

Ditched Your Landline?  
Home Security's Still a Cinch!

It's a Sealed Bid Deal:  
Our Used Vehicles for Sale

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

July 2014



Personal Home Fitness Evaluation:  
**Hoschton Couple Gives Home a  
Complete Energy Makeover**

## Use Less of Our Product, Save More of Your Cash



President/CEO  
Chip Jakins

**H**ow many businesses do you know of that ask their customers to purchase less of the product they sell? Can a business like that really work?

Jackson EMC does. And, yes, it can.

At first glance, it may not sound logical. But the more you know about how a cooperative works – and think about our pledge to help you conserve energy and save money – the more sense it makes.

People ask, “Why would you encourage consumers to use less of your product?”

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by the people we serve, our mission is not to turn a profit, but to provide reliable, *affordable* electricity to our members. We take to heart the *affordable* aspect of that mission.

While other businesses seek to make profits for their stockholders, at Jackson EMC, our members are our stock – and our goal is to help you keep more of your money. While others urge you to buy more, more, more, we encourage you to use the product we sell efficiently.

By encouraging you to wisely use electric power, we help you keep more of your hard-earned cash. And we provide an abundance of resources to show you ways to do that: We do our best to publish energy-saving tips in each issue of *Jemco News*, and we offer a wide variety of resources on our website at [www.jacksonemc.com](http://www.jacksonemc.com). Our offices are staffed with energy efficiency experts who can help you find ways to use electricity more efficiently in your home and in your business.


And while everyone uses more appliances, electronics and other gadgets that require electricity, many of today’s appliances and electronics are manufactured to require less energy. Simultaneously, as we learn to be

conscientious users of electricity, energy consumption decreases. That’s a good thing for consumers, like you, who enjoy lower power bills, as well as for providers, like Jackson EMC, who can meet demand without employing new power sources.

Your cooperative forecasts how much electricity we will require to meet your needs. In predicting how much electricity we’ll need to generate, we take into account the growth in this region as well as the impact of energy efficiency efforts, like our Right Choice new home program. That forecast tells us when we’ll need to have new generation resources ready to meet your needs, like the additional power we’ll receive from the Plant Vogtle expansion. The more efficient you are at using the electricity your cooperative provides, the less we’re obligated to find more electricity – either by purchasing electricity on the retail market or by investing in new power plants.

It’s a common industry saying, and it’s a fact: *The greenest energy is the energy we don’t have to generate*. When we can “live within our means,” energy-wise, we avoid the expense of building new electricity-producing plants.

So, while other businesses pitch contests to see who can use the most of their product, we’re holding a contest to see who can use less of ours. Take our Home Energy Fitness Challenge, and you’ll gain tools to create a plan to use less energy. If you haven’t signed up yet, there’s still time. Just read the article below to find out how.

And, to learn about a Jackson EMC couple who made the very most of the services and rebates we provide to members serious about saving energy and money, see our cover story on pages 4-5. We hope you’ll be inspired, too, to use less of our product. 

### JEMCO news

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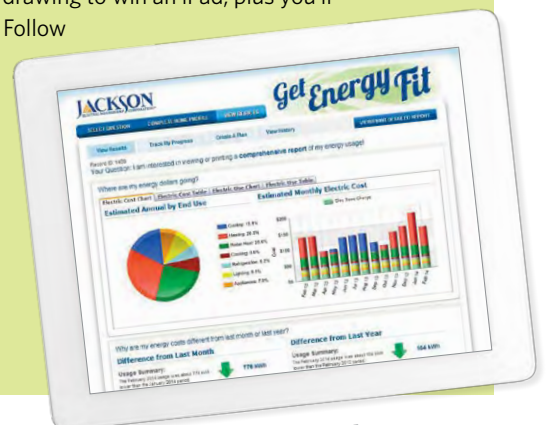
### HOME ENERGY FITNESS CHALLENGE: One Month to Go!

