




A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# SPOT LIGHT

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JOEMC Member Newsletter
July 2020



## Connect to Save... A Smart & Easy Way to Help Keep Energy Costs Low

Just like roads at rush hour, the electric grid experiences moments of high traffic, or demand. Electricity is most expensive when demand for it is greatest. With this in mind, JOEMC, in conjunction with our statewide association, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, is launching a new program called Connect to Save as a way to work together to lessen electric demand during high traffic times.

Connect to Save makes access to name-brand smart thermostats affordable. Market leading brands, including ecobee and Google Nest, can be purchased for as little as \$25 – a discount of \$144. We'll install the thermostat for free, and you will receive a \$50 incentive for each year you participate in the program.

Upon enrollment, JOEMC will minimally adjust your thermostat during high-traffic periods. This small action multiplied across hundreds, or even thousands of homes will create substantial savings on wholesale power costs. Because we are an at-cost electricity provider, savings on wholesale power flow directly to you and our entire cooperative membership.

You can further help by including your electric water heater in Connect to Save. Taking this step will turn your water heater into a smart device, allowing you to monitor and manage its energy use. Your water heater is often the second largest household user of



electricity, after heating and cooling. By adding your water heater to the program, you'll get an additional \$50 after successful installation.

By joining your friends and neighbors, we can collectively improve smart

energy use, which helps to keep costs low and benefits everyone. Contact our Connect to Save program today! We'll help you coordinate the purchase of your new smart thermostat and schedule an appointment for free installation. Visit [connecttosavenc.com](http://connecttosavenc.com) to learn more about the program and enroll, or call 844-577-SAVE (844-577-7283) to talk to a Connect to Save team member. ♦



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started! Visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) for more energy efficiency tips.



## Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

Every year, the cooperative funds scholarships for twenty-eight outstanding students in our communities. Twenty-four were graduating high school seniors, and four were community college students.

Students that attended high school in Onslow County were selected in conjunction with the school system and its Sponsors For Academic Talent (S.A.T.) Program and other recipients were chosen by the individual school's staff. Students received their scholarships in May.

The \$1,000 scholarships will assist the youth as they continue with their academic endeavors.

Jones-Onslow EMC is proud of these and all the students in our area schools and communities. Congratulations to all of you! ♦

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## Topsail Island Featured in June's "Our State"

This 26-mile barrier island has long been one of our community's great treasures, but it is not going unnoticed much longer.



Our State magazine featured Topsail Island

and the surrounding communities in the magazine's June Coastal Issue. Featured in the magazine are many favorites, including Batson's Gallery (Surf City), Beach Shop & Grill (Topsail Beach), Breezeway Restaurant (Topsail Beach), the Topsail Beach Skating Rink, and the Surf City Ocean Pier and Soundside Park.

These businesses were not the only places featured. The magazine dove into showcasing several historical landmarks. To include the concrete towers that stand out from the vacation houses that dot the dunes (Operation Bumblebee, a top-secret testing program conducted by the Navy after World War II); as well as the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. ♦



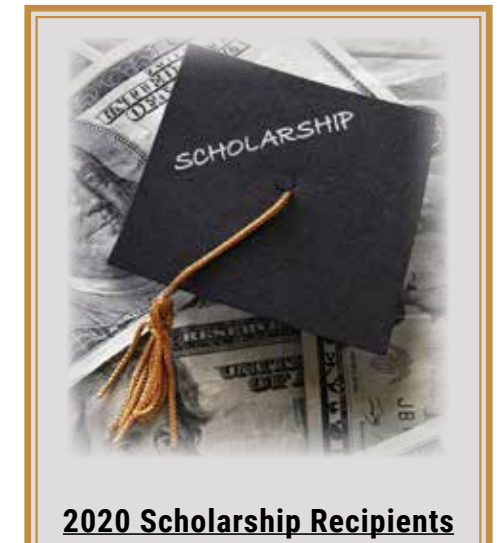
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### Statement of Nondiscrimination

Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity employer and strives to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, rules and orders regarding equal employment opportunities. In particular, the Corporation strives to comply with all applicable provisions of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American

with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all amendments to these Acts. Furthermore, the Corporation is committed to helping ensure that no individual is discriminated against by the Corporation because of the individual's race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

Andrea Avery, the Corporation's Vice President of Human Resources, is responsible for coordinating the Corporation's nondiscrimination efforts.



