

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

PLAN YOUR ENERGY SAVING GAME

WITH OUR ENERGY PLAYBOOK



JANUARY 2017 | IN THIS ISSUE

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR
REBATES SAVE JACKSON EMC MEMBERS MONEY
AREA HOME SHOW COUPONS



BEST INTERESTS

With each New Year, it seems, I promise to put a priority on those things that reflect my best interests.

I resolve to lose a little weight to keep fit. I plan to exercise on a routine basis to keep my energy up. I tell myself I'll do at least one Sudoku puzzle a day in order to keep my mind stimulated.

Like most of us, I start on my list of resolutions as the New Year unfolds, but by February, a good dose of chocolate is back in my diet.

Fortunately, at Jackson EMC, we have a lot more fortitude! We keep your best interests as our top priority all year long.

First and foremost, our main priority is keeping the lights on. To provide you with reliable electric service we maintain the infrastructure of our power distribution system and continuously upgrade where necessary. As advancements in the electric industry occur, we weigh the advantages of adding new technologies and, when advantageous, integrate new solutions into our system. Always, we keep costs in mind as we rigorously work to keep within an acceptable budget.

While providing you with reliable power is our top concern, helping you manage the power you use comes in as a close second. On our website, we offer valuable information to help you manage your energy use and save money. We provide energy saving tips so you can plan your own energy game plan to manage costs. We offer energy audits that help you find ways to save money. We know our members are budget conscious, and we work to help you manage costs where we can.

Our programs include Right Choice Homes, which teams expert technicians with homebuilders to help your new house meet certain

energy standards so you can save money on your power bill. We assist our commercial members by providing programs that help them manage energy, technology and environmental impact through energy audits, design assistance and onsite evaluations.

Saving money is important, but at Jackson EMC we think of ourselves as your partner, working together to improve our quality of life. Our board of directors and our employees are your neighbors, people you see at the grocery store and in church. We are honored to work with you to support youth through community programs like Partners in Education, 4-H, FFA and Junior Achievement. Our own youth initiatives reach students through Bright Ideas, Sun Power for Schools, Washington Youth Tour, Quality Beef Show and the annual Wiring Contest.

In addition, the Jackson EMC Foundation, thanks to your contributions through Operation Round Up, provides funding for charitable purposes throughout our 10-county region. More than \$11 million in grants have been funded back into our communities because of our members and this cooperative.

While I sometimes may lose my New Year's resolve to stay away from the chocolate chip cookies, I take pride in reporting that Jackson EMC, year-round, keeps your best interests at the forefront. Happy New Year, indeed.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

WAYS TO SAVE: SAVE BIG WITH JACKSON EMC REBATES

You can lower your power bill by using energy efficient products, and Jackson EMC will help you pay for them!

When you use energy efficient technologies, the amount of electricity we need to generate decreases, resulting in savings for the cooperative—and our members. That's why we're happy to offer rebates when you purchase certain energy efficient products.

 FOR A LIST OF REBATES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/REBATES.

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Zachary Miles, Mountain View High School; Elena Shao, Peachtree Ridge High School; Georgia Warnock, West Hall High School; and Spencer Sumner, Gainesville High School; served as the 2016 Washington Youth Tour Delegates.

NOW ACCEPTING WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS

Gazing upward to read Thomas Jefferson's words at his memorial. Viewing the National Mall from atop the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Walking in the footsteps of George Washington at Mount Vernon. Listening to oral arguments at the Supreme Court. Reading the names along the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Learning the history of the United States Capitol. And laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. These are among the moments you will share with 1,500 of your newest friends from around the country.

If you enjoy exploring architecture and art and learning about history and government while building new relationships, then the annual Washington Youth Tour is for you.

Sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives since 1958, this weeklong tour is designed to build leadership skills while teaching young people what cooperatives are all about. Jackson EMC will send four student delegates to join

teens from 42 other states in Washington, D.C. June 8-15, 2017. Highlights on the experiential tour feature a sunset parade at the Imo Jima statue, a cruise on the Potomac River, and visits to the Smithsonian museums, including the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, and meeting your congressional delegation.

High school sophomores and juniors with demonstrated potential for leadership, academic success and community service should apply through their high school guidance counselor, who will nominate one candidate for consideration. Deadlines vary for each school, so check the counselor's office for due dates. All applicants must be 16 years old by June 1, 2017. Do not send applications to Jackson EMC directly.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/WYT OR EMAIL KAREN EWING, COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE AT KEWING@JACKSONEMC.COM.