Summer is halfway over, and so is Jackson EMC’s first Home Energy Fitness Challenge. But don’t despair. You have through August 31 to sign up for the Challenge and get your home on its way to becoming energy fit.

To enter the challenge, simply create a plan at [www.jacksonemc.com/challenge](http://www.jacksonemc.com/challenge) to reduce your home energy use. You’ll automatically be entered in a drawing to win an iPad, plus you’ll learn tips and techniques to get your home energy fit. Follow the plan you create for our Challenge and you’ll not only increase your home’s energy fitness; you’ll slim down your power bill, too!

**The Home Energy Fitness Challenge runs through August with iPads to be awarded to seven eligible members whose names are randomly drawn on or after September 1.**

Find full details and enter today at [www.jacksonemc.com/challenge](http://www.jacksonemc.com/challenge).





# No landline? No problem!

## *Home Security's a Cinch with Cellular Monitoring*

There was a time in the not-so-distant past when a home telephone line was essential for home security monitoring. Those days are gone.

**A**s communications technologies have advanced, EMC Security has kept pace, and their security alarm monitoring is available even without landlines.

*What may surprise you even more? Cellular monitoring makes security monitoring safer and more reliable.*

Cellular monitoring offers a dedicated line of communication, whereas physical home phone lines can be cut, leaving you vulnerable. With cellular monitoring, your home security system can be accessed and controlled from any location, at any time, with a smartphone, tablet or computer.

Just as you now have capability to do your banking from your smart phone - even pay your Jackson EMC power bill with just a few clicks - with EMC Security and your smart phone, you can manage your home security anytime, anywhere.

*Not only safer and more convenient, cellular monitoring can be more affordable as well.*

Switching to cellular monitoring allows you to eliminate your landline bill, *saving you nearly \$40 a month. That's almost \$500 a year!*


Want to know more ways to save money? When you use energy management tools available with cellular monitoring, you'll recognize savings on your power bills. Did you forget to adjust the thermostat before you left for vacation? Cell phone apps enable you to control the thermostat, lock your doors and turn lights on or off - no matter where you are.

Your family's safety and peace of mind come first to the home security professionals at EMC Security. And that's why we'll meet you on your terms, providing the ultimate in home security with monitoring over your

home phone, or with cellular devices, whichever works best for you and how you live. EMC Security will earn your business every day without locking you into a contract.

*As always, alarm monitoring services through EMC Security start at only \$16.95 per month, with no contract required.*

Our security systems monitor for burglar, medical alert, fire alarm, flood detection and power failure, and our response times are among the fastest in the entire security industry.

Visit us at [www.emcsecurity.com](http://www.emcsecurity.com) or call (770) 963-0305 for more information. 

# GOING ALL IN:

*Couple Teams with Jackson EMC for Home Energy Makeover*



*With Jackson EMC as their coach, Jim and Shari Warren of Hoschton recently transformed their energy-weak house into an ultra-efficient home, energy fit for the future.*

The couple's odyssey into home energy fitness began in December when Shari, a retired school librarian, read an article by finance guru Clark Howard about price breaks offered for installing solar panels. Jim, retired from data processing and teaching, always seemed cold in their otherwise happy home in the Southhampton Falls subdivision.

"I had to wear wool socks and sweaters no matter what setting the heat was on, and I wanted to be comfortable but also have a low energy bill," says Jim. "I wanted my cake – and wanted to eat it, too."

While her neighbors were prepping for the holidays, Shari researched solar companies and selected Gain Solar Services, of Gainesville, to install a 10 kW solar power system. Owner Johnny Valentine's additional input was sobering: to achieve

true efficiency, the Warrens would have to look at their home's overall energy effectiveness.

The couple entertained several contractors, but conflicting suggestions left them concerned that some of the businesses were more bent on selling products than in helping them achieve energy efficiency. Those concerns were put to rest when Mike Walker, of Global HVAC Inc. in Hoschton, offered advice that set the Warrens on a trajectory to success: Contact Jackson EMC and request a home energy performance study, the Personal Home Fitness Evaluation, for an objective analysis; they could end up saving 20-30 percent on annual heating and cooling costs, plus, Jackson EMC offers rebates for certain energy improvements.

