



Thank You to Our Members

Thanksgiving and the holiday season are a time to reflect on the things that matter most as families and communities take time to come together and be grateful for what they have. Here at Jones-Onslow EMC, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve our members and for the ways you give back to our cooperative and our community.

Through your support, we can carry out our mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. We are also able to empower those around us by investing in programs that enrich education, promote economic development and improve the quality of life in the community. From awarding Bright Ideas education grants, to supporting local non-profits, we are committed to making a difference in the areas we serve.

With your partnership, we also continue to pursue innovative new technologies and energy solutions that build a brighter future for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and for all you do to help us carry out our mission of service to our community.



CHARGE ON! NC Youth Tour 2023

High school juniors, experience a week you'll never forget! Apply for a free trip to Washington, D.C., June 17–23, 2023, for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Your week in D.C. will allow you to:

- Meet with our state legislators and get a close-up look at our government in action.
- Visit the Capitol, Smithsonian museums, memorials, and historic sites like Arlington National Cemetery.
- Strengthen your leadership and networking skills.
- Connect with hundreds of other students from around the country, build your network, and make friends for life.
- Apply for several college scholarships.
- Build your resume; Youth Tour looks great on college applications.

Youth Tour delegates will be selected based on completing an application and a short essay.

For the latest details, follow us on social media, contact Paula Redick at predick@joemc.com, or visit joemc.com/community/youth programs.



DOWN & DANGEROUS

With unpredictable weather being a common theme in Eastern North Carolina, we want you to know that downed power lines are a hazard that comes along with that—typically from high winds. Member safety is important at all times; however, it is crucial when there is a downed power line.

Here are a few safety tips to protect yourself and those around you should you see a downed power line.

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. The ground around power lines up to 35 feet may be energized.
- Looking at it, you cannot tell whether a power line is energized; assume all downed lines are live.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it, even by using an object such as a broom. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- Be aware of downed lines that may be covered up by debris or downed trees.
- If you find a downed power line, call **911** and Jones-Onslow EMC at **910-353-1940**.



The ground around downed power lines up to 35 feet may be energized.

For more information about electrical safety, visit joemc.com.

Take the surprise out of your bill with budget billing.

Extreme weather can cause your heating system to work overtime during the winter. This can increase your bill when you aren't expecting it. But with our Budget Billing option, you won't need to worry.

Budget Billing allows you to spread your costs out equally throughout the year. You pay the same amount each month for 11 months, and the account is "evened up" on the 12th month, with a

final payment billed or a credit applied. And this service comes with NO FEES and NO CHARGES.

With Budget Billing, you'll be saying "NO" to surprises and "YES" to stress-free budgeting and peace of mind.

Find out more about billing and payment options at joemc.com by clicking on the Customer Service tab.



Avoid high bills. Check your ductwork.



When was the last time you ventured into your home's crawl space or attic to inspect your HVAC system's ductwork?

If it has been a while, then now would be a good time to

slip on some old clothes and have a peek at the condition of the ductwork in these seldom-seen areas. Ductwork should be inspected twice a year, once before you turn on your cooling system in the summer and once before you begin using your heating system in the winter.

Ducts often fall or become detached due to improper installation techniques. Mastic sealant, a flexible yet durable protective sealant, is the only thing that should be used to

seal ducts to register boots and other connections. HVAC or duct tape should NOT be used. Over a period of time, these tapes will lose their adhesive properties allowing ductwork to fall, releasing the heated or air-conditioned air that you paid for, under your home or into the attic. So, please take a few minutes to survey your ductwork before it costs you high energy bills this winter.



5-INGREDIENT POTATO SOUP

- 4 slices bacon, halved
- 6 medium scallions, thinly sliced, white and green parts separated
- 2 lbs. frozen hash browns or peeled and cubed Russet potatoes
- 3 cups of half-and-half or whole milk
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

1. Place the bacon in a large soup pot and cook on medium heat until browned and crisp, about 8 minutes. Transfer the bacon to paper towels to drain.
2. Add the white parts of the scallions to the pot. Sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the potatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Add the half-and-half or milk and salt and bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the potatoes are soft, about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, crumble the bacon.
3. At this point, mash with a potato masher or purée with an immersion blender into your desired consistency. Taste. Season with salt and pepper as needed. Spoon into bowls and top with cheese, scallion greens, and bacon.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26

We support our local communities when we support local businesses! Show your Co-op Connections card or use the mobile app and SAVE money when shopping locally at participating Co-op Connections businesses.

To learn more, go to joemc.com, click the YOUR COOPERATIVE tab and then MEMBER ENGAGEMENT.

So Many Reasons to be Thankful

As we quickly approach the holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you, the member-owners of our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to JOEMC, together, we are able to make our community a better and brighter place.

I generally use this column to provide updates on new projects and developments or update you on current events in the energy industry so all of our member-owners are “in the know” on cooperative initiatives. However, during this season of giving thanks, I think it’s equally important to let you know what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community—likely in ways you may not even realize.

As a part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “concern for community.” While our priority is maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we also view the co-op as a catalyst for good in our communities. We continually partner with the various non-profit organizations in the area whose missions are similar to ours—to make our community a better place to live. We are purposeful in partnering with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships, and, through our Bright Ideas Grant Program, recognize local teachers with grants to help them

foster a creative learning environment for students. We also provide scholarships to deserving students to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and local university basketball camps.



...you help us improve operations and better serve the larger co-op membership.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower the co-op through your membership and your participation in and support of these programs. When you attend co-op events and provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

and better serve the larger co-op membership.

We are also thankful for our co-op board members. Each individual dedicates a significant amount of time to attend meetings and training sessions and stay abreast of current industry trends. This investment of time results in better-informed member advisors that serve the best interests of the members they represent.

On a more personal note, we also appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and employees receive when working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Your words of encouragement, support, and patience are greatly appreciated when we are working long hours during challenging situations to restore power.

Thank you for all you do to make our cooperative and community a better place to live. We can’t do it without you, and for that, we’re thankful for your membership. Together, let’s continue making our community a better place to live.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