Washington Youth Tour: 2017 TENTATIVE ITINERARY



JUNE 8

Kickoff banquet Atlanta



JUNE 9

Team-building activities; flight to Washington D.C.



JUNE 10

Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of memorials; photo op at White House



JUNE 11

Guided tour of Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour; dinner performance of "Beauty and the Beast" at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, MD



JUNE 12

All States assembly; tour Smithsonian museums; cruise on Potomac River



JUNE 13

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



JUNE 14

Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Library of Congress; All States farewell event



JUNE 15

Return flight to Atlanta

PREPARE FOR SEVERE WEATHER

WITH OUR ONLINE STORM CENTER

When it comes to assistance before, during and after severe weather, Jackson EMC has you covered with our online Storm Center.

At Jacksonemc.com/storm, a wealth of resources is at your fingertips, including tips on preparing for bad weather and measures to take after the storm. When bad weather does strike, the site is updated with up-to-the-minute information about the severity of the storm and Jackson EMC's progress in restoring power.

Whether you're on your desktop or laptop computer, cellphone or tablet, vital information is within your immediate reach.

PREPARING FOR A STORM



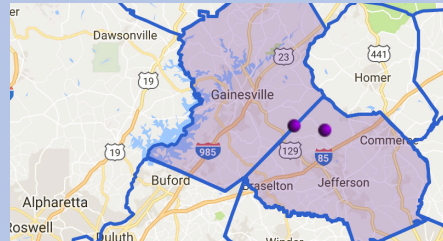
Your online Storm Center is full of worthwhile tips to help you prepare for a bad weather event. Some of our tips are simply reminders of age-old information you already may know, like stocking up on bottled water, nonperishable food and medications. Most likely you already know it's a good idea to fill your bathtub with water so you can flush toilets if the power goes out. But did you know that it's best before a storm to dial your refrigerator control to the coldest setting? Then if the power does go out, the food in your fridge will keep fresh longer.

REPORT OUTAGES



Whether or not there's a storm, you can report outages online, day or night. You can also report security or street light outages online from the Storm Center.

OUTAGE MAP



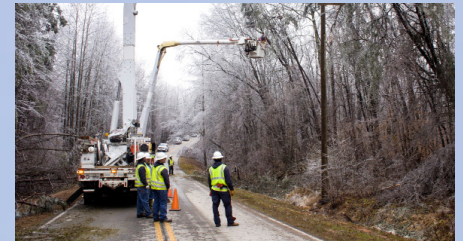
Out of town and concerned about the storm at home? View our online outage map to see exactly where the outages are in your neighborhood. The map is updated in real time to show the status of Jackson EMC's power restoration.

POWER RESTORATION



To see how Jackson EMC line crews restore power, view the detailed graphics at the online Storm Center.

AFTER THE STORM



It's equally important to know what to do after a severe storm. Tune in to your local radio station to hear related weather reports and updates from Jackson EMC about which areas were affected and how power restoration is progressing. While the power is out, don't be tempted to burn charcoal or run gasoline-powered equipment indoors; the carbon monoxide produced is a poisonous gas that could be deadly. If you use candles for lighting while the electricity is out, be sure to avoid fire by keeping them far removed from furniture, draperies and similar flammable materials.



View jacksonemc.com/storm for more tips on what to do before and after the storm, and visit the online Storm Center for the latest Jackson EMC news when storms strike.

PLAN YOUR ENERGY SAVING GAME

WITH OUR ENERGY PLAYBOOK

No coach worth his salt steps onto the field or court without a playbook. Just as a sports team makes the best plays by planning before each game, electricity consumers can save energy and money by planning ahead.

Let Jackson EMC be your energy coach. Use our online playbook to learn how to use energy more wisely—and save money.

It's easy to save by using the tips at jacksonemc.com/playbook where easy no-cost and low-cost ways to

save energy are shared. No-cost solutions, like setting your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter, can lead to ample savings. Low-cost moves, like replacing outdated incandescent lightbulbs with CFL or LED bulbs can save you up to \$300 a year on your power bill.

At jacksonemc.com/playbook, you'll find all the tools and resources you need to make an energy game plan that's sure to be a winner. Here are just a few energy-saving tips to get you started:



DON'T WASTE HOT WATER

Repair leaky faucets. Replace old shower heads with new low-flow devices. Wash clothes in cold water, or use warm water with a cold rinse cycle.