The Warrens scheduled their Personal Home Fitness Evaluation, and an energy technician with Home Diagnostic

Solutions (HDS, a Jackson EMC-approved performance testing contractor) used state-of-the-art equipment to check the home's heating and cooling system, determine the quality of insulation and air sealing, check supply and return air flows, measure air infiltration and determine humidity and temperature. Results from this thorough and objective analysis were presented to the Warrens in a notebook that detailed the findings and gave recommendations for improvements along with a list of vendors in Jackson EMC's Participating Contractor Network.

"This book was our blueprint for the project," says Shari, noting the reassurance she and Jim felt from working with an impartial company.

"We're vested only in the homeowner's satisfaction," says Kevin Luhr, of HDS, who identified the Warrens' worst energy problems as insufficient insulation and poor ductwork, the two most common culprits when it comes to energy loss. When these and other improvements were suggested, according to Luhr, "The Warrens went all in." Their energy improvements included adding:

- An energy efficient electric heat pump and new ductwork to provide comfort.
- Foam insulation sprayed in the attic to prevent outside air from coming in and to serve as a moisture barrier.
- An energy efficient Marathon water heater, with 2.5 inches of foam insulation, minimizing standby heat loss to keep water hot longer.

Jackson EMC rebates for insulation, ductwork, heat pump, hot water heater and the Home Energy Fitness Evaluation put a cool \$1,700 back in the couple's bank account. (Plus, they received a \$4,500 Jackson EMC rebate for the solar panels.)

As contractors completed their tasks, HDS returned to the home to make sure specifications were met, and throughout the experience, Jackson EMC was on-call to assist.

"Our contractors said Jackson EMC has great people to work with, and we found that to be true," says Shari. "Whenever I had a question, I could call them, and I looked at the Jackson EMC website to see what else I could do to save energy and money."

After the four-month energy makeover was complete, the Warrens realized savings when their May power bill was only \$72, less than half what they paid for power the same time period last year. The savings continued in June when their bill was \$66, less than a third of the \$209 they paid last year. "I feel the return on our investment will pay for itself," says Shari.

"There are two types of return on investment," adds Jim. "One is the actual monetary return, but the second is comfort, and I don't know how you put a value on that. It's priceless.



Top: Shari Warren shows off new attic insulation. Bottom: Contractors stand behind Jim and Shari Warren in their energy efficiency efforts. Assisting them in making money-saving renovations were, from left, Johnny Valentine of Gain Solar Services, Dean Bull of Southern Foam & Coating Insulation of North Georgia, Kevin Luhr of Home Diagnostics Solutions (HDS) Atlanta, Mike Walker of Global HVAC, and Jimmy Reynolds of HDS Atlanta.

After we made these changes, I wasn't cold anymore."

Global HVAC's Mike Walker takes pride in that fact. He enjoys helping Jackson EMC help families like the Warrens meet their energy challenges.

"I know I'm with a good group with Jackson EMC," says Walker. "Like them, we want our customers to be happy. I know I'm going to be in the supermarket some day and see Shari in the aisle, and I want her to be satisfied with the job we did."

If Walker sees Jim in the bakery aisle, he shouldn't be surprised if the happy, energy-fit homeowner is buying cake - and eating it, too. ▲

## Get Energy Fit with **REBATES** from Jackson EMC

Request your **Personal Home Fitness Evaluation** from Jackson EMC and we'll send a Right Choice™-certified technician to measure your home's energy performance. To learn more about the evaluation and the valuable rebates we offer, visit [jacksonemc.com/energyfit](http://jacksonemc.com/energyfit) or call (toll-free) **1-866-562-8556**.

## Lindsay's Legacy: Matching Mentors with Students



A little friendship goes a long way. That's the belief of volunteers who serve with Lindsay's Legacy Mentoring to befriend and encourage school students.

