

JEMCOSMnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

*INNOVATIVE
ELECTRICITY*

AUGUST 2017 | IN THIS ISSUE

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FOREVER INNOVATIVE

I never cease to be amazed by how what once was science fiction is now reality. There are examples all around us.

Take debit cards, for instance. Other than the occasional barter, paying with cash was how most people conducted business until just a few decades ago. Looking ahead to a civilization with fewer cash transactions, Edward Bellamy wrote “Looking Backward” way back in 1888. His novel introduced the idea of universal credit with citizens using a card to draw money from a central bank in order to purchase items while no paper money changed hands. The idea was outlandish then, ordinary now.

Another prediction came true in 2010 with the introduction of Apple’s iPad. In 1968, science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke wrote in “2001: A Space Odyssey” of a small “newspad” that could be plugged in to “conjure up the world’s major electronic papers.” The marvel Clarke imagined had “its own two-digit reference; when he punched that, the postage-stamp-size rectangle would expand until it neatly filled the screen and he could read it with comfort. When he had finished, he would flash back to the complete page and select a new subject for detailed examination.”

Wow! A full 40 years before the iPad, Clarke had practically drawn the blueprint.

In the electric industry, we’ve seen similar innovative ideas, big notions that seemed impossible when first scribbled on paper. Ever since Thomas Edison perfected the lightbulb and then developed the world’s first central station electric system, the electric industry has experienced continuous evolution. What was imagined as science fiction continues to become reality in this modern world.

At Jackson EMC, we embrace innovative electricity, the new ideas in our industry that lead to better use of resources and improved ways of conducting business. We are forever on the lookout for enhanced technologies that increase reliability while keeping costs down for our 220,000-plus members.

In this edition of JEMCO News, we explore a few of the innovative ideas we are currently exploring or introducing. (See pages 4-5.) For several

years we’ve been installing viper switches throughout our system to radically decrease the number of Jackson EMC members affected by power outages. The technology behind this innovation might seem the stuff of science fiction, but what it produces is very real—fewer of you facing the discomfort of doing without power when storms or other events cause damage to the electric system.

Another innovation we’ve been reviewing involves new electric water heaters that work in tandem with our load management system. Last year, we recruited several Jackson EMC families to test this new technology, and now we are studying their findings.

Finally, we continue to explore ways to include solar power in our electricity generation portfolio, and now it’s easier than ever for our members to utilize this renewable energy. By investing in both large- and small-scale solar operations, we can offer our members easy access to affordable and sustainable solar power.

So next time you pull out your cell phone, think back to the first time you saw Captain Kirk use his communicator to tell Scotty to “beam me up.” And, do you remember William Shatner’s speech at the start of each episode of Star Trek? The closing line is “to boldly go where no man has gone before.”

Part of our vision at Jackson EMC is to be the best, forward-thinking, innovative energy supplier for our members. For all of us at Jackson EMC that means we want to be forever innovative. We’ll boldly go where no utility has gone before and exciting frontiers are ahead.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

TRIUMPHANT QUARTET TO PERFORM AT ANNUAL MEETING



Triumphant Quartet, an award-winning gospel group based in Sevierville, Tenn., is set to perform at Jackson EMC’s Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, Sept. 28, at the headquarters in Jefferson. Registration for the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. that day.

Formed by four friends in 2003, Triumphant Quartet combines gospel music, integrity and family values when performing for their audiences.

Featuring Eric Bennett, David Sutton, Clayton Inman and Scotty Inman, the quartet made their debut at the Louise Mandrell Theater in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., where they performed daily for five years. In 2008, the group started touring nationally and now performs in major concert venues, auditoriums and churches across the country, sharing their smooth harmonies and rich sound with the nation.

Triumphant Quartet has been voted Fan Favorite Quartet in gospel music for the last eight years and has had four No. 1 songs and several others that have climbed the Top 40 gospel music charts. They also have received four Album of the Year and two Song of the Year awards.

