

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

CELEBRATING



JACKSON
EMC™
BRIGHT
IDEAS



MAY 2022 | IN THIS ISSUE

JACKSON EMC RECOGNIZES LOCAL RIGHT CHOICE® HOMEBUILDERS
STAY COOL WHILE SAVING ENERGY THIS SUMMER
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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

It's the end of the school year, and I'm sure plenty of students (and teachers!) are looking forward to summer. As a kid, I was so eager for summer to begin that the last day of school seemed like it lasted an eternity. I'm almost certain that the clock on the classroom wall moved slower that day.

Looking back, I have great memories of all the summertime fun I had riding bikes with my cousins, fishing in the neighbor's pond and swimming at the creek with my friends. And even though I looked forward to summer each year, I have just as many fond memories of my time in school. I was truly blessed to have some really great teachers along the way. The teachers that stand out in my mind often took a little extra time with me to offer some much-needed encouragement or guidance. For that, I'll be forever grateful.

Here at Jackson EMC, we're grateful, too, for our local teachers' hard work and dedication. As your electric cooperative, we value the opportunity to help teachers make a difference in their classrooms. One of the core principles of cooperatives is "concern for community," and our Bright

Ideas grant program that supports teachers in the classroom is just one example of that principle in action.

We've been funding Bright Ideas grants for teachers for the past seven years. This program allows educators to offer innovative lessons that otherwise wouldn't be funded. Over the years, we've awarded Bright Ideas grants for really cool projects, including those incorporating 3-D printers, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and more. This issue of *JEMCO News* gives you some insights into what some of those projects look like.

You may also be familiar with our other educational programs like the Washington Youth Tour, which offers a weeklong leadership development opportunity for selected students to go to Washington, D.C. We've been sending delegates to participate in that experience in our nation's capital since 1971.

And for almost 70 years, we've sponsored and supported local FFA chapters and 4-H clubs, including the FFA wiring contest and the quality beef show for FFA and

4H students. In addition, we support high school athletics through our partnership with Georgia EMC to sponsor the Georgia High School Association.

We also support local students through scholarships. Each year, we accept applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship, sponsored by electric cooperatives in Georgia. We also offer the A.T. Sharpton Scholarship to eligible students attending the University of North Georgia who are from one of the 10 counties we serve.

We know that keeping the lights on is our core responsibility, but "concern for community" is the heart and soul of who we are. As a cooperative, we're proud of our role to a make a difference for students and teachers. And until next year, get out there and enjoy your summer!

Have a story to share about a teacher that's special to you? Share it with me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins
President/CEO

STAY COOL WHILE SAVING ENERGY THIS SUMMER

When temperatures rise in the summer, staying cool often means lowering the thermostat. You can save energy by keeping your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer.

Higher temperatures in the summer mean there's a higher demand to produce electricity for cooling homes and businesses. Jackson EMC's summer rates are among some of the lowest rates in Georgia compared to other utilities, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission's summer rate survey.

TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER, CONSIDER:

Using blinds, shades or curtains to block heat from the sun warming your house

Turning on ceiling fans to circulate air and feel cooler

Setting your water heater to 120 degrees for energy efficiency



FOR MORE TIPS ON HOW TO SAVE ENERGY, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE.



(May-September)

First 650 kWh:
8.81 cents per kWh

Next 350 kWh:
11.06 cents per kWh

Over 1,000 kWh:
11.66 cents per kWh

Service Charge:
\$25 per month

Renee Trip and Harold Trip of Premier Residential, Elizabeth Zamora of Jackson EMC, and Scott Whitehead of Premier Residential.

JACKSON EMC RECOGNIZES LOCAL RIGHT CHOICE® HOMEBUILDERS

Jackson EMC recently awarded area homebuilders who follow the cooperative's Right Choice® new home construction standards for energy efficiency and comfort.

"Builders who construct new homes to Jackson EMC's Right Choice standards show they're committed to giving their clients quality, energy efficient homes," said Jackson EMC's Director of Residential Marketing Christy Queen. "The Right Choice home program is recognized by builders and homeowners for homes meeting a higher standard for energy efficiency. It's the dedication of participating builders that make the program a success."

