

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

NEW TRADITIONS CAN SAVE YOU

Energy & Money

LEDs offer New Ways to Make Your
Holidays Safe & Bright

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FAMILY TRADITIONS

Like many folks, I look forward to the holiday season every year. I love the extra time we get to spend together when our kids come home, and I always enjoy visiting with extended family. I love the fall flavors that come with pumpkin and apple pies, and over the past few years, I've even enjoyed learning how to deep-fry a turkey - it's become a new family tradition.

Speaking of traditions, my family has a lot of them. One of my favorite traditions is helping decorate our house for the holidays. We typically start by getting the boxes of decorations out of the garage and assembling the pre-lit Christmas tree. But this year is going to be a little different. As my kids have gotten older, we've had to modify our traditions a bit to accommodate busy schedules and extended families. Take this year for example. Since we are so spread out, we won't all be together for Christmas. But we do have big plans for Thanksgiving. So this year, we are trying our hand at a "Thanksgiving tree," decorated in all the

fall colors to make the house feel extra festive for our family gathering. And who knows - this could be the start of a new tradition in our house.

We've also started some other new traditions over the years. When the pandemic started, my wife learned how to quilt. She gathered the supplies and equipment she needed and even brings projects with us on vacation. She's all about quilting now - and she's good at it. Last year, she created some homemade, quilted gifts for friends and family. To me, those homemade gifts are the best kind of gifts you can receive, and I'm excited to see the joy she brings in this new tradition she's started.

As a cooperative, our traditions are strong as well. I'm glad we can continue those traditions - old and new - with our members. We enjoyed seeing members at our 82nd Annual Meeting in September and appreciate your involvement in the cooperative. More than 80 years of meeting together is special, and I'm thankful for that tradition. We also just wrapped up our yearly tradition of surprising local educators as our latest

Bright Idea grant winners. We've always been proud to support our community and local schools. And coming up in December is an annual cooperative tradition I know our members love most - receiving their margin refund checks in the mail. Yay!

Whatever your holiday traditions may be, I hope you'll have the opportunity to slow down, relax and enjoy some time with friends and family. In the meantime, we'll keep the lights on here at the co-op and continue to celebrate the traditions we share with you, our members. Happy Holidays!

Do you have a favorite family or cooperative tradition? Share it with me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

EV TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

You've probably seen more electric vehicles (EVs) on the road. From Ford to Tesla, automobile makers are pledging to offer more options for EVs. If you're considering adding one to your household, we can help you make an informed decision on whether an EV is a good fit for you.

As an electric cooperative, we're your trusted energy expert. At jacksonemc.com/ev, we provide tools and resources to help you learn more about EVs. The tools on the website include calculators to help you evaluate potential commute savings and CO2 reduction, information about current tax credits and EV incentives, and more.

VISIT
JACKSONEMC.COM/EV
FOR EDUCATIONAL TOOLS
AND RESOURCES.



Jackson EMC Linemen Named Among **THE BEST** at International Event

A Journeyman lineman team from Jackson EMC was named second among electric cooperatives competing at the 37th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas on Saturday, October 16. Top linemen from around the world compete in a series of events in traditional lineman skills and tasks at the event.

Jackson EMC sent three journeyman lineman teams and 12 apprentices to the international competition. A total of 122 journeyman teams and 182 apprentices competed at the event. Apprentices compete as individuals, while journeymen compete in teams of three. The International Lineman's Rodeo includes participants from electric cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities and electric providers for the military.

Apprentices and journeyman teams compete in the hurt man rescue and pole climb events. In addition, two mystery events are revealed to participants the day before the competition. Apprentices also complete a written test as a part of their overall scores. Competitors are scored based on skill and speed for completing tasks for each event.

A journeyman team with Cody Thompson, Matt Tolar and Jose Rodriguez finished second among electric cooperatives. The team also placed fifth as the top overall team, second in an obstacle course event and sixth in the journeyman pole climb.

A Jackson EMC journeyman team with Jeff Sutton, Kaleb Chapman and Jeremy Adams finished in first place in the journeyman hurt man rescue and third in an insulator replacement event.

