

JEMCO A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS news

BECOMING THE BOSS



HOW I GAINED CONTROL OVER MY POWER BILL

JULY 2017 | IN THIS ISSUE

DON'T MISS THE FUN: ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 28

JACKSON EMC CLEARS THE WAY FOR POWER

COMMUNITY IMPACT: LEGACY YOUTH MENTORING



KEEPING DOWN OUR COSTS, AND YOURS

There was a time as a child when I thought “budget” was a bad word. I wasn’t sure exactly what the word meant, but I knew that most times it meant we didn’t have the money for something I thought I needed. Maybe you experienced it, too.

“Dad, can we go to Disney World this summer?”

“Six Flags, maybe; Disney World, no. You know we don’t have the budget for that.”

“Mom, can I get a dirt bike like Timmy has?”

“Nope, that’s not in our budget right now. But Christmas is just around the corner. Maybe you can ask Santa.”

Like I said, back then I didn’t even know what a budget was—just that it was not much fun and it often prevented me from having instant gratification.

Now, I realize that budget is not a bad word or a bad thing at all. I’m thankful that my parents were disciplined and stuck to a budget, and I’m glad they taught me how to wisely handle my finances. It’s been a helpful tool in raising a financially-secure family. My kids ask me for silly things sometimes, too. My two favorite words to them when I hear those requests are “save up.” They know I’m not buying everything they ask for and they better find a way to save their own money.

At Jackson EMC, we incorporate the same common sense values my mother and father did when it comes to keeping a budget and making good financial decisions. If we can’t afford it, we don’t buy it. If it would break the budget, we don’t do it.

Fortunately, because Jackson EMC has embraced good, common sense stewardship of members’ money through the years, we are in good financial standing. Not only are we able to meet our current needs but plan for the future as well. The same way you plan in advance for a family vacation or your child’s college education, we plan for projected needs at Jackson EMC.

Part of our planning is based on previous power demand. With that in mind, we strive to accurately forecast future supply needs and determine the best way to meet those needs. Sometimes this involves securing a long term power supply contract from the wholesale market, and other times this means using electricity we generate at our own facilities. This strategy lets us provide you with reliable electricity and ensures that we have enough electric power to meet growing demand. This long range outlook helps us continue to offer a consistently stable electricity supply at affordable prices that are less susceptible to market swings.

Another way we stick to our budget is by inviting you, our members, to help us keep costs down. Some of you do this by taking part in our load management program to help us decrease our peak demand on the hottest days of summer, when demand is at its highest point during the year. Participants in this program allow us to remotely turn off their air conditioners and water heaters for a few minutes each day to cut back on their electric use—and our system demand. They usually can’t tell the difference, but we see a huge difference: This program saves us almost \$500,000 each year.

While sticking to our budget has always served us well, we also work to help you keep within your budget. Our website is packed with energy saving tools and ideas that, when implemented, can lead to cost savings on your power bill. Visit www.jacksonemc.com/savenow for a ton of tips.

And read about our new My Energy Use portal in this issue of *JEMCO News*. It’s an online tool that helps you track your personal electricity use. With that knowledge and by applying energy saving strategies, you can take more control over your energy use—and how it affects your budget.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

NEED TO KNOW: ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Dear Member:

Official notice is hereby given that the 2017 meeting of the members of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation will be held at the headquarters in Jefferson, Ga., on Thursday, September 28, 2017. Registration will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:20 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 which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Prizes, entertainment, a box supper, important business and other special programs will be featured at this meeting. You are requested to be present.

Sincerely,

Lynn Price, Secretary, Board of Directors

JOIN US FOR ANNUAL MEETING

September 28, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
Jackson EMC
Jefferson, Georgia
Boxed supper, prizes
and entertainment
Grand Prize is \$3,000 in energy efficient appliances!

CLEARING A PATH FOR POWER

WARNING!

Never attempt to trim or remove a tree that has power lines running through it. If you discover trees growing into lines, please call your local Jackson EMC office to report it.

JACKSON EMC'S DEDICATION TO DELIVERING SAFE, RELIABLE AND UNINTERRUPTED ELECTRICITY IS MANIFESTED DAILY IN MULTIPLE WAYS. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT—AND VISIBLE—IS THROUGH OUR TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

When trees or their heavy branches grow too close to power lines, the inevitable winter ice storm or strong winds and thunderstorms can cause them to fall on overhead lines, resulting in power outages and damage to the electric system.

