

Calling all students:  
Apply for Washington Youth Tour

Keep Your Home (Energy) Fit:  
We'll Be Your Personal Trainer

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

January 2014



From Lines Down  
to Lights On

*Restoring your power after the storm*

CELEBRATING

75  
YEARS

1938 - 2013  
JACKSON EMC  
PEOPLE. POWER. PROGRESS.



President/CEO  
Randall Pugh

## Looking Ahead to 1939

As we celebrate our 75th New Year at Jackson EMC, we ponder what it must have been like for the early leaders of the cooperative as they contemplated the organization's first New Year. If a charter board member had kept a journal, maybe his thoughts would have been something like this...

*The big news lately is that Margaret Mitchell's book, "Gone with the Wind," is being made into a movie. Hollywood will be headed to Atlanta before long, I suppose. That seems a far cry from our neck of the woods in rural Georgia, where cotton farming is about the only way a family can survive. If we can make this rural electrification experiment work, I think it will change lives.*

*As I pen this on January 1, 1939, it's barely been six months since Jackson EMC was chartered on June 27, 1938. This past half year has flown by, we've been so busy. Since we became official, we've set up an office and hired a superintendent to oversee system construction. We've worked with lawyers and legislators, here in Jackson County, in Atlanta, and even in Washington, D.C., to pull together all the legal paperwork and documentation necessary to start building our first lines.*

*At times, it's been nothing but a headache with Washington trying to tell us what kind of conductor and what brand of meter we had to buy. Who would have thought we'd have to cut through so much red tape just to get electricity out to the country?*

*We've persevered, though, and tomorrow we break ground in Jefferson at the spot where we'll put up our first poles and start stringing our first hundred miles of line.*

*It is cold out there today, 34 degrees, and the Farmer's Almanac is calling for a freeze tonight. I'm not worried about us. The ceremony is only a formality and we won't have to hold shovels to the iced-over ground any longer than it takes for the newspaper to take a picture.*

*But I am concerned about the winter weather. We're on a tight schedule, planning to flip the switch in April. Imagine that – lights on the farm.*

*Of course, these first lines will be just a drop in the bucket. It's going to take years to get electricity to everybody out here. But we all need it so badly.*

*My brother says it will never happen. I have to prove him wrong.*

As scheduled, on April 10, 1939, the power was turned on to energize Jackson EMC's first lines. We will wrap up commemoration of our 75th anniversary this April, but we'll continue to reminisce, from time to time.

Your cooperative has come a long way. While early members waited months, sometimes years, for electricity in their homes, today you are rarely without power, even for a moment, thanks to the dependable distribution system we've built up over the years. When the inevitable storm does disrupt service, your power is restored quickly and efficiently. See just how on pages 4-5.

We can't predict the future any more than our first leaders could, but there's one thing you can be sure of: We remain just as dedicated to keeping your lights on as they did to bringing you electricity in the first place. ▲

### JEMCO news

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## onlinef@cts

### Remembering 75 years of Jackson EMC history

Our 75th Anniversary micro-website will be online for only a few more months, so make sure to visit this interactive timeline at [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com) while you have the opportunity.

Compiled with old photographs, memorabilia and information gleaned from interviews with employees and retirees, the site takes a decade-by-decade tour down memory lane, from the 1930s when local farmers formed Jackson EMC to our current status as the nation's second-largest electric cooperative. Learn about the major milestones of our history through photos and facts that tell the story of our people, power and progress.

To access the site at [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com), go to the homepage and click on the 75th anniversary logo.



# Calling all High School Students:

## Washington Youth Tour 2014 Could Be for You

*Jackson EMC's 2013 Washington Youth Tour delegates are, from left: Missy Johnson, Dacula High School; Jordan Tyler, Jefferson High School; Logan Allen, Chestatee High School; and Allison Walls, Flowery Branch High School.*

Do you like to travel? Have you ever been recognized for your leadership abilities or had a desire to cultivate leadership skills? Are you interested in history, government and/or politics? Will you be 16 years old by June 12?


If your answer to these questions is yes, don't miss your opportunity to apply for this summer's Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership tour of the nation's capital, set for June 12-19.

This once-in-a-lifetime leadership opportunity is sponsored by America's electric cooperatives. Jackson EMC student delegates will join more than 1,500 like-minded teenagers from across the country to experience

Washington, D.C. by visiting its monuments, memorials and museums; meeting your state representatives at the Capitol; and taking part in moving ceremonies, like the Laying of the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery - all while gaining valuable leadership lessons.

