


**JOEMC**

A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# SPOT LIGHT

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JOEMC Member Newsletter      February 2018

## Why has my bill been so high?

Members have been calling the office and asking why their recent electric bill was so high when they haven't changed their thermostat or their energy habits. There's really only one explanation...the freezing outdoor temperatures that our area experienced from December until mid-January and member's heating units (heat pumps) having to operate constantly to satisfy the thermostat settings.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Heat pumps lose their energy efficiency when outdoor temperatures drop below freezing (32 degrees). When it's cold outside a heat pump extracts the outside heat and transfers it inside—and when it's below freezing, your heat pump can't keep up and must use auxiliary/

emergency heat (heat strips) to try and reach (or keep) your thermostat setting. Even if the thermostat has been set to 65 degrees, there is a very good chance your heat pump can't reach that temperature—this can vary from house to house based on factors like insulation levels and air infiltration. And remember, the greater the difference between your thermostat setting and the outdoor temperature, the harder your heating system

will work in order to reach and maintain the thermostat setting. The result is your heat pump has to run continuously which adds up since heating/cooling accounts for around 50% of your monthly bill.

Under normal conditions, the cost of running a heat pump for a JOEMC member is around 30 to 35 cents per hour. When operating in the auxiliary/

emergency heating mode, that cost goes up to around \$1.30 per hour. Even though our area didn't see snow until after the New Year began, the cold temperatures started in December. In fact, December was the coldest on record in several years with the temperature (most of the month) remaining in the 30s or below. In addition, the highs for seven of those days in December were only in the 20s

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and in only four days out of 31 did the high temperature for the day exceed 68 degrees.

Go to [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and visit our Energy Center tab to learn ways to help with energy efficiency year-round and download useful documents like "Heat Pump 101" from our Energy Efficiency Resources page. ▼

## Sign Up for Budget Billing

Are you on a budget? Does your electric bill vary each month? Budget billing can help. It guarantees you no surprises when you receive your electric bill...with the program you pay the same predetermined amount each month.

Each month, on your statement, your current amount billed (based on your actual use) is shown with your monthly budget billing amount. If there are any large discrepancies in the two amounts, contact us to discuss adjusting the budgeted figure.

Each year the two figures are compared again. If



you've overpaid your bills during the previous twelve months, a refund check for the overpaid amount will be issued. If you have underpaid, the excess amount will be due with the following bill.

If you are not currently a budget billing customer, you can start participating any time. Certain credit requirements and restrictions do apply (including having a minimum of a 12 month billing history at your service location). Contact JOEMC for more information. ►

## Fun, Food, Door Prizes and Entertainment

JOEMC members...bring the family out for an evening of fun, food, door prizes and entertainment. On Friday, March 23, Jones-Onslow EMC will hold its Annual Meeting of Members at the American Legion Building/Onslow County Fairgrounds located at 146 Broadhurst Road in Jacksonville.



**H**ighlighting this year's meeting will be special entertainment from North Carolina's very own Unspoken Tradition.

Hailing from the Asheville area, the group is about new, original Bluegrass music. Inspired by their own influences and the roots of traditional music, they bring a sound that is both impassioned and nostalgic, hard-driving but sincere. Their material is mostly original and reflects the ever-changing culture of Western and Central North Carolina where they call home. Touring both regionally and internationally, the group has opened for performers like Balsam Range, The Boxcars, Peter Rowan, and The Del McCoury Band.

In addition to Unspoken Tradition, local musical groups will also be performing. There will be hot dogs and soda, a clown for the kids, giveaways, informative displays, and a "learning" tent where members can sit and listen to JOEMC employees discuss energy efficiency, electric safety and much more. And don't forget...as has become an annual meeting tradition, one lucky JOEMC member will win a recently retired fleet vehicle ("as is" condition).

Registration and displays open at 5:30pm, local musical entertainment takes the stage at 5:45pm, and the business meeting will start at 7:00pm. At 8:00pm, Unspoken Tradition takes the stage. ▶



## Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship

Calling all middle school basketball fans! Want to take a shot at an awesome opportunity to train with college basketball coaches and players to improve your skills on the court?

**J**OEMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to attend overnight basketball camps on college campuses this summer. Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 16-20 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and young women can apply to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 10-13 at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Applications and more information have been sent to all public middle schools in the JOEMC service area. Rising sixth, seventh or eighth graders are eligible to apply and the final application deadline is March 31. Applications can also be downloaded by visiting [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and going to "The Cooperative" menu, "Community" tab, and then "Touchstone Energy Sports Camps". Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay.

In addition to improving the basketball skills of attendees, both camps will work closely with students to develop fundamental skills like sportsmanship and leadership that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court. Each Touchstone Energy cooperative in the state awards two scholarships to students in their local area annually, one to a young man and one to a young woman. ▼

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## PaySite Kiosks...a FAST, EASY & CONVENIENT Way to Pay Your JOEMC Bill

Partnering with Realo Drugstores (at Gateway Shopping Center in Surf City and Yopp Road in Jacksonville), JOEMC members can pay their bill at the PaySite kiosks located inside at the above locations.