Not only do trees and undergrowth in the path of power lines threaten disruption of electric service to your home or business, they can create safety hazards, too. Trees are beautiful and beneficial, but when they grow into electric power lines, they can be deadly.

Water, sap and chemicals in trees are electricity conductors that can wreak havoc. If a tree has grown into a power line, power can travel through the tree to the ground and create an electrocution hazard. Trees touching power lines also can cause fires.

The likelihood of power loss and electricity-related accidents can be decreased—and is—through an aggressive tree maintenance program like ours at Jackson EMC.

Our crews work year-round to clear the path for dependable power for our members. By trimming back tree branches and removing trees and vegetation that threaten to damage our 6,500-plus miles of overhead power lines, our crews reduce the risks of power loss. And fewer tree-related outages means improved service reliability to all Jackson EMC members.

Here's How the Program Works:

Right-of-way clearing crews maintain areas clear of all vegetation directly under the power line and 15 feet on either side. Keeping this maintenance corridor open decreases the risk of damage and allows visual inspection of the line.

How much trimming or cutting back we do depends on how fast a particular species regrows new branches, how much those branches might sway in the wind and the voltage carried by the line.

We consider multiple factors when pruning a tree for line clearance, in priority order: public and right-of-way worker safety, service reliability, correct arboriculture pruning techniques, and, finally, aesthetics.

Jackson EMC trims and mows around all our system's overhead lines every four years because we know that trimming the entire length of a power line on a regular basis—instead of trimming individual locations—ensures the integrity of the electric system.

Jackson EMC employs independent, tree-trimming contractors to maintain the right-of-way. Supervised by Jackson EMC personnel, these contractors are professionals in the field of utility arboriculture and use proven industry-standard pruning techniques, proper tools and safety practices.



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/TREE](https://www.jacksonemc.com/tree)



BECOMING THE B S S

HOW I GAINED CONTROL OVER MY POWER BILL

BY APRIL SORROW

Every year as March gives way to April, I vow to add to spring cleaning tasks an analysis of my energy use with plans to address the culprits that pump up my power bill. But before I know it, summer's almost over and I'm getting the kids ready for school again.

This year, thanks to the new My Energy Use portal and the Home Energy Monitor at jacksonemc.com, I finally conquered this elusive spring chore.



When it comes to cutting energy bills, My Energy Use is a cool tool in Jackson EMC's ever-expanding toolbox. This personal Web portal allows you to view your energy use on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, comparing highs and lows in order to better manage energy use—and bring down your electric bill.

It's a lot like Weight Watchers online, but instead of assessing eating habits in order to improve nutrition and lose weight, you discover your energy usage habits in order to use less electricity and lower your power bill.

Getting started is easy. Just log in to your online member account at ebill.jacksonemc.com and click on the My Energy Use button. The Dashboard that pops up features your energy use over the last 30 days, allowing you to see how your usage compares to electricity consumed the previous month.

Using the easy-to-follow instructions at the portal, you can view your energy use in the format you choose, whether that's hourly usage, weekly or monthly. You also can view and compare billing cycles. Overlays allow you to compare usage from a year ago or determine how last week's weather affected your energy consumption.

Being able to study energy use data that is unique to my home gives me the ability to better understand how and when my family uses energy. This eye-opening information enabled me to discover our usage patterns—and come up with ways to use energy in a more conservative, and cost-saving, manner.

For me, seeing a spike in usage on Saturdays reminded me that mid-day in hot weather is not the best time to wash and dry clothes or cook big meals, so I rescheduled those chores to early morning or evening.

Another handy component of the My Energy Use portal is the ability to set up an email alert to inform you when your energy use reaches a limit you've set, giving you more control over your power usage and the power bill that follows. Likewise, jacksonemc.com

notifications can be established to let you know when something out of the ordinary causes more energy consumption than usual.

Navigating the new portal is easy, even if you, like me, are not the most technology-savvy. A Library Tab gives access to more resources that show how to make the most of the My Energy Use portal, and there's a video tutorial to walk you through the site.