A Triumphant Quartet performance features a wide variety of music styles and engaging personalities that reflect the tight bonds shared by great friends. The quartet is known for leaving their audiences smiling, laughing, encouraged and uplifted.



Video Doorbells

HOW TO BE HOME, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT!

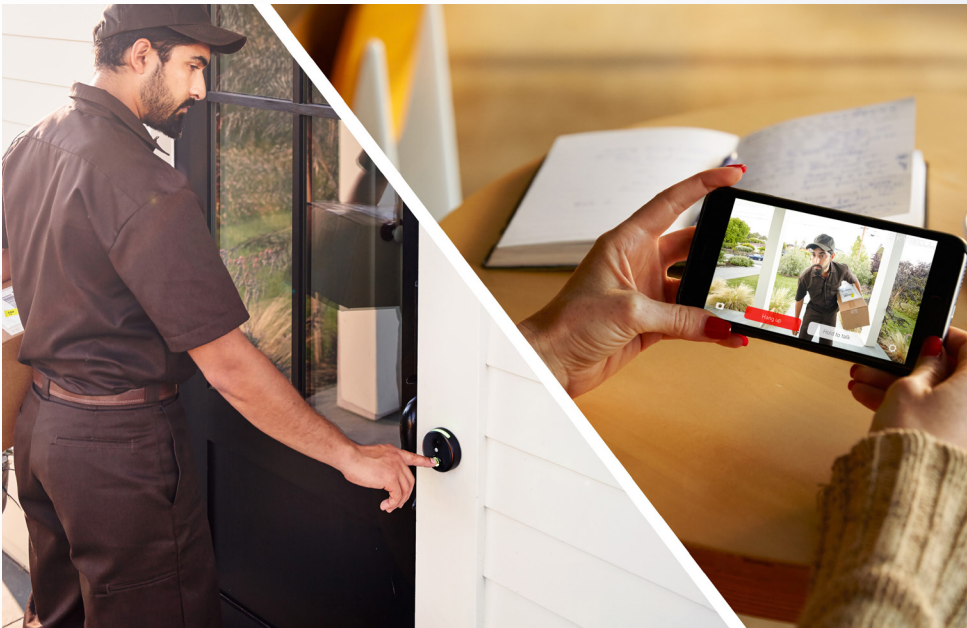
**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOES ON AT HOME WHILE YOU'RE AWAY?
WANT TO MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS GOT HOME FROM SCHOOL SAFELY?
IF SO, EMC SECURITY CAN HELP.**

Video doorbells available at EMC Security allow you the immediacy of being at home, even when you're miles away. You can see, hear and speak to anyone at your door whether you are in your kitchen or across town.

"Video doorbells are extremely popular," says EMC Security President Vince Raia. "Consumers love them because they are easy to install, provide instant mobile alerts and two-way talk, and allow homeowners to keep watch on visitors at their door – welcome or unwelcome. Adding a video doorbell camera gives you greater control, convenience and safety."

Video doorbells connect via wi-fi and operate through a smartphone app that can be customized to best meet your needs. Once the camera picks up motion, it instantly sends the recorded video clip to your phone, allowing you to see and talk to the person in real-time.

The Skybell® video doorbell integrates with the Honeywell Total Connect app to control the doorbell camera, security system and other features such as locks, lights and thermostat. Video doorbells complement a variety of security camera options to suit all residential needs.



DON'T GET STUCK BY THE SCAM

Jackson EMC members have reported that persons posing as employees of EMC Security have visited their homes in an effort to secure a home security contract with another company. Don't fall for it. EMC Security reminds you of these tips to prevent from being scammed:

1

We'll never send anyone to your home without an appointment.

2

If a visitor represents himself as our employee, just call us. We'll verify if he or she is one of our security professionals.

3


Never sign anything from an unsolicited visitor posing as an EMC Security representative. They may try to get you to sign what they call a work order or agreement, but it could be a multi-year contract with another security company.

