

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

Paw-fect

WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY
AT HOME WITH PETS



AUGUST 2020 | IN THIS ISSUE

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE TO MEMBERS

APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS

GO PAPERLESS AND YOU COULD WIN A BEATS PILL+ WIRELESS BLUETOOTH SPEAKER



ENCOURAGEMENT IS POWERFUL

I've noticed recently when students graduate they'll receive cards quoting Dr. Seuss' classic book, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!". One of the most cited quotes goes: "You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so ... get on your way!"

It's a fitting sentiment to those young people entering a new phase in their lives – whether they're starting new careers or continuing their education. I think it's also a great word of encouragement for students starting a new school year. When it comes to starting school this year, we recognize things are going to be different for many students and teachers. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic means students and teachers are following safety guidelines that weren't in place a year ago. That's why we're encouraging teachers to consider how they could use a Bright Ideas grant for projects in a digital environment.

We award Bright Ideas grants each year to middle school educators with an

innovative idea that brings learning to life in their classrooms. Since 2015, we have awarded 206 Bright Ideas grants to middle school teachers totaling \$279,494. As we start this school year, our Bright Ideas grant application process is open for middle school educators. We're always excited to see the many creative ideas teachers submit to us in their Bright Ideas grant applications.

Over the years, we've seen some pretty innovative classroom projects to give students new opportunities to learn, including using state-of-the-art technology, like virtual reality and 3-D printing. Other educators have used their Bright Ideas grant funds to purchase supplies for projects focusing on horticulture, music or social studies. It's always rewarding to see students engaging in these projects that would have been unfunded otherwise.

As your local electric cooperative, Jackson EMC is honored to be a partner supporting our students, teachers and schools. We believe that empowering, encouraging

and supporting young people is critical to making a better future for the community we serve.

Know an educator who may be interested in applying for a Bright Ideas grant? Let them know we're accepting applications. Teachers have so many great ideas to provide a creative learning experience for their students. The Bright Ideas program is just one of the ways we can help educators take teaching and learning to a new level. You can learn more about Bright Ideas in this issue of *JEMCO News*.

Have an idea on how we can support students and teachers this school year? Send me an email at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO



WAYS TO SAVE:

LOAN PROGRAM HELPS MEMBERS MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

Are you planning energy efficient improvements for your home? As a member of Jackson EMC, you may qualify for the cooperative's HomePlus Loan program.

The low-interest loan program allows members to finance up to \$7,500 for 36 or 60 months for energy efficient improvements, like an ENERGY STAR®-certified heat pump replacement, insulation upgrades, ductwork improvements or a water heater replacement.

Qualification for a HomePlus Loan is based on assessment of creditworthiness and the underwriting standards of our partner, Go Energy Financial. Additional terms are available at jacksonemc.com/homeplus.

To get started with a HomePlus Loan, contact Jackson EMC at 1-800-462-3691 and ask to speak to a residential energy advisor.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

to members

Official notice is hereby given that, due to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 meeting of the members of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation will be held in an alternative manner to safeguard the health of our member-owners and employees, as well as ensure the Cooperative's ability to continue providing essential electric service.

In order to fulfill the Cooperative's Bylaws requirements and encourage member-owners to exercise their voting rights, current plans call for registration and voting to take place from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Tuesday, September 15, through Thursday, September 17, at each of the cooperative's local offices.

The purpose will be to elect three directors and approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Details of registration and voting, as well as directions to the Cooperative's local offices will be available on September 5 on our website, www.jacksonemc.com. Videos of the cooperative's financial performance report, Board Chairman's Report and CEO's Report will also be available on the website beginning September 17.

Members who register and vote will receive a small gift and will be entered in drawings for door prizes and the grand prize of \$3,000 in energy efficient appliances. You are requested to register and vote.

**Sincerely,
Lynn Price Secretary, Board of Directors**

Paw-fect

WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY AT HOME WITH PETS

When you're away from home, do you leave lights and ceiling fans turned on for a beloved dog or cat? If so, you could be potentially using more energy necessary to keep your pets comfy.

Keeping your dog or cat comfortable and entertained when you're not home doesn't have to increase the amount you pay on your energy bill. To save energy, consider these tips for keeping indoor dogs and cats comfortable:

TURN OFF THE TV

Leaving a TV on to comfort or entertain pets when you're not home could mean you'll pay a higher energy bill. Instead, consider leaving favorite toys for your pet when you're away.

