

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

## A POWERFUL WAY TO ACCESS YOUR ENERGY INFORMATION



### MAY 2019 | IN THIS ISSUE

SUMMER RATES NOW IN EFFECT

RIGHT CHOICE HOMES OFFER COMFORT AND SAVINGS

REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY DURING SPRING CLEANING



# A JOURNEY FORWARD

In this issue of *JEMCO News*, you'll learn more about MyJacksonEMC – a new website and mobile application to manage your Jackson EMC account. As a member, your journey with MyJacksonEMC starts when you download the new app or visit the new website. Many of you have already started using MyJacksonEMC and we hope you're seeing the benefits.

Like any journey, there's always a beginning. For Jackson EMC, this latest journey started four years ago. That's when we surveyed our members to ask about the cooperative. Through phone calls, online forums and meetings, we received feedback about our performance. Overall, members gave us very positive feedback about the job we're doing. We also learned about areas we could improve.

One of those areas was technology. The research showed more than half of our members reported visiting our website for billing-related items. We also heard about ways to improve their online experience for paying their bill and receiving outage updates in ways that we couldn't offer in

the past. At the time, we used several software systems for our outage management, member information and other services. They worked on their own, but they didn't easily work well together to provide real-time information.

A team of employees from across the cooperative was assigned to research how we could improve our technology and recommend a strategy that would make Jackson EMC better for its members. In 2017, based on those recommendations, we started to work on a project to move all our systems to a single software package.

Behind the scenes, while our employees developed plans for moving all our software to the new system, they also kept business going as usual. I commend the incredible talent, commitment and creativity of our employees who made this transition happen while staying focused on our members. As Gerry Sidhom, our project manager for this initiative, explains: "We had to build a plane, while keeping the other one flying."

What's landed for you is MyJacksonEMC, a new one-stop way to pay your bill, view your energy use, report outages and sign up for services. It's exciting to see that members can do all these things more easily from a new app or website. What's also exciting is the technology that powers MyJacksonEMC lays the foundation for additional enhancements in the future.

I'm proud of the collaboration we saw along the journey to make this project a success. For our members, this represents a leap forward for Jackson EMC to be the best, forward-thinking, innovative energy supplier, providing a friendly and fulfilling work environment.

**Have ideas on what we should tackle next? Share it with me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**Chip Jakins,  
President/CEO**

## WAYS TO SAVE: SUMMER RATES NOW IN EFFECT

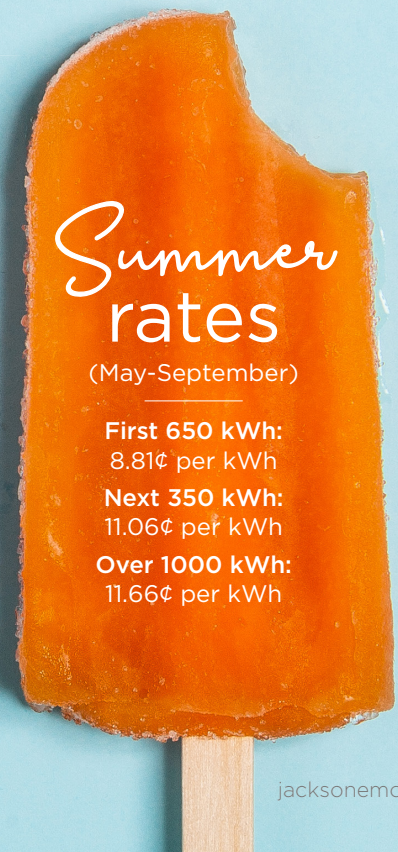
**When temperatures rise in the summer, the demand for electricity to keep homes and businesses comfortable also rises, along with costs for providers to generate electricity.**

But, for Jackson EMC members, the cost of electricity in the summer is among the lowest in the state, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission's residential rate survey.

Out of 94 electric providers in the state, Jackson EMC's standard residential summer rate last year ranked 19th lowest for members using 1,500 kWh a month.



TO HELP LOWER YOUR MONTHLY BILL THIS SUMMER, REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOU USE BY FOLLOWING THE TIPS AVAILABLE AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE).



Summer rates

(May-September)

**First 650 kWh:**

8.81¢ per kWh

**Next 350 kWh:**

11.06¢ per kWh

**Over 1000 kWh:**

11.66¢ per kWh

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# RIGHT CHOICE™ HOMES OFFER Comfort, Savings

When it comes to buying a new home, location matters. But, if you're in the search for a new home, are you also considering energy efficiency?

