

JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

BE SCAM AWARE

OUTWIT IMPOSTERS'
TACTICS

FEBRUARY 2018

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR
5 SPOTS TO PLACE YOUR INDOOR SECURITY CAMERA
DIY HOME CHECKUP KIT





LOOKING OUT FOR SCAMS

We all know someone – perhaps even ourselves – who has been the target of a scam. It can be tough to spot a scam when the criminals have become pretty good at pretending to be legitimate organizations, like a bank or utility company.

What makes it more difficult to spot these scams nowadays is the scammer is taking advantage of many forms of technology to be very convincing in their efforts. Whether behind a computer screen or on the phone, these criminals can mask their true intentions using stolen corporate images and credentials, bogus caller identification, vicious malware and ransomware, and misleading links to websites. And unfortunately, these criminals are relentless in their attempts to scam the innocent and unsuspecting.

When it comes to scams, nothing infuriates me more than to learn about some new attempt to scam our members or defraud our company.

At Jackson EMC, we take cyber security very seriously. Protecting our members from this kind of criminal activity is high on our priority list. Every year, we increase our efforts, especially in the areas and technology. We invest in the latest cyber security protections and each employee undergoes continuous training to better protect our members from scams.

We do this because criminals have been known to use the name of reputable companies, like Jackson EMC, to scam their victims. When it comes to scams, criminals are always changing how they target victims.

In some cases, criminals will make an unexpected phone call telling you to pay money now or your electricity will be turned off immediately. In other cases, the scam may take the form of a very convincing email. Social media and texting also makes it easier for criminals to reach you with their scams.

Don't fall prey to these scams. The key is to stay educated about these ever-changing tactics. Read news reports about current scams. Be alert of any scam notices from your local law enforcement agencies, utilities and consumer websites. And, remember to be careful about providing your personal information online. I encourage you to look in this issue of *JEMCO News* on how to spot the signs of these imposters.

Have an idea on how we can keep you informed of scams affecting members? Send me a note to chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

WAYS TO SAVE: DIY HOME CHECKUP KIT



SAVING MONEY ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS USING MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT LED LIGHT BULBS OR MAKING BIGGER CHANGES, LIKE INSTALLING ADDITIONAL INSULATION IN YOUR HOME. BUT, WHERE DO YOU START?

Jackson EMC's DIY Home Checkup Kit, which includes a DVD, guides you through the steps of making your home more energy efficient and comfortable. It's free for Jackson EMC members.

With a DIY Home Checkup Kit, you'll learn specific steps you can take to lower your monthly electric bill.



TO REQUEST YOUR FREE DIY HOME CHECKUP KIT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/KIT

5 SPOTS

TO PLACE YOUR INDOOR SECURITY CAMERA

Every home could use an indoor security camera as an extension of their home security system. They are great for extra security and protection against crime.

But, if you have an indoor security camera, where should you place it? Consider these spots:



FIRST FLOOR WINDOWS

If an intruder can't enter through a door, they may try a first-floor window. Having a security camera sit on a table facing the window (diagonally to reduce glare) can work as a great deterrent if burglars see the camera.



FRONT AND BACK DOORS

Monitoring your main entrances makes sense. Most burglars will try the front door first, then side and back doors.

Point an indoor security camera directly at the door, facing outside. If possible, aim to keep the camera about 7 feet off the ground pointing down at a slight angle. This is ideal to capture a clear view of an intruder's face.



STAIRWAYS

Placing a security camera on stairways guarantees capturing two images of burglars - one as they go up the stairs and the other as they go down the stairs.



GARAGES AND SHEDS

Approximately 9 percent of all break-ins occur through open garage doors. Place a security camera inside a garage or shed at an angle (to avoid sunshine glare) to capture any potential burglars.



MASTER BEDROOM

Burglars usually go to the master bedroom first because of the valuables kept here.



It's important to remember that security cameras are not a replacement for monitored home security systems. They are simply to add an extra layer of security. With professional monitoring by EMC Security, if an intruder gets inside your home, you will have help quickly.

EMC Security offers a selection of video cameras, including indoor cameras priced at just \$99. For a limited time, get a free camera with a video subscription and two-year commitment.



CALL EMC SECURITY AT 770-963-0305 OR VISIT EMCSECURITY.COM

BE SCAM AWARE

OUTWIT IMPOSTERS' TACTICS

**It's the kind of unexpected call that grabs your attention:
"Pay now or your electricity will be turned off immediately."**

Based on recent reports, increasingly consumers in the United States are getting these types of phone calls – often called spoofing – from criminals pretending to be utility providers. In many cases, caller ID may even identify the fake calls as coming from the name of a legitimate company, like Jackson EMC.

