

A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

"Makey Makey. Beautiful Learning Together"
Queens Creek Elementary

SPOT LIGHT

JOEMC Member Newsletter August 2019



25 Years of Innovation and Creativity in Our Schools – Apply Now for Bright Ideas Education Grants

JOEMC is searching for Bright Ideas grant applications from teachers and principals, grades K-12, in the 51 public schools in Jones and Onslow counties, as well as the Topsail area of Pender County.

These grants, which can be awarded in any discipline, support innovative, creative initiatives that cannot be covered by traditional school financing. Educators may apply for individual grants up to \$500 or in teams for awards up to \$2,000.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Bright Ideas. Since that time, JOEMC has awarded more than \$1.2 million in Bright Ideas grants to fund more than 1,890 projects, reaching more than 500,000 students in sub-

jects including math, reading, science, technology, music, and the arts.

Educators can get additional grant information from their school principal or by visiting joemc.com (go to The Cooperative menu and look under Community).

All applications must be submitted online to JOEMC by 5:00PM, Friday, September 27, 2019. Grant recipients will be announced in the fall and honored at an awards banquet. ▼



EARLY BIRD ENTRY

Email your completed application to brightideas@joemc.com by our early bird deadline of **Friday, September 13, 2019**, and be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.



"Ready, Set, Race"
Thompson Early Childhood Center



"Reading Rocks Art"
Parkwood Elementary



"Meaningful Metals"
Richlands High School



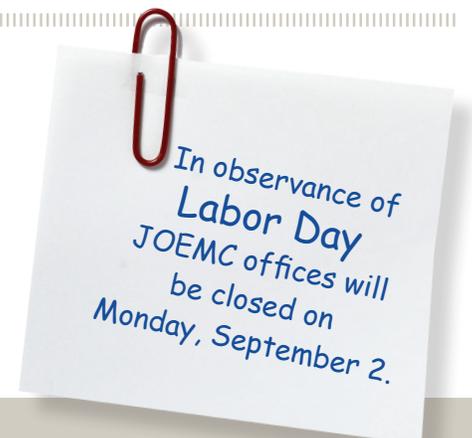
"Jones County Empty Bowls Part 2"
Jones Sr. High School



AUGUST TIP OF THE MONTH

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner's filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent. Visit joemc.com for more energy efficiency tips.

Source energy.gov



KEEPING YOU SAFE

811 Day Serves as a Reminder to Call Before Digging



August 11th is national “Call before you dig” or “811” Day, but JOEMC would like to remind members that ANYTIME you start a digging project around the home they should dial 8-1-1 at least three working days prior. This free and simple step can save lives and reduce the risk of injury, repair costs, fines, and inconvenient outages.

According to North Carolina 811, an underground utility line is damaged every nine minutes due to digging without taking proper precautions. Even small digging projects, like installing a mailbox or planting a tree, warrant an advance call to 811.

The national 811 “Call Before You Dig” phone number links homeowners to a call center, which then dispatches local utility companies to mark line locations with paint or flags.

These marked lines show you where it is—and isn’t—safe to break ground. Once your lines have been marked, make sure to dig carefully around the marks, not on top of them. Because utility line locations can shift, it’s essential to call each time you are planning to dig.

For more information about safe digging and the “Call Before You Dig” process, visit nc811.org. ▶

Do Not Tamper with Your Electric Meter

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately. ▼



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

JOEMC and Touchstone Energy Celebrates Local Heroes with #WhoPowersYou Contest

JOEMC, in partnership with Touchstone Energy, is pleased to announce the #WhoPowersYou Contest celebrating local heroes. It’s a chance for JOEMC members to nominate a fellow member for the difference they are making in our community and an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the power of human connections.

#WhoPowersYou

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community? Tell their story and they could be recognized and win a cash prize.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

The #WhoPowersYou Contest, started by Touchstone Energy in 2016, celebrates people making a powerful and lasting impact in their community. In addition to being nationally recognized, nominees can win up to \$5,000 for the cause they champion.

To nominate a local hero in our community, cooperative members can go to WhoPowersYou.com and submit their nominee’s name, photo, and a brief

description of how they make a difference. The contest began the first part of August, and all nominations must be submitted by midnight on September 6. Only members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, like JOEMC, are eligible.

An independent panel of judges will select winners based upon the positive impact they make on the community, creativity of the entry, and the number of votes they receive. Winners will be announced in October. ▶

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Electric Vehicle Rebates up to \$3,500 for Cooperative Members

Are you looking to purchase an electric vehicle (EV) in the next few months? Well, if it's a Nissan Leaf, Nissan North America wants to help.

