

JACKSON
ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION™

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

Making the Right Choice™ for
**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**
& Comfort


SOUTHERNWOOD
HOMES
DESIGN-BUILD

JUNE 2021 | IN THIS ISSUE

FOUR STUDENTS AWARDED YOUTH TOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

BE PREPARED FOR STORMY WEATHER

GO PAPERLESS AND YOU COULD WIN A \$100 BILL CREDIT



RIGHT FROM THE START

Over the years, I've had my share of house-hunting experiences. There's always a moment when you arrive at a potential new home to admire what you see from the outside. Most people refer to it as the "curb appeal" - the landscaping, front door, windows and perhaps a garage. Once inside, you may notice amenities, room sizes and layout of the house. What isn't as easy to determine is whether that home was designed with energy efficiency in mind.

When people think of an "energy efficient" home they may point to appliances - like refrigerators, washers and dryers. But, to make a home truly energy efficient, it's best to start from the ground up. That's where homebuilders play a significant role in constructing homes that support proper heating and cooling systems - the single, largest share of home energy bill costs.

At Jackson EMC, we've partnered with local builders for decades to construct

high-quality, energy efficient homes in our service area. In turn, our members benefit from lower electric bills. Our Right Choice new homes program is unique in the building industry for its high standards for energy efficient construction. I'm proud to say we have certified more than 10,000 homes in the Right Choice new homes program.

Why is that important? Over the past couple of decades, our service area has included counties named as some of the fastest growing counties in the country by the Census Bureau. As more residents moved to our area, more houses were built. When these new homes were constructed as Right Choice homes, their builders made enhancements to ensure maximum energy efficiency for heating and cooling. In turn, their homeowners received Jackson EMC's lowest residential rate. What's great about this program is that homeowners continue to benefit from their energy efficient home year after year with lower bills.

It's also impressive that despite adding 20,000 new members since 2015, our kilowatt sales have remained about the

same since that time. Along with our Right Choice new homes program, our kilowatt sales have been stable thanks to members taking energy efficiency to heart. It's evident that our members use the energy saving tips we share to keep their power bills at a minimum while helping your cooperative keep costs stable for all of our members.





As our area continues to grow, we'll encourage more builders to construct housing under the Right Choice program for energy efficiency. It's not only a great start for homeowners but helps your cooperative keep its costs lower too.

Have a story to share about buying a Right Choice home? Share it with me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

Be Prepared for Stormy Weather

Severe weather can happen any time. Be sure you're prepared for stormy weather by following these tips:

-  Prepare a 72-hour emergency kit with food, water and supplies
-  Make a household plan, including where to take shelter during major storms
-  Prepare for medical needs in advance
-  Put basic supplies, such as flashlights and first aid kit, in your vehicle for an emergency.

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

FOUR STUDENTS AWARDED YOUTH TOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Jackson EMC has awarded four high school students with scholarships in this year's Youth Tour competition. Since 1971, Jackson EMC has sent high school students on the Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership and team building experience at the nation's capital. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tour was canceled in both 2020 and 2021.

In lieu of the youth tour, Jackson EMC awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to each of four students based on academics, community service, recommendations and an interview. These student leaders have each contributed greatly to their community.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE YOUTH TOUR COMPETITION, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WYT](https://www.jacksonemc.com/wyt).



Rajveer Singh, Junior, Peachtree Ridge High School, Suwanee

Rajveer Singh is on the Ridge Rhetoric Debate team and Science Olympiad Team and in Spanish Honor Society. He won an Innovation in Action award at the 2021 Gwinnett Science and Engineering Fair and is a certified community health worker and a rower with the Atlanta Junior Rowing Association. Rajveer works part-time as a math and language arts tutor and plans to pursue a career as a physician.

Philosophy on Leadership:

"To me, leadership is leading by example. When I'm working on a team, I want everyone on the same page, so communication is important. It's also important to me that everyone has the opportunity to work on something they're passionate about."

Sanai Neblett, Senior, Dacula High School, Dacula

Sanai Neblett is a scholar-athlete and violist. A member of the Dacula Leadership Team, Beta Club, National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society, she was elected student body president for her senior year. A Girl Scout, she serves as a mentor with Diamond in the Rough, a girls development program, and volunteers with Mending the Gap. Sanai plans to become a neurosurgeon.