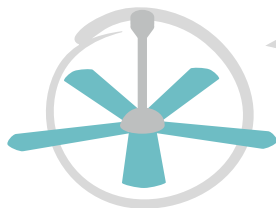
ELIMINATE ENERGY VAMPIRES

by unplugging frequently-used devices and appliances, or use a power strip to turn off multiple devices at the same time.



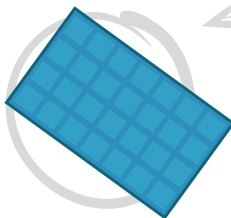
TO KEEP COOL OR WARM AIR INSIDE YOUR HOME, ADD WEATHER STRIPPING

to areas where air seeps out. Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards and plumbing penetrations.



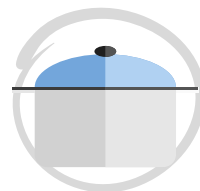
RUN FANS CLOCKWISE

on low in winter to circulate warm air.



MAINTAIN YOUR HVAC

by checking air filters each month and replacing them when they're dirty. Using clean filters saves 5 to 15 percent on your power bill.



CUT DOWN ON ENERGY USE IN THE KITCHEN

When possible, prepare double portions of dinner and freeze half for later. It takes much less energy to reheat food than to cook it.



TO CHEER YOU ON, WE'RE GIVING AWAY 10 NEST LEARNING THERMOSTATS

for members who sign-up for paperless billing between January 1 and April 30.



Learn more at jacksonemc.com/paperless



On the northwestern shore of Israel's Sea of Galilee, Tabgha is the location where many of the Bible's New Testament activities took place, including Jesus feeding the multitude of 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. The Hebrew word "Tabgha" is derived from the Greek name "Heptapegon," which means "place of seven springs."

At Place of Seven Springs, a nonprofit agency in Snellville, multitudes of those in need are provided with emergency food and housing.

Monetary donations given to Place of Seven Springs, including a recent \$6,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, are used to provide emergency housing and food for Gwinnett County residents. The need, according to Founder/Director Debbie Dowdin, who opened Seven Springs in 2010, is huge.

"There are a lot of single moms out there and senior citizens who have to choose between eating or taking prescription medicine," she says. "Insurance is

outrageous, and mothers who are working two jobs still can't make ends meet."

Place of Seven Springs works to fill the gap by providing emergency financial assistance and food items. Through their partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank and Feeding America, they are able to supply more than 200 families every two weeks with food boxes laden with fresh meats, produce, cereal, pasta, potatoes and more.

In her time with the ministry, Dowdin has witnessed the multiplication of donations, much like the fish and loaves multiplied in ancient days.

"It's amazing how our food bank has just exploded over the last year," she says. "In the past year, it's grown 70 percent as far as people coming to the food bank and by about 200 percent in the amount of food that's being donated. It's amazing, incredible; it's all God."

Along with biweekly food boxes and monetary assistance, Place of Seven Springs provides backpacks and school

supplies for children at the start of each school year, a summer lunch program for students on free and reduced school lunch programs, and a Christmas giving program that enable families to purchase quality gifts for their children at extremely low prices.

Along with donations, what makes the ministry of Seven Springs possible is their onsite thrift store, a 7,000-square-foot space chockful of donated items. Thrift store profits pay for the overhead to operate Place of Seven Springs so that all monetary donations they receive go directly to families in need, according to Dowdin.

"This is God's ministry; I just work here," she concludes. "We try to care for God's children—and we're all God's children."

Place of Seven Springs and its thrift store are located at 3541 Stone Mountain Highway 78, Suite 6, in Snellville.



For more, visit placeofsevensprings.com

NEED TO KNOW NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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. Board members representing Clarke, Gwinnett, and Jackson counties will be elected at the 2017 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2017, at the corporate offices in Jefferson.

Candidates may be nominated by the nominating committee, or by a petition complying with Article III Section 4 of the Bylaws that is signed by 50 or more members. Petitions must be delivered to the Corporation's office in Jefferson not less than 150 days, and not more than 200 days, prior to the Annual Meeting. The complete director nomination and election process is contained in Articles II and III of the Jackson EMC Bylaws, which are available at Jacksonemc.com or at any office.

Ethiopian Peanut Stew



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 medium sweet potatoes, chopped
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 large handful greens (collards, kale or mustard greens)
- 2-3 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 tsp each of: cumin, ginger, sweet paprika

- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 1/4 tsp cayenne (more to add spice)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Salt** to taste

Garnish: roasted peanuts, lime wedges, fresh cilantro or parsley, and hot sauce

Directions

In a large soup pot, sauté garlic clove and ginger in oil until fragrant. Put heat on medium high, then add chopped onions, sweet potatoes and carrots. Sauté veggies for about two minutes.