Each year, Jackson EMC recognizes homebuilders with best-in-class awards and several Community Spotlight awards in each of three categories based on the number of Right Choice homes completed in a year.

Right Choice homes are built exclusively in Jackson EMC's service area. The following list of winners includes the location where they are currently building Right Choice homes.

The **Builder of the Year** award recognizes the effort and excellence of a company and its team: Clayton Properties Group, Inc. DBA Chafin Builders (Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties), diamond class; Premier Residential Builders HC, LLC (Jackson County), platinum class; and Sterling Residential, LLC (Jackson County), gold class.

The **Leadership Award** recognizes a builder's or superintendent's individual efforts: Ben Nash with Clayton Properties Group, Inc. DBA Chafin Builders (Gwinnett County), diamond class; Phillip Samples of Smith Douglas Homes (Gwinnett County), platinum class; and Trey Barnett of Keith Hayes Construction (Jackson County), gold class.

The **Community Spotlight** Award is given to Right Choice builders whose dedication to energy efficient construction has had a tremendous impact on the Jackson EMC community. These are companies who have championed the Right Choice brand in both excellence and volume: Adams Homes AEC, LLC (Jackson County); Brand Properties (Oxford Properties) (Gwinnett County); Capstone Development DBA Banks Crossing Partners 1, LLC (Ecker Construction) (Banks County); Century Communities (Jackson, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Banks counties); Clayton Properties Group, Inc. DBA Chafin Builders (Hall, Gwinnett and Jackson counties); EMC Homes, LLC (Hall, Gwinnett and Jackson counties); MB Endeavors, LLC (Jackson County); O'Dwyer Properties (Gwinnett County); OneStreet Residential DBA MainStreet Jefferson L.P. (Jackson, Barrow and Gwinnett counties); Piedmont Residential (Hall County); Premier Residential Builders, LLC (Jackson County); Pulte Group (Hall County); Smith Douglas Homes (Gwinnett and Barrow counties); and Worthing Southeast Builders (Gwinnett County).



DIAMOND CLASS awards are given to companies that have built more than 50 Right Choice homes during the year.



PLATINUM CLASS awards honor companies that built 10-49 Right Choice homes during the year.



GOLD CLASS awards honor builders who built up to nine Right Choice homes during the year.



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



Celebrating Bright Ideas

Local middle school teachers have exciting ideas that bring learning to life for their students, and Jackson EMC is proud to sponsor Bright Ideas grants for educators offering innovative projects in their classes.

Jackson EMC's Bright Ideas grant program provides middle school teachers with up to \$2,000 for classroom projects that would otherwise not be funded. Since 2015, the cooperative has awarded \$404,655 in Bright Ideas grants to local teachers.

This academic year, 39 teachers in 22 middle schools were awarded Jackson EMC Bright Ideas grants totaling \$61,161. Winning entries represented instruction in engineering, music, biology, computer science, math, history, English language arts and more.

Bright Ideas grant applications for the 2022-2023 school year will open in August.

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

On the cover: Andrew Cox, Twin Rivers Middle School 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year, and his students demonstrate Newton's Laws of Motion with the Dynamics Cart and Track System project.



LYNN MURPHY
**CHESTATEE ACADEMY OF INQUIRY
AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT**
Hall County

\$510

Designing a virtual theme park isn't just fun; it's also educational. Students in STEM teacher Lynn Murphy's class created a theme park design project. "This Bright Ideas grant enabled students to use interactive technology to design a theme park ride or experience," Murphy said. "They used artistry, coding, construction and circuitry to invent a new ride based on their favorite Disney or Pixar movie," she added.

TORI JONES
LUMPKIN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Lumpkin County

\$1,284

Students in seventh-grade teacher Tori Jones' class learned about biomedical engineering design with a project called, "Lend a Hand." "My students created designs for prosthetic hands and assistive devices, wrote proposals for their designs, and then printed them using a 3D printer," Jones said. The next step for her students is submitting their designs to a group of volunteers who use 3D printers to create low-cost prosthetic upper limb devices for children and adults in need.



