

# JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

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# INSPIRED TO USE LESS (ELECTRICITY)

Some of my favorite memories of my childhood are those from family reunions. We'd gather the whole family at a big picnic site in a park. The kids would be running around, while the adults would be chatting away. I can remember hearing so many laughs. And I can always remember smelling the food – my favorite part of every family reunion!

When it came time to make your plate, you could always count on my grandmother or one of my aunts ensuring everyone had a full plate. After all, everyone in the family pitched in to make great food for us to enjoy – and they made sure there was more than enough to go around.

In a way, cooperatives work like a family reunion – we want to ensure there's plenty of electricity for everyone. But, we're a little different than my grandmother's or aunts' approach to food at family reunions. Sure, we're here to see that you have plenty of power, but we also want

you to use it as efficiently as possible. Ultimately, that helps your cooperative keep operating costs lower.

Admittedly, that sounds a little counterintuitive. Why? Because as your not-for-profit cooperative, we know efficiency equals affordability. At those family reunions, eating sensibly wasn't on anyone's mind, but when it comes to using electricity, it's wise to be efficient. We know that how wisely you use power is much more important than how much power you "pile on your plate." Save that idea for the banana pudding.

If you're looking for ways to be more energy efficient, Jackson EMC has plenty of resources to help members use less power. Your monthly edition of *JEMCO News* always has helpful information on how you can use electricity efficiently, which can lower your monthly bill. We also offer trusted experts to help guide you through ways to save energy.

Our website also offers resources to learn more about our services, including

home energy evaluations and rebates for qualified energy-efficient improvements. And for those who want a deeper dive, the MyJacksonEMC website and mobile app gives you insights on when you're using electricity – including by the day and hour.

As always, we're here to be your trusted energy advisor. All these resources and more are available to help you watch what's on your energy plate and keep an eye on how you use electricity.

Have a story on how you're saving electricity? Share it with me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

## UPGRADE YOUR SECURITY SYSTEM WITH A TOUCHSCREEN KEYPAD

*Are you still punching numbers on a keypad to activate your security system? If so, it may be time for an upgrade.*

EMC Security offers a touchscreen keypad that many customers chose when updating their system. Using the latest security technology, you can integrate compatible video cameras, including a video doorbell, to watch your home from anywhere with your smartphone. The touchscreen also makes it easier to control devices using smart home automation, such as lights, locks and thermostats.

The device can be mounted on a wall or used with a tabletop stand. EMC Security offers the touchscreen keypad for \$99. Members are encouraged to call EMC Security for more information and to determine compatibility.

EMC Security is jointly owned by Jackson EMC, Walton EMC and GreyStone Power Corporation.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EMC SECURITY, VISIT [EMCSECURITY.COM](http://EMCSECURITY.COM) OR CALL 770-963-0305.

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# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

## to members

Dear Member:

Official notice is hereby given that the 2021 meeting of the members of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation will be held at the headquarters in Jefferson, Ga., on **Thursday, September 16, 2021.**

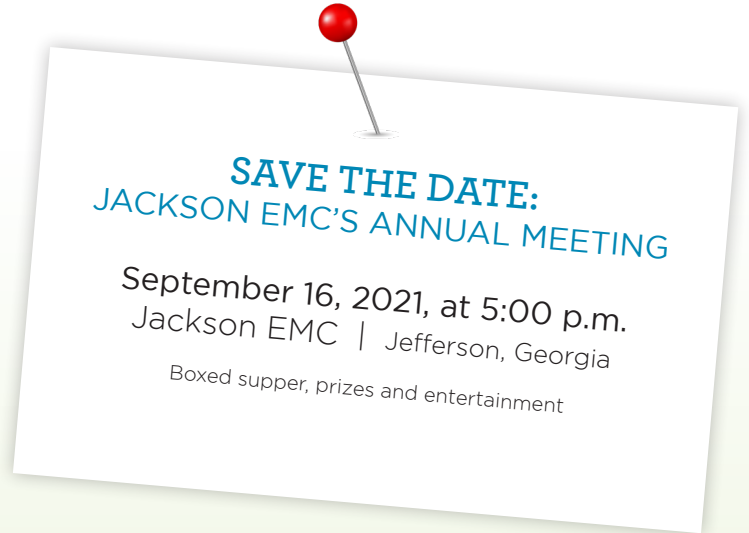
Registration will begin at approximately 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by the chairperson. The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Receive reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. Elect three directors; and
3. Handle all other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The meeting will feature prizes, entertainment, a box supper, important business and other special programs. Additional details will be available in the September issue of *JEMCO News* and on our website, [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com).

