

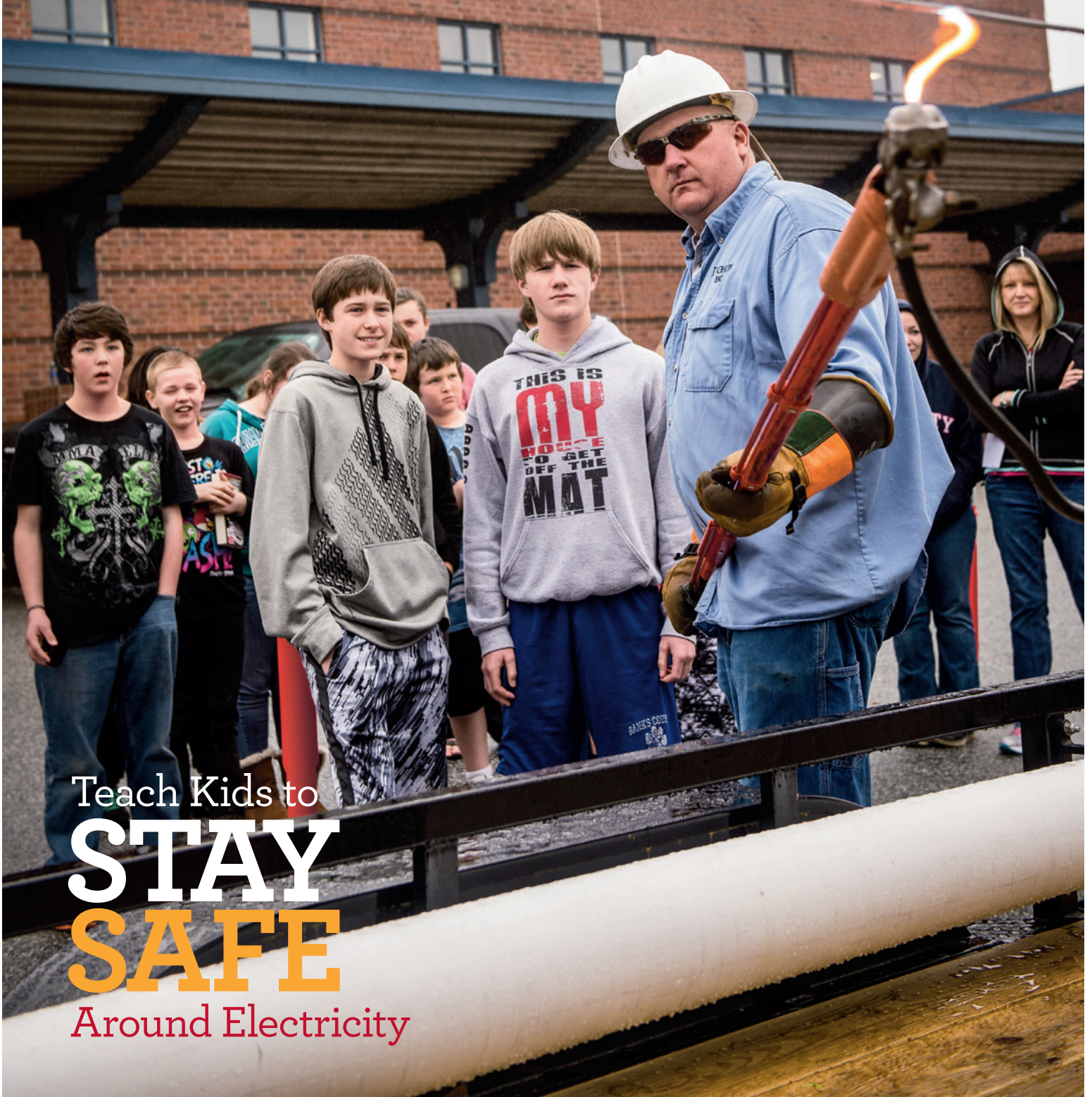
Make the Right Choice
When Buying a New Home

Let Us Help
Keep You in Hot Water

JEMICOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

May 2015



Teach Kids to
**STAY
SAFE**

Around Electricity



President/CEO
Chip Jakins

JEMCO news

VOL. 64, NO. 5, MAY 2015
(ISSN 1061-5601), IS PUBLISHED
MONTHLY BY THE MEMBER
SERVICES DEPT. OF JACKSON
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.,
461 SWANSON DRIVE,
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30043.
SUBSCRIPTION \$3.50 PER YEAR
AS PART OF YEARLY MEMBERSHIP.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT LAWRENCEVILLE, GA AND
ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

April Sorrow, Editor.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Jemco News
461 Swanson Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Let's Go Fly a Kite

Kites have a lot of significance for us in the electricity business. Benjamin Franklin's experiment in 1752 involving a kite, a key and a string confirmed the relationship between lightning and static electricity. Whether Franklin actually held the ground-end of that kite was the subject of a recent *MythBusters* episode where their experiment showed if he had, he would not have lived to tell the world about it.