TURN OFF LIGHTS

When you're not home, it's OK for pets to rely on natural light coming from windows. Dogs and cats have eyes that can see better in the dark than humans.

INSTALL AN ENERGY EFFICIENT PET DOOR

Compared to standard pet doors, energy efficient pet doors are generally air tight and provide additional insulation, which can help you save energy, and in turn, lower your monthly electric bill. As your dog or cat enters or leaves your house through an energy efficient pet door, it will help reduce the amount of hot or cold air moving between indoors and outdoors.

USE A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

To get the most energy savings in your home follow a general rule: Set your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. Dogs and cats will remain comfy, and you'll save energy.

TURN OFF CEILING FANS

Ceiling fans can help you feel cooler because they help facilitate the evaporation of sweat, which cools you down. Unlike humans, dogs and cats don't sweat. So, a ceiling fan doesn't have the same cooling effect on dogs and cats, as they do with humans. Consider turning off ceiling fans when you're not home.

FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS, VISIT



[JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE.](https://www.jacksonemc.com/waystosave)

APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS

Middle school educators: Do you have an innovative or creative class project that may not be funded this school year? If so, consider applying for a Bright Ideas grant.

Bright Ideas is a grant program from Jackson EMC that funds creative and innovative classroom projects in middle schools. Educators who teach grades 6-8 can earn up to \$2,000 for class projects that would not be funded otherwise. Grants can be used in face-to-face or digital learning environments.

With a Bright Ideas grant, some of our recent recipients have conducted dissections using virtual reality technology, collected data from drones, purchased a wind tunnel to analyze aerodynamics and more.

To apply for a Bright Ideas grant, applications must be submitted online no later than September 8.

Educators should consider how they could implement a Bright Ideas grant-funded program in a digital environment with students. Applicants must be state-certified educators in a public middle school in Jackson EMC's service area.



FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ABOUT BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS AND TO APPLY, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS.



Heather Zook, a teacher at Osborne Middle School, won a Bright Ideas grant during the 2019-2020 school year.

JEMCO NEWS, VIDEO WIN NATIONAL AWARDS

Jackson EMC recently received recognition in the national 2020 Spotlight on Excellence Awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Jackson EMC received a silver award in the best external news publication category for *JEMCO News*, the cooperative's monthly newsletter to members, and a gold award in the most innovative use of digital communication category for a member testimonial video called "Decades of Service." Kerri Testement, manager of member communication for Jackson EMC, produced the award-winning entries in coordination with the cooperative's PR department.

"Printed news publications, social media and videos are all more important than ever to keep members updated on issues affecting the electric cooperatives and their members," said Scott Peterson, senior vice president communications for NRECA.

The judges in the national awards program wrote that *JEMCO News* "is a beautiful publication featuring outstanding photography that really helps draw the reader in to enjoy the great,



well-written content." For the winning member testimonial video, the judges wrote: "The video used great technical skills to artfully tell a story full of emotion."

The annual Spotlight on Excellence Awards program recognizes the best communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Entrants competed with electric cooperatives of similar size in 16 categories. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted nearly 670 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence Awards program.

Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia and University of South Carolina, as well as noted professionals in the fields of marketing, web design and digital communications, and newspapers judged the

event, which uses a finite scoring system to determine the winners.

The CREC was organized in 1982, and seeks to advance the recognition, education and professionalism of electric cooperative communicators and their affiliated organizations. This volunteer association works on behalf of more than 4,000 electric cooperative communicators across the United States.

NRECA is a national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Homemade Granola



"This is my go-to snack. Enjoy!"
— ADILAH SHAHID, LAWRENCEVILLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups of regular oats
- 1/2 cup raw pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup raw walnuts, chopped
- 1/2 cup raw pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup raw almonds, sliced
- 2 Tbsp. chia seeds
- 1 Tbsp. flaxseed
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line half-sheet pan with parchment paper. Combine dry ingredients and pour onto parchment lined half-pan sheet. Heat combined dry ingredients for 15-20 minutes, depending on preference, to toast ingredients. Remove from oven and pour into large bowl to cool. While ingredients are cooling, make syrup to pour over the mixture.

