

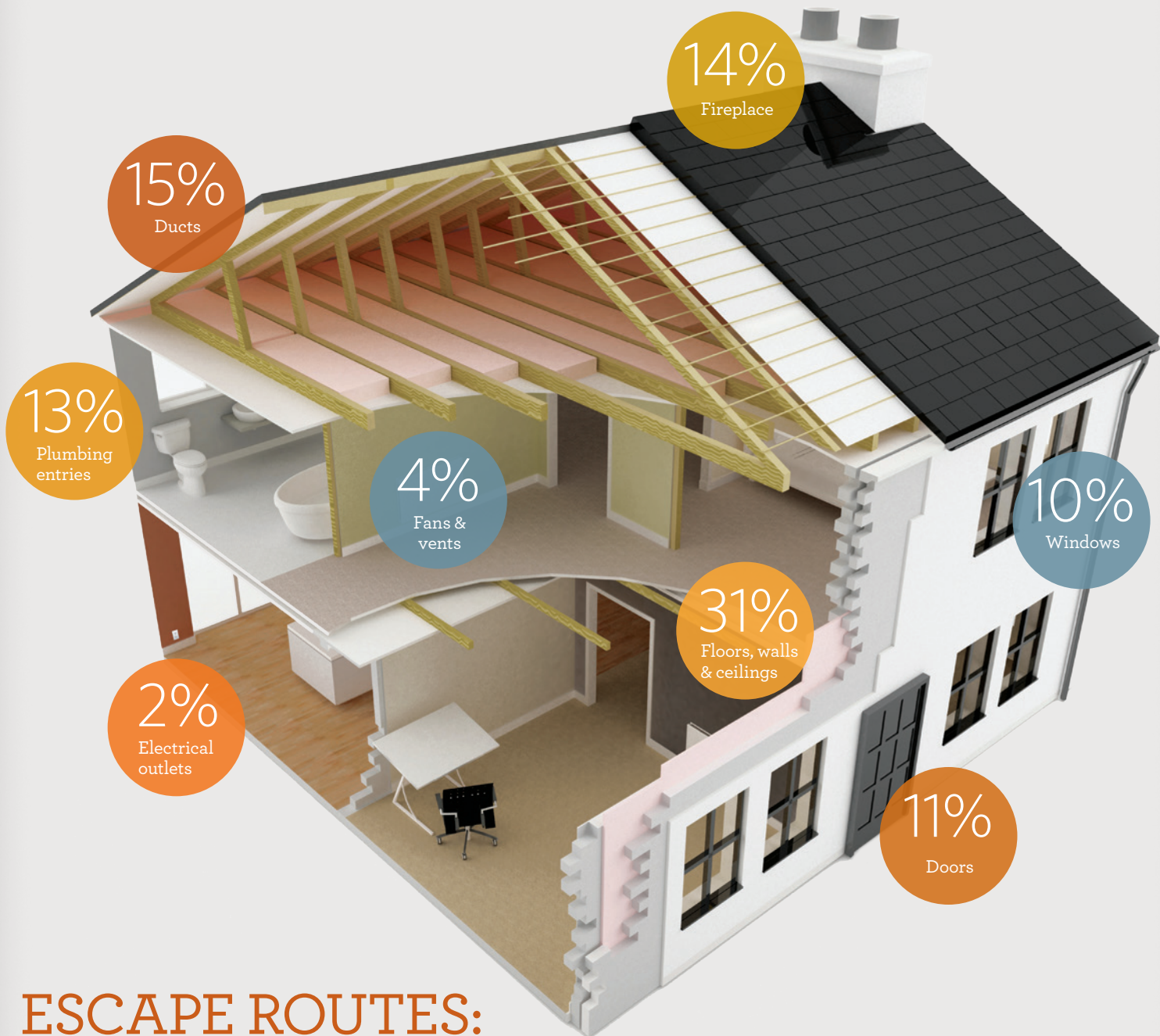
Calling all High School Students:  
Apply for Washington Youth Tour

Area Home Shows  
Coupons Inside

# JEMICOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

January 2015



## ESCAPE ROUTES:

How Heat Is Fleeing  
Your Home



President/CEO  
Chip Jakins

*Chip Jakins*

## Planning for the Future

**2015** is a new year. Even though the date has just changed, we've been planning for this day for quite a while. That's my responsibility as your CEO. It's my job to look forward, plan for growth, keep pulse of change, prepare for uncertainties, and ultimately supply you with affordable, reliable energy. Warm schools for our children, refrigeration to keep our food safe, and the power for our computers and televisions take careful planning. To keep the lights on affordably, I have to balance our energy resources and plan for the future.