For any home, heating and cooling are typically 42% of the energy consumption, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Jackson EMC's Right Choice™ homes program makes it easier for homeowners to ensure their new home will be comfortable and energy efficient. In fact, Right Choice homes come with a one-year comfort warranty and a three-year energy use warranty.

#### IN ADDITION, EACH RIGHT CHOICE HOME IS:

- **Designed by engineers** to calculate properly sized heating and air conditioning equipment designed to achieve maximum efficiency.
- **Tested for home performance** to ensure energy efficient construction.
- **Given Jackson EMC's energy advantage rate**, which saves homeowners approximately 5% on their annual energy bill for the life of the home.

With a Right Choice home, a homeowner could save \$120 per year on their energy bill if their average monthly bill is \$200.



ASK YOUR JACKSON EMC REPRESENTATIVE FOR COMPLETE WARRANTY TERMS AND CONDITIONS. LEARN MORE AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/RIGHTCHOICE](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/RIGHTCHOICE).



TY PENNINGTON  
TV host and Home Expert

# A POWERFUL WAY TO ACCESS YOUR ENERGY INFORMATION

At Jackson EMC, we've been connecting members with the services and information they need for years. Now, with the new MyJacksonEMC website and mobile application, members can easily discover more about their energy use and manage their account – all at their fingertips.

By downloading the MyJacksonEMC app or visiting the new website, you can start a journey to manage your account. It's a powerful way to access information about your energy use, report outages and manage your bill payments.



1

## Start your journey

by creating a MyJacksonEMC account – either at MyJacksonEMC.com or after downloading the app from the App Store or Google Play.

Be sure to have your account number handy. Need help? We've got step-by-step instructions at MyJacksonEMC.com.

3

## When it comes time to pay your bill, MyJacksonEMC makes it easier.

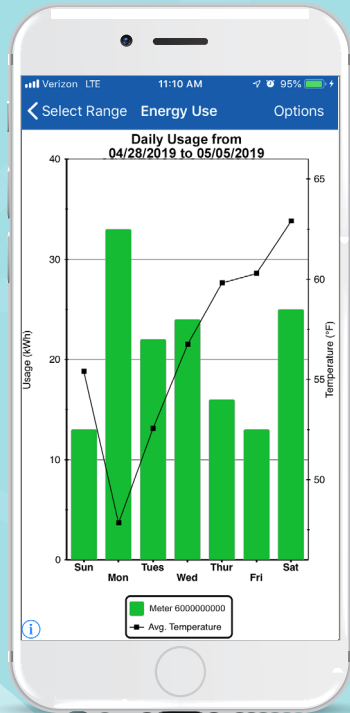
On the website or app, click one of the “Pay My Bill” or “Pay Now” options. Follow the instructions to pay with funds from your bank account, a credit card or a debit card. You can also enroll in our Auto Pay program to pay your monthly bill through an automated draft from a bank account or credit card.

2

## Set up your preferences for your new MyJacksonEMC account.

Interested in paperless billing? You can enroll in paperless billing under the “My Profile” section of the MyJacksonEMC site or “Settings” on the app. For account notifications, you can enroll more than one email address and phone number.





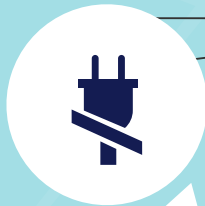
## Sign Up for a MyJacksonEMC Account and Enter to Win an iPad Mini

Jackson EMC members who have signed up for a MyJacksonEMC account by August 30 will be registered to win one of five iPad Minis. You can sign up at [MyJacksonEMC.com](http://MyJacksonEMC.com) to pay your bill online, report an outage and view your energy use.

*\*Members must sign up for a MyJacksonEMC account between March 2-August 30, 2019. See contest rules at [jacksonemc.com/contestrules](http://jacksonemc.com/contestrules).*

### 4 View your energy use use with MyJacksonEMC.

Log in and click one of the “Energy Use” or “My Usage” options. You can view your energy use by billing period, week, day and even by the hour.



### 6 To report an outage, use your MyJacksonEMC account.

On the website, click on “Report an Issue/Inquiry” then click “Power Outage” to report an outage.

On the app, click on “Report an Outage.”

You can also choose if you want to receive notifications about your reported outage and track the status of your outage. There’s also a map on MyJacksonEMC, so you can see known outages.

Outages can also be reported by calling Jackson EMC at 1-800-245-4044.

### 5 Need to submit a service request? You can do that with MyJacksonEMC.

Select “Contact Us” for a list of options – like, outdoor light maintenance, transferring or disconnecting service, or subscribing to the JEMCO News e-news edition. Interested in budget billing? You can submit a request to ask about enrolling in budget billing with your MyJacksonEMC account.



