


JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMS?

Before a storm hits, be sure you're ready



FEBRUARY 2020 | IN THIS ISSUE

SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAY FOR CONVENIENT BILL PAYMENT

STAY WARM AND SAFE WITH THESE WINTER TIPS

KEEP YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE WITH A MEDICAL ALERT BUTTON



GETTING YOUR FAMILY STORM READY

The winter storm of 2015 was one of the biggest storms ever to affect our electrical distribution system. In that storm, extreme ice caused power outages in all 10 counties we serve. Our crews – along with 600 linemen from other electric cooperatives – replaced 155 broken poles that snapped under the weight of ice. Did you know: A half inch of ice can add up to 500 pounds of extra weight on power lines!

In our business, weather is the single biggest variable affecting our ability to deliver safe and reliable power. When major storms approach, our plans call for “all hands on deck,” with every Jackson EMC employee serving a role for outage restoration. Our preparation work helps us stay ready to respond to power outages caused by a storm in a manner that’s quick and safe.

During a storm, our System Control is at the center of our outage response efforts – including monitoring weather conditions and dispatching crews to restore power. Our crews ensure their trucks and equipment are fully stocked and ready

to roll at a moment’s notice. Just as our employees have plans in place for severe weather, we want you to do the same for your family. If you haven’t prepared your family for severe weather, the good news is that it’s not too late to get started.

Every family has its own unique needs to consider for its stormy weather plans. You may have many family members living in your house. You may have loved ones with special medical needs that require advance planning with their doctors. Or, you may have pets or livestock whose needs should be considered. Factors, like these, should be reviewed when you’re making your severe weather plans. Be sure to include your loved ones when creating a plan that’s right for your family. When your family is prepared for a power outage, you can make the best of the situation.

Over my years of service with electric cooperatives, I’ve seen the value of both the cooperative and members taking the right steps to prepare for severe weather. Just like getting the cooperative ready for a storm, members who have taken steps in

advance of a storm to ensure their family will be OK are ahead of the game.

I encourage you to look in this issue of *JEMCO News* for ways you can prepare for severe weather. We’re offering helpful tips for preparing for an emergency storm kit, including examples of supplies to add to your kit. If you’re like me and you’ve stumbled around in the dark looking for a flashlight or batteries, having those items ready in a kit is handy. You can also learn more about preparing for severe weather at jacksonemc.com/storm. We can’t predict when storms will occur, but we can all do our part to be ready in case a storm turns severe.

Have a story to share on how preparing for severe weather helped your family? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAY FOR CONVENIENT BILL PAYMENT

Looking to simplify paying your bill? With Jackson EMC’s Auto Pay Program, you can enjoy the convenience of having your bill paid automatically each month from your bank account or with a credit/debit card.

By enrolling in Auto Pay, you don’t have to worry about due dates since your bill will be paid automatically each month.

To enroll in Auto Pay, log in to your MyJacksonEMC account at MyJacksonEMC.com or via the MyJacksonEMC mobile app.

On the MyJacksonEMC website, log in and click on the “Billing & Payments” section, then select “Auto Pay Program” to enroll. On the mobile app, log in and tap “Bill & Pay,” then select “Auto Pay Program” to enroll. Automatic payments with credit cards are limited to \$600. There is no payment limit for automatic payments with a bank account draft.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOPAY





KEEP YOUR
Loved Ones Safe
WITH A MEDICAL ALERT BUTTON

Want the security of a medical alert button wherever you go, even away from home?

The mobile emergency pendant from EMC Security is an ideal gift for a loved one. Worn around the neck or clipped to a belt, pocket or purse, the device is small and comfortable to wear when you're on the go.

Powered by Belle, the pendant features two-way voice communication and a rechargeable battery that lasts up to 30 days per charge.

With the push of one button, the device connects you to a certified, 24-hour emergency response technician - who can send emergency help or contact a loved one to assist. If needed, the pendant can be used to pinpoint your location for emergency responders.

The mobile emergency pendant is available from EMC Security for \$21.95 per month.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION, VISIT
EMCMEDICALALERT.COM
OR CALL EMC SECURITY
AT 770-963-0305

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR STORMS?