In saucepan, mix ingredients for syrup over low to medium heat until sugars and butter have melted. Set aside. Stir in 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract and allow to cool for 10 minutes. Once cooled, pour syrup over oatmeal mixture.

Line 9x9 pan with parchment paper, press mixture flat into pan. Allow to thoroughly cool in refrigerator for 2 hours. Once cooled, granola can be cut in bars or served as mixture.

SYRUP:

- 6 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup raw honey
- Pinch of salt



SEND US YOUR BEST RECIPES: RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO:
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549
FIND MORE RECIPES AT WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES.

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$44,000 IN GRANTS

to organizations during its June meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$10,000 | Potter’s House, an Atlanta Union Mission facility, to help feed, house, counsel and provide educational programs, such as adult literacy, to men recovering from substance abuse through the Transformational Recovery Services Program at its 570-acre working farm in Jefferson.

\$10,000 | Good News at Noon, a Gainesville-based community ministry and transitional shelter for men providing daily

meals and weekly bags of groceries, for its Meal Ministry program, which serves 100 meals each day of the year.

\$7,500 | St. Vincent De Paul Society—Norcross, to help fund direct aid for housing assistance, including rent, mortgage and temporary housing for Gwinnett County families in crisis.

\$7,500 | StepByStep Recovery a Lawrenceville community-based grassroots addiction recovery organization that provides a safe and structured environment for men and women in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties as they complete a 12-step program for drug and alcohol addiction, to assist with rent for the men’s and women’s units.

\$5,000 | Winder Noon Lions Club, in Barrow County, whose mission is sight

conservation and treatment, to provide exams and eyeglasses for 50 children and adults who are visually impaired.

\$4,000 | Independent Transportation Network—Lanier (ITN), a Gainesville-based organization providing door-to-door transportation for adults 60 years and older and visually impaired individuals 18 years and older, to provide assistance for transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and pharmacies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

J.M TULL GWINNETT FAMILY YMCA & GEORGIA MOUNTAINS YMCA

When a national emergency was declared in the early response to the COVID-19 pandemic, two local YMCA chapters quickly adapted their programs to support frontline and essential employees who needed childcare.

“When we got word (in March) there would be no school, we thought, ‘What are parents going to do for childcare, especially the frontline workers,’” said Rick Little, program director of childcare for Georgia Mountains YMCA in Gainesville.

Just a few days later, the YMCA opened its doors for “crisis childcare” for families of first responders, medical professionals and other essential employees. Without other childcare options available, the YMCA became a valuable resource for parents working on the frontline of the pandemic response.

“It’s in the DNA of the YMCA to do what’s needed to help our communities,” said Jude Dooley, group vice president of YMCA of Metro Atlanta.

Like its sister chapter, the J.M. Tull Gwinnett Family YMCA also quickly launched a childcare program in the early response to the pandemic that served frontline and essential employees. “As we started to cast the idea (of the program), there was an overwhelming response to get involved,” Dooley said.

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to each YMCA chapter for



PHOTO COURTESY OF YMCA

their emergency childcare programs for frontline employees affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The J.M. Tull Gwinnett Family YMCA also used its grant to provide a hunger relief program for Gwinnett County children and senior citizens affected by the pandemic.

To help healthcare professionals working 12-hour shifts, both YMCA chapters extended the operating hours of their childcare programs. Along with providing meals for children, the chapters also became a source of social interaction and encouragement for children. “Our staff came up with strategies to engage kids in a fun environment,” said Joe Ambler, executive director of J.M. Tull Gwinnett Family YMCA.

Taking into account social distancing, childcare workers at the YMCA also used creative ways to offer games and activities that ensured children stayed at a safe distance from each other, Little

said. “We offered the kids a lot of verbal praise and encouragement,” he said.

The Georgia Mountains YMCA provided crisis childcare for 50 children. More than 3,200 children were registered for emergency childcare offered by the YMCA of Metro Atlanta from March to June. Atlanta YMCAs have been providing 6,000 meals a week, including for Gwinnett County families experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic.