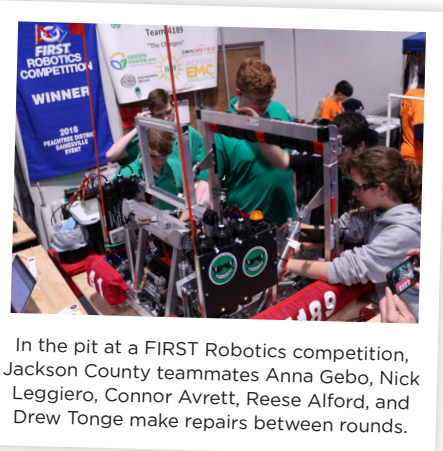
For the past two years, the Jackson County 4-H Robotics team successfully competed at district and state matches and advanced to the world championship, according to Harold Jarrett, volunteer leader and mentor, who calls the team “one of the best in the state.” It’s one of five robotics teams in Georgia under the 4-H program.

Excelling in competition is something to be proud of, but Jarrett is even more passionate about how participation on the robotics team prepares high school students through an applied STEM program to pursue engineering degrees.

“We have a serious track record of kids who flow through this program into engineering and technology schools and careers,” said Jarrett, noting that 10 of his team’s alumni are currently attending the Georgia Institute of Technology. “We are proud of these results.”

The Jackson EMC Foundation has granted the robotics team funds to purchase materials for building robots in five of the past eight years, including \$6,000 this year, according to Jarrett, who says the foundation’s support has “been a critical part” of the team’s success.

“This is the only sport where every kid can turn pro,” Jarrett said. “Being in the marching band or



In the pit at a FIRST Robotics competition, Jackson County teammates Anna Gebo, Nick Leggiere, Connor Avrett, Reese Alford, and Drew Tonge make repairs between rounds.

on the tennis team is fun, but there’s little chance those students will be professional musicians or athletes. When it comes to investment of high school time to build a career path, there’s nothing more valuable than robotics to provide the pathway to a technical profession.”

The goals of the robotics team are to expose students to the practical application of engineering principles, build interest in STEM career paths, and provide leadership opportunities. The Jackson County team participates in FIRST Robotics Competitions, which are held throughout the world. The competition season begins at the first of January with a global internet broadcast describing the year’s game, which is a challenge to build a sophisticated robot capable of playing the game.

Teams have six weeks to build their robots with district competitions beginning in March and world competition held later in the spring. For

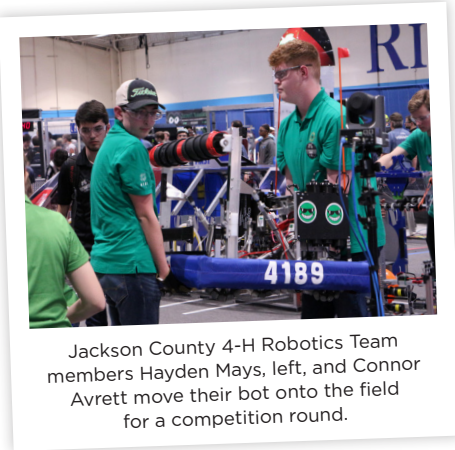
the past two years, the Jackson County 4-H Robotics team volunteered as host team for the state finals at the University of Georgia, where more than 80 teams competed.

“Each year, the game changes with new and complicated requirements,” said Jarrett, noting that in its eight years, the team has built remote-controlled robots to play basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and other games. “The games are complex with multiple layers, and to build a machine that can do all of the game tasks is difficult.”

Volunteer mentors teach students manufacturing processes like welding, fabrication, CAD design, laser and waterjet cutting, wiring, and coding. The team operates like a company with adult volunteers serving as the board of directors who “hire” the company president and department heads from the team of 20-25 students. Jarrett says more volunteer mentors are needed, especially those with engineering or software design backgrounds.

Jarrett says the robotics team provides a quality peer group for students.

“When kids come together to work on robotics, everyone in the room is aiming high,” says Jarrett. “That supportive cultural context is one of the reasons this program works so well.”



Jackson County 4-H Robotics Team members Hayden Mays, left, and Connor Avrett move their bot onto the field for a competition round.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JACKSON COUNTY 4-H ROBOTICS, VISIT [WWW.TEAM4189.ORG](http://WWW.TEAM4189.ORG).

Spring CLEANING?  
DON'T FORGET ELECTRICAL SAFETY

May is an ideal time for spring cleaning. And since it’s also National Electrical Safety Month, why not keep this list in mind while tidying up around your home?