4

EMC Security will not require you to sign a contract. We will continue to offer our security services at economical monthly rates starting at \$16.95.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO VIEW A VIDEO ABOUT CHOOSING THE BEST SECURITY CAMERA FOR YOUR HOME, VISIT WWW.EMCSECURITY.COM/SECURITY-CAMERAS OR CALL (770) 963-0305.



INNOVATIVE ELECTRICITY

As an industry leader, Jackson EMC has a reputation for rolling out innovative technological initiatives designed to help us better serve our members.

These often-complex and exciting new technologies don't happen overnight. Often they are years in the making, involving ample research prior to launching the project and concentrated efforts to complete the venture.

While the work of our line crews and customer service representatives is out-front and visible, at any given time, other Jackson EMC employees are busy at work behind-the-scenes to develop and put into place new technologies to improve or speed up service. You'll probably never see them at their desks or behind the controls, but you will certainly appreciate the fruits of their labor as new programs are implemented to improve reliability and save you money.

HERE'S AN UPDATE ON A FEW OF THE EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES IN PROGRESS AT JACKSON EMC:



GRID ENABLED ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

In July 2016, Jackson EMC partnered with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to test the Consumer Technology Association's 2045 communication standard for smart grid enabled electric water heaters. These units are designed to cycle off when the power system reaches peak demand. We utilized the new AO Smith smart water heater, which puts customer comfort at a priority during load control events. These state-of-the-art water heaters feature a communication port that allows a two-way communication module to be used to operate with our load control system.

Nine Jackson EMC members have participated in a pilot program to test this new technology. Last summer, innovative electric water heaters were installed in their homes and tied in with our power grid's load management system. We are currently studying data from the past year. We will report our findings to EPRI and consider how to best utilize this information in our operations.

"The new water heater has built-in intelligence to maintain the hot water temperature so that if someone's taking a shower, even during times of high demand for electricity, they would never know their usage was reduced because the water remains heated," says Amy Bryan, director of Residential Marketing. **"This technology reduces impact on the consumer, and that means we may be able to get more people to participate in our load management program, which would result in savings for all of our members."**



GRID AUTOMATION PROJECT/ VIPER SWITCHES

With a goal of reducing the amount of time members experience outages, Jackson EMC continues to install viper switches throughout the service area to enable speedier power restoration. These smart switches allow personnel to restore power almost immediately to up to half of those affected by outages.

The grid automation/viper switch technology has the capacity to decrease a power outage's impact from affecting thousands of members to just hundreds, enabling Jackson EMC to substantially reduce the time members experience outages.

Installation of viper switches began in 2012 with 48 switches placed each year. Currently, more than 200 have been installed and activated with the goal of completing the project in 2020 with more than 350 vipers in place. With computer software currently being installed, parts of the project should be automated this fall with the entire service area fully automated in three years, according to Jonathan Weaver, Jackson EMC's director of System Engineering.

"What makes this unique is our plan to roll it out system-wide," says Weaver. **"Most companies pick and choose particular areas where they apply this technology. We are working toward a rollout for all members to reduce their outage time."**



SOLAR POWER

In partnership with Green Power EMC, Jackson EMC has participated in large-scale solar projects designed to benefit all members. Located in South Georgia, two large solar installations in Hazlehurst cover hundreds of acres and generate enough electricity to power more than 10,000 homes.

On a smaller scale but closer to home, the Cedar Creek Solar Project in Barrow County is the first substantial solar power project in our service territory. With completion expected by the end of summer, the Piedmont Equity Group project involves installation of 8,386 solar panels. With Green Power EMC purchasing the power generated, the 2-megawatt project north of Winder will energize about 275 homes.

This project is very reasonable from a cost standpoint and a good opportunity to invest in renewables, which many of our members are interested in," says Weaver.



Strawberry Avocado Salsa



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon apple cider
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 tablespoon serrano chile, thinly sliced
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 1 avocado, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
- 1 tablespoon chopped shallot
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Kosher salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS: Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Toss until coated.

