

JEMCOnews

Awesome
HAPPENS IN A
RIGHT CHOICE™
HOME



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DON'T TOY WITH YOUR SAFETY

BRIGHT IDEAS: APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 2



SAFETY FIRST

In 1939 Washington Electric Co-op published this Q&A to educate members about the danger associated with electricity. Q: "If I should want to do something to my wire, is it all right if I put a ladder on the pole and turn off the transformer?" A: "It is a convenient way out. To save trouble for your family, we suggest that you make the funeral arrangements first and leave a note for the police so that they will not think it was murder."

Eleanor Roosevelt mentioned this in her column for the Washington Daily newspaper. Like the First Lady, I appreciate the humor, but more importantly the vital message it shared with new members. Electricity is so integrated in our lives it's easy to lose sight of how dangerous it can be. The truth of it is, it's no laughing matter. Electrical safety is serious.

At Jackson EMC we go to great lengths to keep, your family and our employees safe. We promote the highest standard of safety with an intensive safety training program. Every employee completes at least 20 hours of safety training each year; that time is tripled for our line workers. We ensure our employees are safe by implementing safety-first procedures and inspecting our safety equipment. A hole the size of a pinhead in their gloves could end a linemen's life, so we check them regularly and replace them every other month. The plastic liner in a bucket truck protects them, too, so we check them for cracks and holes to ensure our employees are safe while doing their job. We have strict equipment procedures and protocols aimed at eliminating all preventable accidents.

High voltage wires and equipment are a constant danger for line workers who are trained and equipped to work with them, but

they can also pose a danger to members. Storms and ice can weigh down lines, putting them dangerously close to playground equipment, trees, the road, or other things our members may come in contact with. That's why we work to educate our members about electrical safety. We reach out to schools and teach children about the risk associated with getting too close to electrical equipment and downed power lines. Our communications program reminds you to call 811 before you put a shovel in the ground and to look above when cutting trees or using ladders.

Through a variety of safety and educational programs, we want every day to be a safe one for our members, employees and our community.

Electricity provides us so many benefits and comforts: light, air-conditioning, refrigeration, medical technology, and let's not forget electronics like television. Still, electricity is inherently dangerous. That's why we take steps to ensure our employees are safe while doing their job and we work to educate our members and the community about how to stay safe around electrical equipment.

Have thoughts on my column? Send me a note to chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

REMINDER TO OUR TEACHERS BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 2

Bright Ideas grants recognize and reward innovative and creative classroom projects, unfunded by general education dollars, developed by middle school teachers. Educators who teach grades 6-8 in schools within the Jackson EMC service region can earn up to \$2,000.

All applications must be completed online and received by Jackson EMC no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, June 2. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.



FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF QUALIFYING SCHOOLS, GUIDELINES, CRITERIA AND TO APPLY FOR A BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT SEE JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS.

What Will You Buy With Your Savings?

Electric bills often increase in the summer. The increase in summer bills is due to higher cost per kWh and because on average, members use more electricity in the summer compared to the rest of the year. While no one likes higher bills, Jackson EMC members enjoy some of the lowest rates in the state. Out of 94 electric utilities surveyed statewide, Jackson EMC is among the lowest, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Summer 2016 Residential Rate Survey. Between May and September, when our summer rates are in effect, members using 1,500 kWh a month save \$69.15 over the average customer statewide.



112 *popsicles*



20 *iced coffees with whipped cream*



2 *tickets to see the Atlanta Braves & concessions*



46 *movie rentals*



7 *car washes*



35 *song downloads*

NEED TO KNOW: SUMMER RATES IN EFFECT

REGULAR RESIDENTIAL RATE* SUMMER RATES

Service Charge: \$18 per month

First 650 kWh: 8.96¢ per kWh

Next 350 kWh: 11.21¢ per kWh

Over 1,000 kWh: 11.81¢ per kWh

SUMMER RATES BEGIN IN MAY AND LAST THROUGH SEPTEMBER.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIC RATE, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
JACKSONEMC.COM/RATE

*The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment and other applicable taxes are also a part of your total electric bill.

Awesome

HAPPENS IN A
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HOME

“When we got our first electric bill I thought it must’ve been for a partial month; it was so low,” Leo Cortjens said about his Right Choice home in Hall County’s Cresswind community. “The next month it was the same. Our bill is easily a third of what we used to pay, and we don’t do anything different. I was amazed — I really was amazed.”

Robert Akin, says Right Choice is a perfect fit for developers, builders, and homeowners. Akin is the key contact for the booming developments in Hall County when builders work with Jackson EMC to have them certified as Right Choice Homes, ensuring the future homeowner will be comfortable at home and enjoy low electricity rates for years to come. “We pride ourselves in putting our members first, and this program was designed with that in mind; providing our members with a home that is so comfortable and energy efficient it comes with two warranties and our lowest residential rate,” he said.

Right Choice homes are energy efficient homes that meet the needs of our community. All ten counties served by Jackson EMC use the exclusive Right Choice

program, which guarantees lower energy consumption and comfort. However, Hall and Barrow counties have seen the greatest residential growth recently. Barrow County is among the top 60 fastest growing counties in the nation, with the town of Braselton as the seventh fastest-growing community in the state.

Hall County’s Mundy Mill and Cresswind communities are selling homes faster than anywhere else in Georgia. Mundy Mill will have 2,200 homes when completed; Cresswind will have 1,100 homes. Both subdivisions partner with Jackson EMC to build Right Choice Homes.

Bob Radmacher, regional president of Kolter Homes and the developer of the Cresswind community, said, Cresswind sells more than 100 homes a year.

“It’s a very good partnership for Cresswind and Kolter Homes, and our homeowners enjoy low bills and year-round comfort. I think everybody is winning,” he said. “We hear positive feedback, but the biggest thing for me as a developer is I don’t have any negative feedback — people are six times more likely to complain than to compliment. The loudest voice is that no one is complaining.”

For Leo and Debbie Cortjens the only complaint is silence.

“The first thing we noticed was how quiet everything was — how well insulated our home was,” he said. “Even when we’re inside you can’t hear from one room to the next. We had to install another doorbell so we could hear it.”



SUPERINTENDENTS ROCKY ROGERS (LEFT) AND MARK FINDLEY (CENTER), WITH ROBERT AKIN (RIGHT) ON A HOMESITE.



ROBERT AKIN (LEFT) REVIEWS THE CRESSWIND COMMUNITY WITH BOB RADAMACHER (RIGHT) OF KOTLER HOMES.



JACKSON EMC PARTNERS WITH BUILDERS TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT RIGHT CHOICE™ HOMES.

Insulation is just a piece of the Right Choice program, which starts with engineering and design to ensure energy efficiency and comfort. Testing throughout the building process builds in quality that is certified for comfort and energy efficiency. Each Right Choice home also qualifies for Jackson EMC's Energy Advantage Rate for the life of the home, the lowest residential rate available.

"The builders believe in the product, and we believe in building good products we can be proud of — a solid house for our customers. The Right Choice program helps us do that," Radmacher said.

"I didn't know what Right Choice meant, I thought it was just a marketing term, but it actually works," Cortjens said. "I'd tell anyone buying a home, if you have a choice, I would definitely get Right Choice. We have been extremely pleased with everything."



EACH *Right Choice* HOME IS:



DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS

Before construction begins, an analysis targets the plan's construction features to calculate properly sized heating and air conditioning installation design to achieve maximum efficiency levels.



TESTED FOR HOME PERFORMANCE

to prove energy efficient construction is working. Not only do Right Choice Homes adhere to high construction standards, but independent third-party testing confirms the efficiency of the building envelope and equipment efficiency levels.



CERTIFIED

with a one-year comfort warranty and a three-year energy usage warranty for the heating and cooling system.



BILLED AT THE ENERGY ADVANTAGE RATE

designed to save the homeowner approximately five percent on their annual energy bill for the life of the home. Ex. If the average monthly bill is \$200; the savings would be \$120 per year.



EMC SECURITY HOME AUTOMATION

is added by some developments for convenience and safety. These features allow homeowners to arm their security system, control lighting, lock doors and change thermostat settings remotely.

Join Ty Pennington as he demonstrates why a Jackson EMC Right Choice home is the best choice for you and your family.

For more information visit jacksonemc.com/rightchoicenehome.

SCAMMERS HAVE TURNED TO *Spoofing*



Caller ID may have you fooled. Spoofing is the latest scam, which makes you think a phone call is coming from a legitimate company rather than who's really on the line. The more sophisticated scammers have even copied or duplicated Jackson EMC's recorded options to fool you further. Some members have received calls from these scammers asking for past due bills to be paid over the phone immediately.

"More and more members are reporting this scam. Please don't fall for it," says Jackson EMC Director of Customer Service Brent Cochran. "No matter how fancy they get with their schemes, just remember two things — no real utility will call you and tell you to pay up right now or be cut off, and they definitely will not ask for payment by Green Dot or other cash cards."

If you're worried about a past due bill, call the Jackson EMC number in the phone book, the one printed on your bill, or in this newsletter — not the number on your caller ID.



READ MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO TO KEEP MEMBERS SAFE AT WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/SAFETY-AND-SECURITY.

OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded

\$112,450 IN GRANTS

during its February meeting, including **\$108,950 to organizations** and **\$3,500 to an individual**.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$12,450 | **Three Dimensional Life** in Gainesville, a non-profit organization that provides a 10-month residential recovery for young men 14-19 years old from Banks, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall, and Jackson counties who are struggling with destructive behaviors, to provide 200 family counseling sessions.