CLEAN

appliances that may have a buildup of food debris, oil or dust, which could be fire hazards near an electrical source.



KEEP

electrical cords and tools away from water, including wet grass.



INSPECT

cords, plugs and outlets to ensure everything is in good working condition. Wires that are warm to the touch or frayed should be replaced.

## OPERATION ROUND UP\*: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

**\$90,530 IN GRANTS**

to organizations during its March meeting.

### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000** | **Ser Familia**, a comprehensive social services program for Latino families in Buford, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health counseling services, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and suicide counseling.

**\$14,230** | **New Directions Georgia**, a day program in Suwanee serving adults with autism in a home-like setting, to purchase an HVAC system to turn unused space within the existing building into a life skills transition apartment.

**\$10,000** | **New Path 1010**, a nonprofit organization targeting hunger and poverty in Barrow County, for its Weekend Food Bag Program that supplies students identified as "food insecure" with bags of food to take home.

**\$10,000** | **Gainesville Housing Corporation**, which provides working poor families of Hall County affordable living environments, improved quality of living, economic opportunities and fair housing, to provide programming through the curriculum-based RISE Summer Education Program for low-income and at-risk youth of Gainesville and Hall County.

**\$10,000** | **Georgia Mountains YMCA**, in Gainesville, to enable pre-K to 10th grade Hall County youth from economically-disadvantaged families to participate in a 10-week summer day camp that teaches core values, conflict resolution, teamwork and leadership skills.

**\$10,000** | **YMCA of Athens**, to help enable children in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties to participate in its nine-week summer day camp project, which offers supervised sports and other activities, as well as teaches math, reading and values.

**\$10,000** | **YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont**, in Winder, for its summer day camp to help children from economically-disadvantaged families in

Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties attend a nine-week day camp offering sports, reading, games, arts and crafts to build a healthy spirit, body and mind.

**\$7,500** | **Books for Keeps**, an Athens nonprofit offering the Stop Summer Slide program that improves Clarke County children's reading achievement, to provide books for summer reading to children in the Cleveland Road Elementary School, where 90% or more of the students receive free or reduced lunches.

**\$3,800** | **Oglethorpe County 4-H**, to help students in low-income households participate in 4-H Residential Leadership Events, including Junior and Senior Conferences, State 4-H Council, and District Project Achievement.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION).

## MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

### Cowboy Caviar



“This is one of my favorite spring/summer salad recipes.  
— DENEEN SEGARS KINNEY, WINDER”

#### INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 lb. Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 15 oz. can black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed
- 1 15 oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 11 oz. can super sweet corn, drained
- 1 red onion, diced
- ½ cup green bell pepper, diced
- ½ cup red bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup fresh cilantro, chopped

#### DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, whisk together the olive oil, sugar, white wine vinegar, chili powder and salt. Add tomatoes, black-eyed peas, beans, corn, red onion and bell peppers. Stir to combine. Stir in cilantro.

Cover and chill at least 1 hour or overnight to blend flavors. Serve chilled or at room temperature.



SEND US YOUR BEST ENTRÉE RECIPE: [RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM](mailto:RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM) OR MAIL TO:  
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549  
FIND MORE RECIPES AT [JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES).

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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[jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com)

# VEHICLES FOR SALE

## FROM JACKSON EMC

Jackson EMC has equipment for sale to members and employees. **Sealed bids will be accepted at the Jackson EMC headquarters in Jefferson until 3 p.m. on June 14, 2019, after which time bids will no longer be accepted.**

Jackson EMC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

These vehicles are being sold in “as is” condition with no written warranties. Vehicles may be viewed at the Jackson EMC office in Jefferson, located at 850 Commerce Highway, on June 4 and June 6, from 2-7 p.m. Come by at these dates and times **ONLY** to view the equipment.

Below is a listing of types and approximate quantities of the equipment and vehicles to be sold. All equipment and vehicles are retired from Jackson EMC’s fleet and are generally five years or older with odometer readings above 100,000 miles.

This list is subject to changes, additions and/or deletions. Standard bid sheets and a complete vehicle list will be provided in our main lobby on viewing dates.

**The following items are for sale:**

- 2 mid-size pickup trucks | 5 full-size pickup trucks | 1 SUV | 2 vans | 1+ excavator(s)
- 1 service 37-foot bucket truck | 1 45-foot bucket truck | 1 50-foot bucket truck
- 1 55-foot bucket truck | 1 60-foot bucket truck | 3 derrick trucks
- 2 knuckleboom trucks | 2 full-size trucks with service body