

SPOTLIGHT

Jones-Onslow EMC — Powering Homes Since 1939

2022 OCTOBER



Oops! We made an error.

In the August 2022 edition of Spotlight, the address of the NEW Trenton remote Paysite kiosk was incorrect, and we apologize for our error. The correct location is **418 Hwy 58 N, Unit A, Trenton**; the same building where water bill payments are made.

It's Co-op Month!

October is here, which means it's National Co-op Month! Co-op Month is the perfect time to celebrate JOEMC's unique business model and tell you about the unique benefits cooperatives bring to our local communities.

You don't have to be an expert on the co-op business model or the electric industry to see JOEMC is a special place for many reasons. Check out this list, and you can see just a few:

- We're all about connecting with the community. JOEMC was founded to serve the local community when others wouldn't. We work hard to deliver reliable, affordable energy to our members.
- We're focused on providing essential services that can improve the quality of life for our members. In fact, over the last several years, we have launched Advanced Metering Technology, Daily Usage summaries

that you can see with a click of a button, and created new ways for our members to pay their electric bills with programs like FlexPay and PayGo.

- We're ready for the future. JOEMC strives to anticipate and plan for the future needs of our members and the communities we serve. We have invested in community solar, EV programs and doing the necessary updates to our infrastructure to serve you better.
- We're about member satisfaction and service to the community. Each year, a portion of our excess revenue is returned to our members as a benefit of being a member of Jones-Onslow EMC through our Capital Credit program.
- We're committed to education. Today's electric utility industry is complex, which makes it all the more critical to equip our staff and leaders

with the knowledge, skills, tools, and resources needed to help our co-op thrive.

- We're more than an energy provider. Because of our business model, we are a catalyst for good that spurs prosperity for our community. Last year, Jones-Onslow EMC donated funds to numerous charitable programs in our community, worked with educators by funding the Bright Ideas Grants, and provided scholarships to graduating seniors.

JOEMC doesn't participate in these activities simply because it's nice to do or even the right thing; we do it because we remain loyal to our members and neighbors. We strive to make life better in the communities we serve.

And that is how we celebrate Co-op Month every day!



joemc.com



joemc@joemc.com



(910) 353-1940



259 Western Blvd, Jacksonville
1225 Hwy 210, Sneads Ferry



JUMP INTO CONVENIENCE WITH AUTOMATIC DRAFT

Save time and postage with Jones-Onslow EMC's automatic bill payment plan. You can pay your electric bill without writing a check or making special arrangements when you're out of town.

Simply authorize JOEMC to debit your checking account for the amount of your monthly bill. You will continue to receive an itemized bill each month, and the bill amount will be withdrawn from your account on your bill's due date.

So go ahead and jump! To enroll, visit joemc.com, click Draft Payment Options, or call our office at 910-353-1940 to learn more.

Candy Corn Fruit Parfait

If you're looking for a candy-free treat, try this easy fruit cup. They are festive, fun and totally kid-friendly. Plus, they can be ready to serve in just 5 minutes!



INGREDIENTS

- 1 (20-oz.) Can of Pineapple Chunks or use fresh Banana Chunks
- 1 (15-oz.) Can of Mandarin Oranges
- Whipped Topping

DIRECTIONS

In clear cups (ideally cone shaped), layer pineapple or banana, then mandarin pieces, top with whipped cream.

Makes 4 servings.

Energy Saving TREATS

From haunted houses to spooky walks, Halloween can be a terrifying night. But your energy bill doesn't have to be so frightening. Even a few simple energy-use changes can add significant monthly savings to your bill. So while you're out celebrating with your friends, carving pumpkins on your porch, or loading up on candy from the generous souls in your neighborhood, practice these energy saving tricks, and you'll be sure to find an energy saving treat!

1 Get rid of vampires. It's only fitting this time of year to talk about the vampire energy that threatens your energy bill. Vampire energy is the electricity that leaks out of your appliances and electronics, even when turned off. Most electronics consume energy as long as they are plugged into the wall. You can't ward them off with garlic cloves, but the solution is simple enough; just unplug any unused devices, and you'll be well on your way to energy savings.

2 Scare off creepy creatures. Consider placing solar lighting outside your home; after all, the scariest creatures crave the dark. These lights will keep your path well-lit for trick-or-treaters, and seeing they use the sun's power instead of electricity, they won't increase your bill.

3 Keep your little goblins safe. If you're out trick-or-treating with your kids, keep them protected. Try giving your little ones shakable flashlights. These flashlights don't need batteries or even a charger. Instead, kids simply light their way by shaking them.

4 Stop wasting heat on ghosts. If you're out and about this Halloween, you may want to turn down the thermostat in your home a few degrees. There's no point in keeping it comfortable if no one is there to enjoy it. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends keeping your thermostat at 68 degrees in the colder seasons for optimal energy efficiency.



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Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are, unfortunately, nothing new. Cybercriminals can attack on many levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller phishing attacks aimed at gaining an individual's personal information.

Good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round and not just in October. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" – because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cybercriminals.

The truth is that we can take several practical steps to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication.

Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), significantly increasing the account's security. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email, or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cybercriminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.

2. Use strong passwords and a password manager.

Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique, and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. Update software.

It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cybercriminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgment and always think before you click.

4. Recognize and report phishing attacks.

Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings, poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests, or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail, and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails.

Cybercriminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we create a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.



Celebrating Membership

October is National Co-op Month



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say JOEMC celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, this co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for Community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Your co-op works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board

that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. Our employees and local board members are invested in the community in which they live and serve. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit.

Above all, as a co-op, we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help you increase energy

efficiency around the home and maximize your energy dollars.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you to take a moment and download our app, MyJOEMC. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

JOEMC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. That's what you can always expect from us because we're here to connect with you, helping you save energy, money, and time. After all, we're your local co-op and were built by the members we serve.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov

