

SPOTLIGHT

JONES-ON SLOW EMC—POWERING HOMES SINCE 1939



APRIL 2022

The Power Behind Your Power

North Carolina Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

Every year, the second Monday in April marks North Carolina Lineworker Appreciation Day, a celebration of their vital role in keeping the lights on for co-op members. On this day, JOEMC and electric cooperatives across our state recognize the skill, talent, and expertise of lineworkers and thank them for their many contributions to our daily lives.

Skill, talent, and expertise are not something that happen overnight. Our lineworkers undergo extensive training and follow numerous protocols to ensure safety as they work to maintain our lines and restore power, often in treacherous conditions. No matter the time of day or the weather conditions,

our lineworkers are dedicated to serving the members of Jones-Onslow EMC to ensure they all have reliable power. They take pride in their jobs and focus on performing the tasks accurately and safely.

In addition to serving their communities, they are also called to provide aid across the state and nation following major storms and other times of need. This commitment to "cooperation among cooperatives" is one of the core



#ThankALineworker

principles demonstrating the cooperative network's strength and character.

Please use the hashtag #ThankALineworker on April 11 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our lineworkers' many outstanding efforts.



Work Zones are a Sign to SLOW DOWN

FRIENDLY REMINDER: if you see first responders, utility crews, or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please **SLOW DOWN** or move over when possible.

Let's Connect

The connections we make with our members are at the root of what we do each day. In addition to our website joemc.com, here are some other ways to get energy efficiency tips, the latest news from your co-op, manage your energy use, and much more!



Flippin' the Switch is our monthly podcast where we talk to members of the community and feature *Watt's Happening* at the co-op.



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MEMBERSERVICES

Keep Savings Blooming with Rebates



We're helping you make spring home projects more affordable. Whether you plan to purchase Energy Star® appliances, HVAC equipment, or a heat pump water heater, our rebates can help energy savings flourish.

Purchasing appliances that have earned the Energy Star® certification may qualify you for a \$25 bill credit from JOEMC. Look under the Energy Center tab at joemc.com for qualifying appliances.

JOEMC members installing an Energy Star® rated electric central AC, air-to-air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump are eligible for a heating & cooling rebate from the cooperative. Replacing

old heating and cooling equipment with an Energy Star® qualified unit can cut annual energy bills by nearly \$200.

If your electric water heater has been around for more than a decade, it might be time for a replacement. When shopping around, take a look at the energy-saving heat pump water heater (HPWH). While they typically cost more than standard water heaters, they can be two to three times more energy-efficient than conventional electric resistance units.

For more details on all products and rebates, visit www.joemc.com/energy-center/products-rebates/.

SAFETYFIRST

Avoid Hitting Underground Utility Lines

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water, and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! JOEMC reminds all members planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before starting. Or you can submit a request online by visiting call811.com/811-In-Your-State.

Here's how the process works. After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected



utilities will send someone to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Remember to call and confirm that all utilities have responded to your request before breaking ground.

By taking this critical step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries, and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

ENERGYEFFICIENCY

Earth Day is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.



EARTH DAY

How are you going to celebrate?

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use.

Seal windows and doors. Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warmer months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans, and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

Maintain your HVAC system. Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters regularly makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.



While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions worthy of a press release or event, they do make a difference.

SAVE ENERGY = SAVE MONEY



Audit your light bulbs.

Swapping out any incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

Examine your smart or programmable thermostat.

This is one of the best tools at your fingertips; however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines. Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule.



As we celebrate Earth Day, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community - and our beautiful planet.



Grilled Lemon-Basil Pork Chops with Orzo

The next time you fire up your grill, try this flavorful recipe that provides 30 grams of protein.

Ingredients

- 4 bone-in ribeye (rib) pork chops, about ¾ inch thick
- 3 small lemons
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1½ tablespoons fresh basil, chopped
- 8 ounces orzo
- Salt & pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Zest and juice lemons. In a small bowl, combine lemon zest, lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, and basil. Set aside 3 tablespoons of mixture. Transfer remaining mixture to large resealable bag and add pork. Set aside for 30 minutes, turning occasionally.
2. Meanwhile, prepare orzo according to package directions. Drain and return orzo to pot. Stir in reserved lemon-basil mixture and salt and pepper to taste. Set aside to cool to room temperature.
3. Prepare a grill to medium-high heat and lightly oil grate. Remove pork from marinade and discard remaining marinade. Season pork with salt and pepper and grill until internal temperature reaches 145 degrees, about 4 minutes per side. Remove chops from grill and let rest 3 minutes.
4. Serve chops with orzo.

The Power Behind Your Power

You've likely noticed JOEMC's crews working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I wanted to recognize the outstanding individuals who serve their community in this role—a role that's ranked as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Their work can be heavy in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? They're also required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. If you fear heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

They often work non-traditional hours and outdoors under challenging conditions. And while the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training, and hands-on learning. Becoming a journeyman lineworker at JOEMC doesn't just happen overnight—our eight-year program takes thousands of hours of training and testing to complete. That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Your co-op lineworkers are committed to powering our communities despite

the many challenges. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly when severe weather strikes, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. Which impacts their time with family and friends. But lineworkers and their families know that their job is vital to our community.



Jones-Onslow EMC
CEO Jeffrey T. Clark

Our JOEMC lineworkers maintain over 2,400 miles of power lines across six counties. Today's line technicians are also information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. They use laptops, tablets, drones, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Lineworkers are essential to the quality of life in our communities. Without their exceptional dedication, we would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for their work. Also, join us as we recognize them on April 11 by sharing your appreciation on our social media channels or whenever you see a lineworker in your community! After all, they're the power behind your power. ❖

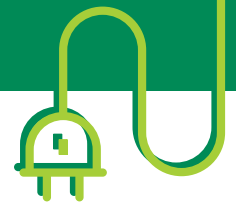
“Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.”

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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