VARIATIONS: Use this “magic formula” and come up with your own favorite salsa. Just combine together any mix of the following:

- 1 tablespoon acid—any type of citrus juice or vinegar.
- 1 tablespoon sweet—honey, sugar or maple syrup.
- 1 tablespoon heat—jalapeño, chiles or 1/4 teaspoon hot red pepper flakes.
- 2 cups fruit—mangoes, strawberries, pineapple, blueberries, avocado or peaches.
- 1 tablespoon herbs—parsley, tarragon, cilantro, mint, rosemary, thyme or basil.
- 1 tablespoon onion—scallion, white onion, yellow onion, red onion or shallot.
- 1 tablespoon oil—olive oil, canola oil or vegetable oil.
- Salt and pepper, as desired.

“Add a tangy taste to plain protein. The salsa is spicy and sweet and works as a snack, dip or dessert when paired with cinnamon-sugar tortilla chips or graham crackers.”

— JACKIE HUNT, GAINESVILLE, GA.



SEND YOUR BEST BREAKFAST RECIPE: ASORROW@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO: COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded

\$122,618 IN GRANTS

to area organizations during its July meeting.

\$15,000 | 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.

\$15,000 | Auditory Verbal Center for a therapist, clinical supplies, and equipment maintenance, repair and calibration used to help children under the age of five who have cochlear implants overcome their hearing loss and learn to communicate without the use of sign language.

\$15,000 | Norcross Cooperative Ministry for its Health Advocacy Program, which offers access to a nurse for clients seeking assistance with medical issues and provides resources for clients’ medical appointments, labs and prescriptions while they apply for Medicaid or pharmacy assistance programs.

\$15,000 | L.A.M.P. Ministries in Gainesville for its Community Youth and Children’s program, three-month sessions open to young people ages 7-17, which combines group counseling and community activities to provide high risk

youths in Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties with a positive alternative to gangs, drugs and other delinquent behavior.

\$13,000 | Georgia Mountain Food Bank in Hall County to assist with the purchase of a vehicle for the Neighborhood Grocery Delivery Program, which coordinates with community agencies to identify people in their communities who are unable to come to the Mobile Food Pantry due to limited transportation, age, disability, serious illness or extreme poverty, to distribute food in areas of most defined need.

\$10,000 | Habitat for Humanity—Madison County to purchase materials such as drywall, HVAC equipment, fixtures and vinyl siding for its ninth house, which is being built for a family of four identified through Jubilee Partners.

\$10,000 | Madison County Senior Center to help fund the purchase of a vehicle to deliver meals to senior citizens in Madison County as part of the Home Delivered Meals program, which allows frail and older citizens to maintain independence and dignity while receiving nutritious meals, nutrition screening, education and counseling services, and opportunities for social contact.

\$10,000 | Piedmont Regional Library System, which serves Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties, to cover its electronic book system fee and hosting costs and purchase additional Ebooks, providing a quality

selection of Ebook titles and free access to technology they might not be able to afford.

\$8,000 | Our Neighbor, a Gainesville grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to assisting young adults with special challenges, to assist with upgrades to make their homes wheelchair accessible and to provide occupational, physical, speech and communication therapy for residents.

\$6,000 | Enotah CASA of Lumpkin County, to assist with needed resources to implement the Paths to Permanency Program that pairs CASA volunteers with DFACS caseworkers, supports more frequent meetings with the children, and provides camp tuition, education tools and literature, workshops and research to find appropriate permanent homes for children in foster care.

\$5,618 | Family Promise of Hall County, a community effort to end the cycle of family homelessness, to purchase equipment for the Day Center; one Next Step Program Home, which allows program graduate families to live in safe, affordable housing temporarily; and the Little Steps Day Care, which provides free, temporary child care options while parents search for employment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION

KEEP YOUR POWER BILL FROM HOWLING DURING THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Defined as the time between early July and early September, the dog days of summer are those hottest days of the season when the mugginess added to the sultry heat can sap your physical energy—and your electric power bill.

Apply these energy saving tips to keep your power bill from putting you in the doghouse:



SET YOUR THERMOSTAT

as high as you can, while remaining comfortable, to keep the power bill down. (We suggest 78 degrees).