Before a storm hits, be sure you're ready

Severe weather can happen any time of year. When severe weather hits, it's important to have basic supplies ready in the event of extended power outages.

During and after dangerous weather – such as winter storms, a tornado or a summer downpour – there may be extended power outages and downed power lines.

Ask yourself, What would I need for myself and my family if severe weather hit? and What would I or my family require if we didn't have access to a grocery store or pharmacy for at least three days?

You can stay prepared for severe weather by gathering necessary supplies in advance and developing a plan for your family.

To prepare your supplies and plan, focus on these key areas: emergency communication, medical needs, food and water, tools and safety items, warm clothing and blankets, and critical documents.

DEVELOP & PRACTICE

an emergency plan with everyone in your household

ENSURE

your cellphones are charged before the storm hits

PROTECT & UNPLUG

electronic equipment in the event of a surge when power is restored

WHEN A MAJOR STORM IS IMMINENT,

fill your bathtub with water if your home's water is pumped electrically

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

relies on medical equipment, identify an alternate location with power where they can go during an outage

PREPARE FOR A STORM BY ASSEMBLING A KIT



CELLPHONE CAR CHARGER, BATTERY PACK OR SOLAR CHARGER



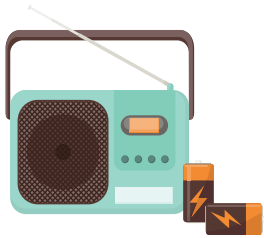
SPECIAL ITEMS FOR INFANTS, THE ELDERLY OR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



FIRST AID KIT AND EXTRA PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS



TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, SOAP AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS



BATTERY-POWERED NOAA WEATHER RADIO



NON-PERISHABLE FOODS THAT REQUIRE NO HEATING FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS



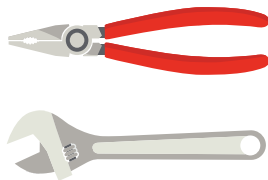
BOOKS, GAMES, CARDS OR PUZZLES FOR ENTERTAINMENT



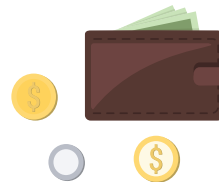
THREE GALLONS OF WATER FOR EACH PERSON IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD



SLEEPING BAG OR WARM BLANKET FOR EACH PERSON IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD



A VARIETY OF HAND TOOLS



CASH



FOOD AND WATER FOR PETS AND LIVESTOCK FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS



IDENTIFICATION & COPIES OF IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS PASSPORTS, IN A WATERPROOF AND PORTABLE CONTAINER



FLASHLIGHTS AND EXTRA BATTERIES



HAND-OPERATED CAN OPENER

!

HOW TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE TO JACKSON EMC:

Visit outage.jacksonemc.com

Call 1-800-245-4044

Use the MyJacksonEMC mobile app

FOR MORE RESOURCES ABOUT PREPARING FOR STORMS, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/STORM.

Twenty-five years ago, Becky Dowling founded Just People, Inc. to provide social events for developmentally disabled adults who otherwise didn't qualify for support programs.

Today, the Norcross-based nonprofit organization works with more than 300 individuals who need support, but aren't eligible for programs for people with severe disabilities.

"For many of them, you can't see the disability, but it's there," said Kelli Ivey, vice president of Just People.

Just People provides a variety of support services to adults with developmental disabilities, head injuries and mental illness. According to the organization, 90% of the individuals using Just People's services are unable to live independently in the community. To address the need for safe and affordable housing for its participants, Just People operates two apartment communities.



Since 1995, Just People, Inc. has been serving adults with developmental disabilities.

"By living in an apartment community, they're able to live comfortably, but meet with friends and live independently," Ivey said.

For Just People, transportation is vital to get participants to their jobs, selected outings and to its day program. A fleet of vehicles helps transport participants around the community with about 180 trips made by the organization each day. However, with

an aging bus fleet and a growing need for handicapped accessibility vehicles, Just People needs newer vehicles.