The Jackson County nonprofit matches adult role models with children and youth in grades K-12 to guide students toward personal and academic success.

"Students may be going through a difficult or challenging situation and are in need of an additional caring adult role model," says Executive Director Lisa Stephens. "Mentors have the ability to focus on the need of one student in order to find an effective way to encourage and support that student."

Research shows that mentoring focused on building friendships with youth can lead to strong relationships that foster positive changes, according to Stephens. Mentored students include those living in poverty, children of prisoners, foster children, students struggling academically or socially, and those with a critically or terminally ill parent.


"Mentors take the time to listen attentively to their students each week," says Stephens. "We like to think

of our mentors as personal cheerleaders for students in need of extra encouragement."

Mentoring students since 2005, Lindsay's Legacy is named in memory of Jack Lindsay, the first mentor coordinator of a 1990s-era mentoring program in Jackson County. New mentors attend training sessions and commit to spend at least two hours a month in school with the student they mentor.

As the recent school year closed, 195 active mentors served 200 students, including 130 students in Jackson County Schools, 38 in Jefferson City Schools and 32 in Commerce City Schools. Stephens hopes that by the end of the next school year, the program will serve another 25 students currently on a waiting list.

"With 20.9 percent of our students living in poverty in Jackson County, 23.8 percent living with a single parent, and 10.6 percent being affected by child abuse or neglect, we have a great need for community members to get actively involved with children and youth in Jackson County," Stephens concludes.

For information, email Lisa Stephens at [lisa@lindsaylegacymentoring.org](mailto:lisa@lindsaylegacymentoring.org) or call 706-410-5525. 

## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation awards more than \$82,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$82,400 in grants during their May meeting, including \$75,700 to organizations and \$6,700 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000 to Annandale at Suwanee**, a nonprofit community serving adults with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injury, to purchase tablets, desktop computers, projector and smart board that will enable clients to learn daily living and workforce readiness skills to maximize their abilities and enable them to successfully live and work independently.

**\$15,000 to Lindsay's Legacy Mentoring, Inc.**, in Jackson County, to help fund the coordinator's position for a program which recruits and trains adult mentors to work with students kindergarten through 12th grade in all three school systems within the county, helping to ensure those young people become healthy, educated and employable.

**\$10,200 to Gateway House**, a Hall County nonprofit serving victims of domestic violence and their children, to provide emergency legal assistance to request, file and enforce a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) to keep abusive partners from having contact with or harassing victims.

**\$10,000 to Lanier Tech** for its Accelerating Opportunities Student Program, which combines GED instruction with English as a Second Language, decreasing the amount of time it takes students to become gainfully employed and increasing Northeast Georgia's work-ready workforce.

**\$9,000 to Eagle Ranch**, a Chestnut Mountain home for boys and girls in crisis, to help remodel an outdoor fitness area to enable younger girls in two group homes to participate in regular exercise and recreational

activities to help them develop self-discipline and establish a healthy lifestyle.

**\$5,000 to Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS)**, a nonprofit agency serving children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to help provide Camp Hollywood in Lawrenceville, a unique summer day camp where children with developmental disabilities can build social skills, self-respect, character and community living skills.

**\$5,000 to the Quinlan Arts Center, Inc.**, in Gainesville, to enable about 40 disadvantaged but exceptional students with exemplary artistic skills entering grades 1-8 at Title I schools in Hall, Jackson, Gwinnett, and Lumpkin counties to attend one-week Art Camp sessions.

**\$4,000 to Nuçi's Space**, an Athens nonprofit organization working to prevent suicide, to enable young people from low income families to participate in Camp Amped, a summer day camp for northeast Georgia youth ages 11-18 focusing on positive mental health and music education.

**\$2,500 to H.O.P.E., Inc.**, a Duluth nonprofit that serves low-income single parents working to achieve their college degree, to help with childcare and housing when either situation threatens the parent's ability to continue classes.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

**\$3,500** to help purchase a handicap accessible van for a family with **two disabled children**.

**\$3,200** to replace the HVAC unit of **a disabled man**.

## Nominating Committee Appointed

Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) has corporate offices at 850 Commerce Highway in Jefferson, Ga., with district offices in Gainesville, Lawrenceville, Jefferson and Hull. Jackson EMC is a cooperative providing electric service to 10 Northeast Georgia Counties – Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe.