Jackson EMC members are powered by a mix of energy resources: natural gas, hydroelectricity, solar, coal, biomass and nuclear. Balance is vital. Variety in our supply gives us the flexibility we need to adapt to change. Whether change is necessary because a major natural gas pipeline is shut down, like we saw with Hurricane Katrina, or because new government regulations create obstacles, we need to be ready. Even though we plan and balance our resources, there are things out of our control.

I think about trying to control what my children eat, but accept the fact that what happens at Grandma's house is out of my hands. If they indulge in an extra dessert at my mom's, I can change their diet at home to make up for it.

Through solid and sound management practices, we can do the same with your energy resources.

Jackson EMC has the flexibility we need to keep a balanced diet and manage energy costs in the face of change. Our members receive one of the best values for power in Georgia, and we are a leader nationwide. Seventy-five percent of your cost is raw electricity and most of the rest pays for the lines that carry power to your homes and businesses. We control cost through efficient management.

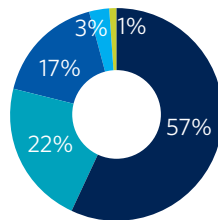
We can continue to keep our costs low by planning for our future. Our investment in nuclear is one example of how planning will ensure we have a sustainable, affordable source of energy for years to come. Our share of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant is planning for the future. The expansion at Vogtle is the first nuclear development in this country in nearly 20 years. This nuclear plant won't be coming online until 2018, but it is 10 years in the planning.

Last year, our members consumed 5 billion kilowatt hours of power. We expect that number to grow to 6.5 billion within the next five years. To keep costs low and meet the demand of our current and future members, we must balance our energy diet today and plan to keep our recipe flexible in the years to come. ⚡

## Jackson EMC's Energy Mix

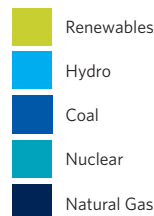
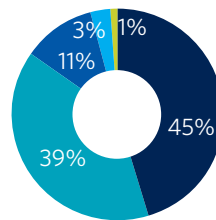
**2014:**

5,193,197,000  
kilowatt-hours



**2020:**

6,496,484,000  
kilowatt-hours



- One kilowatt-hour is enough to power 10 100-Watt light bulbs for one hour, or 77 CFLs.
- An average residential customer uses around 1,300 kWh per month.

### JEMCO news

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## onlinef@cts

### WATCH POWER TOWN ONLINE

Power Town is an informative and entertaining look at electricity and how it interacts with the things around us. Presented in a format that's perfect for children, this video explains how electricity works, but also presents real-world safety lessons in an easy-to-understand format. In a 10-minute lesson, viewers will learn about dangers associated with playing too close to power lines and how to stay safe around fallen lines.

To watch the video, fill out the form at [www.jacksonemc.com/powerstown](http://www.jacksonemc.com/powerstown) so we can keep track of how many people have heard this important safety message.



# Apply for the Washington Youth Tour 2015



Jackson EMC's 2014 Washington Youth Tour delegates are shown before boarding the Cherry Blossom on the Potomac River. Pictured from left are: Michael Smith, Mountain View High School, Lawrenceville; Zac Adams, Peachtree Ridge High School, Suwanee; Betsy Barrett, North Hall High School, Gainesville; and Ian McGaughey, Jackson County Comprehensive High School, Jefferson.

For Michael Smith, 2014 tour delegate from Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville, the idea of a free trip to Washington, D.C., was intriguing enough for him to apply. After going, he encourages everyone to apply.

"At the kickoff banquet they said it would be the trip of a lifetime," he remembered. "I thought it'd probably be cool but they were over selling it. Nope. I was floored by how incredible the trip actually was."

Smith said the magic was in the people he shared the experience with.


"These people want to change the world; I call them difference makers," he said. "The highest caliber people from across the nation sharing life experiences and just laughing and being teenagers."