ANNA HERDLISKA
TWIN RIVERS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Gwinnett County

\$1,955

Students in Anna Herdliska's class learned about spectroscopy - the study of the interaction between matter and electromagnetic radiation. "Using Bluetooth-regulated spectrophotometers, students analyzed the wavelengths of light in living organisms," Herdliska said. Her students studied the pigments in different plants - such as spinach, peppers, rhubarb, red cabbage and kale - and quantified them using the electromagnetic spectrum of light. "This allowed students to make a connection between the energy used for cell processes and colors of light," Herdliska said.



The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$115,871 in grants

including \$106,626 to organizations and \$9,245 to individuals, during its March meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$20,000 | 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, and teaches math, reading and values.

\$15,000 | American Red Cross, to provide disaster relief, including food, shelter, personal needs and clothing to families in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties who have lost their home to a fire or natural disaster.

\$15,000 | Gwinnett County Public Library, a 15-branch library system, to provide financial assistance for the Career Online High School, the only program in Gwinnett County that provides an accredited high school diploma program for adults.

\$10,000 | Foundation of Wesley Woods, for Lanier Gardens of Athens, to help provide a wellness nurse to provide preventative care support to foster independent living among its senior citizen residents.

\$10,000 | Georgia Conflict Center, Inc., in Athens, for its Restorative Justice Diversion Program in Clarke and Gwinnett county schools, which empowers crime victims and helps perpetrators reintegrate into the community.



Spirit of Joy Food Bank

\$10,000 | Peachtree Christian Health, Inc., an adult day memory center serving home hospice patients, the elderly and disabled veterans in Gwinnett and Hall counties, to provide a part-time program assistant for its memory care program.

\$9,000 | Prevent Child Abuse Athens, a grassroots organization focused on ending neglect and abuse of children in Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, to assist with the First Steps primary prevention program, which offers support, parenting education materials and community resources and referrals to new parents to help them with the challenges of parenting.

\$6,000 | FOCUS (Families of Children Under Stress) a nonprofit agency serving children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to help provide 18 children the opportunity to build social skills, self-respect, character and community living skills at Camp Hollywood in Lawrenceville.

\$5,000 | Ark Family Preservation Center, Inc., which serves families in need of therapeutic support to help them remain unified and prevent abuse, for its supervised family visitation program for children in foster care in Banks, Franklin, Jackson and Madison counties.

\$3,476 | Jackson County Extension 4-H, to provide materials and equipment for its 4H2O program that educates youth and families about water conservation, water pollution and the water cycle.

\$2,500 | Spirit of Joy Food Pantry, located in Flowery Branch, which distributes food to those in need in Banks, Barrow, Hall and Jackson counties, to purchase food.

\$650 | The Craddock Center, Inc., for its Summer Send-Off program, which provides books to 125 children in the Lumpkin County Head Start program for summer reading.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$5,000 | heating and air conditioning unit for a senior citizen.

\$2,500 | roof repairs for a senior citizen.

\$1,745 | roof repairs for a senior citizen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION.

COMMUNITY IMPACT: PALM HOUSE RECOVERY

Through the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, Palm House Recovery Center in Athens will assist 20 individuals with their work to overcome substance abuse and make the transition back into society.

Palm House Recovery Center is a long-term recovery program for men in northeast Georgia who struggle with substance abuse. The program encourages the development of life skills with the goal of participants transitioning back into being successful members of their respective communities.

Participants are required to work an average of 30-40 hours a week and upkeep their personal spaces. They must also participate in substance abuse recovery programs.

“We just want to rebuild our community,” said Steve Carter, Co-Executive Director of Palm House Recovery. “We want to help rebuild families.” Both Carter and his Co-Executive Director, Beth Komorech, work hard to help struggling men in the community get their lives back on track.