FLIP THE SWITCH

on your ceiling fan so the blades move in a counterclockwise direction, forcing air down to create a cooling effect.



VACUUM

air registers to remove dust and debris that may be blocking cold air from coming in.



SEAL CRACKS

at windows and doorways with caulk and/or weather stripping to keep hot air out and cold air in.



OPEN WINDOWS

on cool nights, to allow cool air in.



CLEAN OR REPLACE

A/C filters and keep HVAC system properly maintained.



CHECK

to make sure your home is properly insulated; if not, add insulation.



PULL THE CURTAINS

and close the blinds to keep the sun's heat out.

COMMUNITY IMPACT: GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FOOD BANK

DELIVERING GROCERIES & Hope IN HALL COUNTY

The Georgia Mountain Food Bank believes that hunger affects an entire community and that it takes a village to bring it to an end, according to Executive Director Kay Blackstock.

By supplying the Food Bank with a \$13,000 grant for its new Neighborhood Grocery Delivery Program in Hall County, the Jackson EMC Foundation becomes part of that village.

The Jackson EMC grant will be used to assist with purchasing a van for the program, which aims to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to people who are not able to come to the Food Bank's mobile food pantry due to limited transportation, disability, serious illness or extreme poverty.

"We want to be understanding of these challenges," says Blackstock. "We've found that very often transportation is an issue for people who need emergency food assistance, so we'll deliver fresh fruits and vegetables along with recipes and safe food handling and storage suggestions to families in most need of assistance."

The grocery delivery program is the second phase of an initiative started last year in which United Way of Hall County funded the Food Bank's 12-month research project to identify Hall County neighborhoods with the highest levels of food insecurity, which the USDA defines as the lack of access to adequate food resulting from lack of money and other resources.



The new program will target communities in Gainesville and other locations in Hall County. One food distribution per site, per month, will be conducted for the coming year with 1,500 to 2,000 households impacted, according to Blackstock.

She calls it a "boots on the ground" program in which residents, along with receiving food, will be asked to share their unique challenges and needs for further assistance.

"We hope to make a difference by entering deeper into the communities of those who are most vulnerable," says Blackstock. "Food is a basic human need, and we will first address that, but then we can help connect folks to more resources."



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT GAMOUNTAINFOODBANK.ORG

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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Gwinnett Daily Post Presents:

Come and Dine at

Powered by Jackson EMC

Grab your friends or make it a date night and head over to Infinite Energy Forum in Duluth on October 19 for Good Taste Atlanta: A Cooking Showcase, Powered by Jackson EMC.

Formerly Taste of Home Cooking School Gwinnett, Good Taste Atlanta features some of the best local restaurants providing small plate tastes while their chefs whip up signature dishes on the cooking demo stage.

Attendees can browse and shop local vendors and register to win one of more than 75 prizes, including several trip giveaways.

The first 1,100 attendees get a goody bag stuffed with restaurant/vendor/sponsor items. Plus, VIPs are treated to an additional special VIP bag filled with even more items, including restaurant freebies, samples and promo items.

General Admission tickets (\$20) include three tasting tickets while VIP tickets (\$55) include six tasting tickets for small plate samples from various restaurants. Additional tasting tickets can be purchased at the event for \$1. (One ticket = one tasting.)

ATTENTION Jackson EMC members: Save \$5 off one General Admission ticket. Use code SAVE5 to purchase tickets at GoodTasteAtlanta.com. (Purchase multiple General Admission tickets in one order and get \$5 off each ticket. No discount on VIP tickets.) Tickets go on sale to the general public on August 15.

**JACKSON EMC MEMBERS:
SAVE \$5
ON GENERAL ADMISSION**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19,
5 P.M. – 9 P.M.**

**INFINITE ENERGY FORUM, 6400
SUGARLOAF PKWY, DULUTH**

**GENERAL ADMISSION REGULAR
PRICE, \$20; JACKSON EMC
MEMBERS PAY \$15.**

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT GOODTASTEATLANTA.COM