\$12,000 | **St. Vincent De Paul Society** in Flowery Branch for its Aid Hot Line program, which provides emergency aid to South Hall and North Gwinnett families in crisis for rent, mortgage and temporary housing to prevent homelessness and disrupted lives.

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

\$12,000 | **St. Vincent De Paul Society** in Jefferson for its financial assistance program that provides funds to Jackson and Banks families in crisis for rent, mortgage, food, transportation, gas, car repair and insurance premiums, and medical assistance.

\$12,000 | **Step by Step Recovery**, a Lawrenceville community-based grassroots addiction recovery organization which provides a safe and structured environment for both men and women over 6 months to 2 years as they complete a 12-step program to deal with drug and alcohol addiction, to assist with rent for men's and women's units.

\$12,000 | **YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont** in Winder for its Summer Day Camp to enable 20 children ages 5-13 from economically disadvantaged families in Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties to attend a 10-week day camp that provides a safe environment and nurturing quality programs for youths that might otherwise be "latchkey" kids during their schools' summer break.

\$10,000 | **Gainesville Housing Corp.**, which provides affordable living environments, improved quality of living, economic opportunities and fair housing to working poor families of Hall County, to provide quality programming through the RISE Summer Program for low-income and at-risk youth of Gainesville and Hall County.

\$10,000 | **YMCA of Athens**, to allow 45 children for its Summer Day Camp project, which serves more than 1,000 young people by offering supervised sports and other activities, as well as teaching values and responsibility that help kids feel good about themselves, enjoy life and avoid the dangers of drugs or gangs.

\$7,500 | **Hope for the Journey, Inc.**, a compassionate community cancer outreach program in Lawrenceville that works closely with the American Cancer Society to provide support, meals and educational materials to children and adult cancer victims and their families in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

\$5,000 | **Books For Keeps**, an Athens nonprofit organization sponsoring the Stop Summer Slide program to improve children's reading achievement, providing books for summer reading to children in Clarke County elementary schools where 90 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced lunches, for the Cleveland Road Elementary School.

\$2,500 | **Gainesville/Hall County Food Pantry**, to purchase food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank for distribution to those in need in Hall County.

\$1,500 | **Cozy Quilters** in Winder to buy materials and supplies to make quilts for distribution to the sick, injured or terminally ill in Jackson, Barrow and Gwinnett counties.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$3,500 to help a **single mom purchase** a handicapped accessible van for her child who has cerebral palsy.



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

FEATURED RECIPES RECEIVE \$200 PRIZE PACKAGE

Hot Chicken Salad



INGREDIENTS:

- 4 boneless chicken breast halves, cooked and diced
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2, 8-ounce cans sliced water chestnuts
- 1, 4.5 ounce can sliced mushrooms
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons grated onion
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cups crushed pita chips

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish. In a large bowl, mix together the chicken, celery, water chestnuts, mushrooms, mayonnaise, lemon juice, salt, onion and almonds. Transfer to the baking dish and top with the cheese and crushed pita chips. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, until light browned.

Serves 6.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS RECIPE WAS ADAPTED FROM A PAST FAVORITE JEMCO NEWS RECIPE.

“ The crunch of the water chestnuts, almonds, and pita chips really makes it pop. This is my go-to dish when I am taking food to a friend who has had surgery because it is a full meal in one container. ”

- JOAN IVEY, GAINESVILLE, GA.

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

It's Fun to Stay at the YMCA!

For many families, summer childcare can be a costly expense. Summer enrichment programs, like those offered at area YMCA clubs, provide a vital resource for parents and children during the months away from school.

According to the program website, “camping, like many Y programs, is about learning skills, developing character and making friends. But few environments are as special as camp, where kids become a community as they learn both how to be more independent and how to contribute to a group as they engage in physical, social and educational activities.”

The YMCA is one of the largest providers of camp programs with over 1,850-day camps across the country, 315 resident camps for youth and teens and many specialty camp programs that meet the diverse needs of children

and teens, such as youth with disabilities and illnesses. Ys nationwide serve 1.4 million youth and adults at camps every year.

The Jackson EMC Foundation awarded grants for both the YMCA of Athens and the Winder-based YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont at its March meeting. These grants total \$22,000 and together will allow scholarships for 65 children to attend camp during the summer break. Throughout the years, the Foundation has awarded \$47,500 to fund the summer camp program at the Athens YMCA and \$57,000 for the winder-based Georgia Piedmont YMCA.



**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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DON'T *toy* WITH YOUR SAFETY

When playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other electrical equipment used to send electricity to your home or business.

Flying kites and remote-controlled toys can be fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.



STAY AWAY

from power lines, meters, pad-mounted transformers and electrical boxes.



NEVER FLY

kites, drones, or other remote-controlled toys near power lines.



DON'T TOUCH

or go near downed power lines.



CALL JACKSON EMC

if you get something stuck in a power line at 1-800-462-3691.



NEVER CLIMB

trees near power lines.

