

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

RESOLVE TO

Save Energy
this Year



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NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

If you're a sports fan, like me, you often hear about the "energy" of the game.

You'll notice or "feel" the positive energy among players, coaches and fans when your team makes a "big" play. Because of that energy, everyone is excited and motivated to keep moving forward - whether it's a touchdown, homerun or score. Remember how exciting it was to see the Braves win the World Series and the Georgia Bulldogs win the National Championship!

I've also noticed this same type of energy throughout our great cooperative. We've provided reliable and affordable electricity to our members for more than 80 years, and there will be new opportunities to provide greater service to you this year.

The member - or fan - experience is what it's all about. Without fans, a stadium is empty. In 2022, we want to enhance your member experience. That means we plan to:

- Continue making improvements to our distribution network to better serve you and our growing area;
- Offer more renewable energy options; and,
- Launch a new option for you to pay for your electricity in advance, called PrePay.

I've always believed in the team of employees at Jackson EMC to exceed members' expectations. Like the Braves and Bulldogs, our goal is always to be the best. Our vision statement says the same, to be "the best, forward thinking, innovative energy supplier."

All this builds on our tradition of serving our members and our

community. Jackson EMC was founded on the belief that by working together, we could improve the quality of life for residents of northeast Georgia through the power of electricity.

Indeed, the team of employees at your cooperative is "energized" to advance our founding belief. We have lots of exciting accomplishments to come. I'm looking forward to this year and beyond!

Have a story to share on how we provided new opportunities for you? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

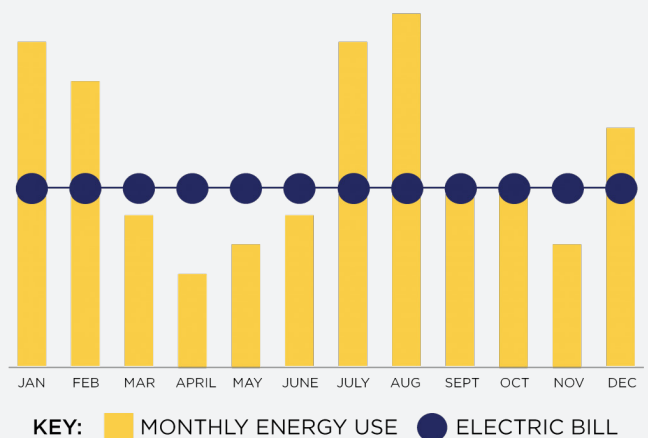
Chip Jakins, President/CEO

BUDGET BILLING PAY THE SAME AMOUNT EACH MONTH

Knowing how much you'll pay each month for your electric bill provides peace of mind. With Jackson EMC's budget billing program, your monthly bill will be the same amount.

In the winter and summer months, heating and air conditioning systems are used more often, which can affect the amount of your bill.

Budget billing takes the 12-month average of your household's electric bill and balances it so you pay the same amount each month.



INTERESTED IN BUDGET BILLING? VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BUDGETBILLING](https://jacksonemc.com/budgetbilling).

VOL. 71, NO. 1, JANUARY 2022 (ISSN 1061-5601), IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT OF JACKSON ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP., 825 BUFORD DRIVE LAWRENCEVILLE, GA. SUBSCRIPTION \$3.50 PER YEAR AS PART OF YEARLY MEMBERSHIP. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LAWRENCEVILLE, GA AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Kerri Testement, Editor. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to JEMCO News 825 Buford Drive Lawrenceville, GA.

CONVENIENT OPTIONS FOR PAYING YOUR BILL

Need options for paying your bill? Jackson EMC offers a number of convenient ways to pay.



ONLINE PAYMENTS

Make a payment at MyJacksonEMC.com or via the MyJacksonEMC mobile app.



PHONE PAYMENTS

Call 1-888-228-9166 to pay over the phone using our secure, automated payment service, which is available 24/7.



MAIL

Send your payment to Jackson EMC at P.O. Box 100, Jefferson, GA 30549.



PAYMENT KIOSKS

Use a payment kiosk at one of our local offices in Gainesville, Jefferson, Lawrenceville or Neese to pay with cash, checks or credit/debit cards*. Kiosks are available 24/7, including weekends and holidays.



AUTO PAY

Pay your bill automatically each month through a draft from your bank account or credit/debit card*. Sign up at MyJacksonEMC.com or via the MyJacksonEMC mobile app.



