial statements for the previous fiscal year; however, attending Annual Meeting will give you a more in-depth view of the cooperative's business operations and plans. You'll also have an opportunity to meet the board members, management team and employees who serve you.

If you'd like to know more about our products and services, learn about our partners such as the credit union or take advantage of the health fair services, we have something for you at Annual Meeting. Our young members will enjoy the carnival rides and craft areas. Our traditional barbecue dinner will be served, and this year's gospel entertainment won't disappoint.

Most of us weren't yet born when Jackson EMC was chartered. The numbers of those who remember what life was like before electricity and what it took to form this cooperative shrink each year. Jackson EMC's is a proud history, and there is a sense of purpose that is reborn in each generation of employees who work at this cooperative to bring power to our members. As we celebrate 75 years of service, it's a good time to look back on what has changed and appreciate what remains the same.

We've launched a special 75th anniversary website to commemorate this occasion. Here you'll find pictures, short stories and more. Visit us at [www.jacksonemc.com/75](http://www.jacksonemc.com/75).

Join us as we celebrate this milestone year, and learn more about your electric cooperative's history. Reservation cards will be in next month's *Jemco News*, and you'll be able to RSVP online as well. ▲

### JEMCO news

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### Visit Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Website to Learn More About Your Cooperative

On June 27, 1938, Jackson Electric Membership Corporation was chartered. As we celebrate this milestone year, we invite you to share our history and heritage through imagery and words. Our 75th Anniversary website takes you on a journey through 75 years of Jackson EMC, and gives you a glimpse of what life was like before electricity and how far we've come. Our story of People. Power. Progress. is catalogued here, [www.jacksonemc.com/75](http://www.jacksonemc.com/75).



Make it an educational experience, and share with your kids. You're guaranteed to learn something new about the "old cooperative days."



# LEARNING That STEMs from the Sun

American students score 23rd in math and 31st in science when compared with 65 other top industrial countries according to the Program for International Student Assessment, known as PISA. Students' performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education has ignited national and local efforts to engage U.S. middle- and high-schoolers in these studies. Jackson EMC's Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) event focuses on STEM development while having fun.

Road Atlanta was the backdrop for Jackson EMC's JSS race where 15 middle schools competed for top honors in the Speed/Performance and Design/Engineering categories. While the Speed/Performance category determines how quickly the cars can cross the finish line, the Design/Engineering category measures how well the cars are constructed and the teams' creativity.

All participants received identical solar panels and motors in kits; however, the students could be creative when selecting

materials for their chassis, wheels, transmissions and designs. Encouraged to use math and science principles, students also had the opportunity to include a little creativity in this fun, hands-on educational program.

Chestatee Middle School, in Hall County, claimed first place in Speed/Performance, with Winder Barrow Middle taking second place, followed by West Hall Middle for third. Winder Barrow continued their winning streak in the Design/Engineering category with a first place trophy. North Gwinnett placed

second and Creekland Middle, in Gwinnett County, placed third in this category.

"The JSS is designed to teach principles of energy and science in a fun and exciting atmosphere that's educating our young folks about alternative energy sources," says Randall Pugh, president and CEO.

This year's Presenting Sponsor was SolAmerica™. The race was also sponsored in part by Green Power EMC, Road Atlanta, Skip Barber Racing School, Right Choice™ and PPT Promotions. ▲



Chestatee Middle School



Winder Barrow Middle School



Banks County Middle School



*Let a HomePlus Loan Help You*  
Out with the Old  
*and In with the New*

Is your HVAC unit getting up in age? If so, now's the time to consider replacement before it breaks down during this sweltering summer heat. A low-interest HomePlus Loan will help you upgrade or replace without suffering a huge wallop to your pocket.

If you're not prepared to pay in full for costly energy efficient improvements or replacements, a low-interest loan gives you the flexibility of financing for \$500 - \$5,500 and paying it back over 36 months.

