



**May is Electrical Safety Month.**  
Safety Starts with You.

**#ElectricalSafetyMonth**



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 



JOEMC Member Newsletter

May 2019



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, make electrical safety a priority. Help your family avoid dangerous situations by taking a few easy precautions, including:

- **Make sure to turn off AND unplug.** Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off, then unplug all portable electric devices when you're finished using them. When unplugging, make sure to hold the plug, not the cord. Also, never touch electrical appliances with wet hands or use them near sinks, tubs, toilets or showers.
- **Be smart about outlets.** Don't overload power outlets, power strips or surge protectors, and use bulbs that match the wattage indicated on light fixtures. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets should be used in any

area where water and electricity may come into contact, including kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoors, and should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly.

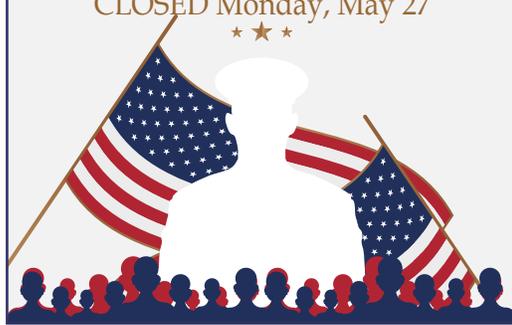
- **Use cords properly.** Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire. Don't attempt to repair damaged cords with tape.

- **Keep a safe distance.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and no-

tify your cooperative, and avoid driving over downed lines. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines, and don't fly kites or drones near lines or substations. Teach children not to put their fingers in electrical outlets, use child-proof outlet covers and keep appliances and cords away from children.

JOEMC is dedicated to educating people of all ages about electrical safety and providing you with electricity that is as safe and reliable as possible. For more safety tips and information, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. ▼

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
*Remember and honor*  
JOEMC offices will be  
**CLOSED Monday, May 27**  
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### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Area Students Headed To Washington This Summer

Four high school juniors— Evelyn Arnold, Andrew Shugart, Julian Silvia, and Evelyn Wade—will be heading to our nation’s capital this summer for a visit. They will represent JOEMC at this year’s Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The week-long visit in June, sponsored by Jones-Onslow and other North Carolina co-ops, lets our future leaders learn more about government and the cooperative-way of doing business.

Students were selected through an essay contest available at public high schools in our area. An independent panel of judges selected the winners.

Evelyn Arnold, who attends Southwest High School, is the daughter of Christie and Richard Arnold. An analytical thinker who believes one of her strengths is seeing both sides of an argument, Evelyn also enjoys reading and writing. She is a member of the academic derby team and participates in the AVID Program.

Andrew is the son of Jennifer and Jonathan Shugart. He attends Jacksonville High School and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Andrew is currently vice president of the junior class, a student ambassador, and participated in the Sturgeon

City Science Leadership Program. He is also a member of the Interact Club and the varsity soccer, tennis and swim teams.

Julian is the son of Frances Castro and Heriberto Silvia Perce. He attends Northside High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, Air Force JROTC, and the drill team. Julian is proud of his perfect attendance record and making the honor roll and principal’s list. In his spare time, he loves to give back by volunteering and performing community service.

Evelyn Wade, the daughter of Katherine and Derrick Wade, attends Swansboro High School. She is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere), President’s Club, First Robotics Club, and chorus. Evelyn’s interests include theater arts and forensic sciences. ▼



Evelyn Arnold



Andrew Shugart



Julian Silvia



Evelyn Wade



JOEMC consumer-members enjoyed an evening of music, magic, food, fun, & educational displays on March 29.



### SPECIAL PRIZE WINNERS

**Truck Winner**  
Mr. Sammy Fields

**43" LG UHD Television**  
Mr. Frank Rackley

**Couple Married Least Amount of Time**  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cooke Jones

**Couples Married Longest Amount of Time**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mohn  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Sanders  
Mr & Mrs. Paul Taylor

**Oldest Female/Male Member in Attendance**  
Ms. Carmen Phillips/Mr. Miles Pierce

## Five Tips For Heat Pump Maintenance

Like all heating and cooling systems, proper maintenance remains the key to efficient heat pump operation. The difference in electric use between a well-maintained heat pump and a severely neglected one can range from 10 percent to 25 percent!