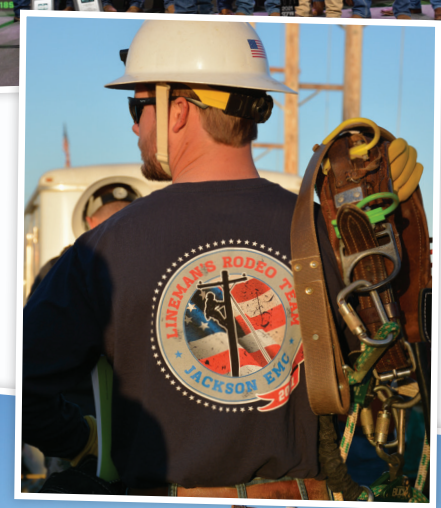
Another journeyman lineman team with Austin Gragg, Devin Humphries and Justin Cash finished third in the journeyman hurt man rescue, ninth in the journeyman pole climb and 10th in an obstacle course event.

Jackson EMC apprentices placed in the following events:

- **Easton Tuggle, second in the apprentice hurt man rescue, sixth in the apprentice obstacle course, seventh in apprentice pole climb and ninth among electric cooperative apprentices.**
- **Collin Ward, third place, hurt man rescue.**
- **Austin Yearwood, fifth place, hurt man rescue.**
- **Tanner Allen, ninth place, hurt man rescue.**
- **Jonathan Woodring, third place, pole climb.**
- **Tim Henderson, ninth place, pole climb.**
- **Ben Brissey, 10th place, pole climb.**
- **Ben Adams, eighth place, obstacle course.**

"We're proud to support our linemen in this competition against electric providers across the country and abroad. Our linemen who compete in this event do an excellent job representing the high skillset and teamwork we see among linemen at Jackson EMC," said Joe Dorough, vice president of engineering and operations at Jackson EMC.

"The International Lineman's Rodeo allows participants to compete among some of the best linemen in the industry, while learning and practicing safe work practices," said Tommy Parker, managing director of operations at Jackson EMC. "The rodeo is a great opportunity for our linemen to show their skills and safety knowledge in their profession. We're proud of the fantastic results our linemen produced at this year's event."





NEW TRADITIONS CAN SAVE YOU **Energy & Money**

The holiday season means more family time, delicious food and time spent together enjoying seasonal traditions. For many, this also means sorting through boxes of holiday decorations, preparing for a temporary holiday home makeover.

Those boxes could include handmade ornaments from your childhood or more trendy decorations you bought last year. Somewhere in the mix, there's a good chance you have holiday lights ready to hang either on a tree or outside your home.

If you haven't purchased new lights in a while, consider buying new, LED holiday light strands. These can help you save energy and money, and help your family stay safe this holiday season.

Check out the ways LEDs can save you energy and money.



LED lights are 70% more efficient, saving you money on your electric bill. The same long-lasting LED string has the potential to be in use up to 40 holiday seasons from now.



Concerned about losing the traditional, warm glow of lights passed down to you? LED light strands come in all shapes, sizes and light temperatures. Look for “warm white” on the label to ensure a cozy glow.



Consider controlling both your indoor and outdoor LED lights with a timer. Program the timers so the lights turn on in the evening and off later at night when you typically go to bed.

Not only will making these small changes save you energy and money, but they will also help keep you and your family safe.



LED lights are much cooler than traditional holiday lights, reducing the risk of combustion or burnt fingers. Because LED light strands give off virtually no heat, they are safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).



Up to 25 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket, meaning you can have the “Clark Griswold experience” without the safety risk.



LED lights are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, and are much more resistant to breakage.

If you're ready to refresh one of your holiday traditions this year, Jackson EMC encourages you to switch your old holiday lights for LED lights. While LED lights may be a greater expense upfront, they can help you save energy and money in the long run by lasting up to 40 holiday seasons.

Information from the US Department of Energy, energy.gov



READY TO SHOP FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT LED LIGHTING? VISIT THE JACKSON EMC MARKETPLACE AT JACKSONEMCMARKETPLACE.COM.

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded

\$75,000 in grants

including \$70,000 to organizations and \$5,000 to an individual, during its September meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$20,000 | Salvation Army - Gwinnett, for its Financial Emergency Services Program, which provides rent and mortgage assistance to Gwinnett County residents in need.

\$15,000 | Salvation Army - Athens, which serves Clarke, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, for its emergency shelter and feeding program that provides shelter and meals to individuals and families in crises.

\$15,000 | Salvation Army - Gainesville, which serves Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, for its Financial Emergency Services Program that provides rent and mortgage assistance to residents in need.

\$10,000 | Good News at Noon, a Gainesville-based community ministry and transitional shelter serving men from Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties, to purchase technology that will increase the efficiency of the meal ministry, food pantry and volunteer management.