Now, it is your turn to join an elite group of students from all across America on the 2015 Washington Youth Tour. We are looking for high school sophomores or juniors, at least 16 years old at the time of the trip, with demonstrated leadership, academic excellence and interest in learning about civil service, American history and U.S. Government.

The weeklong leadership tour is set for June 11-18 and applications are currently being accepted. Four


Jackson EMC student delegates will join more than 1,600 like-minded teenagers from across the country to experience the nation's capital by visiting its monuments, memorials and museums; meeting your state representatives; and learning from one another.


Georgia is celebrating its 50th tour in this program, which is sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives. Jackson EMC's delegates are nominated by their high school. Applications can be downloaded at [www.jacksonemc.com/wyt](http://www.jacksonemc.com/wyt) and submitted to school counselors or leadership contacts. Do **not** send applications to Jackson EMC. Participating schools' application deadlines vary, so check with your school regarding due dates. One semi-finalist will be nominated from each high school during the last week in February.


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 2015 tentative itinerary


▪ **June 11:** Kickoff banquet, Atlanta Airport Marriott, Atlanta 


▪ **June 12:** Team-building activities; flight to Washington D.C. 

▪ **June 13:** Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of FDR, Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II memorials; White House gates 

▪ **June 14:** Guided tour of Lincoln, Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour; dinner performance of "1776" at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Maryland 

▪ **June 15:** All States assembly; tour Smithsonian museums; riverboat cruise on Potomac River 

▪ **June 16:** Tour U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue) 

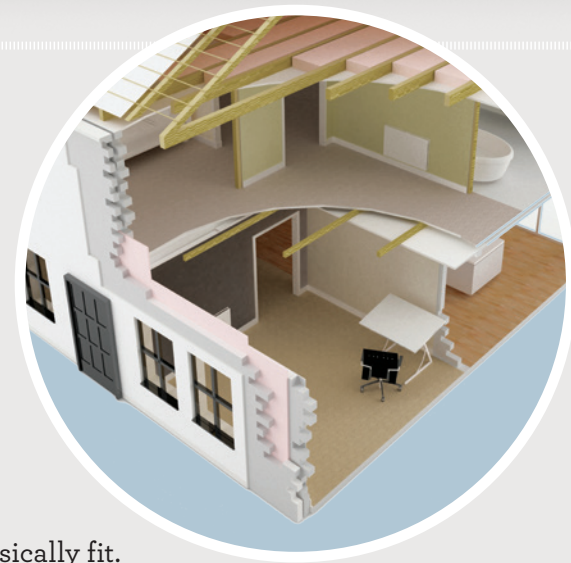
▪ **June 17:** Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum; All States farewell event 

▪ **June 18:** Return flight to Atlanta 

*Note: Itinerary subject to change*

# A DIET PLAN FOR MY BILL

## My Home Fitness Evaluation



By April Sorrow, Editor

Just like every other year, I have once again resolved to become more physically fit. While I'm at it, I think I'll ramp up our home energy fitness too. I've already completed my home fitness monitor and uncovered some savings. To extend my education, I invited Andy Butler and Brannon Hall from Home Diagnostic Solutions (HDS) into my home to perform a Personal Home Fitness Evaluation.

Butler says there are three main areas to focus on when addressing efficiency and comfort: air leakage, insulation and the HVAC system. Air leakage can be a huge problem. Ideally, a home would have around 35 percent natural air leakage every hour. Mine is 29 percent, so we don't need to spend much time replacing thresholds or sealing windows, and it sounds like my dad's fear of me air conditioning the neighborhood has been averted.

"Most homes don't do so well on the leakage test. We've tested a lot of houses that lose upward of 75 percent of their air every hour," Butler said.

I may have passed the leakage test, but I failed insulation. They said that my floor insulation is upside-down and I don't have enough of it on my ceilings. If the insulation isn't thick enough or put in the right way, the heat will escape right through the walls, ceilings and floors. Stacking my Christmas decorations on top of my attic insulation compacted it and made it less effective.

Hall said adding insulation is one of the easiest ways to whip your bills into shape. He said to set a goal of reaching R-49 instead of the code minimum R-30. Mine was R-28. He said that code is "the least you can get away with, so insulating only up to R-30 is like driving the minimum speed limit on the interstate."

