



A Touchstone Energy® Partner

JOEMC Member Newsletter December 2019

SPOT LIGHT



May You Always

by Catherine Pulsifer

Faith, hope and charity
May we always have these
Not just at Christmas time
But all the year throughout.

We tend to have more faith
More hope and charity
During the season
But can we keep it always

May you always have
Something to hope for
Faith in something bigger than you
And, dreams that come true.

And may you always
Share with others
Your blessings as a result
Of your hopes, faith, and dreams.

*Merry Christmas and Warm Wishes
Throughout the Season!*

from Jones-Onslow EMC

KEEPING YOU SAFE

Prevention...The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Between 2013-2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of **780 home structure fires** that began with **decorations** and an additional 160 home fires that started with **Christmas trees**, according to the **National Fire Protection Association**.

PREVENTION IS: never leaving a space heater unattended and **turning it off** when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and not letting **pets or children** play too close to a space heater.



PREVENTION IS: never leaving cooking equipment **unattended** and **turning off burners** if you have to leave the room.



PREVENTION IS: watering Christmas trees daily and **discarding trees** when they are dry and begin **dropping needles**.



PREVENTION IS: inspecting all decorations to ensure they do not have any **frayed or pinched wires** and **discarding** worn decorations.



PREVENTION IS: ensuring multiple extension cords are **never strung together** or run under rugs, carpets or furniture. And making sure those **used outdoors** are labeled "for outdoor use."



PREVENTION IS: keeping decorations, or any other **flammable items** at least **3 ft away** from an open flame and heat sources.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

From providing more information about renewable energy or electric vehicles to furnishing tools like online home energy calculators and whole-house energy audits, JOEMC is your trusted energy advisor. Save energy and money with our rebates/credits and other resources that can help you make smart choices.

Find easy ways to save energy and money, and...

Put a little
HO HO HO
back in your bank!

To learn more visit joemc.com and look under the Energy Center tab.



DID YOU KNOW

My Neighbors Have Power—Why Don't I?



Electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do. We understand power outages are never convenient and it's frustrating when you're left in the dark...and your neighbor is not.

There are numerous reasons why your neighbors may have power during an outage and you don't.

The power grid is broken into sections, so it's possible that your neighbors are on a different supply line than you. Or there may be trouble just on the portion supplying your immediate area. The cause of the outage can also be isolated to either one transformer or a group of transformers. The problem may affect only the power lines connecting to your house or business. Also keep in mind...

have the power back on. When a crew arrives to make repairs, we have to investigate the cause of the outage first. Often we find problems that require additional time, materials, equipment or crews. This can especially be true when we have problems with underground lines because we may be required to dig to access and repair the line.

The length of the outage depends on how many total outages we have across the system as well. When there are several outages to restore at one time, we work to restore power to the

that your neighbors might own a generator that provides electricity during an outage.

Why can't you tell me exactly when my power will be restored?

We never know what we are going to find when we respond to an outage call, so it's hard to predict when we'll

largest numbers of affected members in the shortest amount of time. This is an efficient way to restore power outages, but sometimes it can impact how quickly we're able to respond to an outage that may only affect one or two members.

How can I stay informed of your progress during an outage?

JOEMC has several options to keep you updated on our progress during major outages. Our outage map is available online at joemc.com and shows you where and how many members are experiencing outages. Members can also enroll in the free outage text alert program where you can report and receive updates about power outages. Finally, for large-scale outages that occur, updates will be posted on the co-op's Facebook page and in the News section of our website.

However, none of these options are a replacement for our 24-hour customer service number. Please always call (910) 353-7117 or (800) 681-4146 to report an outage. ▼

SHOP LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Use your **Co-op Connections Card** for savings throughout the month at local and national businesses. Whether you're searching for a unique gift to give that special someone, going out to eat or booking a hotel room, your **Co-op Connections Card** will help you save.

To learn more about the Co-op Connections Program and the discounts you can get, go to joemc.com and look for "Community Programs" under "The Cooperative" tab.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

May Your Holiday Season Be Merry and Bright



The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate. The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations, and lots of festivities. Right here in our community, we look forward to the various holiday parades, lighting of the tree ceremonies, and Christmas flotillas. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. Personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

Despite the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can also offer an opportunity to slow down and reflect. For all of us at JOEMC, we are grateful for you, the members of the co-op.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is "Concern for Community." While our primary focus is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive.

Reflection

Looking back at this past year, I'm grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in the community. Through partnerships with organizations like the United Way, Christmas Cheer, Onslow Women's Center, The Filling Station, and many more, we've been able to play an active role in supporting our community, our non-profits and their missions. Through our support of these organizations, we have also impacted the lives of many of our members.

We are also grateful for the continued opportunity to work with local schools. Whether raising awareness of the importance of electrical safety, visiting for career days, awarding college scholarships, or providing educational grants to our teachers through the Bright Ideas Program, the relationship we have with our educational community is one that we cherish. There's no better way to make a positive impact in the community than through our children and their future.

Looking Ahead

In 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective and that's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels, or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you—the members of the co-op—and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Jones-Onslow family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO



Creamy White Chili

Ingredients:

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into ½-inch cubes
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 ½ teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 cans (15 ½ oz each) great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14 ½ oz each) chicken broth
- 2 cans (4 oz each) chopped green chilies
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream

Directions:

In a large saucepan over medium heat, sauté chicken, onion and garlic powder in oil until chicken is no longer pink. Add beans, broth, chilies and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in sour cream and cream. Serve immediately.

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