You are requested to be present.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Price, Secretary, Board of Directors



## ANNUAL MEETING PERFORMERS ANNOUNCED

**Karen Peck and New River, a five-time Grammy Award-nominated Southern Gospel group, will perform at Jackson EMC's Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 16, at the cooperative's headquarters in Jefferson.**

Registration for the meeting begins at approximately 5:00 p.m. that day.

A resident of Dahlonaga, Karen Peck formerly performed in the successful group, The Nelons. In 1991, Karen and her husband, Rickey Gooch, along with her sister, Susan, organized New River.

Today, the group includes Karen, Susan Peck Jackson, Grant Gibson, Matthew Gooch and Kari Gooch.

Karen Peck and New River has won six Gospel Music Association Dove Awards.

The group has more than 20 number one hits on the gospel music charts, including "Four Days Late," "Pray Now," "Calling," and "I Am Blessed."

The group has performed at The Grand Ole Opry, the Gaither Homecoming concerts, Opryland theme park, Dollywood and more.

Karen has been featured in two movies, "Joyful Noise" with Dolly Parton and Queen Latifa, and the Christian film, "Redeemed."



# 8

## WAYS TO BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

Taking a few steps to save energy in your home can also lead to reducing your electric bill. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we educate members about ways to save energy in their homes. Jackson EMC also offers services to help members with their energy-efficiency projects, such as rebates.

Follow these tips to reduce your energy use, and in turn, your monthly bill.

1

### BE SMART ABOUT COOLING & HEATING

In summer, set your thermostat to 78 degrees. Lower settings increase operating costs by approximately 5% for every degree below 78 degrees. Keep your home warmer than normal when you're away, and you'll see significant savings on heating and cooling costs.

In winter, set your thermostat to 68 degrees. As a rule of thumb, your heating cost will increase 3% for each degree above 68 degrees.

2

### USE SMART THERMOSTATS

Smart thermostats conserve energy by customizing heating and cooling based on your patterns and preferences. Members can save on smart thermostats with an instant rebate from Jackson EMC Marketplace - our online energy efficiency store. Visit the store at [jacksonemcmarketplace.com](https://jacksonemcmarketplace.com).

3

### MAINTAIN YOUR COOLING AND HEATING EQUIPMENT

Check air filters every 1-2 months and replace when dirty. Clogged air filters restrict airflow and cause your compressor to work harder. Clean filters save 5-15% on your electric bill. Jackson EMC offers an affordable service from our partner **Filterchange.coop** that will ensure you always have a clean filter at a low price.

Get a performance checkup of your heating and cooling system every six months. Call an HVAC professional for semi-annual checkups and maintenance to ensure your system operates at peak performance. To find a qualified contractor near you, see our participating contractor network at [jacksonemc.com/contractors](https://jacksonemc.com/contractors).

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### CONSIDER REPLACING OLDER EQUIPMENT

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Replacing an older HVAC with a high-efficiency electric heat pump can reduce your heating bill by as much as 50%. Jackson EMC offers rebates on qualified heat pumps. Learn more at [jacksonemc.com/rebates](http://jacksonemc.com/rebates).

7

### CHANGE LIGHT BULBS

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Switch from incandescent to LED bulbs. On average, LED bulbs use 25-80% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last 3-25 times longer. To view deals on LED bulbs, visit [jacksonemcmarketplace.com](http://jacksonemcmarketplace.com).

6

### SAVE ON WATER HEATING COSTS

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Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees for energy efficiency. On average, water heating typically accounts for an average of 13-15% of the energy consumed in your home.

Check the efficiency of your water heater. Replace old water heaters with new high-efficiency models. Shop for a high insulation R-value in the tank wall and a good warranty (10 years and up). Jackson EMC offers rebates for members replacing old water heaters with higher-efficiency electric models.

Visit [jacksonemc.com/rebates](http://jacksonemc.com/rebates) for details.