### 2020 Scholarship Recipients

- DIXON: Lauren Smith  
Derek Prillaman
- EAST DUPLIN: Mary Katherine Raynor  
Isiah Sumner
- JACKSONVILLE: Elizabeth Shannon  
Carter Askins
- JONES SENIOR: Dymond Foye  
Jazmine Ellis
- LEJEUNE: Sophia Harding  
Abigail Paquin
- NORTHSIDE: J'sha Gift  
Dante Jones
- RICHLANDS: Madison Thomas  
Austin Carpenter
- SOUTH LENOIR: Ian Patrick Ireland  
Matthew Camden Turner
- SOUTHWEST: Kamri Aughterton  
Joseph Petrongelli
- SWANSBORO: Emmi Yates  
Bronson Hall
- TOPSAIL: Clyde Cohen  
Nicholas Gallek
- WHITE OAK: Monique Morales  
Raul Agosto
- CCCC: Kenesha Smith  
Elora Molik
- LCC: Uziel Guadarrama  
Jessica Stillely

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## We Want to Help YOU Take Control of Energy Use

During the COVID-19 crisis, many members have been working from home, while others are unemployed due to the pandemic. These extra days at home can cause higher than normal energy bills. Now with warmer weather approaching and air conditioners working overtime, the impact might result in even higher bills.

We're here to help you take control of your energy use. JOEMC is now providing members with the most advanced technology available—a *personal video bill explanation*—to help manage energy use.

If you are already using our online bill pay and we have an active email address, you will automatically receive a *personal video bill explanation*.

You will only receive this video when your bill has increased or decreased by \$30 or more from your previous bill. The video will help you learn where your energy dollars are going and give you suggestions about how you can save.

If you have not signed up for online bill pay and want to receive your *personal video bill explanation*, visit [billing.joemc.com](http://billing.joemc.com) to get registered. You will start receiving



your energy analysis video in the coming weeks.

Want to learn more about energy efficiency? Visit [joemc.com/energy-center](http://joemc.com/energy-center), for additional energy resources including:

- Home energy audit tools
- Specialized appliance calculators
- Video library of energy efficiency tips
- Information about programs and rebates

And, remember, if you are worried about paying your energy bill, give us a call at (910) 353-1940. We can help you work out a payment plan or find other ways to navigate these unprecedented times. ♦

## KEEPING YOU SAFE

### Critters, Vegetation, and Power “Blinks”

If your power goes out or “blinks” on a calm, storm-free day, you probably wonder why.

In spring and early summer, critters, especially squirrels and snakes, are busy nesting and feeding and they often find their way to power poles and other equipment that is a part of Jones-Onslow's electrical distribution system. Additionally, despite an aggressive tree trimming program, new tree growth and vines can find their way onto power lines and other equipment.

Blinks occur when an obstruction comes into contact with a power line or transformer. To minimize the possibility of damage to the electrical distribution system or your home, a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of electricity for a fraction of a second. If the obstruction

remains on the line, the breaker opens and then tries to re-close and restore power. If the obstruction is still on the line after the third try, the breaker opens and does not re-close automatically. At this point, a Jones-Onslow employee must be dispatched to remove the obstruction and manually reset the breaker.