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded Just People a \$10,000 grant to help purchase a new vehicle to transport adults with developmental disabilities around the community.

With a new vehicle, Ivey said Just People can continue to help its participants with jobs get to and from work. "Many of them really enjoy working because they can earn their own money, meet friends and are very loyal to their employer," she said.

Like its other vehicles, Just People's new vehicle will be painted with a tie dye pattern. "That's on purpose," Ivey said. "It makes the community aware of who we are, like 'Here we come.'"

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JUST PEOPLE, INC., VISIT JUSTPEOPLE.ORG

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Philly Chicken Cheesesteak Bites



- INGREDIENTS: 10 oz. chicken breast, thinly sliced and chopped 1 Tbsp. canola oil 2 Tbsp. butter 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce 1 green bell pepper, sliced 4 oz. mushrooms, sliced 1 loaf fresh French bread, cut in half long ways 8 oz. Provolone cheese 1 yellow onion, chopped Mayonnaise, to taste

DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Heat canola oil in a skillet. Cook chicken for 3 minutes. Add Worcestershire sauce to meat and toss. Continue until chicken is fully cooked. Remove meat from skillet. Add 2 Tbsp. butter to skillet with mushrooms, bell pepper and onion. Cook for 2 minutes.

Spread mayonnaise on bread. Put half of Provolone cheese on bread. Put meat, mushrooms, bell pepper and onion on bread. Add remaining cheese on top of meat and vegetables. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until bread is browned and cheese is melted.

"I am a Philadelphia native, a relocated Georgia girl, and I enjoy sharing the taste of home with my new family down South. This is a family favorite that really brings us together for some fun bonding and delicious tasting at the table." — JACKIE HARRISON, ATHENS

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

\$103,005 IN GRANTS

during its December meeting, including \$98,975 to organizations and \$4,030 to an individual.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Hi-Hope Service Center, Inc., in Lawrenceville, to help fund part-time nursing and nutrition services for 20 developmentally disabled Gwinnett County residents who require onsite nursing care for services such as daily medication, insulin, blood checks and specialized medical treatment.

\$13,600 | MedLink Georgia, a nonprofit primary medical care network that provides care to medically underserved people, to purchase a BiliChek System, a non-invasive jaundice assessment device that measures bilirubin levels in newborns, for the Colbert and Winder locations.

\$12,000 | Sandy Creek Nature Center, in Athens, to help construct an outdoor play and exploration area for children throughout the Jackson EMC service area to enjoy when visiting the 225 acres of educational and recreational facilities.

\$10,000 | Eyes of Love Lighthouse Mission, Inc., in Buford, a grassroots ministry that collects and distributes clothes, food and furniture to needy families in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties, to help with rent on the facility that houses the mission's inventory.

\$10,000 | Junior Achievement of Georgia, Inc., for program and support materials and supplies for the JA Biztown and JA Finance Park interactive programs at Discovery High School to teach Gwinnett County middle school students the concepts of financial literacy, business, entrepreneurship and career readiness.

\$10,000 | Just People, a nonprofit organization serving adults with developmental disabilities, head injuries and mental illness in Gwinnett and Hall counties, to help purchase a vehicle to transport individuals to work and day programming.

\$10,000 | Mending the Gap, a Lawrenceville-based nonprofit organization serving the basic needs of low-income seniors, for its Save Our Seniors Project, which delivers a monthly care package of nutritious food, personal care items, cleaning supplies and toiletries.

\$7,500 | Community Helping Place, a Dahlonega nonprofit that addresses hunger in the Lumpkin County community, to purchase food for its food pantry.

\$6,000 | Norcross Meals on Wheels, which serves Norcross, Peachtree Corners, Duluth and Berkeley Lake communities in Gwinnett County, to help deliver hot, nutritious, mid-day meals five days per week to home-bound or disabled senior citizens.

\$4,875 | North Georgia Interfaith Ministries, based in Dahlonega, for program supplies and appliances for Lumpkin County's only transitional housing program, which assists homeless families from Lumpkin and Hall counties to get back on their feet and find safe, stable housing.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENT:

\$4,030 to a disabled senior citizen to replace an HVAC unit.