The cooperative is governed by a nine-member board of directors geographically representing the service area. Board members serve three-year staggered terms. Three will be elected at Annual Meeting, Thursday, September 18, at the corporate offices in Jefferson.

Nominations are presented by a nominating committee or by a duly processed petition. Procedures detailing the nominations process are contained in the Jackson EMC bylaws available at any office. At each Annual Meeting of Members, three (3) directors shall be elected, by and from the members, to serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of directors, in the following rotation: one from Hall County or Lumpkin County, one from Barrow County, one from Gwinnett County; one from Clarke County, one from Jackson County, one from Gwinnett County; one from Banks County or Franklin County, one from Jackson County, one from Madison County or Oglethorpe County. ▲

The duly constituted nominating committee for 2014 consists of the following members:

**Mrs. Howard McClure Jr.**  
Maysville • Banks County

**Mr. Clay McDaniel**  
Bethlehem • Barrow County

**Mrs. Carolyn Clancey**  
Athens • Clarke County

**Mr. Quillon Butler**  
Auburn • Gwinnett

**Ms. Alicia Williams**  
Braselton • Gwinnett County

**Mr. Steve Blair**  
Gainesville • Hall County

**Mr. Joel Harbin**  
Jefferson • Jackson County

**Mr. E.R. "Ronnie" Healan**  
Athens • Jackson County

**Mr. Steve Bates**  
Hull • Madison County

## smartconnections



## JEMC HAS VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 3** Full Size Pickups
- 10** Mid-size Pickups
- 1** Mid-size Sedan
- 4** Sport Utility Vehicles
- 3** Vans
- 1** Bucket Truck (30')
- 1** Derrick Truck, Tandem Chassis

Jackson EMC has equipment for sale to members and employees. Sealed bids will be accepted at Jackson EMC headquarters in Jefferson until 3 p.m., August 15. Jackson EMC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

These vehicles are being sold in "as is" condition with no written warranties. Vehicles may be viewed at the Jackson EMC office in Jefferson, at 850 Commerce Highway, on Tuesday, August 5, and Thursday, August 7, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Come by at these dates and times **ONLY** to view the equipment.

The list at left contains the types and approximate quantities of the equipment and vehicles to be sold. All equipment and vehicles are retired from Jackson EMC's fleet and are generally five years or older with odometer readings above 100,000 miles. This list is subject to changes, additions and/or deletions. Standard bid sheets and a complete vehicle list will be provided in our main lobby on viewing dates. ▲

## Jackson EMC Offices

1000 Dawsonville Highway  
Gainesville, GA  
(770) 536-2415

85 Spratlin Mill Road  
Hull, GA  
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road  
Jefferson, GA  
(706) 367-5281

461 Swanson Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA  
(770) 963-6166

EMC Security  
55 Satellite Blvd., NW  
Suwanee, GA  
(770) 963-0305 or  
(706) 543-4009

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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.



## Bacon & Cheese-Stuffed Zucchini

### Ingredients:

2 eight-ball zucchini (round, softball-sized variety of summer squash)  
4 strips bacon  
1 medium tomato, chopped  
1/3 onion, chopped

3/4 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded and divided  
1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs  
Salt and pepper

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut tops off of zucchini and use spoon to hollow out the innards. Reserve these.

Chop bacon into small pieces and brown. Add zucchini innards, tomato and onion; cook on medium high heat for four minutes.

Remove from heat. Add 1/2 cup cheese and bread crumbs. Salt and pepper to taste. Spoon stuffing into hollowed out zucchini. Top with 1/4 cup cheese.

Place zucchini in baking pan with lip; add water to pan to keep zucchini from burning. Bake 40 minutes or until zucchini has softened.