Criminals are not only using scare tactics to fool you into paying fake fees, they're also using clever targeting to make you pay immediately.

**WHILE THE PITCHES CAN BE VERY CONVINCING,
YOU CAN SPOT THE SIGNS OF AN IMPOSTER:**



Besides phone calls, criminals have been known to make in-person visits at homes and businesses claiming an account is past due and the electricity will be turned off. Jackson EMC never sends representatives to homes and businesses to collect past due payments.



**FOR MORE ON HOW TO SAFEGUARD
YOUR INFORMATION, VISIT
[JACKSONEMC.COM/SAFETY-AND-SECURITY.](https://www.jacksonemc.com/safety-and-security)**



REQUESTING PAYMENT WITH A PREPAID CREDIT CARD

Jackson EMC will never call you and tell you to pay your bill with a prepaid credit card, like Green Dot or MoneyPak. Scammers oftentimes target non-English speaking members and tell them to pay with a Green Dot card.

FOR ACCEPTABLE WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL,
VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOPAY.

URGENCY

Scammers tell you to act fast – typically while you're still on the phone with them. Hang up and call the customer service number on your bill or your utility company's website.

Jackson EMC:
1-800-462-3691

THREATENING TO DISCONNECT YOUR POWER

Without immediate payment for a fee or bill, scammers will say your electricity will be turned off very soon. Jackson EMC will send a reminder letter before making a courtesy call to past-due account holders.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

At some point, scammers may ask for your credit card number, Social Security number or account number. You should only provide this type of information in phone calls you initiate with trusted companies.



OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$86,280 IN GRANTS

during its December meeting, including **\$72,300 to organizations** and **\$13,980 to individuals**.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry for its Emergency Assistance Program, which provides clients with emergency food supplies, shelter, prescription medications and referrals to local clinics, buying them time to deal with the difficult and frequently temporary circumstances they are facing and helping them get back on their feet.

\$10,500 | Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, to assist students in Title 1 schools in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin and Madison counties attending the *Nature Education and Environmental Conservation Programs* for PreK-12 school children.

\$10,000 | Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission in Buford, a grassroots ministry that collects and distributes clothes, food and furniture to those in need in Gwinnett, Hall, Barrow counties to help them get back on their feet,

to help with rent on the building used to house the mission's inventory.

\$10,000 | Rape Response, a Gainesville community-based nonprofit 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 | Adventure Bags, an Auburn-based nonprofit that creates comfort bags and distributes them to displaced children through local offices of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), domestic violence shelters, fire departments, group homes and children's shelters in Jackson EMC's service area to provide comfort and security in a crisis.

\$7,500 | North Georgia Interfaith Ministries, based in Dahlonega, for Jeremiah's Place, Lumpkin County's only transitional housing program, which assists homeless families from Lumpkin and Hall counties get back on their feet and find safe, stable housing.

\$5,000 | Rock Goodbye Angel, a Gainesville-based nonprofit, to assist with its pregnancy and infant loss grief support program that covers Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, and Lumpkin counties.

\$2,300 | Spirit of Sharing, in Winder, for its Youth Enrichment outreach program for children ages six to 18 in low-income families.

\$2,000 | Penfield Christian Homes, to provide assistance for people living in one of the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC to participate in the substance abuse treatment program.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$3,500 to a 30-year-old individual for assistance in purchasing a wheelchair lift for a vehicle to transport a disabled son's power chair.

\$3,480 to a 54-year-old individual for assistance with replacing her HVAC unit.

\$3,500 to an 81-year-old individual for assistance with repairs to the bathroom to make it handicap-accessible for her disabled daughter.

\$3,500 to a family for assistance with purchasing a wheelchair lift for a vehicle to transport two disabled children.



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



WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

Experience Washington, D.C. from an insider's perspective as you walk alongside state and national leaders in the halls of Congress. Learn crucial leadership development skills as you participate in team building activities throughout the week. Hear in-depth stories from expert tour guides as you reflect on our nation's history while visiting national monuments.

Are you a current high school sophomore or junior? Don't miss your chance to serve as one of Jackson EMC's four delegates on the 2018 Washington Youth Tour. The tour will take place June 7-14, 2018.

Applications are available at jacksonemc.com/wyt. However, completed applications must be submitted to your high school counselor or leadership contact. Area schools' deadlines vary.

Check with your high school guidance counselor to learn when applications are due.

All applications must be received at Jackson EMC by February 26, 2018.

