

# JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news



## CommUNITY

YOUR OPERATION ROUND UP® DOLLARS  
HELP THOSE IN NEED

### OCTOBER 2021 | IN THIS ISSUE

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HELP YOUR LOVED ONES PREPARE FOR STORMS  
LOWER WINTER RATES NOW IN EFFECT  
BE AWARE TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS



# BEHIND THE SCENES AT YOUR CO-OP

**Have you ever watched a TV show about the making of one of your favorite movies? I'm a big "Star Wars" fan, so I always enjoy learning how filmmakers brought the fantasy worlds and characters of "Star Wars" to life on the big screen. When I watch one of those behind-the-scenes shows, I'm always impressed how so many elements — from the storylines to set designs — come together to create such memorable films.**

In "Star Wars," my favorite scenes are the battle scenes. You can always count on a lot of action on the front line. Here at Jackson EMC, most of the "battle scenes" take place when our linemen are working to restore power after a storm. But just like a movie, a cooperative has many behind-the-scenes roles that work together seamlessly. With October being National Co-Op Month, it's a great time to give you a behind-the-scenes tour of your cooperative in action.

Across the cooperative, you'll find employees supporting each other to keep the lights on. For example, the work of our warehouse staff, ensures our crews have the equipment they need to restore power. Mechanics in our auto shops ensure each of our fleet vehicles is operating optimally for routine drives and challenging terrain, such as reaching downed power lines in remote locations. Our right-of-way crew leaders work with contractors to help clear vegetation near our power lines and equipment, which can make a significant difference in providing reliable electricity to homes and businesses. Meanwhile, our safety

trainers educate all Jackson EMC employees on how to remain safe in their jobs.

For many members, their "opening act" is when they engage with one of our customer service representatives to set up service. Likewise, our district offices across our service area are like the backdrop. Each of those offices is maintained by our facilities technicians, who perform mechanical and electrical maintenance work in our buildings. In purchasing, our employees buy anything from electrical wire to bucket trucks to ensure the co-op's efficient construction, maintenance and operation. Our finance and accounting staff helps ensure your cooperative's finances are managed efficiently. To plan for the future needs of the cooperative, our strategic planning and analytics team gathers insights and data about our operations to take the next steps forward.

Over the years, the film industry has enhanced its technology to make movies more exciting for fans. I think the same could be said for our online and mobile app tools. Our information technology team helps develop, implement and manage the technology that's the backbone for serving members. In addition, our technical services team manages our phones and radios, along with our more than 242,000 meters.

"Star Wars" movie posters are known for showing the host of characters fans can expect in each film. We also like to showcase what members can expect from programs that promote energy savings. Our residential energy advisors play a key role here in helping educate members about saving energy in their homes. Our business development managers work with commercial and industrial members to ensure they have the exceptional service

they expect from their energy provider. District managers cultivate relationships with local leaders and legislators on community and legislative efforts that impact the co-op.

Like a movie set in the future, our planners look at what's ahead for the cooperative. Our engineers, for example, play an important role in bringing you reliable electricity now and in the future. They develop long-range plans for where we should install new power lines and build new substations. We also depend on our engineers' expertise to forecast our members' energy needs and manage our power supply, such as energy generated by renewable resources. Every day, operators in our system control have a 24/7 responsibility to manage our distribution system.

Next time you go to the movies, remember the supporting staff that makes that movie come to life on the screen. And next time you have a chance to interact with your cooperative, think about our behind-the-scene "actors" that help keep the lights on. After all, it's our electricity that keeps those movies playing! Rest assured, behind the scenes at Jackson EMC, there are some great people with the experience and knowledge to serve your cooperative and keep that electricity flowing!

Have a story to share about the roles at Jackson EMC? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

## NEED TO KNOW: LOWER WINTER RATES NOW IN EFFECT

Decreased demand for electricity during the winter enables Jackson EMC to pass savings along to you through lower electric rates. Winter rates begin in October and continue through April.



Learn more about our residential electric rates at [jacksonemc.com/rates](http://jacksonemc.com/rates) and view schedule A-20 for standard residential service.

### Winter RATES IN EFFECT

**STANDARD RESIDENTIAL RATE\***

SERVICE CHARGE: \$23 PER MONTH

FIRST 650 kWh: 8.81 CENTS PER kWh

NEXT 350 kWh: 8.16 CENTS PER kWh

MORE THAN 1,000 kWh: 8.06 PER kWh

\* The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment and other applicable taxes are also part of your total electric bill.

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# HELP YOUR LOVED ONES PREPARE FOR STORMS

With hurricane season continuing through November 30 and winter storm season on the horizon, now is a good time to have a plan if you care for a loved one who is medically dependent on electricity.