IN PERSON

Visit one of our local offices to pay in person, including via drive-thru. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and debit cards with the Visa or Mastercard logo.



FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOPAY](https://www.jacksonemc.com/waystopay).

Rosa Crescenti and Candy Greene Appointed to Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors

Two new members have been appointed to serve on the Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors. Rosa Crescenti, of Jackson County, and Candy Greene, of Barrow County, were each appointed to serve a three-year term by the Jackson EMC Board of Directors during its November board meeting.

The Jackson EMC Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization established to represent the members of Jackson EMC and distribute money

collected from members participating in Operation Round Up.®

The 11-member volunteer board of directors meets monthly to review and select grant applications for worthwhile, charitable purposes that will improve lives and respond to immediate needs. Since Operation Round Up's beginning more than 17 years ago, the Foundation has awarded more than \$17 million through 1,685 grants to organizations and 408 to individuals.



Candy Greene is a native of Barrow County and serves as the communications director at Bethlehem Church. Her career also includes 14 years of experience in the banking industry. She is a graduate Cum Laude from the University of Georgia with a degree in Business Administration - Finance from the Terry College of Business. Greene is a graduate of the Leadership Barrow program through the Barrow County Chamber of Commerce.

Greene currently serves as secretary of the Adult Literacy Barrow Board of Directors. She is a co-founding board member and former director of New Path 1010, Inc. She also previously served on The Ministry Village Board of Directors and is past president of the Winder Rotary Club and former board chair of the YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont.



Rosa Crescenti is the owner and CEO of AtWork Personnel Services, a staffing company serving Jackson, Barrow and Gwinnett counties. Her career also includes 12 years of experience in international sales.

Crescenti is a graduate of the Universidad de Lima, Peru, with a degree in Mass Communication. She is a graduate of the Leadership Jackson program through the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce.

She currently serves on the Tree House Board of Directors and is a mentor with Heirborn Servants. She is an active member of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. She is also active in the Foothills of Georgia chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).



RESOLVE TO

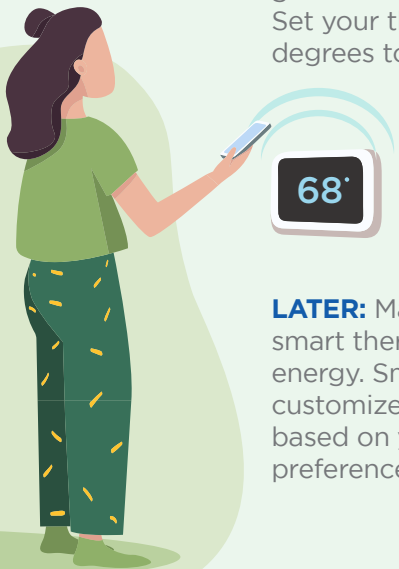
Save Energy — this year —

The new year is a great time to take a fresh look at how you can save energy. Start saving energy now with a few DIY steps and plan for ways to have greater energy savings in the future.

Little Adjustment. Big Impact.

NOW: Your home's thermostat plays a big role in how much energy you use. On average, 35-45% of a home's electric bill goes to heating and cooling. Set your thermostat to 68 degrees to save energy during the winter. As a rule of thumb, your heating cost will increase 3% for each degree above 68 degrees.

LATER: Make the switch to a smart thermostat to conserve energy. Smart thermostats customize heating and cooling based on your patterns and preferences.



Use the Right Amount.

NOW: Your dryer is a major energy user in your household. If your dryer is too full, it will take longer for clothes to dry. Loads that are too small can also use more energy than needed. So, use the right-sized loads to dry clothes and save energy.

LATER: Consider switching to a newer ENERGY STAR-rated dryer that uses 20% less energy than conventional models.

Be Water Wise.

NOW: On average, water heating accounts for 13% of the energy used in your home. Set the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees for energy efficiency.

LATER: Shop for water heaters with higher tank insulation and a good warranty of 10 years or more.



Want to learn more about your home's energy use?

Try our home energy monitor – an online tool that gives you a personalized report about your home's energy use. It's free and takes less than five minutes.

Get started at
[JACKSONEMC.COM/MONITOR.](https://www.jacksonemc.com/monitor)



Keep it Bright with LED Lightbulbs.