Add peanut butter and tomato paste, and all of the spices, stirring to combine.

Add 2 cups stock and stir. Reduce heat to medium low and cover with a lid. After about ten minutes, remove lid and mash about half of the sweet potato mixture with a potato masher, then stir. Add greens. If the mixture is too thick, you can add another cup of stock. Simmer with the lid on until sweet potatoes and greens are tender and the stew is thickened to your liking.

Serve over rice or grits and garnish with fresh cilantro/parsley, lime wedges, hot sauce and roasted peanuts.

***For a heartier meal, you can easily add chicken drumsticks to this stew. Brown them beforehand, then add to the mixture along with the stock and cook until done.**

“ It sounds like a strange combo of flavors but it’s actually really good. I make this a lot in the winter. ”

- TERI DRAKE-FLOYD, HULL, GA



SEND YOUR BEST QUICK DINNER RECIPES: 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

\$58,910 IN GRANTS

during its November meeting including **\$55,410 to organizations** and **\$3,500 to an individual.**

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Rape Response, Inc., a Gainesville community-based non-profit that provides comprehensive services to adolescent and adult victims of sexual violence in Hall and Lumpkin Counties, to help fund aftercare and Emergency Room clothing and comfort items for victims, as well as recruitment and training for volunteer advocates.

\$7,500 | Family Promise of Gwinnett County, for homeless parents staying at the agency’s Salt Light Center emergency shelter under its 30-90 day Homeless Recovery/Sustainability Program, to help provide child care while they look for work or are working.

\$7,500 | Georgia Options in Bogart to help purchase a van that will provide flexible

wheelchair-accessible transportation for people with significant disabilities in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson and Madison counties, allowing them to work, attend school and be involved in community functions.

\$6,000 | Place of Seven Springs, a Snellville nonprofit which provides assistance to Gwinnett County residents in need, to provide funds for emergency housing and food.

\$5,000 | Athens Community Council on Aging for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program, which supports grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren, to provide emergency food and personal care supplies.

\$5,000 | H.O.P.E, Inc., a Duluth non-profit serving low-income single parents in Gwinnett and Hall county who are working to achieve their college degree, to help with childcare and housing when either situation threatens the parent’s ability to continue their classes.

\$5,000 | Samaritan Center for Counseling and Wellness, an Athens agency that provides counseling, psychotherapy, education and consultation to residents of

surrounding counties without regard for ability to pay, to help lower fees for the uninsured in its Jefferson satellite office.

\$2,500 | Spirit of Joy Church Food Bank in Flowery Branch, which distributes food to those in need in Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, to purchase food.

\$1,910 | Reins of Life, a Franklin County non-profit that uses hippotherapy treatment to special needs and at-risk children, youth and their families, to help five Franklin County clients attend therapy sessions that use a horse’s movement to improve neuromuscular function.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$3,500 to help purchase a handicap accessible van for **an eleven-year-old boy with mitochondrial deficiency/Dravet Syndrome.**



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

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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(706) 543-4009

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COMPARISON SHOP AT LOCAL HOME SHOWS

Making a decision about renovating or remodeling your home can be overwhelming. Take advantage of the one-stop-shopping available at local home shows this February and learn about products you've been considering purchasing for your home.

Experts on everything from flooring and cookware to outdoor lighting and pianos will be at this year's home shows in Duluth and Athens. Use the accompanying coupons to save on ticket prices at both the North Atlanta Home Show in Duluth February 10-12 and the Athens Home and Garden Show February 25-26.

We encourage our members to visit the local home shows to discover decorating and energy saving ideas for your home, inside and out. 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.



**20TH ANNUAL
NORTH ATLANTA HOME SHOW**

Infinite Energy Center (formerly 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

Friday, February 10, Noon - 6 pm | General Admission: \$8
Saturday, February 11, 10 am - 6 pm | Military w/ID: BOGO
Sunday, February 12, Noon - 5 pm | Seniors 65+ w/ID: FREE
Children 12 and under: FREE

**2017 ATHENS
HOME AND GARDEN SHOW**

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

\$1 OFF

Saturday, February 25, 10 am - 5 pm | Adults: \$6
Sunday, February 26, Noon - 5 pm | Senior Citizens: \$4
Children under 12: \$4
Children under 3: FREE