5

### USE GOOD HABITS FOR SAVINGS

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Turn off lights, appliances and tools when not in use. In addition, unplug devices when not in use. "Vampire energy" is the electricity consumed by appliances and equipment that are turned off but still plugged in. This wasted energy can cost \$100-200 a year.

Use shades, blinds and curtains to your advantage. In summer, tilt blinds up to divert heat away. In winter, keep curtains open and tilt blinds down to let warmth in. Close them at night to prevent heat loss.

4

### KEEP CONDITIONED AIR IN YOUR HOME

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Add caulking or weather stripping around doors, windows and attic access doors where air leaks out. Check the bottoms of doors to make sure thresholds seal when closed.

Check for proper ventilation in attics and crawl spaces. Proper ventilation reduces moisture build-up in the summer and winter. For DIY projects to keep conditioned air in your home, visit [jacksonemc.com/diy](http://jacksonemc.com/diy).





# BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT

## Application Deadline Approaching

**Middle school educators: Do you have an innovative or creative class project in need of funding? If so, consider applying for a Bright Ideas grant. The deadline to apply is September 7.**

Bright Ideas is a grant program from Jackson EMC that funds creative and innovative classroom projects in middle schools. Educators who teach sixth through eighth grades can earn up to \$2,000 for projects conducted either face-to-face or in digital learning environments.

Bright Ideas grants have been awarded to educators providing instruction in history, language arts, math, science, social studies, information technology, music, drama and more. Some of our recent recipients have incorporated artificial intelligence and virtual reality in their lessons, along with other technologies.

Bright Ideas grant applications must be submitted online no later than September 7. Applicants must be state-certified educators in a public middle school in Jackson EMC's service area.



FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ABOUT BRIGHT IDEAS GRANTS AND TO APPLY, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS).

## JACKSON EMC COMMUNICATORS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

**Jackson EMC's communication department recently earned multiple awards from the Cooperative Communicators Association (CCA) for a variety of communication pieces developed for members and employees.**

CCA is a trade association of cooperatives across North America, including brands like Sunkist, Land O'Lakes, National Cooperative Bank, Dairy Farmers of America and many electric cooperatives. The organization's annual awards program recognizes excellence in communication projects and programs developed by its cooperative members.

**JACKSON EMC EARNED THESE HONORS:**

- **First place in employee publication** for Jackson EMC's employee newsletter, *JEMClips*. Judges' comments included, "Very well written and easy for readers to navigate and take away key information. Attention to detail and making best use of limited space, while not overwhelming reader is apparent. This is a thoughtful, well-done newsletter."

- **Third place in video series** for "Right Choice Testimonials," which highlights homeowners and homebuilders who have participated in Jackson EMC's Right Choice new home program for homes built for energy efficiency, improved indoor air quality, convenience and comfort. Judges' comments included, "Overall this series is very well done. Great selection of testimonials each with a unique perspective."

- **Honorable mention in illustration and graphic design** for "2020 by the Numbers" feature in *JEMClips*.

- **Honorable mention in miscellaneous promotion** for a wrap showcasing Jackson EMC linemen for the "Lineman's Rodeo Trailer."

- **Honorable mention in cover design** for *JEMCO News*, Jackson EMC's member newsletter for a photo featuring a lineman.

"These awards are a testament to our daily mission of creating engaging communication strategies that enhance understanding of Jackson EMC, its people and its values," said April

Sorrow, Jackson EMC vice president of communication.

Jackson EMC communication team members honored with these awards include: Casey Abernathy, Brooke Blackmon, Taylor Compton, Karen Ewing, Dekotah Mathis, April Sorrow and Kerri Testament.





Whether in-person at one of its 15 local branches or online, the Gwinnett County Public Library offers learning labs to give children, teens and adults unique experiences - including its new mobile kitchen.

“The COVID-19 pandemic changed everything for us,” said Jason DiFranco, director of development and community partnerships at Gwinnett County Public Library. “We began doing food distributions and quickly realized the need for nutritional meals in our community. It became our goal to provide opportunities for those in need, not only to receive food, but have access to recipes and cooking lessons, as well. That’s what we offer now with the mobile kitchen.”

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded the Gwinnett County Public Library a \$15,000 grant to help purchase the mobile kitchen and supporting materials. In July, the kitchen opened to all Gwinnett County residents, traveling to different locations across the county to provide accessible cooking classes.