- ▶ **FAST**
  - The payment process usually takes less than a minute and your payment is posted immediately.
- ▶ **EASY**
  1. Enter your account information.
  2. Make your payment by cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or Discover Card.
  3. Leave with a receipt.
- ▶ **CONVENIENT**
  - No need to drive to our offices.
  - By partnering with Realo, you now have extended hours to pay your bill.
  - Using PaySite is FREE. ▶





## Jones-Onslow EMC Announces Exciting Opportunity for Veterans

An opportunity for veterans with disabilities to challenge themselves, overcome barriers and learn “what’s within them is stronger than what’s in the way.”

**J**ones-Onslow EMC, in conjunction with one of our financial partners, is searching for disabled veterans from its service territory to nominate for the No Barriers Warrior’s Expedition Program.

The program, sponsored by Co-Bank, provides expeditions that mentally and physically challenge veterans on outdoor expeditions through mountaineering, rafting and rock climbing. Co-Bank covers the full cost for participants including meals, gear and travel expenses. Veterans must have VA disability rating to qualify.

These five-day expeditions offer veterans an opportunity to challenge limitations (both real and perceived) and to create a network of support that can last a lifetime. For consideration, individuals nominating a veteran, even if self-nominated, should submit a letter summarizing the veteran’s military background, their VA disability rating, length of military service, and why they think attending a No Barriers expedition would be of benefit. Letters may be sent electronically to [predick@joemc.com](mailto:predick@joemc.com) or mailed to Paula Redick, Jones-Onslow EMC, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, NC 28546. Once we receive your request, we will be in contact to give you further instructions on the application process.

The nomination deadline for the No Barriers Warriors expedition is April 1, 2018. For more information, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and click “The Cooperative”, then “Community” tab or visit [nobarriersusa.org](http://nobarriersusa.org). ▼



## 2018: A Year of Energy Efficiency

### FEBRUARY Tip of the Month

Easy to use, easy to understand energy-saving tools are at your finger-tips at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com). By going to the Energy Center tab and looking under Energy Efficiency, you can perform an online energy audit on your home, examine home energy calculators, check on Energy Star rebates and incentives and watch videos about common energy myths and more.

## KEEPING YOU SAFE

### Stay Back!

Know the difference between types of lines and wires. If you see a downed electric line, be aware that it could be live and dangerous!

#### Electric Wire

Electric wires are larger and can be easily identified by the three separate twisted wires, one being uniquely silver or uninsulated.

#### Cable Wire

Cable lines are round and look similar to the coaxial cable that connects to the TV in your home.

#### Phone Wire

Telephone wires are typically smaller, flat wires.

## How can we better serve you in 2018?

It's amazing what we learn through listening and observation.



New products and services are more likely to gain the satisfaction of consumers when their introduction follows market research.

Here at JOEMC, we've provided members with a mobile-friendly website, enabling you to check the status of your electric service, conduct routine business (updating account information), or simply paying your bill, anywhere or anytime. In fact, in 2017 we received over 72,000 bill payments

(just over 6,000 per month) from members who utilized our mobile-friendly website and bill-paying system.

These mobile services are just new ways of connecting with the folks at JOEMC, like the customer service representatives you reach when you call us, or greet you from behind the counters at our office. They help us offer quality services you expect us to provide.

Our goal is to find ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the burdens on your wallet. Our website, [joemc.com](http://joemc.com), which includes an Energy Center section, provides resources (such as on-line energy audits, videos and other websites) as well as tons of energy-savings tips that you can download. And don't forget to take advantage of other services or programs like budget billing, HVAC and EnergyStar appliance rebates, or a free in-home energy audit where a JOEMC representative will visit your home and give it an energy check up!

Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial to collaboration and success.

That's why JOEMC still loves talking and interacting with its members. Our annual meeting is a social event for our whole co-op family. We hope you'll make plans now to join us next month (Friday, March 23, at the American Legion Building at the Onslow County Fairgrounds in Jacksonville) to conduct co-op business and to also have fun and win some prizes.

So, how do we serve you better in 2018? The same way many of us try to serve community, society and family better, each day—by listening. In our offices, on telephones and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So, drop in and see us, we're always glad to hear from you.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



## Cheesy Hash Brown Casserole

### Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 large green chiles, diced
- 2 jalapenos, finely diced
- 1 poblano chile, diced
- 2 onions, diced
- 4 pounds diced frozen hash brown potatoes
- Salt and pepper
- 2 cups grated sharp Cheddar
- 2 cups grated Monterey Jack
- 8 slices bacon, fried and chopped

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°. Melt the butter in a large skillet and saute the chiles and onions until browned, almost blackened. Add the frozen hash browns, some salt and pepper and toss together. Tip into a buttered baking dish and top with the cheese and bacon. Bake until hot and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

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SPOTLIGHT is published monthly by Jones-Onslow EMC for its members. Direct correspondences to: Jones-Onslow EMC, ATTN: Newsletter Editor, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, N.C. 28546.

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Jones-Onslow Electric  
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