A severe tropical or winter storm could cause damage to power lines and equipment, resulting in outages. Rest assured, we plan and prepare for significant weather-related events, but storms causing extensive damage could mean it may take several days to restore power.

If you don't have a plan, you can start with a few simple steps. Consider these steps when preparing for storm seasons:



**Gather extra medical supplies** and consider needs for medical equipment, including backup batteries.



**Make arrangements** for transportation and an alternate place to stay, both nearby and further away, in the event of a prolonged outage.



**Ensure you have multiple ways** to communicate with your loved ones either through cell phones or email.



**Secure extra prescription medication.**



**Provide an alternate heating source** in the winter and cooling source in the summer.



**Prepare a 72-hour disaster kit** with emergency supplies.



FOR MORE TIPS ON HOW TO PREPARE FOR SEVERE WEATHER, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/STORM](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/STORM).

## EMC SECURITY SPONSORING HAIRY DAWG'S HOUSE

Hairy Dawg has been helping lead the University of Georgia Bulldogs to victory since his first appearance at the 1981 Sugar Bowl. Hairy Dawg continues to cheer on the team today - 40 years later.

Lucky for him, he can relax in his Dawg House, provided by the Official Home Service Team of the Georgia Bulldogs, after a long day of cheering on the Dawgs. Hairy Dawg can feel safe and secure knowing that EMC Security has equipped his house with state-of-the-art security features, including interactive cameras in case any troublesome tigers or yellow jackets decide to stop by.



LEARN MORE ABOUT EMC SECURITY AND HOW YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AT [EMCSECURITY.COM](http://EMCSECURITY.COM).



Since 2005, the Jackson EMC Foundation has worked in unity with nonprofit organizations in the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC to assist thousands of individuals and families throughout Northeast Georgia.

Thanks to Jackson EMC members who round up their bill through Operation Round Up®, the Jackson EMC Foundation is able to manage and distribute funds supporting local nonprofit organizations and individuals.

The Foundation's partnership with local organizations - along with the unified collaboration the nonprofits share with area schools and universities, health agencies and government entities - exemplifies the community's unparalleled emphasis on unity.

In the past 16 years, the Jackson EMC Foundation has awarded almost \$17 million in grants to improve and impact its community, including \$1,071,307 in grants in the past year. The Jackson EMC Foundation's Annual Report shares more stories of how your Operation Round Up contributions are positively impacting the community.

The 2021 Jackson EMC Foundation Annual Report is available at [jacksonemc.com/foundation](http://jacksonemc.com/foundation).

In the past year, the Jackson EMC Foundation awarded grants to organizations, including:

## ROTARY CLUB OF MADISON COUNTY

**\$7,500 for handicapped accessible ramp program**

[madisoncountyrotaclub.org](http://madisoncountyrotaclub.org)

Serves: Clarke and Madison counties.

*After each ramp build, Madison County Rotarians take a photo of volunteers with the ramp recipient to commemorate the completed project. Here, Rotarians celebrate construction of a new ramp at the home of Paul Skelton.*



*The Rotary Club of Madison County's ramp program's first leader, Ray Gandy (left) and current leader Ed Brown (right), drill in the first nail at a summer ramp build.*

The Rotary Club of Madison County started its handicapped accessible ramp program in 1995. As of summer 2021, the Rotarians had constructed more than 820 ramps by building an average of 35 each year. "We build ramps for people with medical conditions, those who have been injured in car wrecks or had surgery, the elderly, and if someone is becoming frail and afraid of falling, we'll build a ramp before they get hurt," said Ed Brown, ramp program chairman. The Rotary Club used its grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation to purchase building materials - which came in handy when lumber prices rose this past year.

## SACRED ROOTS FARM

**\$10,000 for safe haven program**  
[sacredrootsfarm.org](http://sacredrootsfarm.org)

Serves: Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties.

Sacred Roots Farm offers unique services for women rescued from sex trafficking – long-term support and community for healing. The idyllic beauty of the 26-acre farm and farmhouse, donated by a supporter, allows Sacred Roots Farm to provide counseling and daily classes designed to help them in their recovery process. “It’s a ministry of after-care,” said the organization’s executive director. “A lady gets free from human trafficking and probably doesn’t have a lot of support. It takes everybody coming from different angles to address the problem. Until they have a place to land, chances of them being prepared for the future are slim. That’s the space we seek to fill by providing a long-term place for healing.” A grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation funded childcare, education and counseling.



