



## Shining Bright: Celebrating Community and Gratitude

As the crisp air signals the approach of Thanksgiving, we pause to express our deep gratitude to the members of Jones-Onslow EMC. In this November edition of the Spotlight, we thank you for your pivotal role in powering and enriching our community.

### POWERING GRATITUDE

Our mission lies in providing safe, reliable, and affordable power. We thank our members for entrusting us with this responsibility, illuminating homes and businesses, and creating a connected community powered by your trust.

### EMPOWERING THROUGH IMPACTFUL INVESTMENTS

Beyond electricity, your support enables us to invest in programs that make a meaningful difference. From Bright Ideas education grants to supporting local non-profits, we enhance education, drive economic development, and improve the overall quality of life.

### INNOVATION FOR TOMORROW

Collaboratively, we stride into the future, exploring innovative technologies and sustainable energy solutions. Our journey toward a brighter future is not just about providing power but pioneering initiatives that benefit our entire community.

### A GRATEFUL TAPESTRY

As we approach Thanksgiving, we express gratitude for the opportunity to serve you. Your engagement and partnership fuel our continual evolution. Jones-Onslow EMC is more than a utility provider; we're a community partner woven into the fabric of your lives, creating positive transformations.

### A SHARED MISSION

In closing, we recognize the strength of our community and the shared mission we embrace. Jones-Onslow EMC isn't just a power provider; we're a collective force working together to create a

brighter, more sustainable future. Thank you for your continued support.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may your homes be filled with warmth, gratitude, and the joy of shared connections.

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### Keep Your Family Warm and Safe During the Winter Months

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months. Here are five easy ways to stay warm and safe:

- 1 Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries (*continued on page 2*)

# TECHNOLOGY

## Powering Progress with the Connect to Save Marketplace

### Technology

Connect to Save

### Purpose

The Connect to Save program is all about helping you save energy and money. It's like a one-stop shop for easy access to products and services that make your home more energy-efficient. From simple tips to the latest eco-friendly gadgets, Connect to Save is here to connect you with smart choices that are good for your wallet and the environment. Let's power progress together through JOEMC's Connect to Save Marketplace!

### Benefits

One standout benefit of the JOEMC Connect to Save program is the opportunity to receive a free or discounted thermostat. These smart devices are crucial in optimizing your home's energy usage. By allowing you to control your heating and cooling systems more efficiently, a smart thermostat helps reduce energy waste and, consequently, lowers utility bills. With features like programmable schedules and remote access, you gain greater control over your



home's climate, ensuring comfort when needed and conservation when not. So, by availing yourself of a free or discounted thermostat through Connect to Save, you're not just getting a convenient gadget—you're taking a tangible step towards energy savings and an eco-friendlier lifestyle.

### Solution

Connect to Save by JOEMC is your all-in-one solution to energy efficiency. With just one click, members can easily purchase a thermostat, taking a significant step towards lower energy bills and a greener lifestyle. What sets this program apart is the added convenience of free installation by experienced technicians, ensuring that you get the suitable device for optimal energy control and have it seamlessly integrated into your home. It's a hassle-free way to impact your energy consumption positively and contribute to a more sustainable future—all with the ease of a single click.

### Five Easy Ways (cont.)

annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

**2 Inspect electrical cords.** We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

**3 Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

**4 Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.** There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once

a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

**5 Practice safety in the kitchen.** As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Jones-Onslow EMC wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) for additional safety tips.

# Predictable Payments, Happy Wallet: Navigating Budget Billing



Unpredictable weather patterns, especially in winter, can lead to your heating system working overtime, resulting in unexpectedly high utility bills. Say goodbye to bill shock by opting for our Budget Billing program, a solution designed to offer you financial predictability and peace of mind.

## HOW IT WORKS:

Budget Billing allows you to spread your energy costs evenly throughout the year. Instead of facing fluctuating bills, you pay a fixed amount each month for 11 months. The 12<sup>th</sup> month then "evens up" your account, with a final payment billed or a credit applied, ensuring you only pay for what you consume. The best part? There are NO FEES or CHARGES associated with this service.

## KEY BENEFITS:

- **Financial Predictability:** Eliminate the uncertainty of seasonal fluctuations in energy usage. Budget Billing allows you to plan your finances more effectively, providing a stable monthly payment consistent throughout the year.
- **No Surprises:** Bid farewell to unexpected spikes in your energy bills. Budget Billing lets you know what to expect each month, making it easier to manage your budget without any unforeseen financial burdens.
- **Stress-Free Budgeting:** Take control of your budget without worrying about the impact of extreme weather conditions on your utility bills. Budget Billing empowers you

to enjoy stress-free budgeting, giving you the confidence that your energy costs are spread out evenly.