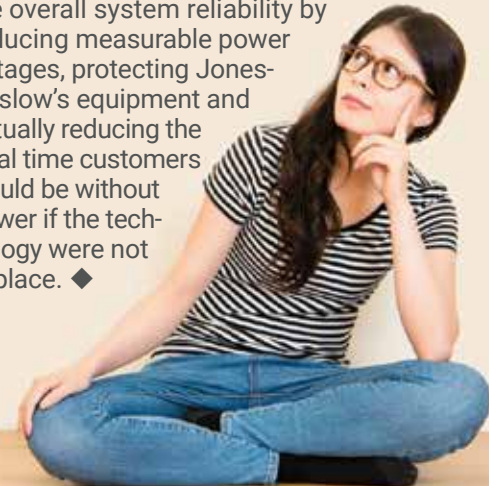
“Power blinks have always been a part of electric service — they just weren't as noticeable until sensitive electronics began filling our homes,” says Chief Utility Engineer Tommy Pritchard. “While they might be annoying, without this feature designed into the system, every brief interruption would result in an outage lasting possibly an hour or longer.”

Pritchard suggest installing a battery backup (Uninterruptible Power Supply or UPS) for cable boxes, computers and any other electronics that take a long time to reboot after a sudden shutdown.

Many of the cooperative's poles have “squirrel guard” technology but these

cunning creatures often find ways to get around the guards. The guards are designed not only to prevent outages but to spare a squirrel's life too. Squirrels are not electrocuted when they run across power lines but when their bodies make contact with more than one wire or a transformer they become a path for electricity. The same holds true for snakes, which sometimes find their way into equipment.

Ultimately, power blinks improve the overall system reliability by reducing measurable power outages, protecting Jones-Onslow's equipment and actually reducing the total time customers would be without power if the technology were not in place. ♦



# KEEPING YOU INFORMED

## Investing in a Brighter Future

The past few months have underscored how important it is for people and communities to have a strong network of support and access to resources that will help build a brighter future for all. As a local business, we are here to support you – our members – and the community we all share.



While we've strived to give back in additional ways throughout this period of unprecedented need, our ongoing investments in the local community are the foundation of the brighter future, we envision. From education grants and workforce development initiatives, to innovative energy solutions and new technologies, everything we do is aimed at strengthening our community.

Chief among JOEMC's contributions are economic development activities. These lead to new opportunities for our members, pave the way for the success of local businesses, and give our communities the resources they need to grow and thrive.

By working with local city and county officials to provide zero-interest loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, Jones-Onslow is helping create and retain jobs, promote economic development and enhance community facilities and public services like police protection and fire and rescue. We are also working to make our service area attractive to businesses seeking to locate here or expand their operations.

Because we're owned by and based in this community we know firsthand what our community has to offer, and we're actively involved in helping other people and businesses recognize the tremendous potential of this area. We're committed to making meaningful investments that will support economic vitality and the long-term success of our members.

To learn more about our economic development activities and the ways we're investing in a brighter future, visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com).

Jeffery T. Clark | CEO

Mr. Clark was recently named president of the board of directors for the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC). He was elected to his one-year NCAEC term after serving as the board's vice president for the past year. NCAEC is a statewide association that works to promote training, safety, education, and legislative advocacy on behalf of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and their members.



## Blueberry Heaven

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 stick melted butter
- 1 cup chopped pecans (plus extra to sprinkle on top if desired)
- 1 container (8-ounce) cream cheese
- 2 containers (8-ounce) Cool Whip
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 can (20-ounce) blueberry pie filling
- 1 can (20-ounce) pineapple pie filling

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. First layer: Sift flour into melted butter, then mix in pecans. Press mixture into the bottom of a 13-x-9-inch pan. Bake until lightly browned (about 20 minutes). Set aside to cool completely.
3. Second layer: Combine cream cheese, one container of Cool Whip and the powdered sugar. Whip until smooth, then spread over the first layer.
4. Third layer: Spread blueberry pie filling on second layer.
5. Fourth layer: Spread pineapple pie filling on top of the blueberry filling, then top with another container of Cool Whip and sprinkle with chopped pecans. Chill, or even freeze, for a summertime treat.

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