As part of their effort to accelerate electric vehicle transportation alternatives across the United States, Nissan has provided a unique incentive for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, like JOEMC, and their members, like YOU!

A \$3,500 special rebate is available on the 40 kWh model NISSAN LEAF, and a \$2,500 rebate is available on the 226-mile range, 62 kWh, ePlus model. This offer can be combined with the \$7,500 Federal EV Tax Credit to provide you with savings up to \$11,000 on your purchase of a new NISSAN Leaf.

UP TO \$3,500 SPECIAL REBATE



The offer expires September 30, 2019. Go to joemc.com/nissan-rebate for full details and eligibility requirements. ▼

“Do-it-Yourself” Advice to make your home more energy efficient.

A Home Energy Inspection that Sherlock Holmes Would be Proud of...

By giving your home a simple but diligent walk-through, you can pinpoint and spot problems that are easy weekend fixes:

- Find out how much attic insulation you have by measuring the depth. If you have less than a foot of insulation, you might need more. For our climate, the Department of Energy recommends between 13 and 14 inches of fiberglass blanket insulation for most homes.
- On the next windy day, light a candle and hold it near any place where air can get inside—around windows and doors, plumbing fixtures, electrical panels, attic doors and cable and phone outlets. When the flame flickers, you have a draft. Seal it with caulking or weather-stripping.
- Out with the old and in with the new. Consider replacing older lightbulbs, even those compact-fluorescent ones that are only a few years old, with the more, super-efficient LED lighting.
- Find out if your water heater feels warm to the touch. If it does, and especially if it was made before 1991, you may need to add an insulation blanket. Also, check the thermostat setting. If you use a dishwasher that preheats water, you don't need to set your water heater thermostat higher than 120 degrees.
- Be kind to your heating and cooling systems. Have furnaces and air-conditioners professionally checked and serviced annually. If you use a forced-air heating system, change the filter every month. A properly maintained system can use around 10% less energy than a system that's not in top condition. If the system is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with a newer, energy-efficient unit. A new system will reduce energy consumption dramatically, especially if the existing equipment is in poor condition. ►



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We Keep Learning to Improve Service for Members

It's a new school year and kids of all ages are getting ready for a new year of learning! From kindergarten through college, students attend school to gain knowledge about a wide variety of subjects and learn new skills that will prepare them for the future.



In a similar vein, JOEMC is continually learning to advance technology that improves electric service, reliability, safety, and in turn, enhances the quality of life for the members we serve in our communities.

Your cooperative keeps abreast of industry trends because the energy sector is rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and energy types are fueling demand for more options. On the consumer front, people are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technologies. Consumers expect more convenient payment methods – whether through online or automatic bill pay, remote kiosks or in person.

We're working to help sift through the options for our members in ways that benefit the greater community. At the same time, we never lose sight of the top priority—providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

Technology Improves Operational Efficiency

There is no better example of technology in action than our current advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project. Started this spring, AMI is an integrated system of advanced meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enable two-way communication between utilities and consumers. In the event of an outage, AMI helps to distinguish between events that impact a single home or multiple outages. This is critical because resolving either issue is a very different process. The two-way communication is integral to AMI because it provides a means to verify that power has been restored after an outage. However, one of the most significant benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather is pinpointing the outage location, which helps to reduce the risk for crews out on the road during severe weather events.

In addition to providing essential information during major outages, JOEMC will be able to analyze AMI data for anomalies, including faults, damaged meters, or energy theft. Early detection of these problems helps our cooperative save money and improve reliability for the whole community.

Whether it's exploring how emerging technologies can better serve our members or examining green energy options like community solar or battery storage, for JOEMC, our "school year" is never over. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities for the future and we will continue to study and research the issues so that we can better serve you, now and in the future.

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



grilled teriyaki tuna

Ingredients:

- 1 cup teriyaki sauce
- ¾ cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 4 (4 oz) tuna fillets

Directions:

In a large resealable plastic bag, combine the teriyaki sauce, oil, garlic, and pepper. Place fillets in the bag. Seal and give the mix a good shake, to ensure the tuna fillets are well coated. Marinate for 30 minutes in the refrigerator. Meanwhile, preheat grill on high heat, and lightly oil grate. Remove tuna from marinade, and place on grill. For rare tuna, grill for 3 to 5 minutes on each side. For medium, grill 5 to 8 minutes per side. For well done, grill for 8 to 10 minutes per side. Note: Cooking times will vary.

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