That's another significant fact kites teach us about electricity; it can be dangerous. Electricity helps us live our lives comfortably, but we have to be safe around power lines and electrical equipment. Safety around power lines, whether with a kite or a ladder, is a very big deal to us, both for our employees and our members.

Frequently, we are in the communities we serve educating our members about the risks of electric shock. Through Power Town and our new safety trailer demonstration, we teach citizens as well as EMTs and First Responders about electrical safety risks. We also have resources online to help you learn to be safe around electricity, including a Power Town video.

Electricity makes much of this cooperative's work dangerous. To keep us and our members safe, we engage in monthly safety classes, learning about everything from hazardous waste and safe driving to CPR and updated safety standards for our linemen. We are currently conducting new pole safety trainings, implementing the use of the newest harness technology – the Buckingham SuperSqueeze™ – to keep our guys safe while they work on the lines.

Our linemen work in dangerous conditions to keep our lights on every day. One of the many keys to their safety is that they look out for one another. Together, they spend countless hours suspended over a truck in a bucket, packed deep in the cab of a truck, stacked clinging to a pole or up to their ears deep in a ditch. In those tight situations, they grow close fast. Like a band

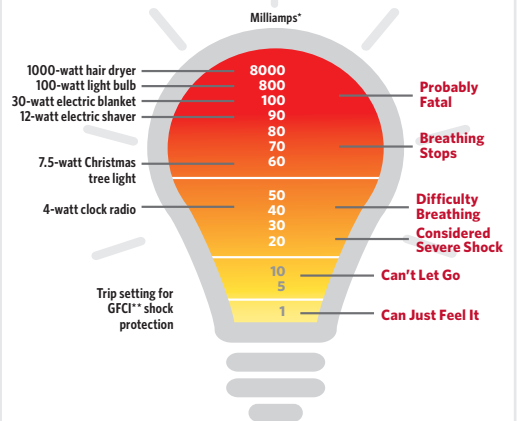
of brothers, a feeling of family is just part of life in a cooperative.

Safety is critical, but arguably the most important lesson we can learn from a kite is to enjoy life. Jim Collins wrote in his book, *Good to Great*, "It is impossible to have a great life unless it is a meaningful life. And it is very difficult to have a meaningful life without meaningful work." I agree. I believe if you are lucky enough to do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life.

I'm going to go get my kite right now. I hope you do too. And if you do find time to catch a kite in the wind, fly high – but not too close to the power lines! ⚡

Just a Little Current Can Kill

The real measure of shock's intensity lies in the amount of current, or amperes, forced through the body, and not the voltage. Any electrical device used on a house wiring circuit can, under certain conditions, transmit a fatal current.

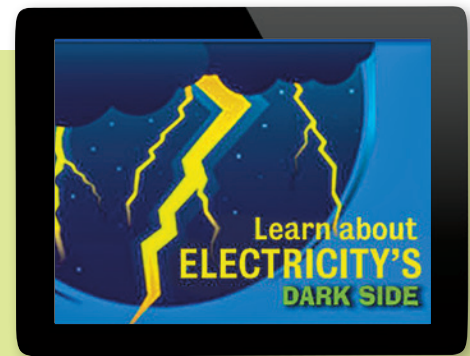


* A milliamper is 1/1000th of an ampere, a measure of electrical current.
** A GFCI is a ground fault circuit interrupter, a device that protects against serious shock.

onlinef@cts

Get Safety-SMART!

Kids, and curious adults, can log on to our kids e-smart pages and learn how to be Safety-SMART. Through a series of educational programs, kids can earn their safety certificate when they learn what electricity is and how electricity moves; how it can hurt you; what to do in case of an electrical emergency; and how to be safe around trees and power lines.



You can also read stories about children affected by electrical injuries. Visit www.jacksonemc.com/safety-smart to learn more.