Interested? If so, applications can be downloaded at [www.jacksonemc.com/wyt](http://www.jacksonemc.com/wyt); however, completed applications **must** be

submitted to your school counselor or leadership contact. **Do not** send to Jackson EMC. Participating schools' application deadlines vary, so check with your school regarding due dates.

For more information, visit your high school counselor/leadership contact or email Kay Parks, PR/community relations representative, at [kparks@jacksonemc.com](mailto:kparks@jacksonemc.com). 

## Washington Youth Tour 2014 Tentative Itinerary

- **June 12:** Kickoff banquet, Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta
- **June 13:** Little White House, Warm Springs; team-building at Woodward Academy, Atlanta; flight to Washington, D.C.
- **June 14:** Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of FDR, Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II memorials; photo op of White House
- **June 15:** Guided tour of Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour, with wreath-laying at Tomb of the Unknowns; dinner at Hard Rock Café
- **June 16:** All States 50th anniversary celebration; tour Smithsonian museums; cruise on Potomac River
- **June 17:** Tour Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)
- **June 18:** Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum; dinner at performance of "The Lion King" at the Kennedy Center
- **June 19:** Return flight to Atlanta

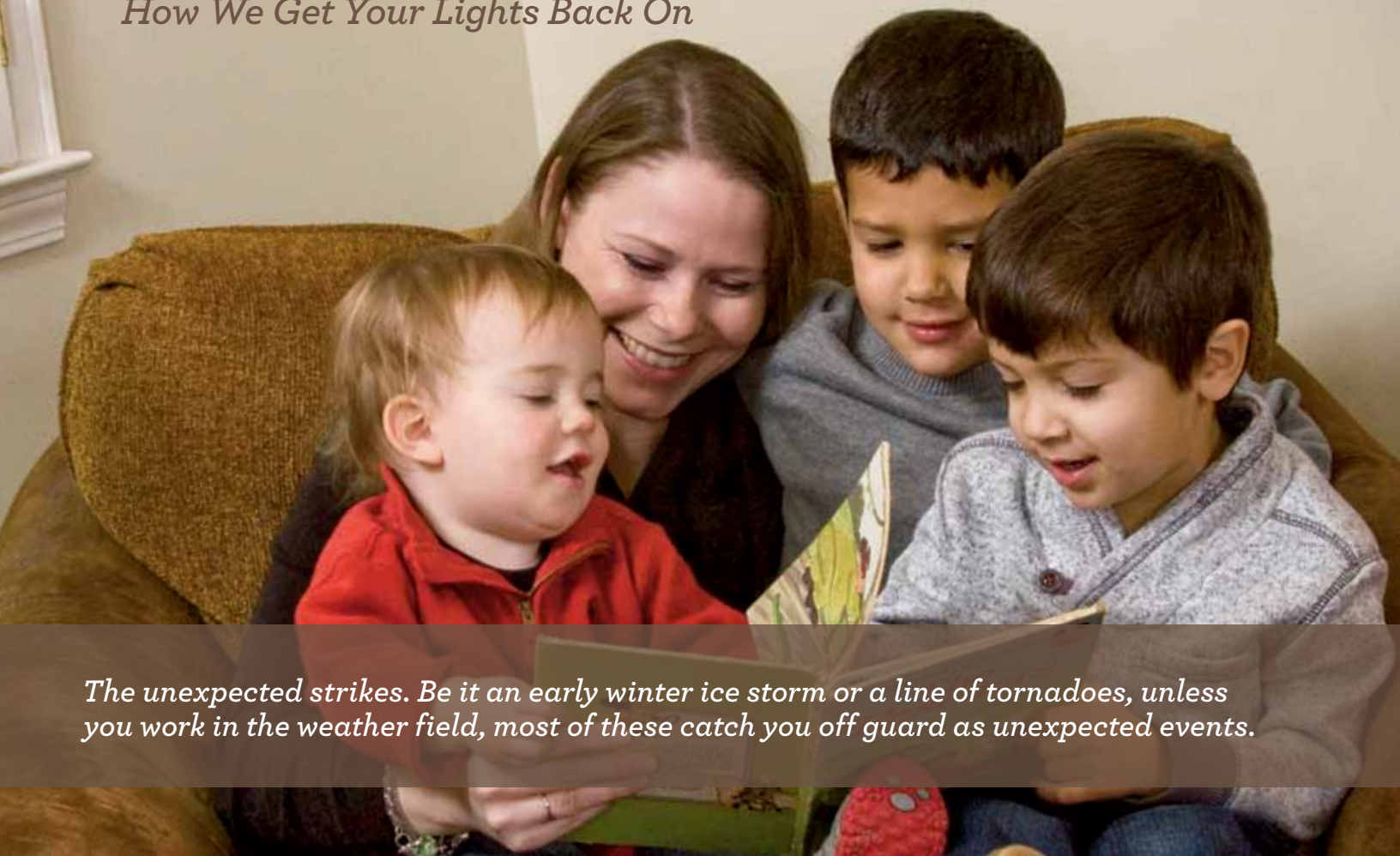
## Scholarship Opportunity Deadline is Near