*Sacred Roots Farm residents are secure and safe in their new life with new friends at the farm.*

*Intake Specialist Deborah Griffis (left) and University of Georgia intern Erynn Taylor prepare for a day of service to the community.*



*Clinical intern Jennifer Wood meets with a client at Bethel Haven.*

## BETHEL HAVEN

**\$7,500 for Project Hope**  
[bethelhaven.net](http://bethelhaven.net)

Serves: Clarke, Jackson and Oglethorpe counties.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, Bethel Haven has experienced a “drastic increase” in clients seeking counseling, according to Executive Director Melinda Allen. She added that the growing needs were met partly due to a Jackson EMC Foundation grant that provided therapeutic counseling for those who otherwise could not afford the services. The nonprofit organization provides therapeutic counseling and mental health services on a sliding scale fee, so anyone seeking professional therapy can receive it. Bethel Haven partners with other nonprofits and 12 area universities to meet the community’s mental health needs. “The partnership with universities, other nonprofits and organizations like the Jackson EMC Foundation – when you see a community in alignment like this with this common love, it’s just amazing,” Allen said. “It’s what this community is all about: It’s love for one another.”

Thousands of people in our community have benefitted from donations made each month by Operation Round Up® participants. As a Jackson EMC member, you have a unique opportunity to support Operation Round Up® by rounding up your bill to the next dollar amount.

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awards grants each month to organizations and individuals within the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC.

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total \$110,102 in grants during its July meeting.

### \$110,102 IN GRANTS AWARDED IN JULY

#### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000** | **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, in Gainesville, housing assistance for Hall County families in crisis.

**\$15,000** | **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, in Winder, financial assistance to Barrow County families in crisis for rent, mortgage and food.

**\$15,000** | **Step by Step Recovery, Inc.**, in Lawrenceville, rent assistance for Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall county residents in a 12-step addiction recovery program.

**\$15,000** | **YMCA of Georgia's Piedmont, Inc.**, in Winder, Pryme Tyme program to provide homework help, sports, and arts and crafts to economically disadvantaged children in Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

**\$10,000** | **Community Helping Place**, in Lumpkin County, Health Navigator program to provide case management for low-income and uninsured patients at its medical clinic.

**\$10,000** | **PTSD Foundation of America**, Georgia Chapter, peer mentoring program and warrior support groups for veterans in Banks, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties.

**\$10,000** | **H.O.P.E., Inc. (Helping Other People Be Empowered)**, in Duluth, childcare and housing assistance for low-income single parents in Gwinnett and Hall counties attending classes to earn a college degree.

**\$6,500** | **North GA Interfaith Ministries, Inc.**, in Dahlonega, furniture and appliances for its transitional housing program for homeless families in Lumpkin County and Sammie & Sally Satchel Buddies program to provide backpacks with personal items for children experiencing homelessness.

**\$1,100** | **Ryan's Case for Smiles, Georgia Chapter**, in Clarke County, materials for volunteers to make personal pillowcases for pediatric hospital patients.

#### INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$4,352** to provide an HVAC unit for a needy family.

**\$4,150** to provide an HVAC unit for a senior citizen receiving cancer treatment.

**\$5,000** to provide an HVAC unit for a senior citizen.

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total \$112,173 in grants during its August meeting.

### \$112,173 IN GRANTS AWARDED IN AUGUST

#### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$15,000** | **Hebron Community Health Center**, in Lawrenceville, Next Step Project program to provide diagnostic referrals, testing, prescription medication and supplies.

**\$15,000** | **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, in Flowery Branch, housing assistance to Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall county families in crisis.

**\$14,644** | **Habitat for Humanity of Hall County**, materials, such as appliances, cabinets, flooring and paint for a house being built for a family in need.

**\$12,000** | **Buford First United Methodist Church**, Sack Kids Hunger relief program to provide weekend food bags for children in need.

**\$10,000** | **United Way of Hall County**, mental health first aid training program for people 55 and older who may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

**\$10,000** | **Wellroot Family Services** (formerly United Methodist Children's Home of North Georgia), in Gainesville, financial assistance for foster care development, training, recruitment and community building.

**\$10,000** | **Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Inc.**, in Athens, Hands on Historic Athens program to provide assistance for home maintenance and repairs for low-income families living in historic homes.

**\$5,500** | **Wellspring Living**, furnishings and kitchen appliances for its women's residential program in Gwinnett County.

**\$5,000** | **Skye Precious Kids**, resources for Gwinnett County families in financial crisis who are caring for children facing life-threatening disabilities.

**\$4,979** | **Lawrenceville First Baptist Church**, First Book Club 165 program to provide books to pre-kindergarten through first grade students at Lawrenceville and Winn Holt elementary schools.

#### INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$5,000** to provide septic tank repairs for a senior citizen.

**\$5,000** to provide roof repairs for a senior citizen.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING LATEST GRANT AWARDS AND HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation).

# Orange Glazed Sweet Potatoes



**INGREDIENTS:**  
 6 medium sweet potatoes  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 1/2 cup granulated sugar  
 1 Tbsp. cornstarch  
 1/2 cup orange juice  
 4 Tbsp. butter or margarine

**DIRECTIONS:**  
 Boil sweet potatoes in their skins for about 20 minutes or until almost tender. Cool, peel and cut into thick slices. Lay slices in a greased casserole dish or shallow baking pan.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine sugars and cornstarch in a small sauce pan. Add orange juice and mix well. Place pan on a burner and cook, stirring constantly for about five minutes, then add butter. When butter has melted, pour sauce over potatoes. Bake for 25-30 minutes.

“ I always receive compliments when I make this recipe. ”  
 -KAY LEE, HOSCHTON

**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.

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Kerri Testement, Editor

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YOUR COMMUNITY.**

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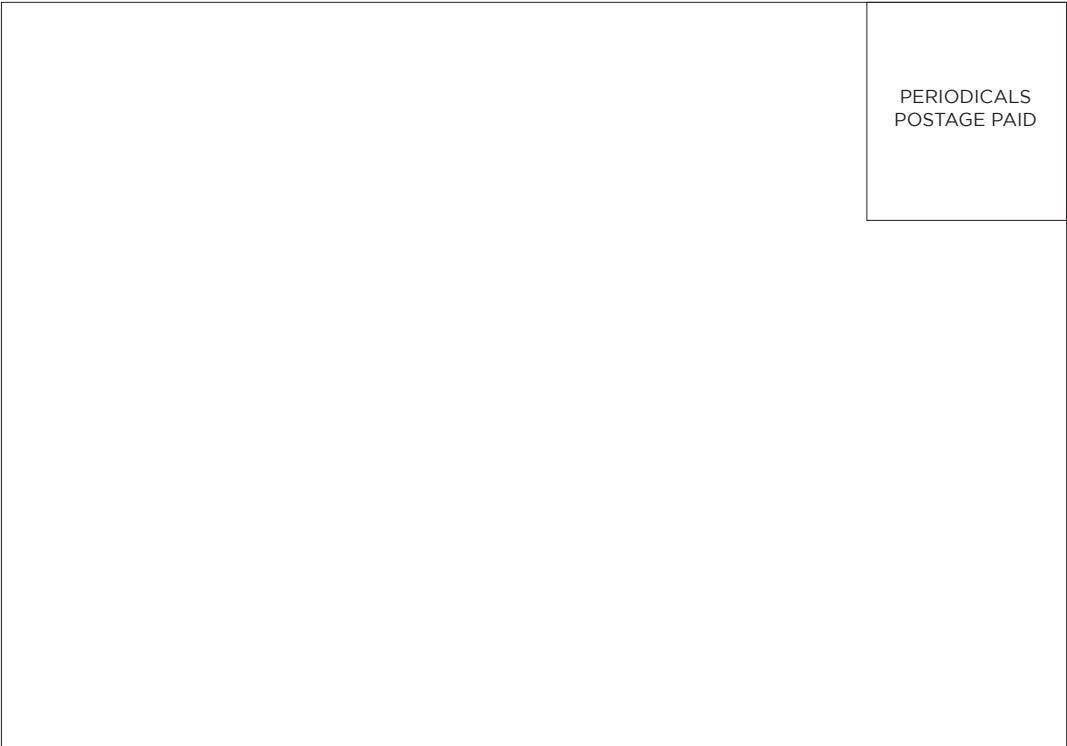
**JACKSON EMC OFFICES**  
1000 Dawsonville Highway  
Gainesville, GA  
(770) 536-2415

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

# BE AWARE to Avoid Utility Scams

Scammers are known to threaten utility consumers with tactics like disconnecting power or legal action if you don't make an immediate payment. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

## ALSO, KEEP IN MIND:

- ✓ Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- ✓ Protect your personal information. Never provide or confirm personal information (Social Security number, date of birth) or financial information (bank account information or debit/credit card information) to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the information they need to service your account.
- ✓ Be suspicious of any requests for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards.
- ✓ If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing Jackson EMC, please contact us.

Jackson EMC will never demand an immediate payment over the phone or email. If the request seems suspicious, contact us at **1-800-462-3691**.



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**JACKSONEMC.COM/SAFETY-  
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