On the Cover:

Jackson EMC Service Representative Jason Bond conducts a power safety demonstration for Banks County Middle School students during a recent Career Day. This thank you letter came from a Sugar Hill Elementary student after a similar demonstration.



Comfort & Convenience, **GUARANTEED**

EMC Security and
Jackson EMC Right Choice™
Come Together
for Today's Home.

Convenience and comfort are built into every home with Right Choice™ energy efficiency and EMC Security smart home technology. Convenience comes from knowing that, with home automation, your home is well monitored. Comfort comes from knowing that the people and things inside your home are safe and secure with a system that responds in seconds. And with smart design, you can keep your home at its seasonal best.

Imagine using an app on your phone to turn on the porch lights for a dinner guest; lock the front door after pulling out of the driveway; arm or disarm your security system while building a sandcastle a hundred miles away; or to set your thermostat down a few degrees so you'll be cool when you finally get home. These are a few possibilities you'll have with home automation from EMC Security.

"Home automation is easier and more economical than ever before," said Vince Raia, president of EMC Security. "For years we have seen increasing connectivity, convenience and security with our mobile devices. The natural extension is being connected to and managing our homes in a similar way. Rocklyn Homes is making the connected home a reality for their customers."

Convenience Is Great. Comfort Is Essential.

With Right Choice™ homes are designed and built to standards guaranteed to maintain the temperature inside your home within three degrees of the thermostat setting. This guarantee is possible through smart design, which includes superior insulation and efficient HVAC design.

Working with Rocklyn Homes at their new Horizon subdivision, located on Cruse Road in Lawrenceville, JEMC and EMC Security provide "invisible luxury."

"Homebuyers can't see what's behind the walls, but with the Right Choice™ process, each home has been designed and built with comfort and efficiency in mind," said Joy Ellis, a residential sales representative with JEMC.

In addition to comfort, EMC Security has wired each home in Horizon with cutting-edge security

and smart technology features. Windows and doors are equipped with a perimeter intrusion detection system. Motion sensors monitor movement on the first floor of the house, ready to alert authorities if someone threatens to intrude. The thermostat, lights and door locks can all be controlled from a smartphone or computer, whether you are nearby or monitoring your home from far away.


Jackson EMC partners with builders through the Right Choice™ program to design homes built for energy efficiency, sustainability, improved indoor air quality, convenience and comfort. Homes certified as Right Choice™ qualify for the lowest electric rate offered by Jackson EMC - the Energy Advantage Rate saves homeowners an average of five percent off their bill. And the rate stays with the home, so every future sale comes with Jackson EMC's lowest rate as well.

Take a look around Rocklyn Homes' new Horizon subdivision to see these features, or ask your real estate agent to find you your own Right Choice™ home.

Not in the market for a new home? You can still add home automation and make some upgrades to improve the energy efficiency of your house.

To learn more about Right Choice™, contact your local JEMC office, or see www.jacksonemc.com/rightchoicenehome.

More about EMC Security can be found online at www.emcsecurity.com.

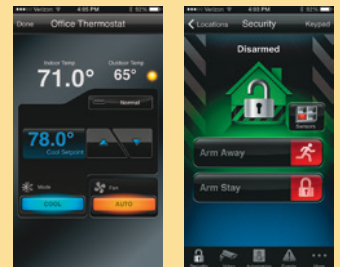
More about Horizon is available at www.rocklynhomes.com/communities/horizon/. 

Right Choice™ Guarantees:

- **Comfort:** 1-year comfort warranty guarantees each room will stay within 3 degrees of the thermostat setting for that zone.
- **Energy Savings:** 3-year energy warranty guarantees annual heating and cooling energy costs will not exceed the amount predicted during design.

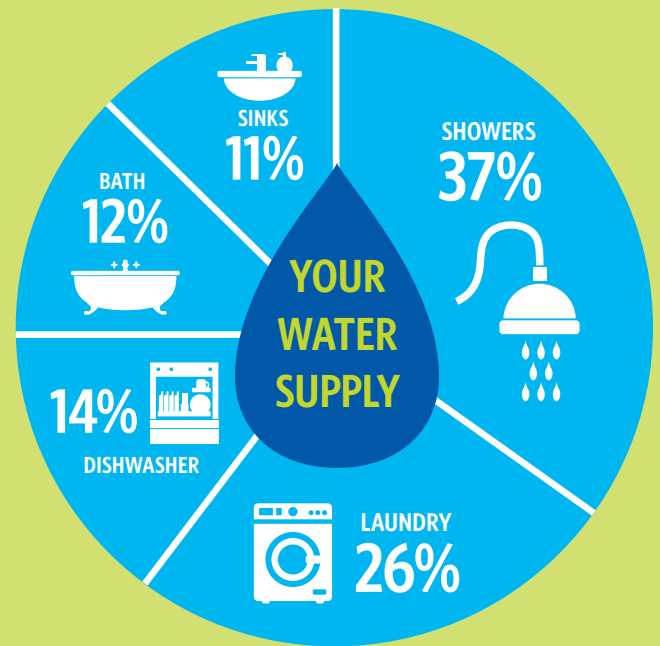
Convenience and Security:

- Create **automatic light schedules** to fit your lifestyle and deter intruders.
- **Remotely lock** your outside doors from the car, office, gym or anywhere.
- Set your home to **warm up or cool down automatically** as your schedule demands.
- **Log all events**, including movement in the house, system arm/disarm, doors open/close and more.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WATER HEATERS

Water heating is nearly the largest electrical expense in your home; second only to heating and air conditioning. Roughly 30% of your electric bill goes to heating water.



TIPS to reduce your water heating bill:

1. Use LESS hot water.

- Use the dishwasher. Hand-washing is more expensive because it uses a LOT more hot water.
- Install low-flow faucets and shower heads.
- Fix leaks.

2. When you need to upgrade, choose ENERGY STAR® appliances, such as dishwashers and clothes washers. These appliances use less water and energy.

3. Turn down the thermostat on the water heater. Water heaters should be set to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, for efficiency.

4. Insulate.

Chances are, your water heater is installed in an unheated space, like a garage or basement. That makes insulation even more important.

Without insulation, your hot water pipes act like a radiator, transferring heat into the air so efficiently that any water left in the pipe is barely warm after 15 minutes.

Encase pipes in rubber or foam tubes. Tubes come with an adhesive-coated slit down the middle so you can put them over the pipes and press closed. You can buy 6-foot sections of foam for \$2 or rubber for \$5.

CALCULATE YOUR Water Heater Demand

To make sure you have enough hot water, calculate your household's peak-hour hot water demand and use. For example, in my house, we need four early morning showers (17 gallons each shower), four rounds of teeth brushing

Source: www.energystar.gov



SHOWERS
17 Gal.



TEETH
BRUSHING
5 Gal.


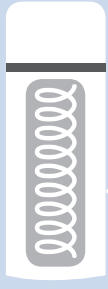
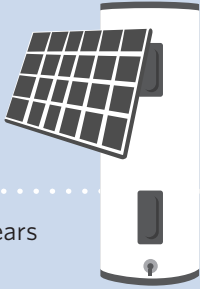






DISHWASHING
12 Gal.

(five gallons each if they leave the water running) and one load of dishes – about 12 gallons. With that scenario, we may need **100 gallons of hot water** in the morning, or someone would be rinsing in cold water.

TYPES of WATER HEATERS

If you need to buy a new water heater, check out this guide from the U.S. Department of Energy to help you make the best decision.

	STORAGE 	HEAT PUMP 	SOLAR 
COST:	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
LIFESPAN:	10-15 Years	10-15 Years	About 20 Years
BENEFITS: 	Low cost. Low maintenance. Broad base of experienced contractors to sell, install and service. Best solution for most members.	2-3 times more energy efficient. Can save on electricity bills.	50 percent more efficient than gas or electric water heaters.
DISADVANTAGES: 	Standby heat loss - energy can be wasted to keep the water in the tank heated to the set temperature.	Exhaust cold air, increasing the load for HVAC during cold months. Larger than other water heaters and requires a lot of space. They are also louder than other types.	May require a backup system for cloudy days and during times of high demand.
TIPS: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for an insulated tank to reduce heat loss and lower operating costs. (Rheem Marathon). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switching to regular resistance mode will stop cold air exhaust but also reduce efficiency. Heat pump and solar water heaters may require more maintenance than a storage tank. Make sure your installer supports these technologies and can service your product for years to come. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buy a solar water heating system that includes a storage tank as part of the system package. Heat pump and solar water heaters may require more maintenance than a storage tank. Make sure your installer supports these technologies and can service your product for years to come.
REBATES: 	JEMC: \$500 Marathon insulated water heater. \$150 any electric storage water heater.	JEMC: ENERGY STAR® rated heat pump water heater: \$500: Less than 55 gallons \$800: 55-75 gallons \$1,000: More than 75 gallons	JEMC: \$500 ENERGY STAR® rated solar thermal water heater.
Note: Jackson EMC supports your choice for the water heater that best meets your needs through educational resources and rebates. However, we do not sell, install or service this equipment.			FEDERAL: Save up to 30% of the cost, including installation and labor, through the federal tax credit available through December 31, 2016.