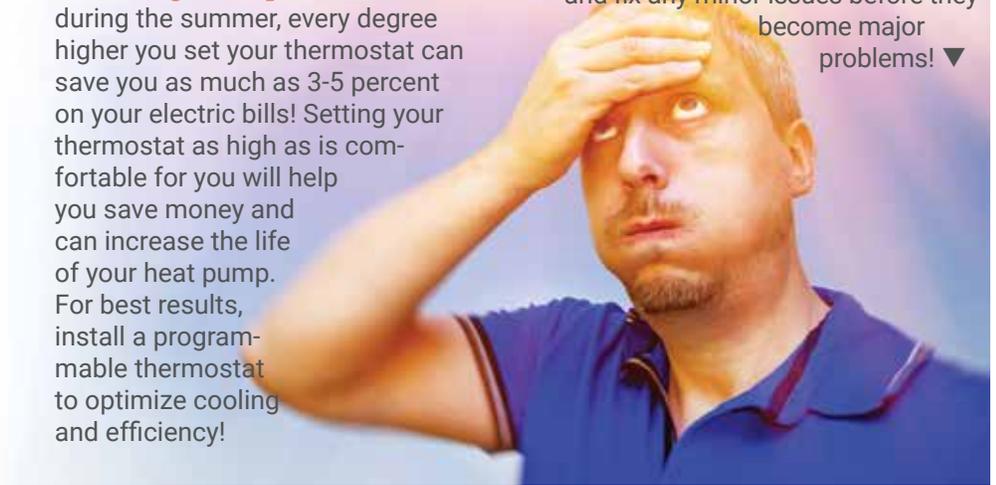
Here are a few heat pump maintenance items you should do in the early spring to get your heat pump ready for summer:

- 1. Switching your thermostat from HEAT to COOL** – There should be a switch on your thermostat with three settings: HEAT, COOL, and OFF. Before you do anything, turn the switch to COOL mode so you don't forget to do it later!
- 2. Make sure your fan is set to AUTO** – In addition to the HEAT, COOL, OFF switch on your thermostat, there should be another one labeled ON and AUTO. Make sure this one is set to AUTO. This will prevent the fan from running

constantly, and keep your home as comfortable and as efficient as possible.

- 3. Check your air filters** – Dirty filters can wreak havoc on your heat pump, reducing its efficiency and potentially causing a complete breakdown. Remember to change your air filters every month to three months, depending on how often you run your heat pump.
- 4. Set the right temperature** – during the summer, every degree higher you set your thermostat can save you as much as 3-5 percent on your electric bills! Setting your thermostat as high as is comfortable for you will help you save money and can increase the life of your heat pump. For best results, install a programmable thermostat to optimize cooling and efficiency!

- 5. Schedule heat pump maintenance** – If you want your heat pump to run as efficiently and effectively as possible all year long, the best thing to do is have your system inspected before the start of the cooling season and again before the heating season. These preventative inspections give HVAC experts a chance to ensure that your system is running properly and fix any minor issues before they become major problems! ▼



## FIND ALL THE BEST DEALS ON MAIN STREET



## Co-op Connections App



Shop local and save big. Your local electric cooperative's Co-op Connections Program helps you get discounts all over town!

Try out our free **Mobile App**, and you'll have GPS, "call the store" ability, and a digital card at your fingertips. Find all the ways to save at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

## Safety Starts with You

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.



*May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at JOEMC we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.*

**GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS:** Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include

GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets. The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about ten years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

**LOOSE OR DAMAGED OUTLETS OR SWITCHES:** Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

**SURGE PROTECTORS:** Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. After a surge or spike, however, you could be left with a basic power strip. Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

**EXTENSION CORDS:** Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use. If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

Electricity is a necessity for modern living, and your cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



## Apple Cinnamon Chimichangas

### Ingredients:

1 (21 oz.) can apple pie filling  
½ cup cinnamon sugar  
15 (6 inch) flour tortillas  
oil for frying

### Directions:

Heat apple pie filling in a small pot over medium-low heat until warmed through, about 5 minutes. Place cinnamon sugar in a shallow dish. Spoon 1 ½ tablespoons of filling onto each tortilla. Fold in opposing edges and roll up as you would a burrito. Heat oil in a large, deep saucepan over medium heat. Place a batch of rolled tortillas seam-side down in the hot oil and fry until browned and crispy, 1 to 2 minutes. Turn and continue frying until all sides are browned, 1 to 2 minutes more. While still hot, roll in cinnamon sugar to coat. Repeat with remaining batches.

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