There are a few days left to submit your completed Walter Harrison Scholarship application. Entering freshmen and currently enrolled undergraduate students attending a two- or four-year accredited college, university or technical school in Georgia are eligible to apply.

See your high school counselor or visit us online at [www.jacksonemc.com/scholarships](http://www.jacksonemc.com/scholarships) to download your application complete with details and mailing instructions. Completed applications are due to Jackson EMC by 5 p.m., January 24.

# Power Restoration:

*How We Get Your Lights Back On*



*The unexpected strikes. Be it an early winter ice storm or a line of tornadoes, unless you work in the weather field, most of these catch you off guard as unexpected events.*

**AT JACKSON EMC**, we know to expect the unexpected, and our process for dealing with the aftermath of severe storms is like a well-oiled machine. When we go into emergency mode, there's one thing you can expect for certain: Your cooperative will hit the ground running to get the power back on as quickly as possible. And we'll do it with the same enthusiasm we had when we broke ground 75 years ago this month to bring electricity to this area for the first time.

Over the years, as our electric distribution system has grown in size and complexity, Jackson EMC has updated its methods of dealing with power outages, eventually employing a computerized mapping system that eliminated the need for handwritten outage tickets. While the computer was faster, it continued to produce paper service order tickets that had to be hand-sorted and matched to a paper map of the distribution system in order to determine where to dispatch crews.

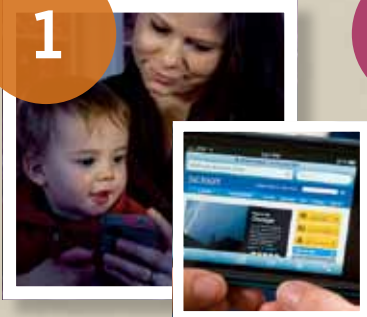
When our Integrated Voice Response (IVR) system was introduced in 1990, it automatically sorted service order tickets, but they still had to be tacked to the wall map.

In 2007, major changes occurred with the installation of our Outage Management System (OMS). Working simultaneously with our other systems - the SCADA monitoring system, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Geographical Information System (GIS), Customer Information System (CIS), input from employees in the field, and your outage reports - the OMS efficiently maps outages and tracks their causes. Plus, with automated vehicle location, we now can determine which service truck is closest to the outage to deploy for repairs.

Our goal is to restore power safely and efficiently to the most people in the shortest time possible. To do this, we prioritize areas where power is to be restored first - the substations or main lines that, when repaired, will return service to the most members. From there, we spread out through our service territory, repairing main lines that restore power to entire neighborhoods before returning service to individual customers. ▲

Follow the photos on page 5 to see the route we typically take when restoring your power after the storm.

1



**With our state-of-the-art Outage Management**

System, we receive a steady flow of communication regarding outages. We count on you as well to inform us when your power goes out. To report an outage to Jackson EMC, simply a) call your district office - our contact numbers are on page 8; b) use your mobile device or computer to visit our website at [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com); or c) use our new smartphone mobile app. Visit [mobile.jacksonemc.com](http://mobile.jacksonemc.com) to get started.

2



**System Control.**

Your call comes in to our Outage Management System, System Control monitors the situation, and crews are dispatched from district offices. To get real-time information, visit [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com) to view our outage management map in the Storm Center, where we'll post an up-to-the-minute status report.

3



**Next, line crews head out into the field -**

night or day, whenever the emergency arises - to begin power restoration efforts. Jackson EMC linemen work long hours to restore your power, braving severe weather and hazardous conditions to get the electric system back up and running.

4



**Distribution substations are checked**

first when major power outages occur. Transmission lines supplying power to the substations might be damaged, or there could be damage sustained at the substation itself. When problems are corrected at the substation, power is usually restored to a large number of people at one time.

*What We Do When Your Power Goes Out*

5



**Main distribution lines are checked next.**

Extending from substations, these lines supply towns, housing developments and other large groups of customers. When power is restored to main distribution lines, electricity will return to more customers.