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



Stay Warm & Safe WITH THESE TIPS

When the weather is cold, the risk for fire and electrical safety hazards increases. As temperatures drop, people can turn to space heaters and electric blankets to stay warm.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends following these steps to safeguard your loved ones and home from potential fire and electrical safety hazards this winter.



DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS

Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Instead, plug appliances directly into a wall outlet. In general, if you're relying heavily on extension cords, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.



NEVER LEAVE SPACE HEATERS UNATTENDED

If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least three feet away from flammable items.



INSPECT HEATING PADS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS

These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

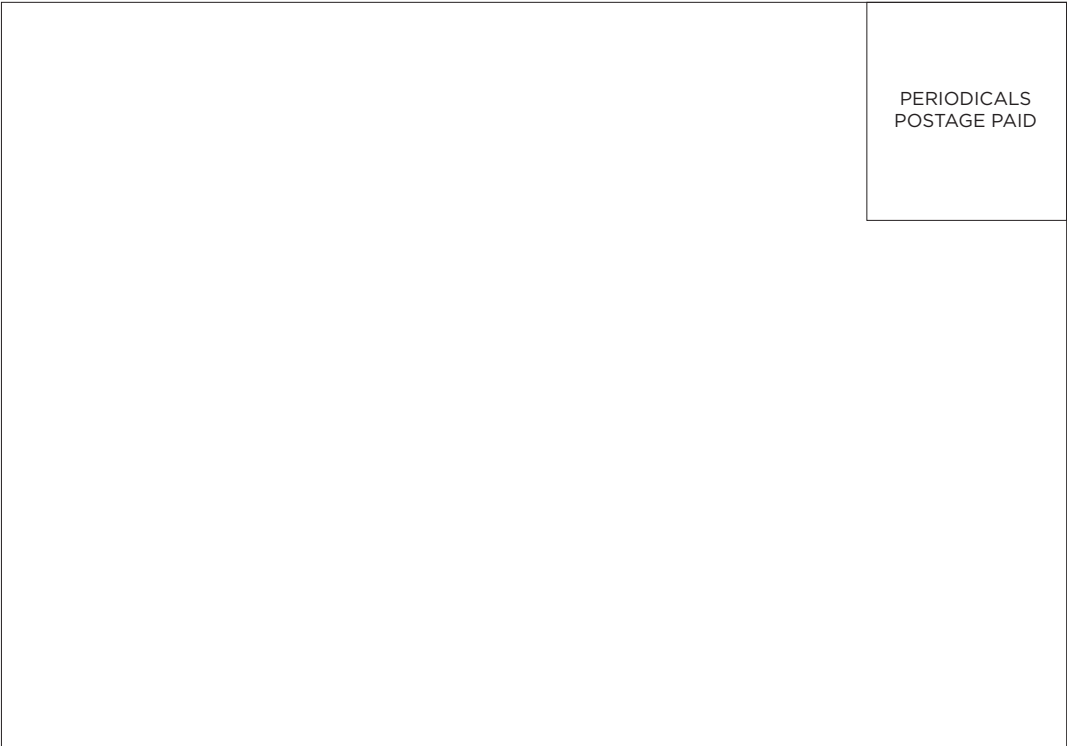
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(706) 543-4009



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID

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jacksonemc.com

Share Your Recipes WITH JEMCO NEWS



At Jackson EMC, we love to hear from members. One of the ways members can engage with their cooperative is by submitting recipes to *JEMCO News*.

For decades, members have submitted their favorite recipes to *JEMCO News*. In fact, a cookbook featuring recipes from members and employees, called *Watts Cookin on the Line*, debuted in 1965 and is still available in our local offices to purchase for \$4.

For 2020, members who submit their favorite recipes to *JEMCO News* are eligible to win a prize package that includes a pressure cooker/air fryer combo and other kitchen goodies from Jackson EMC. A winner is selected each month and the recipe is featured in *JEMCO News*.

Send us your recipes, with your name, address and 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.