The application process is fast, and you'll receive a response quickly. For convenience, your loan payment will be added to your monthly electric bill and no lien is placed on your home. In addition to financing, some of your purchases may also qualify for federal tax credits, Jackson EMC rebates or incentives.

### **Limited Time Low Interest**

The low-interest 3% APR loan is available for a limited time and subject to market fluctuations. Making energy efficient improvements, call us today at 1-800-462-3691 or visit us online at [www.jacksonemc.com/loans](http://www.jacksonemc.com/loans) for more details.

### **Don't Ignore the Signs**

If you're experiencing hot or cold spots, noticing a spike in your electric bills or finding dusty areas near vents, your ductwork could be in need of repair or replacement. If you suspect your ducts need repair, call for a Right Choice™ Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® audit. A certified technician will determine exactly where your home's energy efficiency is at risk. The computerized analysis will produce a list of prioritized recommendations to help you decide where you want to invest. Many of the recommendations may qualify for the HomePlus Loan, rebates or other incentives.

In addition to financing, some of your purchases may also qualify for federal tax credits, Jackson EMC rebates or incentives.

### **Out with the Old**

Avoid the urge to hang on to appliances after you upgrade to new models. Many people tend to keep their old, working refrigerator or freezer in a garage or basement after an upgrade. While the idea of more refrigerator space is enticing, homeowners could spend between \$150 to over \$250 a year in energy costs just to power that additional fridge.

ENERGY STAR suggests that if you must keep your refrigerator for big holiday events such as Thanksgiving, consider keeping it unplugged until you'll need it to store extra food and drinks. That way you don't defeat the purpose of having a highly efficient ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator. ▲

## **Still Unsure** if the HomePlus Loan Program is for You?

Visit us online at [www.jacksonemc.com/loans](http://www.jacksonemc.com/loans) to learn more or call Jackson EMC at 1-800-462-3691 and ask to speak with a residential marketing representative about how the HomePlus Loan could work for you.



[www.jacksonemc.com/loans](http://www.jacksonemc.com/loans)



## The Cooperative Spirit of Giving

As we prepare to celebrate our 75th anniversary at Annual Meeting, we'd also like to remind you of the Jackson EMC Foundation and how much neighbors are coming together through Operation Round Up to help others.

Currently, more than 174,652 accounts participate in the program; 89 percent of the cooperative's 196,582 accounts, and members contribute an average total of \$85,300 each month. Working together, participating members have contributed more than \$8 million since 2005.

Foundation funds are administered by a volunteer board of directors who meet monthly. Individuals or organizations in any of 10 counties served by Jackson EMC may apply; they don't have to be members.

If you know of a person or organization who could benefit from a Jackson EMC Foundation grant, get them an application at [www.jacksonemc.com/foundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation). Individual grants can go up to \$3,500, while organizations may apply for up to \$15,000. Applications are accepted year-round.

The Foundation is a physical expression of the cooperative spirit of working together to do great things. To learn more about the organizations and individuals who've received grants, visit our website at [www.jacksonemc.com/foundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation). ▲

## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation Awards More Than \$66,000 in Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$66,380 in grants during their June meeting, including \$55,880 to organizations and \$10,500 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000 to the Piedmont Regional Library System** to purchase current non-fiction children's books on animals, plants, environment and conservation, space, oceanography, countries, states, biographies, mathematics and health for system libraries in Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties.

**\$8,000 to Next Stop**, a Lawrenceville grassroots organization that provides social interaction, recreational and life skill learning opportunities to young adults with mild to moderate disabilities, for a kitchen education program that teaches practical life skills.

**\$7,880 to Good Samaritan Health Center** in Lawrenceville, to upgrade older computers and laptops, along with associated software, to gain the highest level of performance from the Center's Electronic

Health Record initiative, which ended the center's reliance on paper health records.

**\$7,500 to the Lilburn Cooperative Ministry** to provide 30 needy families with \$250 assistance for rent or mortgage payments annually, helping them to avoid foreclosure or eviction.