MOVING FROM HOMELESSNESS TO STABILITY



For more than half a century, Action Ministries/Gainesville – with the support of local churches, businesses and individuals – has worked to prevent homelessness by providing emergency funds, food, clothing and services.

“Leading people out of poverty is our mission,” said Regional Director Marlon Allen. “Often the first effort towards a solution is to put a bandage on the problem with emergency help. We go beyond that, partnering with people to get them in a home and then walking with them through financial literacy and career readiness.”

Action Ministries originated as the brainchild of the United Methodist Church (UMC), according to Allen.

“The North Georgia Conference [of the UMC] wanted to help the poor by responding to the needs in their communities, and over the years those efforts evolved into Action Ministries,” Allen said. The organization was established in 1963.

Headquartered at 1 First Street, Action Ministries/Gainesville is across the street from Chickopee United Methodist Church, which leases its building to the ministry for \$1 a year. Along with UMC churches in the area, several churches of other denominations are part of Action Ministries as well.

“No matter the denomination, all are in line with the mission of the church as a whole,” Allen said. “The thought is, ‘Why start a soup kitchen at your church if there’s already one in the community?’ All the churches partner to work together rather than duplicate efforts.”

Working together, the churches, through Action Ministries, support a myriad of programs, from housing the homeless to feeding the hungry. The organization offers several hunger relief programs, including Feed the Hungry and Smart Lunch/Smart Kid, a summer program providing meals to children when school’s not in session.

Churches serve and support Action Ministries on both ends. At the front end, since they are often the first point of contact when people are in need, the churches refer individuals and families to Action Ministries for assistance. On the back end, they support Action Ministries with monthly or quarterly financial donations and with volunteers.

The goal of the organization’s housing program is to move people out of homelessness and into a safe and stable living environment, according to Allen.

“Gainesville has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the state, and there are quite a few tent cities around,” Allen said. “Poverty leads to many negative issues in the family, so we work and partner with families to walk them out of their dire situations.”

Action Ministries partners with local businesses to secure housing based on the client’s income and help with down payments and rental assistance. To keep the momentum going, the organization teaches families basic home economics and how to create and stick to a budget.

Action Ministries recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to assist people facing potential homelessness. To date, it has received \$76,000 from the Jackson EMC Foundation to help people in the community.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ACTIONMINISTRIES.NET.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Sausage and Cream Cheese Dip



“ This recipe is good to use as an appetizer, and most of my friends usually eat it between two pieces of bread. It’s that good and filling! My friends and family often request this dish. ”

—ALICE JOHNSON, LAWRENCEVILLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 rolls of Jimmy Dean mild/regular sausage (16 oz.)
- 2 packages of Philadelphia cream cheese, at room temperature (8 oz.)
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes, drained (variety of your choice)
- Sliced jalapenos and juice from the jalapenos (1-2 oz.)
- Tortilla chips, Ritz crackers and/or any variety of bread(s)

DIRECTIONS

In a pan, completely brown both rolls of sausage until done. Drain completely. While the sausage is cooking, drain the Rotel tomatoes. Once drained, use a spoon to stir the tomatoes in a bowl with cream cheese. Stir with spoon until well blended. Using a spoon, add the cooked sausage to the cream cheese mixture until well blended.

As an option, add sliced jalapenos and jalapeno juice for extra “kick.” Another option is to add a tablespoon of jalapeno juice to the mixture to elevate the taste.

Serve dip with tortilla chips, Ritz crackers and/or bread(s). This can be served hot or at room temperature.



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

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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Share Your Recipes WITH JEMCO NEWS



We've heard for years how much you like the recipes featured in JEMCO News. It's one of the most popular items in this monthly publication to our members. We take recipes submitted by Jackson EMC members and try them ourselves. Each month, the selected winner receives a chef-worthy prize package.

This year, the prize package includes an air fryer – a healthier option to traditional frying that uses little or no oil. Air fryers have become a healthier and more convenient alternative for cooking favorite foods.

Jackson EMC has a rich history of sharing cooking ideas. When we began serving electricity in this area in 1938, members didn't know how to prepare food with electricity. So, employees of the cooperative taught members how to use this resource in their kitchens.

You can be a part of this local tradition by submitting your favorite recipes to share with members in JEMCO News. Archived recipes are available at news.jacksonemc.com.

**SEND YOUR RECIPES, WITH YOUR NAME,
ADDRESS, DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER TO:**

Cooperative Cooking, Jackson EMC, P.O. Box 38,
Jefferson, GA 30549, or send an email to JEMCO News
editor Kerri Testement at recipes@jacksonemc.com.