Home for a Hero

It's hard to see the silver lining in a devastating home fire. Through Habitat for Humanity of Hall County, one family's loss has become home for another. The Gainesville Hunter family tragically lost their home to a fire in 2014. They decided to rebuild somewhere new, but wanted a family to benefit from their loss. They donated their property to Habitat for Humanity so a home would be built for a hero: a disabled veteran and family.

The Jackson EMC Foundation granted \$15,000 to help support the construction of the Home for a Hero build. The donation will be used for HVAC, electrical wiring, cabinets, flooring and lighting.

Each home costs around \$80,000 to build, a cost that remains low due to

the hours of volunteer labor, donated materials and in-kind gifts given to the projects. Around 120 volunteers build a Habitat home.

Every Habitat homeowner pays for their home. All homes through Habitat Hall County are financed for a zero percent 20-year loan. The homeowner will pay a modest down payment, complete a 10-hour financial education program and volunteer over 300 hours in sweat equity as part of the Habitat program.

Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has helped more than four million people build, rehabilitate or preserve homes. Habitat for Humanity of Hall County partners with working families, sponsors and communities to build affordable, green, quality homes. Offering a "hand up,

not a hand out," to date Hall County Habitat has built or revitalized 48 homes. ▲



Logan Fox, 8, and his aunt Kristine Hunter sign under the staircase at the Home for a Hero dedication to the Smith family. The Hunters specifically requested the home in Flowery Branch go to a veteran in need of assistance.

Photo courtesy of The Gainesville Times. Erin O. Smith, Staff Photographer

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation awards \$112,500 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total \$112,500 in grants to organizations during its March meeting, including \$109,000 to organizations and \$3,500 to an individual.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to **Habitat for Humanity of Hall County** to purchase HVAC and electrical equipment, cabinets, flooring and lighting for its Home for a Hero project.

\$15,000 to **Signs and Wonders** in Lawrenceville, a nonprofit organization that offers assistance to the homeless and needy, to allow 18 homeless men to participate in the addiction recovery program, a two-phase drug and alcohol recovery course to help them get back on their feet and re-enter society in a stable, productive manner.

\$12,500 to the **Boy Scouts of Northeast Georgia** to provide uniforms, handbooks and summer camp fees that will help underprivileged youth participate in scouting, teaching them to make ethical choices and promoting citizenship, leadership, mental and physical fitness.

\$12,500 to the **Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia** to help fund the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which

teaches girls how to understand themselves and their values, use that knowledge to explore the world, care about and team-up with others, and take increasing responsibility for designing and implementing activities to make the world a better place.

\$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 that will keep an infant warm and dry for the first 2-3 months of life; donated to mothers in nine North Georgia counties who have little or nothing for their newborns.

\$7,500 to the **American Red Cross of East Georgia** to provide disaster relief, including food, shelter, personal needs and clothing, to families in Jackson, Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster.

\$7,500 to the **American Red Cross of Northeast Georgia** to provide disaster relief, including food, shelter, personal needs and clothing, to

families in Hall and Lumpkin counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster.

\$7,500 to **Project Adam**, a nonprofit focused on the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug dependency, to help purchase technical services and equipment that will allow the agency to better serve its outpatient clients with programs such as risk reduction, defensive driving, drug-free workplace, and individual and family counseling.

\$7,500 to **Rainbow Children's Home**, a Dahlonega shelter for abused and neglected girls, to help fund programs that go beyond the basics of food, clothing and shelter to provide services such as support groups, academic tutoring, substance abuse treatment, self-defense classes and family recovery workshops.

\$5,000 to the **Madison County 4-H** to purchase parts, materials, power tools and technology for its robotics program, that builds science, engineering and technology skills, inspires innovation and promotes

well-rounded life skills in middle and high school students.

\$5,000 to **The Potter's House**, an Atlanta Mission facility, to help feed, house, counsel and provide educational programs, such as adult literacy, to men who are recovering from substance abuse through an intensive residential program at this 570-acre working farm in Jefferson.