They also tested how well our HVAC system performed. Measurements were taken at each vent to test that our system was pumping what it should, where it should. Turns out, it's not, and I am partially to blame. I buy thick, expensive allergen-reducing filters so my family can have really clean air. In this case, that choice is choking down my system. My ducts weren't designed to handle such a thick filter. Their tests also showed that my return ducts have a problem letting air flow through. Between the ductwork and the thick filter, my system is being overworked.

"For energy efficiency, you want your HVAC system to breathe easily," said Will Moyers, operations manager with HDS. Picking the right filter is not as easy as it seems. He says, "without proper testing, putting a tight filter in can be risky. If the filter or ductwork is too restrictive it will add to the stress of the machinery much like a clogged artery stresses the heart. A good filter keeps debris out of the machinery while allowing plenty of air to flow through. An HVAC contractor can design the duct system to work with heavy duty filters."

In the end, I don't have too much work to do. If I fix the few things on my list, I qualify for some rebates and HDS will come back to help me verify that the work was done correctly. If I pass the verification test, Jackson EMC will pay up to \$1,700 in rebates as long as the work done meets some basic requirements. ▲

### 1. Evaluate

Get a personal Home Fitness Evaluation and receive specific home improvement recommendations. Jackson EMC members qualify for a \$200 rebate on the service.

### 2. Improve

Choose the recommended improvements that are ranked high on the list and make the biggest energy savings to receive Jackson EMC rebates. These will be an "A" or "B" recommendation on your evaluation report. You must use a contractor in JEMC's Participating Contractor Network.

### 3. Verify

Once the Energy Fitness improvements are made, a follow-up evaluation is performed to verify the work is done and qualify you for current rebates.

### 4. Save

Jackson EMC offers rebates up to \$1,700 for the Personal Home Fitness Evaluation and certain improvements. If changes are made, you may also qualify for the lowest energy rate available, the Energy Advantage Rate. Either way, you'll begin saving both money and energy immediately.

For more information about getting your home energy fit, go to [www.jacksonemc.com/energyfit](http://www.jacksonemc.com/energyfit).

To learn more, visit [www.emcsecurity.com](http://www.emcsecurity.com) or call 770-963-0305.

## Did you know?

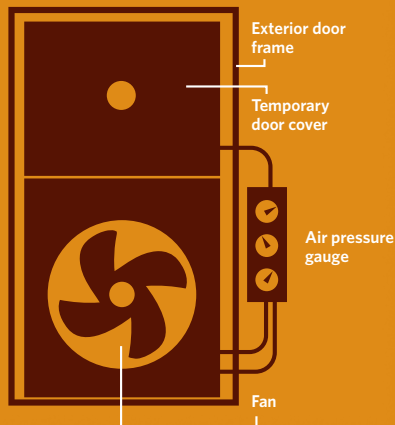
The average home has enough air leakage to add up to a two-foot-square hole.

**That's like leaving a medium-sized window wide open 24 hours a day.**



## What is the Blower Door Test?

A blower door test locates air leaks by using a special fan to depressurize a house. Blower tests are conducted before and after air sealing to measure the effectiveness of the work.



## The Personal Home Fitness Evaluation Checklist

Home Diagnostic Solutions technicians will go through the following steps to diagnose energy ailments in your home:

- 1 Analyze past year's fuel bills to determine base energy consumption
- 2 Interview the homeowner to learn about problems and how the home operates
- 3 Explain the audit process
- 4 Conduct exterior inspection
- 5 Health and safety inspection
- 6 Interior visual inspection
- 7 Blower door test
- 8 Infrared camera scan
- 9 Air flow test
- 10 Inspect air handler



## Mythbusting Infrared Imaging

**Infrared cannot see through objects or air.**

It can only see temperatures with cold objects appearing darker and warm objects appearing lighter.

**Infrared doesn't see color.**

The color is computer generated to make the difference in temperature easier to see to the untrained eye.

**Infrared imaging should not be the only tool an energy auditor uses.**

When used during a blower door test, infrared imaging is a powerful tool for determining air leaks.



## The Technician's Toolbox

Below are some of the tools energy technicians use to inspect a home's energy use.