- **Transparent 12<sup>th</sup> Month:** The 12<sup>th</sup> month acts as a reconciliation period. Whether you have a final payment or a credit, it ensures a transparent process, reflecting the energy consumption over the year.

## HOW TO GET STARTED:

Ready to make the switch to Budget Billing? Learn more about this service and enroll by visiting [joemc.com](http://joemc.com). Navigate to the **Customer Service/Billing & Payment Options** section for detailed information on how to sign up and make your energy costs more predictable.



## PEPPERONI PIZZA SLIDERS

*This easy yet flavorful recipe is a fun twist on a classic that kids will love.*

*Courtesy of: carolinacountry.com  
Serves: 6*

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package slider rolls
- ½ cup pizza sauce
- ½ cup mini pepperonis
- 1½ cups shredded, low-moisture, part-skim mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- Nonstick cooking spray

### DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Keeping rolls connected, cut sheet of rolls horizontally, separating tops from bottoms. Place bottom halves of rolls in baking dish.
3. Spread pizza sauce evenly over bottom halves. Sprinkle pepperoni over sauce. Sprinkle mozzarella over pepperoni and cover with top halves of rolls.
4. Mix melted butter with parsley flakes, dried oregano, garlic powder and shredded Parmesan cheese. Spoon evenly over sliders. Bake approximately 15 minutes.

# EMPOWER

We're ready to empower rising seniors in our community and send them on a trip of a lifetime:  
**Electric Cooperative Youth Tour 2024!**

Stay tuned to [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) and our social media channels for more information on the trip and how to apply starting in December!

#EmpowerYT24

**ARE YOU READY?**

**FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

# Giving Thanks for Electric Co-ops

As I reflect on the many reasons for gratitude in my life this Thanksgiving, I want to share why I am thankful for electric cooperatives.

First, I am thankful my family and I are fortunate enough to return to JOEMC and the community as I transition into serving the cooperative members as the new CEO. I am grateful because JOEMC provides the community with safe, reliable, affordable electricity. Electricity is a vital part of our modern lives, providing heating and cooling, lighting, convenience in cooking, instantaneous communications, means of transportation, and more.

I'm grateful to be part of an organization that endeavors to make a difference in people's lives because it is the right thing to do. JOEMC empowers our consumer-members to improve the quality of their lives. We have served residents of our six-county service area since before investor-owned utilities would even consider stringing immense quantities of line over many miles to provide electricity to a few spread-out connections.

I'm proud that Jones-Onslow, a not-for-profit organization, makes it routine to return capital credits to our members. Capital credits are any margins returned to you, the consumer-members, after all operating expenses are paid, investments

are made, and the board votes to issue retirements.

I'm glad that JOEMC is part of a network of electric cooperatives in North Carolina and across the United States that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. Here at home, we employ citizens of the community, providing careers with good wages and meaning. I'm grateful for a job with co-workers focused on providing excellent service to members. That service includes providing energy conservation tips so your electricity stays affordable and safety tips so you and your family can stay safe around electricity. After all, we are serving our friends, family, and neighbors.

I'm thankful because we support the community, and we care. From sponsoring high school students to visit our nation's capital as part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour, to providing grants to K-12 educators to fund projects that might otherwise go unfunded through our Bright Ideas Program, to being active participants and partners in local non-profit and community events, we care about the people and the communities we serve.

It gives me a sense of purpose to know that



Gary W. Ray, CEO

electric cooperatives are broadening their use of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, and that we contribute to cleaner air.

I'm grateful we are not alone in this business. Across the nation, the 832 distribution electric cooperatives power 56% of the landmass and own 42%—or 2.6 million miles—of electrical distribution lines. We serve over 42 million people and over 20 million businesses, homes, schools, and farms in 48 states. We join forces through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and North Carolina Electric Cooperatives for political strength, buying power, mutual aid, and other shared resources.

Most of all, I'm thankful for each co-op member who makes the continuation of Jones-Onslow EMC possible—this vital business and community supporter. Again, I am honored to return to the area and serve as the new CEO of your co-op.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here. May the 2023 holiday season be full of family, friends, and happiness.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Happy  
**THANKSGIVING**  
OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED NOV. 23-24