6



**Supply lines, or tap lines,**

that carry electric power to utility poles and underground transformers outside houses and businesses are repaired next, bringing power back to those farthest from the substation. Line crews repair the remaining outages by restoring power to the areas with the most members first.

7



**Line crews visit individual homes**

if damage has occurred to the service line between your house and the nearest transformer. These are typically isolated incidents, like the rare occasion when your neighbor's power is back on but yours is not.

8



**Lights are on and power is restored!**

Getting your power back on is what you expect from us when the unexpected strikes. It's what we expect of ourselves, and it is our major goal at all times, not just in stormy weather. Our goal is to get the lights back on, and keep them on, year-round.

For more information on these services, visit [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com) or call 1-800-462-3691.

## Area 4-H Students Go Hi-tech in Robotics Studies



Students with eyes on the future get technologically advanced robotics training through Barrow County 4-H and Jackson County 4-H programs that inspire innovation while building skills in science, engineering and technology.

Each program received a \$6,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation in November to purchase materials for their robotics initiatives, including supplies such as hobby motors, calculators, model rocket kits, tools and equipment.

In its third year, Jackson County 4-H FIRST Robotics Team 4189 includes 24 members from grades 9-12 and is open to students in all high schools in Jackson County.

“Our goal is to spark creativity in our team members, get them curious and wanting to know more,” says the team’s business mentor, Beth Jarrett. “With two years of experience behind us, our team is ready to go to the next level of sophistication and technological achievement.”

The Barrow County 4-H Robotics program involves the Tech 4-H group which consists of students in grades 5-8 with high school students serving as teachers and mentors.

Both robotics groups plan to take part in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition in which they design, build and test a robot within six weeks. At the competition, robots may be required to climb a ladder, shoot a basketball or balance on a see-saw.

“It is as close to real-world engineering as a student can get,” says Wanda McLocklin, Barrow County Extension Coordinator.

“The ultimate goal of robotics education,” according to McLocklin, “is to make science, engineering and technology engaging and meaningful in the lives of middle and high school students.”

Skills in these areas are increasingly necessary to compete in the current job market and will be “the jobs of the future,” she adds. ▲

## operationroundup

### Foundation awards more than \$100,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$100,766 in grants during their November meeting, including \$97,352 to organizations and \$3,414 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

- **\$15,000** to the **Athens Nurses Clinic** to help cover the costs of expanding the current clinic hours of operation by six hours per week, allowing nurse practitioners to see about 24 percent more acutely ill patients a year and providing more time to focus on health promotion, education and wellness programs.
- **\$15,000** to the **Food Bank of Northeast Georgia** in Athens for its monthly Mobile Pantry Program, which distributes large quantities of food before the expiration date through partner agencies in nine local counties, eliminating the need for the agencies to store the food and allowing the Food Bank to distribute thousands of pounds of food to those in need at a fraction of the cost.
- **\$15,000** to **Tiny Stitches, Inc.** in Suwanee, which uses a network of volunteers to make handmade tote bags filled with a 37-item layette that keeps infants warm and dry for their first two to three months of life; donated in nine North Georgia counties to mothers who have little or nothing for their newborns.
- **\$14,752** to Habitat for Humanity of Gwinnett County to upgrade a server and replace seven workstations in the affiliate’s office, providing more efficient use of staff time and increasing the availability of decent, affordable homes.
- **\$10,000** to **Step by Step Recovery**, a Lawrenceville community-based grassroots addiction recovery organization, to help purchase a 12-passenger van that will help residents comply with the courts, consistently meet with mental health providers, find gainful employment and attend 12-step meetings.
- **\$7,500** to **Athens Urban Ministries**, a grassroots organization dedicated to assisting those who need a hand up, to help provide instruction and materials for GED training to promote self-sufficiency.
- **\$6,100** to the **Lumpkin County Family Connection** for the Lumpkin County Mentor Program, which trains volunteer adult mentors to work with at-risk students in all five county schools as individual mentors, classroom mentors and tutors.
- **\$6,000** to the **Barrow County 4-H** to purchase parts, materials, power tools and technology for its robotics program, which builds science, engineering and technology skills, inspires innovation and promotes well-rounded life skills in middle and high school students.
- **\$6,000** to the **Jackson County 4-H** to purchase parts, materials, power tools and technology for its robotics program, which builds science, engineering and technology skills, inspires innovation and promotes well-rounded life skills in middle and high school students.
- **\$2,000** to **Reins of Life**, a Franklin County non-profit that uses hippotherapy treatment for special needs and at-risk children, youth and their families, to help construct a larger covered arena that will provide patients a longer riding straight-away to fully benefit from the horse’s movement.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

- **\$2,914** to help purchase a wheelchair accessible van for **a disabled woman**.
- **\$500** to replace a leaking refrigerator for **a disabled man**.