**\$7,500 to the Partnership Against Domestic Violence** in Gwinnett County to help fund the Children in Shelter program, a service provided at the domestic violence shelter that allows children and teens to improve self-esteem, modify inappropriate behavior, build skills for safety, resolve conflicts without violence and focus on healthy play.

**\$5,000 to Lekotek of Georgia**, a charitable organization that provides children with disabilities with accessible play, adaptive

technology and toys, information and resources, and to provide staff and services through its Duluth satellite office.

**\$5,000 to the Girls Leadership Summer Program** in Gainesville, an intensive six-week course for girls ages 13-17 that establishes mentoring relationships between the girls and women in the minority community, develops leadership and collaboration skills, and promotes the development of new leaders in the community.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

**\$3,500** to repair the roof for **a senior citizen.**

**\$3,500** to purchase adaptive technology for **a visually impaired woman.**

**\$3,500** to repair the roof for **a disabled woman.**



## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Dear Member/Customer:

Notice is hereby given that the 2013 meeting of the member/customers of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation will be held at the headquarters in Jefferson, Ga., on Thursday, September 19, 2013.

Registration will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:20 p.m. by the chairperson. The purpose of the meeting is to: (1) receive reports of officers, directors and committees; (2) elect three directors; (3) handle all other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Prizes, entertainment, a box supper, important business and other special programs will be featured at this meeting. You are requested to be present.

Sincerely,

Rodney Chandler, Secretary  
Board of Directors

## smartconnections

### Dixie Melody Boys to Perform at Annual Meeting

Gospel sensations, The Dixie Melody Boys are set to perform at this year's Annual Meeting.

With over 40 hits, eight top 10 hits and several number one chart toppers, the Dixie Melody Boys have been nominated for several awards, including the *Singing News* awards, Southern Gospel's premier fan-voted award, and the Grammys.

They've made numerous television appearances on the Gaither Homecoming series, the Ralph Emery Show and many others. Many leading Gospel artists got their start with the Dixie Melody Boys such as Ernie Haase, Tony Brown and more. The group's creator, Ed O'Neal, was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and received Southern Gospel's highest honor, the Marvin Norcross Award.

You'll be in for a treat as the group performs many of their hits throughout the evening. Songs such as *He Came Back*, *Cross to the Other Side of Jordan* and *Good Ole Boys* have become classics in Gospel music. ▲



**Join Us Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**  
as we celebrate 75 Years of People. Power. Progress.,  
and present to you one of Gospel's legendary  
quartets, the Dixie Melody Boys.

## Our Offices

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District Manager

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# 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.

## *Tilapia in Lemon Tarragon Sauce*

### Ingredients:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 8 ounces dried whole wheat orzo pasta                                      | ¼ cup Progresso® reduced-sodium chicken broth                      |
| 1 (5- to 6-ounce) package baby spinach                                     | 1 tbsp lemon juice   |
| 2 tbsp olive oil   | 1 tsp Dijon-style mustard  |
| 2 tsp finely shredded lemon or orange peel                                 | 1 tsp snipped fresh tarragon or ¼ teaspoon dried tarragon, crushed |
| ¼ tsp salt   | Paprika (optional)   |
| 1½ pounds fresh or frozen tilapia fillets or other lean white fish fillets |  |
| ½ tsp seasoned salt  |  |

### Instructions:

For spinach orzo, prepare orzo according to package directions; drain. Return to hot pan; immediately toss orzo with spinach, half of the olive oil, the lemon peel, and salt. Meanwhile rinse fish; pat dry with paper towels. Sprinkle all sides of the fish with seasoned salt. In a very large skillet heat remaining 1 tablespoon of oil over medium heat. Add fish in a single layer; cook for 2 minutes. Using a wide spatula, carefully turn fish over; cook about 2 minutes more or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Transfer fish to a serving platter. Cover and keep warm. For sauce, add broth and lemon juice to skillet. Using a whisk, scrape up any crusty bits in the skillet. Whisk in mustard and tarragon; heat through. Serve fish with spinach orzo. If desired, sprinkle fish with paprika. Pour sauce over fish. Makes six servings.