Last, but far from least, when you have a handle on your energy use—when you've discovered your usage patterns and the energy busters that boost your power bill—the Home Energy Monitor provides practical solutions to address those busters.

For me, the Home Energy Monitor is to the My Energy Use portal what the Weight Watchers cookbook is to the weight loss program: It offers smart and practical recipes tailored to help achieve a desired result. Plug in a few details about your home, appliances and energy usage, and the Home Energy Monitor evaluates the info and delivers actions you can take to decrease energy use and costs.

Shifting my thermostat from 74 degrees to 78 this summer hasn't been so hard, especially when I know that the more I dial it up, the more my bill comes down. And now that I've noticed that tiny sliver of sunlight peeking through at my front door, I've decided to rip out and replace the weather stripping around all my doors; it's a simple chore that will cost just a few dollars—and save a few more each month.

With My Energy Use and the Home Energy Monitor, I've found information unique to the way I use electricity—and practical ways to stay on top of my energy use.

Best of all, my power bill isn't the boss of me anymore. I'm in charge!



Blue Cheese and Grape Coleslaw



A great summer recipe,
perfect for barbeques!

RECIPE FROM JANA B. SLOCUM, HOSCHTON, GA

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (14-ounce) package coleslaw mix
- 3/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- 3/4 cup green seedless grapes, quartered
- 3/4 cup red seedless grapes, quartered
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 3 strips cooked bacon, crumbled
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 cup coleslaw dressing

DIRECTIONS:

- Combine first seven ingredients.
- Pour dressing over salad; toss to coat.
- Refrigerate 1 hour.



SEND YOUR BEST QUICK DINNER RECIPE: ASORROW@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO:
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation
Board of Directors awarded

\$105,000 IN GRANTS

during its June meeting
to area organizations.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Family Ties/Gainesville for the Parenting 101 program, which teaches effective communication, discipline and positive reinforcement skills that prevent and break the cycle of child abuse and neglect, for counseling services for children and their parents and for parenting instructors.

\$15,000 | Gwinnett Children's Shelter to provide 120 homeless children and their mothers with the Home of Hope program, which offers a 3-12 month transitional living experience where children can regain a sense of security and mothers can work with a life coach to develop a customized plan to help them achieve financial security and permanent housing to prevent future homelessness.

\$15,000 | Habitat for Humanity/Gwinnett County for the "A Brush With Kindness" program, which provides minor home repairs,

painting, landscaping and weatherization to low-income seniors, the disabled and low-income homeowners who financially struggle to maintain their home in decent and safe condition.

\$15,000 | Hope Clinic, in Gwinnett County, which specializes in internal medicine and chronic care management for low-income patients to help them avoid costly hospitalizations, for one year of care in the Chronic Care Management Program for diabetic patients who qualify as extremely low income per federal guidelines.

\$15,000 | Legacy Youth Mentoring in Jackson County to help fund the coordinator's position for a program that recruits and trains adult mentors to work with K-12 students in all three school systems within the county, helping to ensure these young people become healthy, educated and employable.

\$11,000 | Camp Kudzu, a year-round camping program for children with diabetes and their families, to teach diabetes management skills that will reduce their risk of diabetes-related complications as well as improve their attitude about living with the disease, to help children from the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC attend a one-week overnight summer camp.

\$10,000 | Quinlan Visual Arts Center in Gainesville to enable 80 underserved students with exemplary artistic skills entering 1st-8th grades at Title I schools in Barrow, Hall, Jackson, Gwinnett and Lumpkin counties to attend one-week Art Camp sessions.

\$5,000 | Positive Impact Health Centers in Duluth to help provide transportation assistance for medical appointments at the Center's Gwinnett Clinic, which provides client-centered care for the HIV community.

\$4,000 | Nuci Phillips Memorial Foundation in Athens, a nonprofit organization working to prevent suicide, to enable young people from low income families to participate in Camp Amped, a summer day camp for northeast Georgia youth ages 11-18 focusing on positive mental health and music education.



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

You've Got
a Friend

**WHY DID WE
UPDATE OUR NAME?**

After research and extensive feedback, the board of directors voted to refresh our brand name to add clarity of meaning and purpose as we recruit mentors in a growing community and beyond.