While most of the nonprofit organization’s staff are employees, Palm House Recovery Center relies on its abundance of volunteers, such as the leaders of many life skill classes, to make more resources available to residents. The organization offers classes for residents, including a financial planning class provided by a local business entrepreneur for residents. Many of the volunteers who offer classes like these were former program participants who have since graduated.

Carter is also a former participant, which makes the grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation special to him. “This is where I started seven years ago,” he said. “It gave me my life back.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PALM HOUSE RECOVERY CENTER, VISIT PALMHOUSERECOVERY.COM.

Jerk Chicken Tenders



“ My kids love chicken tenders and this is our family’s favorite way to cook them. The kids help by finding all the spices and lining them up in order. ”
- AMANDA LEWIS, GAINESVILLE

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1-2 lbs. chicken breasts | 1 tsp. ground ginger |
| 1/3 cup olive oil | 1 tsp. ground cinnamon |
| 1 tbsp. brown sugar | 1 tsp. ground cloves |
| 1 tbsp. dried thyme | 1 tsp. ground cayenne pepper |
| 2 tsp. allspice | 2 tsp. kosher salt |
| 2 tsp. smoked paprika | 1/4 tsp. black pepper |

DIRECTIONS:

Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees. Combine all dry ingredients in a bowl. Cut chicken breast(s) into generous bite-size pieces. Toss in bowl with dry ingredients, coating each piece well. Spread chicken pieces on baking sheet and bake 20-25 minutes.

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.



EMC SECURITY TEXT NOTIFICATIONS OFFER ENHANCED EXPERIENCE

EMC Security is committed to providing options that simplify customers’ lives and make it easier to utilize their security systems, whether at home or away.

In the spirit of convenience, EMC Security is offering a free innovative text notification option you won’t see anywhere else. With EMC Text-Alert, customers can opt-in to be notified via text message when an alarm signal reports to the central monitoring station. The customer can request to cancel the alarm or dispatch authorities directly from the text platform. This feature will not replace the call notification process; the call procedure will begin if the text is not accessed within 60 seconds.

Studies have shown that the new texting tool has decreased false alarms significantly, reducing municipality fines and frustration.

The texting tool is also used to notify the customer of non-emergency situations such as power outages, low battery or trouble signals.

Upon receipt, the customer can request technical support to resolve the issue quickly.

“EMC Text-Alert is a great way to reach customers that can’t immediately take a call. It’s a discreet way for EMC Security to reach customers in the way they prefer, so they can make critical decisions in real-time and take action quickly,” said Vince Raia, president of EMC Security.

EMC Text-Alert is provided to customers at no additional cost.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EMC TEXT-ALERT, CONTACT EMC SECURITY AT 770-963-0305 OR VISIT EMCSECURITY.COM.

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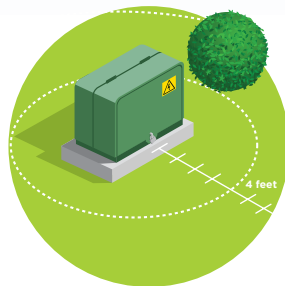
BE SAFE AROUND PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS

The green pad-mounted transformer box safely delivers electricity to homes in neighborhoods with underground electric service. These pad-mounted transformers reduce high-voltage electricity before going to homes. While pad-mounted transformers are typically safely protected, you should take precautions:



Don't let children touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers.

If the box is damaged or opened, never stick anything through the cracks into the box.



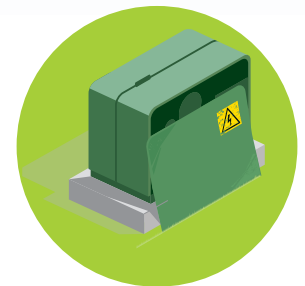
Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so crews can access it.

Keep shrubs and other items at least 10 feet away from the transformer's doors and four feet away from the sides.



Contact Georgia 811 before digging near a transformer.

Underground power lines can extend in any direction from it and should be avoided or will result in serious injury.



Report problems if you notice a transformer that's unlocked or in need of repair.

Call Jackson EMC at 1-800-462-3691.