- Telescoping ladder**  
To reach into an attic or up high
- Screwdrivers, pliers and adjustable wrench**  
To remove outlet plates and inspect air handler
- 25-foot tape measure**  
For making a footprint sketch of the house
- Flashlight and batteries**  
To light dark areas for inspection
- Digital camera**  
To help see into hard-to-reach places and document elements of the house
- Pen and paper**  
For taking notes
- Infrared camera**  
To help determine air leakage and insulation

- Combustion analyzer**  
Tool designed to sample flue gases in vented combustion appliances and measure flue gas temperature leaks and carbon monoxide
- Blower door**  
A large fan that depressurizes the home by sucking air out. This test simulates the effect of a 20-mile-per-hour wind to allow the technician to find air leaks
- Manometer**  
A gauge that measures the differences in pressure in a home to pinpoint air leakage and test exhaust devices for proper operation
- Smoke generating device**  
Produces a thin stream of smoke or non-toxic fog to help find air leakage and duct leakage

- Watt meter**  
Measures the electrical energy used by various devices throughout the home
- Soap bubbles**  
Used to confirm fuel leaks in combustion appliances
- Digital probe thermometer**  
For testing temperature rise in heating equipment and fan operating temperatures
- Inspection mirror**  
To see into constricted spaces
- Draft gauge**  
To test for chimney drafts
- Moisture meter**  
Measures moisture level in wood and other materials
- Air flow capture hood**  
Measures air supply flow and return at each register vent

## Did you know?

You could save **5 to 30 percent** on your energy bill by making efficiency upgrades identified in your Personal Home Fitness Evaluation.



## Harbin Appointed to Jackson EMC Foundation Board

Joel Harbin, owner of the Allstate Insurance Agency in Jefferson, has been appointed to the Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors, succeeding Verlin Reece, who retired from the board in September 2014.

The Jackson EMC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization set up to represent the members of Jackson EMC and distribute funds collected from participating members through Operation Round Up. The 11-member volunteer board of directors for the Foundation meets regularly to review grant applications and select recipients for worthwhile, charitable purposes that will improve lives and respond to immediate needs.

Since Operation Round Up's beginning nine years ago, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$9.2 million through 906 grants to organizations and 302 grants awarded to individuals.

A resident of Jackson County for more than 25 years, Harbin is a graduate of Piedmont College with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Before opening the Allstate agency in 2006, he worked in the insurance industry as a product analyst, claims analyst and business development manager in the metro Atlanta area.

Harbin serves as president of the Rotary Club of Jefferson, a member of the Jefferson Downtown Development Authority, a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Jackson County Board of Directors, and a member of the Jefferson Area Business Association. He is also an active member of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce and a 2010 Leadership Jackson graduate. Professionally, he is an active member and Past President of the Athens Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. ▲

## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation awards \$86,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded \$86,000 in grants to organizations during its November meeting.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000** to **Habitat for Humanity of Jackson County** to help restore a former bank-owned modular home and bring it up to code as housing for a single mother and her son, as well as construct a second home for a family of eight that includes three generations and two members with disabilities.

**\$12,000** to **St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Catherine Laboure** in Jefferson for its financial assistance program which provides funds to families in crisis for rent, mortgage, food, transportation, gas, car repair and insurance premiums, and medical assistance.

**\$12,000** to **St. Vincent de Paul Society of Peace Catholic Church** in Flowery Branch for its Aid Hot Line program, which provides emergency aid to families in crisis for rent, mortgage and temporary housing to prevent homelessness and disrupted lives.

**\$12,000** to **St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Michael** in Gainesville to help fund direct aid for housing assistance, including rent, mortgage and temporary housing, for families in crisis.

**\$8,000** 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.

**\$7,000** to **Multiple Choices Center for Independent Living** in Athens for its "Good Roots Project," which trains developmentally disabled individuals in organic vegetable growing techniques, providing local gardeners, commercial producers and community gardens with high-quality, organically grown seedlings, and providing the trainees with skills that could enable them to become independent business owners.

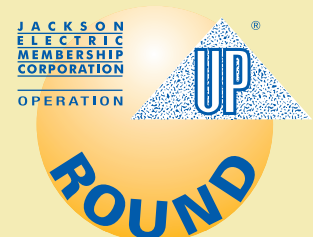
**\$5,000** to **Freedom from Bondage**, an Athens recovery residence for women with drug and substance abuse dependency, to help pay entry fees and rent for those who have no resources, as well as providing bus passes and a desktop computer to help the women look for employment.