“The great thing about this program is that it isn’t tied to one specific location, which means that more people will have access to learn. We wanted to make sure no one was limited by a lack of transportation or internet access,” said DiFranco.

Those attending courses at the mobile kitchen will be given more than just access to classes, recipes and food. Part of the Jackson EMC Foundation grant helped provide the kitchen with “Stock Your Cart” products, giving anyone taking the course access to necessary cooking materials, like cutting boards, bowls, mixers, pans and more.

“We’re so thankful for all that the grant has done for this program. Our goal at the Gwinnett Public Library is to be a hub for community support, and this helps us take a step forward,” added DiFranco. “The requests for the mobile kitchen have already been like wildfire. We’re excited to see how this impacts our community and we’re grateful to have the continued support of Jackson EMC Foundation.”

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, VISIT [GWINNETTPL.ORG](https://www.gwinnettpl.org).

## OPERATION ROUND UP®: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded

**\$119,500 in grants**

during its June meeting

### ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

**\$20,000 | Special Needs Schools of Gwinnett**, serving students and young adults with neuromuscular and developmental disabilities from Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties, to renovate a building for its Young Adults Learning Life Skills (YALLS) adult day program for individuals who have graduated from or aged out of the school program.

**\$17,000 | Eagle Ranch**, a 310-acre Flowery Branch campus serving Northeast Georgia boys and girls in crisis, to help provide therapeutic counseling sessions for both children and families.

**\$15,000 | Boy With a Ball**, to provide curriculum materials for its Velocity Cross Age Mentoring program that pairs high school mentors in Gwinnett County with middle school students to cultivate

connectedness, self-esteem, identity and academic skills.

**\$15,000 | J.M. Tull Gwinnett Family YMCA**, in Lawrenceville, for its Afterschool Enrichment Program for at-risk youth from low-income families, to improve academic achievement and empower healthy living.

**\$15,000 | The Tree House**, a children’s advocacy center working to reduce child abuse in Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties, for its Family Services Supervised Visitation Program, which provides a neutral, child-friendly environment for visits between children in foster care and their parents, enabling them to maintain and enhance family bonds, as well as providing a safe and nurturing environment for their children when reunited.

**\$15,000 | Sexual Assault Center and Children’s Advocacy Center**, in Athens, for its Victim Assistance Program at The Cottage, which provides survivors of sexual assault in Clarke, Madison and Oglethorpe counties with access to therapeutic intervention to begin the healing process.

**\$10,000 | Athens Community Council on Aging, Inc.**, serving Barrow, Clarke, Jackson and Madison counties, for healthcare screenings and monitoring for families participating in its Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program, which supports grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

**\$7,500 | Nuci’s Space**, an Athens nonprofit organization working to prevent suicide among musicians in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, for its counseling assistance program.

**\$5,000 | Heirborn Servants, Inc.**, serving Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Madison counties, to assist with its Give Rides program, which partners with community groups, transitional housing organizations and rideshare companies to ensure survivors of human trafficking or domestic violence can get to therapy and employment.

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

**YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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**MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS**

# Apple Pecan Upside Down Cake



“ I love pineapple upside down cake and thought this would be a tasty alternative. I tried experimenting with apples and pecans and came up with this. I hope other members enjoy it as much as I have. ”

-PAM DIXON, DAHLONEGA

**INGREDIENTS:**

**TOPPING**

- 2 cups fresh apples, peeled, cored and cut into half-inch slices
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon

**CAKE**

- 1 box butter recipe cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 stick butter, softened

**DIRECTIONS:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On stove top, melt one stick of butter in a greased 10.5 - 12 inch cast iron skillet over medium heat. While butter melts, mix apples, pecans, brown sugar and cinnamon in a bowl until apples are evenly coated. Pour apple mixture into skillet over melted butter and stir together for five minutes, or until brown sugar dissolves and apples begin to soften. Remove from heat.

In a separate bowl, prepare the cake batter by mixing the box cake mix, eggs, milk and butter. Pour batter on top of apple mixture in skillet, leaving at least 1/2 inch of skillet visible between the batter and skillet rim, and place in oven. Discard extra batter.

Place cookie sheet directly beneath skillet in oven to catch any spillover. Bake for 40 minutes or until the cake is set and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 10 minutes. Invert onto large plate or cookie sheet lined with foil or parchment paper.



**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.**