“We’re incredibly thankful to the Jackson EMC Foundation for their support of the kids in our programs,” Little said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CHAPTERS, VISIT YMCAATLANTA.ORG/YMCA-LOCATIONS/GWINNETT/ OR GAMOUNTAINSYMCA.ORG.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

JACKSON EMC OFFICES

1000 Dawsonville Highway
Gainesville, GA
(770) 536-2415

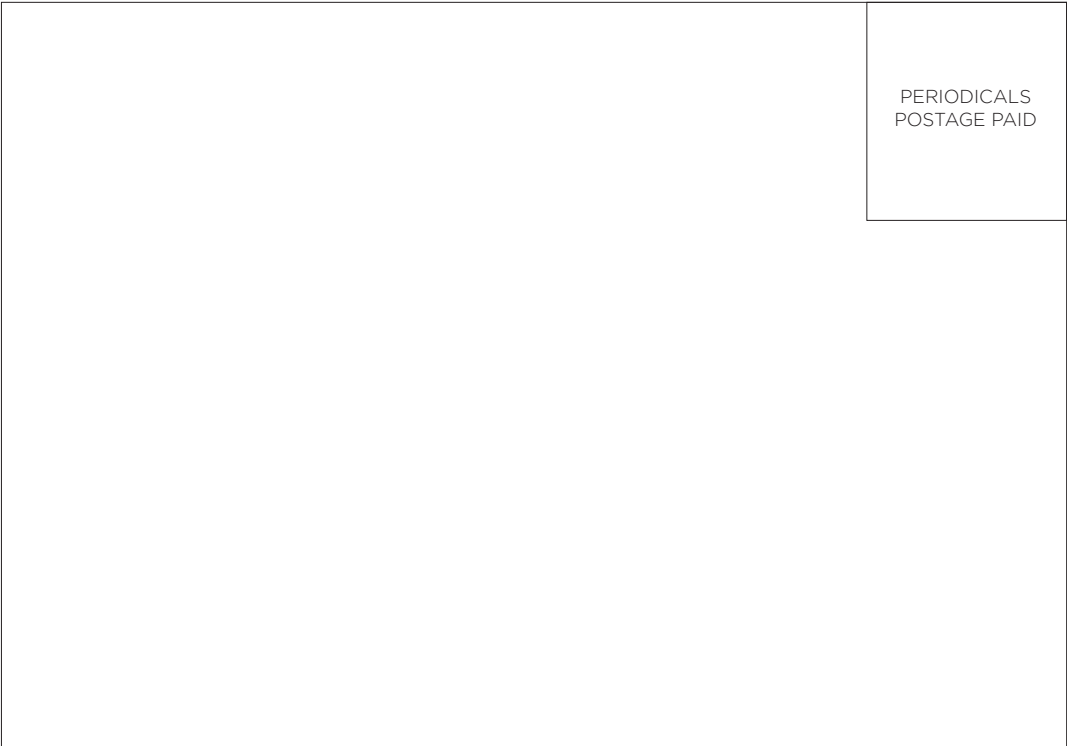
85 Spratlin Mill Road
Hull, GA
(706) 548-5362

850 Commerce Road
Jefferson, GA
(706) 367-5281

825 Buford Dr
Lawrenceville, GA
(770) 963-6166

EMC SECURITY

55 Satellite Blvd., NW
Suwanee, GA
(770) 963-0305 or
(706) 543-4009



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID



@JacksonEMC



jacksonemc



JEMCTV1



jackson_emc



Jackson EMC

jacksonemc.com

GO PAPERLESS AND YOU COULD WIN A BEATS PILL+ WIRELESS BLUETOOTH SPEAKER



SIGN UP FOR
PAPERLESS BILLING WITH A
MYJACKSONEMC ACCOUNT VIA
MYJACKSONEMC.COM
OR THE MYJACKSONEMC
MOBILE APP.

Paperless billing makes it convenient to pay your monthly bill. Jackson EMC members who sign up for paperless billing by November 30 will be eligible to win a Beats Pill+ wireless Bluetooth speaker.

By signing up for paperless billing, members receive their monthly bill in their email inbox - instead of their mailbox. Jackson EMC members who have signed up for paperless billing between December 1, 2019 and November 30, 2020 will be entered for a chance to win one of five Beats Pill+ wireless Bluetooth speakers.

*Members must have signed up for paperless billing with their MyJacksonEMC account between December 1, 2019 and November 30, 2020. See contest rules at jacksonemc.com/contestrules.