**\$5,000** to **ChildKind**, a nonprofit supporting families that care for medically fragile children, to help provide in-home care instructions through its Home Based Services program, preparing parents in Banks, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties to adequately and successfully care for their child or foster child at home.

**\$5,000** to **Children First**, an Athens community-based nonprofit that works with families and the courts to ensure the children have safe, stable, nurturing living environments, to help provide supportive supervised visitation in a neutral setting for families whose children have been placed in foster care.

**\$5,000** to the **Sexual Assault Center & Children's Advocacy Center** in Athens to cover the cost of 100 individual therapy sessions to give clients who are victims of child abuse and sexual assault the appropriate tools to cope emotionally and maintain a healthy life.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to apply for a grant, visit [www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation).





## Learn Tricks of the Trade at Area Home Shows

As we have for many years, Jackson EMC continues to partner with local home show coordinators to offer our members savings on upcoming shows. Use the accompanying coupons to save on ticket prices of both the North Atlanta Home Show in Duluth February 6 - 8 and the Athens Home and Garden Show February 28 - March 1.

We encourage our members to visit the local home shows to discover decorating and energy-saving ideas for your home, inside and out. Numerous area companies will be represented at both shows where they will share the latest and greatest in home improvement products and services.

While you're there, don't forget to stop by the Jackson EMC booth where our representatives will be on hand to answer your energy-related questions and share information on our products and services.

### 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTH ATLANTA HOME SHOW

Gwinnett Center | 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway | Duluth, GA  
770-998-9800 | atlantahomeshow.com

**\$2 OFF**

\$2 off 1 General Admission Ticket, not to be combined with any other offer

**GENERAL ADMISSION: \$8**

**MILITARY W/ID:** Buy one ticket for \$8 and get one FREE

**SENIORS 65+ W/ID: FREE**

**CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER: FREE**

Friday, February 6, Noon - 6 pm

Saturday, February 7, 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday, February 8, Noon - 5 pm

### 2015 ATHENS HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Athens Classic Center | 300 N. Thomas Street | Athens, GA  
706-543-5760 | aahba.com

**\$1 OFF**

**ADULTS: \$6**

**SENIOR CITIZENS: \$4**

**CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$4**

**CHILDREN UNDER 3: FREE**

Saturday, February 28, 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, March 1, Noon - 5 pm

## smartconnections

# Get Energy Fit And Win! Join the Home Energy Fitness Challenge

Go to [www.jacksonemc.com/challenge](http://www.jacksonemc.com/challenge) and:

- 1. Sign up for Track My Progress.** Your Jackson EMC account number unlocks information about your energy use, which can help you identify ways to save.
- 2. Create your home profile at the Home Fitness Monitor for your personal energy report.** Your results are updated regularly and you can request periodic emails detailing your results.
- 3. Set energy-saving goals to create your own energy fitness plan.**

When you've completed all three steps, you're automatically entered in the Home Fitness Challenge and eligible for prizes. Three first-place winners will receive a \$1,000 shopping spree at **Academy Sports + Outdoors** to spend on equipment, clothing or tools to help them reach their fitness goals. Fifteen winners will receive a Fitbit Flex activity and sleep monitor. Drawings for all prizes will take place April 1.



## Jackson EMC Offices

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(706) 367-5281

461 Swanson Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA  
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55 Satellite Blvd., NW  
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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.

## *Crazy Chocolate Cake*

Marilyn M. Deal  
Braselton, GA

"When we were children, time was always of the essence for my mom, as a mother and wife. This was quick and easy and we all really loved it. I hope you do too."

### **Ingredients:**

ADD INGREDIENTS TO A MIXING BOWL IN THE ORDER LISTED

1 cup sugar	½ teaspoon salt
1 egg	1 teaspoon baking soda
½ cup sweet or sour milk	½ teaspoon baking powder
½ cup shortening	1½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla	½ cup boiling water
½ cup cocoa	

### **Instructions:**

Put all ingredients in a mixing bowl in the order listed. Do not stir until the water has been added. Beat for 3 minutes. Bake in a slow oven at 325 degrees.

Top with icing or enjoy as is.