\$4,000 to the **Franklin Life Pregnancy Resource Center**, a volunteer, Christian ministry that provides testing, counseling and parenting classes for expectant teens and their families, to help provide the "Earn While You Learn" program that teaches parenting skills and provides essential childcare items.

Individual Grant Recipient:

\$3,500 to replace the HVAC for a disabled senior citizen with limited income.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to apply for a grant, visit www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation.

Summer Rates in Effect

Beginning May 1, all customers will be billed according to the summer rate schedule. While our rates are higher in the summer than winter, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission residential rate survey for an average customer using 1,500 kWh per month, JEMC ranked 7th among all 94 electric utilities in the state in terms of low cost for our summer 2014 rates.

SUMMER RATES

First 650 kWh: **8.32¢** per kWh

Next 350 kWh: **7.79¢** per kWh

Over 1,000 kWh: **9.36¢** per kWh

Bright Ideas Applications Due

smartconnections

Bright Ideas is a new grant program that funds creative and innovative classroom projects for middle school teachers within the counties Jackson EMC serves. Educators in grades 6-8 can earn up to \$2000 for classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

Grants will be awarded to projects benefiting students in grades 6-8 in all subject areas. Applications should be made for classroom projects not currently funded through general education funds. Projects must directly involve the students, provide a creative learning experience through innovative teaching methods, provide ongoing benefits to the students, create opportunities for teamwork and support the continuous improvement of education in Georgia. Grants will not be awarded for professional development, field trips, student fees, salaries, incentives, furniture, smart boards, computers, printers, software or handheld electronic

tablet-like devices. However, if electronic devices and/or equipment are part of an innovative and unique project, they may be considered for funding.

All applications must be completed online by midnight or received by Jackson EMC no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, June 1.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For a complete list of guidelines, criteria and to apply for a Bright Ideas grant, see www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas.



WHAT'S COOKIN'?

"This is the moistest pound cake I've ever cooked. It's one of my favorites to cook for others as gifts and it can easily be frozen."

- Joyce Jacks - Winder, GA

Peanut Butter Pound Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 small box vanilla pudding mix
- 5 eggs
- 1 cup water
- ¼ cup oil
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter



Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Mix all ingredients together.
- Use cooking spray to coat inside of a Bundt pan.
- Pour in batter.
- Bake for 1 hour.

Submit Recipes to:

Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549

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

PERIODICALS
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Experiment with

STATIC ELECTRICITY

- WHAT YOU NEED:**
- A hard rubber or plastic comb, or a balloon
 - Thread or dental floss
 - Small pieces of dry O-shaped cereal
 - Sink and water faucet
 - CFL light bulb

Light a Light Bulb with a Balloon

What to Do:

1. Take the light bulb and comb or balloon into a dark room.
2. Charge the comb on your hair or sweater. Make sure to build up a lot of charge for this experiment.
3. Touch the charged part of the comb to the light bulb and watch very carefully. You should be able to see the light bulb spark. Experiment with touching different parts of the bulb.

What Happened: When the charged comb touched the bulb, electrons moved from it to the bulb, causing the small sparks of light inside. In normal operation, the electrons to light the bulb come from the electrical power lines through a wire in the end of the tube.

Swinging Cereal

What to Do:

1. Tie a piece of the cereal to one end of a 12-inch piece of thread. Find a place to attach the other end so that the cereal does not hang close to anything else. (You can tape the thread to the edge of a table but check with your parents first.)
2. Charge a comb by running it through long, dry hair several times, or quickly rub the comb on a wool sweater. Or charge a balloon by rubbing it against your hair or a wool sweater.
3. Slowly bring the comb near the cereal. It will swing to touch the comb. Hold it still until the cereal jumps away by itself.
4. Now try to touch the comb to the cereal again. It will move away as the comb approaches.

What Happened: Combing your hair moved electrons from your hair to the comb. The comb had a negative static charge. The neutral cereal was attracted to it. When they touched, electrons slowly moved from the comb to the cereal. Now both objects had the same negative charge and the cereal was repelled.

Bending Water

What to Do:

1. Turn on the faucet so the water runs out in a small, steady stream, about 1/8 inch thick.
2. Charge the comb by running it through long, dry hair several times or rub it quickly on a sweater.
3. Slowly bring the comb near the water and watch the water "bend."

What Happened: The neutral water was attracted to the charged comb, and moved toward it.