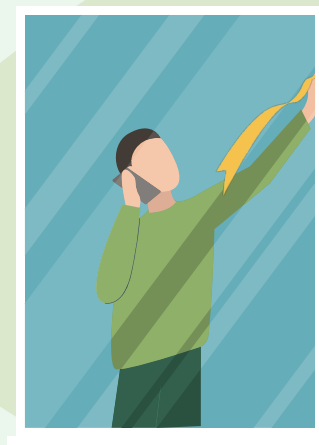
NOW: Switch from incandescent to LED lightbulbs. On average, LED bulbs use 25-80% less energy than traditional bulbs and last 3-25 times longer.

LATER: Switch your most used incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient LED lightbulbs.

Eliminate Drafts.

NOW: Find potential air leaks in your home by using a ribbon. Hold the ribbon around window frames and around doors. If the ribbon moves, there's an air gap. After identifying any air leaks, add caulking or weather stripping around doors and windows to eliminate air drafts.

LATER: Request a home energy evaluation by Jackson EMC. A blower door test will depressurize your home to reveal the locations of leaks and determine which areas need more insulation. Visit [jacksonemc.com/evaluation](https://www.jacksonemc.com/evaluation) for details.



OPERATION ROUND UP®: FOUNDATION GRANTS AWARDED

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$74,705 in grants

including \$67,319 to organizations and \$7,386 to two individuals, during its November meeting

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,900 | City of Hope Athens, to purchase food for its backpack food program that serves students in Athens-Clarke County schools.

\$15,000 | St. Vincent de Paul Society—Jefferson, for its financial assistance program that provides funds to families in Jackson and Banks counties in crisis for rent and mortgage.

\$15,000 | For Her Glory, a Gainesville agency that provides breast cancer patients throughout the Jackson EMC service area with items that are not covered by insurance, such as wigs, bras, compression sleeves, gloves and nutritional supplements.

\$15,000 | Nothing But the Truth, Inc., a comprehensive social services program for Latino families in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties, to provide youth programming for students experiencing significant learning loss and anxiety/depression due to COVID-19.

\$5,000 | Lumpkin County Family Connection, to purchase food for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides six meals, snacks and drinks each week to children identified by Family Advocacy as food insecure.

\$2,319 | Reins of Life, Inc., for its trauma counseling program, designed to serve adults and children in Gwinnett, Hall and Lumpkin counties recovering from domestic violence.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$2,661 | to purchase a **lift seat** for a senior citizen.

\$4,725 | to fund accessible **bathroom repairs** for a disabled citizen.



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

COMMUNITY IMPACT: SPIRIT OF JOY FOOD PANTRY

The Jackson EMC Foundation has supported Spirit of Joy Food Pantry for 15 years, providing grants to help the ministry serve the nutritional needs of the community.

“Our mission is to distribute food to those in need and to refer people to sources that provide things we don’t,” said Rev. Garen Dodson of Spirit of Joy Church.

The food pantry in Flowery Branch is a member of and receives most of its food from Georgia Mountain Food Bank. Spirit of Joy distributes food on the second and third Saturdays at Cornerstone Assembly to Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson county residents.

In February 2021, the food pantry received a \$2,500 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to purchase food.

“The Jackson EMC Foundation has enabled us to feed the hungry of our area,” Dodson said. “We’ve

never had to turn anyone away and we are indeed grateful for that.”

Families may visit the food pantry once a month and are required to show a photo ID and proof of residency to receive food. Most families are referred to the food pantry by the Department of Family and Children Services, Gainesville Action Ministries, and other area food pantries, nonprofits and churches. Clients receive boxes filled with vegetables, pasta, soup and other staples.

“We see that everybody gets some of everything,” Dodson said. “We also distribute frozen meat, something that many people lack now because it’s become so expensive.”



Rev. Garen Dodson (left) of Spirit of Joy Food Pantry thanks Rev. Steve Stewart of Cornerstone Assembly Church for his congregation’s partnership in serving the community.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF JOY FOOD PANTRY, EMAIL REV. GAREN DODSON AT SOJCHURCH@GMAIL.COM.

FOUR TIPS TO STAY SAFE & WARM THIS WINTER

When it's chilly outside, you're more likely to use additional electrical devices to keep warm – like space heaters and electric blankets. Keeping warm with these devices also means taking steps to safeguard your loved ones and home from potential fire hazards. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO STAY WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER:



AVOID OVERLOADING OUTLETS.

Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters. Plug appliances directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords, you may need additional outlets. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and install new outlets.



TURN OFF SPACE HEATERS BEFORE LEAVING A ROOM.

Avoid leaving space heaters unattended. Also, ensure space heaters are placed at least three feet away from flammable items. Keep in mind that space heaters take a toll on your energy use. If you're using them throughout your home, consider upgrading your heating system.



INSPECT HEATING PADS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS.

Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create 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. Don't place any items on a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.



USE PORTABLE GENERATORS SAFELY.

Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means some people may use portable generators to power their homes. Place the generator outside your home, as carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. Also, never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or "backfeed" can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.



FOR MORE TIPS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/SAFETY](https://www.jacksonemc.com/safety).

NEED TO KNOW: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jackson Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) has its corporate office 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 Barrow County, Gwinnett County, and Hall/Lumpkin counties will be elected at the 2022 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at the corporate office 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](https://www.jacksonemc.com) or at any office.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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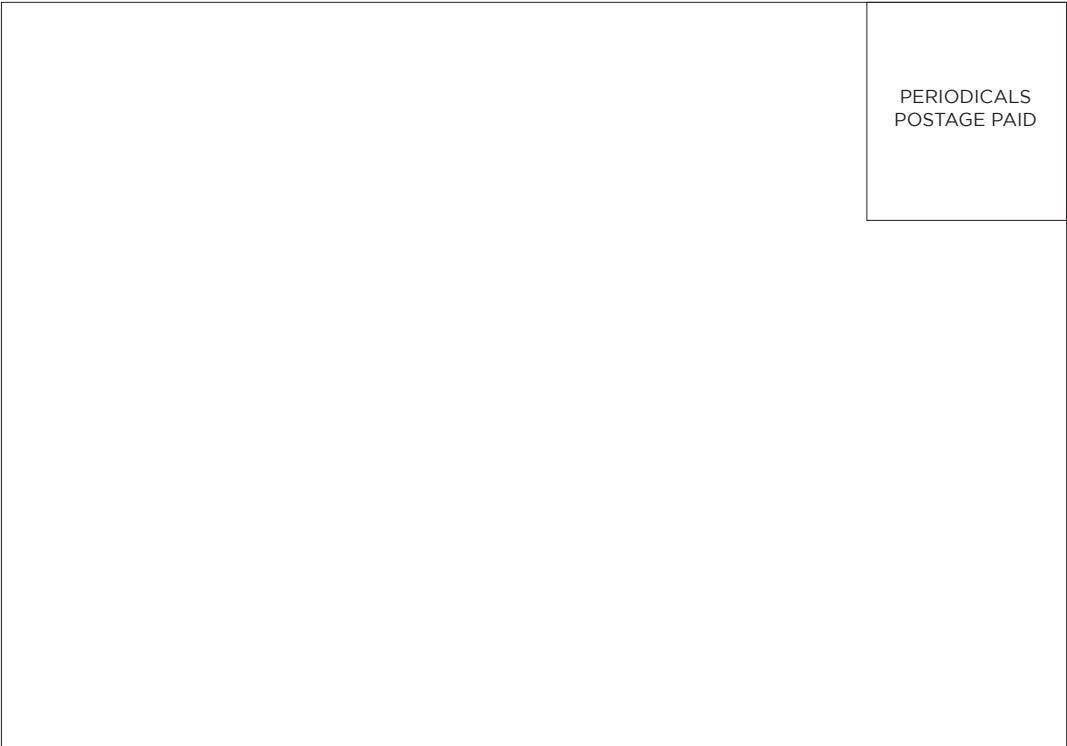
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MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Stuffed French Toast



“ This is a breakfast everyone will enjoy. ”

— LEANNE HILL, HULL

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 loaf** French bread, unsliced
- 18 oz.** cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup** finely chopped walnuts or pecans
- 2 Tbsp.** finely grated orange zest
- 2 cups** milk
- 3** eggs, well beaten
- 1 1/2 tsp.** vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

Slice French bread in 3 inch-increments. In each slice, make a slit over halfway through the middle to create a pocket. Cream together the cream cheese, nuts and orange zest. Stuff cream cheese mixture into the pocket of the bread. Combine milk, egg and vanilla and dip each slice of bread, coating on both sides. On a buttered griddle, fry on both sides until golden. As an option, serve with warmed maple syrup and sprinkle with powdered sugar.



**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.**