Philosophy on Leadership:

"I have always found the importance of uplifting one's community. There are certain characteristics that every leader needs in order to make a positive impact. The most important is adaptability. Being able to adapt quickly, no matter the circumstances, is paramount to every leadership position."



Sarah Johnson, Senior, Johnson High School, Gainesville

Sarah Johnson is a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club. She founded the Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society at her high school. As a varsity basketball player, she won the Captain's Award in 2020. She volunteers with the South Hall Food Pantry and Backpack Love and seeks a career as a pediatrician with plans to volunteer with Doctors Without Borders.

Philosophy on Leadership:

"A leader should be kind, compassionate, humble and willing. I believe that leadership begins with service. Serving others is at the core of my being. It's important to volunteer, not just because it makes you a better person and leader, but it improves the community, strengthens those ties and helps everyone involved."



Joey Blackstock, Senior, Jefferson High School, Jefferson

Joey Blackstock is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club and FFA. As a Principal's Leadership Council member, he has received three awards and participated in Georgia Youth Assembly. He's on the Athens Chapter of the Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board, comprised of students interested in historic preservation and philanthropy, and plans to be a family nurse practitioner.

Philosophy on Leadership:

"My motivation for leadership and volunteerism came from my family, but mainly from my grandmother, Glenda Blackstock, who was always a phone call away for anyone who needed her. Being around my grandparents fostered my desire to help others. When I was in middle school, that came to life with FFA service projects and, in high school, with Principal's Leadership Council and the Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board."



Making the Right Choice™ for **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** & Comfort

With a multi-generational family living in the same house, Dan Xiong knew his household energy use would likely be higher. When it came time to build a new home, he selected a builder familiar with Jackson EMC's Right Choice™ new home program.

"Using the Right Choice program from Jackson EMC is the right thing for us," Xiong said. "That helps with the cost savings of making the house more energy efficient."

It's a sentiment echoed by homebuilders who construct new homes to Right Choice's construction standards for energy efficiency and comfort.

"You're gaining a lot more energy efficiency with everything you use in the home – every time you turn on a lightbulb, every time you change the temperature on the thermostat. It's going to be a more energy efficient house with Right Choice," said Mark Findley, construction manager of Premier Residential Builders.

Right Choice homes are built exclusively in Jackson EMC's service area. For a home to be certified as a Right Choice home, it must meet stringent criteria set by Jackson EMC for energy efficient construction, beginning with the initial home plan design and continuing throughout the building process. The homebuilder, HVAC and insulation contractors, and Jackson EMC Right Choice technicians work together to ensure the home meets these standards with testing at every phase of construction.

Right Choice homes come with two warranties: A three-year energy usage warranty that guarantees heating and cooling costs will not exceed the predicted amount; and a one-year comfort guarantee that each room will stay within three degrees of the thermostat setting for that zone. Jackson EMC's lowest residential electric rate is part of the Right Choice new home program, saving

homeowners an average of 5% on energy costs for the life of the home.

Nathan Whitmire of Southernwood Homes builds custom homes in northeast Georgia. Since each house has a unique design, he depends on Jackson EMC's expertise to ensure homes are energy efficient. "Any time we get a client that's in Jackson EMC's area, we want to do Right Choice because that's a top-notch product," Whitmire said.

In Hall County, the Mundy Mill community is one of the largest residential developments in Georgia. Homes built in Mundy Mill are part of Jackson EMC's Right Choice new home program. "What our customers value most is the comfort of the home as well as the savings on energy costs," said Eric Chafin, division president of Chafin Communities, which is building Mundy Mill.

Jackson EMC has been offering its Right Choice new home program since 2004. This spring, the cooperative certified its 10,000th local home constructed under the Right Choice new home program.