\$10,000 | Next Generation Focus, Inc., which serves at-risk students in grades preK-10 in metro Atlanta, for its SmarterMe® Program that provides tutoring, homework assistance and enrichment activities to underserved students in Gwinnett County Public Schools.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$5,000 to provide roof repairs for a medically-fragile citizen.

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT: QUINLAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Each summer, the Quinlan Visual Arts Center holds a summer art program for children and teens to learn and explore the world of art.

At the summer program, students learn about art history, art appreciation, color theory and experiment with different mediums such as 3D sculpture, drawing, painting and collage. According to the center’s executive director Nairika K. Cornett, however, what the students take away from the camp goes beyond basic art skills and appreciation.

“Students that attend our summer art program learn how to use creative

thinking to help think outside of the box,” Cornett said. “The students’ minds have sparks. The more sparks you can ignite and give them helps them change their way of thinking and they become better problem solvers. That’s going to help them for life.”

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded the Quinlan Visual Arts Center a \$10,000 grant to help provide free or reduced cost participation in the summer art program for children and teens in underserved communities served by Jackson EMC.

The Quinlan Visual Arts Center has provided the Gainesville community with art programs for 75 years. Its summer program consists of eight individual week-long sessions. Students spend the week learning from center teachers and volunteers. “This grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation is instrumental in making our summer art program happen. We don’t want to turn students away, and this grant helps us provide

opportunities to students who might not be able to attend otherwise. These students’ lives are being changed and we’re thankful for everyone involved,” Cornett said.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE QUINLAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER, VISIT QVAC.ORG.



Green Bean Deluxe



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs. fresh green beans
- 3 cups water
- 3-4 large carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch chunks
- 1 large onion, diced
- 4-5 medium-sized potatoes, peeled and cut into two-inch cubes
- 5 Tbsp. butter
- Salt/pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Clean and rinse fresh green beans; snap or trim ends. Add 3 cups water to large pot. Add prepared green beans, carrots, onion and potatoes to pot. Cook covered over medium heat for 30-45 minutes, until all vegetables are tender. When vegetables are done, drain remaining water from pot. Mix in 5 Tbsp. of butter. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve as side dish.

“ My mother was the creator of this one-pot meal. When green beans were in season, mom was sure to prepare this one! ”

-LAUREL R. MEYER, WINDER

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.

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

SHOP ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCTS ON THE JACKSON EMC MARKETPLACE

Give the gift of energy efficiency this holiday season by shopping the Jackson EMC Marketplace. There, you'll find deals on smart thermostats, electric vehicle chargers, LED lightbulbs, water-saving fixtures, air purifiers, dehumidifiers and more – like LED lightbulbs that are compatible with Amazon Alexa, Apple HomeKit and Google Assistant.

Jackson EMC Marketplace makes it easy to shop online for your friends and family for energy efficient products, including select products with instant rebates for members.

SHOP NOW AT JACKSONEMCMARKETPLACE.COM.

DID YOU KNOW?

Heating and cooling costs account for around half of your energy bill.* Smart thermostats conserve energy by customizing heating and cooling based on your patterns and preferences. With the right thermostat – and settings – you could save energy while staying comfortable in your home.

*According to the US Department of Energy, energy.gov



YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.

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PERIODICALS
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Youth Tour Application Now Open

Jackson EMC is accepting applications for the annual Youth Tour, sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives, to be held on **June 16-23, 2022***

Each summer, Jackson EMC sends local high school students on an all-expense-paid leadership development experience to Washington, D.C., where students from across the U.S. gather to visit the nation's capital.

Since 1964, the nation's electric cooperatives have sent student delegates to Washington, D.C. for the annual Youth Tour, organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to gain a personal understanding of electric cooperatives, American history, and their role as a citizen. Jackson EMC began sending delegates to participate in 1971.

Current high school sophomores and juniors in Jackson EMC's service area who have demonstrated leadership potential, academic success and community service can apply at jacksonemc.com/wyt. The deadline to apply is **January 28, 2022**.

Looking for more information about this opportunity? Join us for a virtual information session on **Dec. 1, 2021, at 6 p.m.** Email youthtour@jacksonemc.com for an invite to this event.



Find registration details and more information at jacksonemc.com/wyt or by emailing us at youthtour@jacksonemc.com.

*Plans are subject to change. For the latest information, visit jacksonemc.com/wyt.