Lauren Page, right, a junior at the University of Georgia, mentors and encourages seventh grader Ty. The pair plans to continue their mentoring partnership through Ty's high school years and beyond.

“Ain't it good to know that you've got a friend?” sings James Taylor.

The famous singer-songwriter likely would be a big fan of Legacy Youth Mentoring, a program that pairs school students with adult mentors to form life-affirming and inspiring friendships.

The in-school, friendship-based mentoring program annually serves more than 200 students by providing a mentor who comes to the school each week to spend 30 minutes with his or her mentee, according to Executive Director Lisa Stephens.

Legacy Youth Mentoring began during the 2004-05 school year as Lindsay's Legacy Mentoring, named in memory of Jack Lindsay, founder of The Potter's House in Jefferson and an advocate of youth mentoring. Originally a part of Jackson County Family Connection, the program became an independent 501(c)3 non-profit in 2012 and changed its name in 2017.

Stephens has been with the organization since 2005, volunteering as program coordinator for two years to get the program up and running. “We started with 45 students and, since 2008, have served more than 200 students each year,” she says, adding that 225 mentors were matched with 235 students last year. “Our very first piece of funding was from the Jackson EMC Foundation in 2006.”

Since then, other Jackson EMC Foundation grants have followed, including one in May for \$15,000 for the program, which provides mentors for K-12 students in Jackson County Schools, Jefferson City Schools and Commerce City Schools. In addition, Jackson EMC's Jefferson District Manager Joe Hicks and Senior Marketing Representative Christy Queen serve on Legacy's board of directors. Several Jackson EMC employees serve as mentors.

Legacy Youth Mentoring recruits and trains volunteer mentors, then shares the information with school counselors who match mentors with students referred by teachers or parents for the program. Mentors weekly meet students at school for a half hour during breakfast, lunch or free time.

“Doing the mentoring within the school day adds safety and flexibility,” says Stephens, noting that most schools have a waiting list of students in need of mentoring. “We always need more mentors, especially men, because we have more males on the waiting list.”

In developing friendships, mentors work to discover their student's personal strengths and build on them, according to Stephens, who defines the cornerstone of the program like this: “What says to a child that someone cares more than having an adult come to see just you?”

She tells of one student who asked her new mentor at their second session, “How much do you get paid?”

“Nothing,” the mentor answered.
“How far do you drive to see me?”
“Fifteen miles.”

“Why?” asked the puzzled child.
“Because I want to be your friend,” the volunteer mentor answered.

“The child's face lit up—because she felt valued,” says Stephens. “Sometimes it's hard to put a price on this; it's intangible. But it can be powerful, long-term and life changing.”

Not specific to socioeconomic or academic abilities, mentoring is available for all students and meets a wide variety of immediate and long-term needs.

“We've served kids who have experienced illness, homelessness, or the death or deployment of a parent,” says Stephens, noting that many mentors continue their partnership through the student's elementary, middle and high school years.

Jackson County School System Assistant Superintendent of Operations Jamie Hitzges serves as chairman of Legacy's Board of Directors—and as a mentor to a fourth grader at South Jackson Elementary School. As both a mentor and program representative, he knows the impact Legacy Youth Mentoring can have.

“It is the connection between what is and what can be,” says Hitzges. “It allows the power of one person to change the trajectory of a child.”

It's what having—and being—a friend is all about.



FOR MORE, VISIT LEGACYYOUTHMENTORING.ORG

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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PERIODICALS
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VEHICLES FOR SALE

Jackson EMC has equipment for sale to members and employees. Sealed bids will be accepted at Jackson EMC headquarters in Jefferson until 3 p.m., August 11, 2017, 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 Tuesday, August 1, and Thursday, August 3, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Come by at these dates and times ONLY to view the equipment.

The list below contains the types and approximate quantities of equipment and vehicles to be sold. All equipment and vehicles are retired from Jackson EMC's fleet and are generally five years old 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 FULL-SIZE PICKUPS
10 MID-SIZE PICKUPS
6 MID-SIZE SEDANS
1 FULL-SIZE SEDAN
3 SUVs

2 36-FOOT SERVICE BUCKET TRUCKS
1 60-FOOT BUCKET TRUCK
1 DERRICK TRUCK
2 CARGO VANS
1 FORKLIFT