"Using the Right Choice program from Jackson EMC is the right thing for us," Xiong said. "That helps with the cost savings of making the house more energy efficient."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
[JACKSONEMC.COM/RIGHTCHOICE.](https://www.jacksonemc.com/rightchoice)



Dan Xiong, Right Choice™ Homeowner



Mark Findley, construction manager of Premier Residential Builders



Eric Chafin, division president of Chafin Communities

EACH RIGHT CHOICE™ HOME IS:



DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS

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

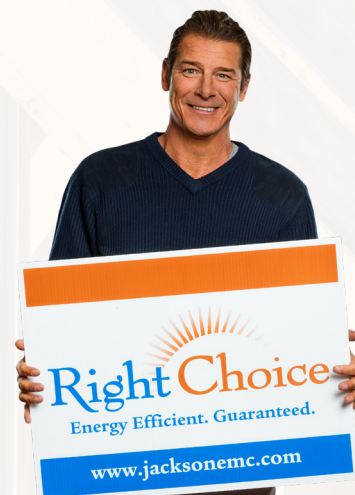
with a one-year comfort warranty and a three-year energy usage warranty for the heating and cooling system.



BILLED AT JACKSON EMC'S ENERGY ADVANTAGE RATE

designed to save the homeowner approximately 5% 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.



The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$112,000 in grants

including \$107,000 to organizations and \$5,000 to an individual, during its April meeting

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Camp Koinonia, in Homer, to provide 55 underprivileged third through sixth grade Banks County students referred by Family Connection and DFACS with a five-day camping experience that uses positive learning experiences to establish strong character, leadership and teambuilding skills, and build personal relationships.

\$15,000 | Camp Twin Lakes, a not-for-profit organization that offers year-round recreational, therapeutic and educational programming for children facing serious illness and other challenges, to help children in Jackson EMC’s service area attend its state-of-the-art, fully-accessible camp.

\$15,000 | Extra Special People, in Watkinsville, to provide an opportunity for special needs or seriously ill children from low-income or financially distressed families in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties to attend an eight-week camp experience where they can explore nature, discover their own abilities, master new skills and make new friends.

\$15,000 | Summer Scholars Institute, a three-year academic enrichment

program held at the University of North Georgia’s Gainesville campus to help at-risk middle and high school Hall County students prepare for college and careers by concentrating on the basic areas of reading, writing and mathematics, along with science for third-year students.

\$10,500 | Young Women’s Christian Organization, in Athens, to help 65 girls from low-income families attend the Girls Club, a structured recreational and educational summer program targeting young girls age 5 to 14 from low-to-moderate income families, and help provide bus transportation expenses.

\$10,000 | Butterfly Dreams Farm Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc., in Watkinsville, to provide hippotherapy treatment for special needs and at-risk children, youth and their families, to help families from Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties attend therapy sessions that use a horse’s movement to improve neuromuscular function.

\$10,000 | Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Inc., to provide program funding to enable junior and senior high school students in Barrow and Jackson counties with disabilities from the Jackson EMC service area to participate in the Manufacturing Institute at Lanier Technical College, which offers training for participants to earn Department of Labor certifications.

\$5,000 | Acceptance Recovery Center, a nonprofit long-term recovery residence for adults assessed as high risk with a primary substance use disorder in


Athens, to provide support to complete renovations for a facility to house the Alumni Care Transition Program, which provides continuous accountability for clients to overcome barriers into independent living.

\$5,000 | Downtown Ministries, in Athens, to support the Daily Bread Community Kitchen, which serves nutritious meals to needy residents Monday through Friday.

\$4,000 | Gainesville Housing Corporation, which provides working low-income families of Hall County affordable living environments, improved quality of living, economic opportunities and fair housing, to provide materials for the curriculum-based RISE Summer Education Program for low-income and at-risk youth of Gainesville and Hall County.

\$2,500 | Foster Siblings Reunited, also known as Camp to Belong, to enable children in the 10 counties Jackson EMC serves to attend summer camp and Virtual Sibling Connection events, which reunites siblings living separately in foster care or other out-of-home care to strengthen relationships, increase self-esteem, create healthier attitudes and childhood memories.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENT: \$5,000 | provide a HVAC unit, for a person receiving treatment for cancer.



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

NEED TO KNOW: CALCULATING YOUR CAPITAL CREDITS

One of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative is receiving capital credits.

Jackson EMC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by our members. Each year, amounts collected above the cost of providing electric service are credited to members’ capital accounts based on their patronage (total billing less sales tax).

Each year, capital credits – known as margin refunds by Jackson EMC – are returned to members under certain conditions. The board of directors determine which previous years of capital credits to return, while keeping the cooperative financially strong. More

than one previous years’ of capital credits may be returned to members. Eligible current and former Jackson EMC members receive these funds as margin refund checks in December.