## What to Do **After the Storm**

As winter weather makes its way into northeast Georgia, so does the potential for storms that could interrupt your electric power supply. Be vigilant when it comes to safety by remembering these tips for dealing with lack of electricity after the storm.

### Outside:

- Treat all downed lines as if they are live, carrying electricity and dangerous. Don't touch or try to move them, and be sure to keep children and animals away from them.
- Report power outages and downed power lines to Jackson EMC. If the line is down across a road or appears to pose an immediate hazard, call 911.
- Stay clear of puddles, fences, trees or any other object in contact with a power line.
- If a power line falls across a car you're in, stay in the car. If you must leave the car, jump clear so that no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground.
- Listen to local radio stations or check your Jackson EMC mobile app for status reports about affected areas and power restoration activities.

### Inside:

- Don't burn charcoal or run gasoline-powered equipment in an enclosed space. They may produce carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas.
- Don't leave candles unattended and keep them away from furniture, draperies and other flammable materials.
- Turn off heating and air conditioning systems and unplug sensitive electronic appliances such as TVs, VCRs, microwave ovens and home computers. This will protect them against potential electrical overload when power returns.
- To ensure safety when using electric generators, read and follow the safety, maintenance and testing instructions in the operating manual.
- Don't open refrigerators or freezers more than necessary. The fridge will keep food safely cold (at or below 40 degrees) for about four hours if left closed. A full freezer will hold its optimum temperature (at or below 0 degrees) for about 48 hours when the door is not opened. Use dry or block ice to keep the refrigerator or freezer as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for a prolonged period of time. ▲



## smartconnections

### Home Energy Fitness: **Your Home's Personal Trainer**

Just like your body operates better when you maintain a healthy lifestyle, your home will operate more efficiently when you take steps to manage its energy health. Let Jackson EMC, with its Right Choice Home Energy Fitness program, be your home's "personal trainer" in 2014 by exercising healthy home habits designed to reduce your energy costs.

#### **Your personal fitness trainer:**

Our online Home Fitness Monitor asks you to supply details about your house and current energy usage in order to determine where your energy dollars are going. Using your input, the Home Fitness Monitor will recommend ways you can save energy to reduce your power bill.

**Chart your way:** The Home Fitness Monitor, through its Track My Progress feature, delivers email correspondence to your computer inbox, providing continuing information related to your personal home energy health goals, along with tips to curtail high bills.

**Set and meet healthy goals:** Our online Home Fitness Plan walks you through a 3-D home plan that shows where and how energy is used and provides tips on where and how changes can be made to lower utility bills.

**Make positive changes on your own:** Our do-it-yourself Home Fitness Checkup Kit provides tips to improve energy efficiency and reduce power bills.

**Let us guide you:** Our Energy Fitness Guides are online calculators that show how much energy it takes to power everyday items. These easy-to-use guides can help you decrease the energy consumed by electric appliances, space heaters, lighting, and heating and cooling systems.

**Diagnosis your energy busters:** Jackson EMC offers the Personal Home Fitness

Evaluation as a free service for members who have trouble diagnosing energy ailments in their home. Upon request, a Jackson EMC residential professional will conduct a free energy audit to find problems you may have overlooked.

**Call in a specialist:** We offer the Right Choice™ Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Audit, a more in-depth, technologically-advanced and scientific evaluation of your home, when necessary. The advanced audit costs an average of about \$450, and Jackson EMC members may qualify for rebates.

**For more on these services, visit [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com) or call 1 (800) 462-3691.**

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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.

## *Zesty Black-eyed Pea Dip*

### Ingredients:

1 stick (4 ounces) butter	2 15-ounce cans black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed
½ cup chopped onion	1 jalapeño pepper, seeds removed, chopped fine
½ teaspoon cumin	1 4-ounce can chopped green chilies
1 clove minced garlic	Salt and pepper
12 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, shredded	

### Instructions:

Melt butter in medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add chopped onion; sauté until gold in color. Add cumin and garlic and cook 30 more seconds. Turn heat to low and add cheese, stirring until melted. Add black-eyed peas, chopped jalapeño and green chilies. Cook 5 minutes, stirring continuously. Add salt and pepper to taste. Keep hot in slow cooker or chafing dish. Serve with tortilla chips.