Your 2020 capital credit was 6.659% of your total patronage. See the example to the right to calculate your capital credit.

This notification is for all rates, except QF, LPS, LGS or MBS (you can find your rate designation printed on your monthly bill). Members with those rates have received a separate notification.

Example for Calculation of 2020 Capital Credits

Amount of bills for 2020 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage (6.659%) = Your Dollar Allocation

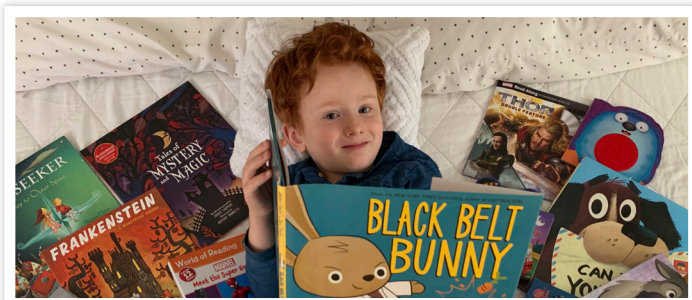
FOR EXAMPLE

IF YOUR 2020 POWER BILLS TOTALED \$500
 Amount of Bills for 2020 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage = Your Dollar Allocation
\$500 x 6.659% = \$33.30

IF YOUR 2020 POWER BILLS TOTALED \$1,500
 Amount of Bills for 2020 (excluding sales tax) x Allocation Patronage = Your Dollar Allocation
\$1,500 X 6.659% = \$99.89

COMMUNITY IMPACT: BOOKS FOR KEEPS

Recognizing literacy as a key to success for young minds, Books for Keeps works to keep children on track during the summer by providing books for them to read during the break from school.



Based in Athens, Books for Keeps received an \$8,500 Jackson EMC Foundation grant for its Stop Summer Slide program at Whitehead Road Elementary School. Grant funds were used to purchase books so that every K-5 student gets 12 books to enjoy over the summer while maintaining their reading skills.

Since its founding in 2011, Books for Keeps has donated more than 650,000 books in Georgia. The Jackson EMC Foundation has supported Stop Summer Slide since 2013.

“Just as an athlete’s muscles will lose strength without continued exercise, so will a child’s brain,” said Leslie Hale, executive director. “By middle school, a full two- to three-year gap can open between children who read during summer and children who do not.”

To close the gap, Books for Keeps distributes books each spring to every elementary school student in Athens-Clarke County, where more than 90% of elementary-aged students are from households considered low-income by federal poverty standards.

“Students describe Books for Keeps Day at their school as ‘just like Christmas,’” Hale said. “Teachers approach us with tears in their eyes to tell us what a difference this program is making in their students’ lives and in their schools.”

With schools closed in spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Books for Keeps moved its in-school bookfair to a book selection process online and delivered books to students’ homes with the help of numerous volunteers. This spring, the online process continued with books delivered to schools in time for students to get them for summer break.

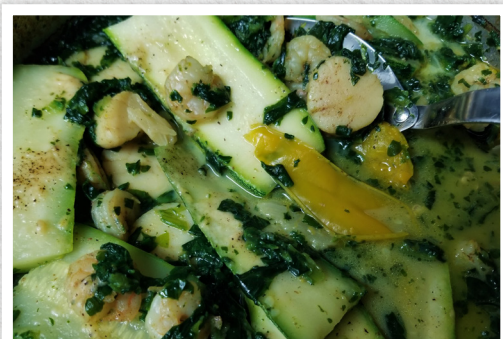
“This demonstrates the strength of our partnerships with the schools and organizations like the Jackson EMC Foundation,” Hale said.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT BOOKSFORKEEPS.ORG.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Seafood Primavera



“Everybody loves this recipe. It’s the crunch of the zucchini for me. I don’t steam it long because I like the zucchini almost raw.”

— LISA K. DAVIS, LAWRENCEVILLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- Several slices fresh garlic
- 1/2 lb. shrimp, tails removed
- 1/2 lb. sea scallops
- 1 large yellow pepper
- 1 bag spinach
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. pepper
- 1 large zucchini, sliced in lengths
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. Parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS:

Melt butter with olive oil and sauté garlic until browned. Add shrimp, scallops and pepper; stir, then cover until pepper is slightly soft. Add spinach, onion powder, salt and pepper.

Lay zucchini slices on top. Sprinkle with cheese and pepper. Put lid on pan and allow zucchini to steam a little. Add garlic cheese toast as a side item.



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.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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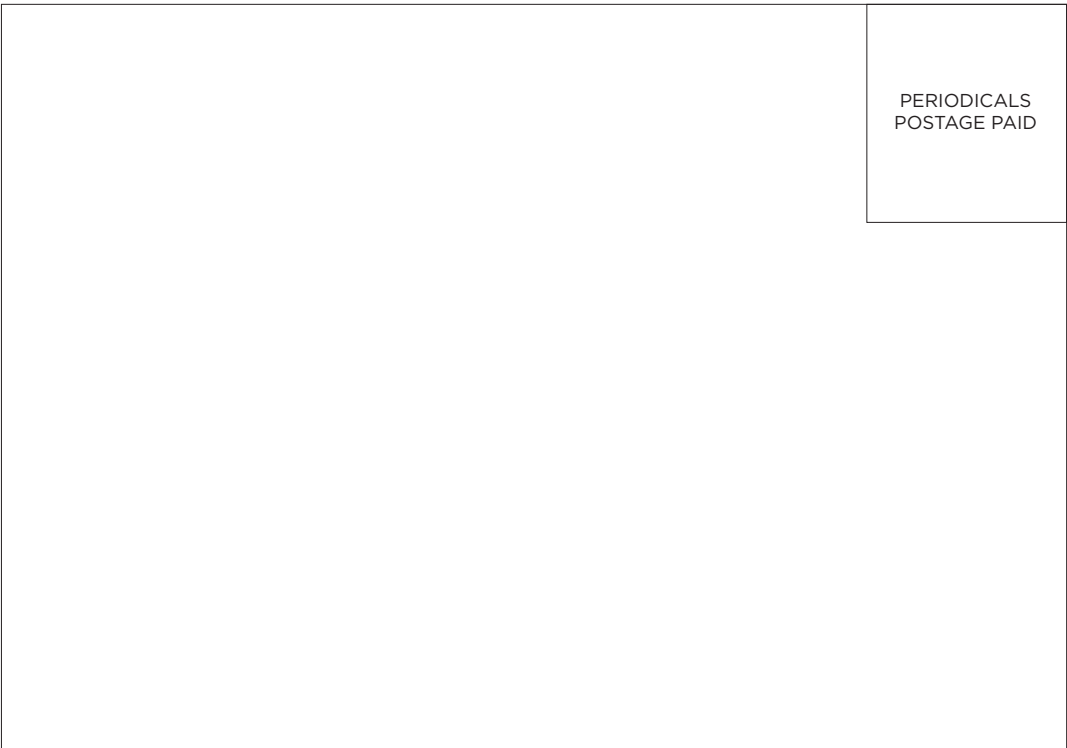
JACKSON EMC OFFICES
1000 Dawsonville Highway
Gainesville, GA
(770) 536-2415

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



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GO PAPERLESS

AND YOU COULD WIN A \$100 BILL CREDIT


Paperless billing makes it convenient to pay your monthly bill. By signing up for paperless billing, members receive their monthly bill in their email inbox – instead of their mailbox. Members who enroll in paperless billing can also avoid potential mail delivery issues to receive a secure, timely bill notice in their email inbox.

Jackson EMC members who sign up for paperless billing through September are entered* to win one of 10 one-time \$100 bill credits on their monthly bill.

Members who have previously signed up for paperless billing will also be eligible to win.

**Promotional contest is open to all newly-enrolled and currently-enrolled members registered for paperless billing. Members do not need to re-enter to be eligible. All Jackson EMC members currently enrolled in paperless billing are eligible for promotional contest. Winners will be selected each month during the promotional period. See contest rules at jacksonemc.com/contestrules.*





SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING WITH A MYJACKSONEMC ACCOUNT AT **MYJACKSONEMC.COM** OR VIA THE **MYJACKSONEMC MOBILE APP**. FOR ASSISTANCE, CALL US AT **1-800-462-3691**.