



Dream to Play Ball?

Do you know a rising sixth or seventh-grader with dreams of honing their basketball skills on a college campus? We're delighted to share exciting news about JOEMC's ongoing partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and NC State University. It offers a *(continued on page 2)*

Wise Choices, Wise Savings

In the pursuit of sustainability and cost savings, managing energy consumption is crucial for homeowners. A powerful tool in this endeavor is the Home Energy Calculator, especially when paired with the resources available in the EnergyWise section of joemc.com. This combination empowers homeowners to make informed decisions about their energy usage, identifying opportunities for significant savings.

The Role of Home Energy Calculators

Home Energy Calculators are invaluable tools for analyzing energy consumption patterns and suggesting practical solutions. These calculators provide personalized insights based on specific household data, allowing homeowners to pinpoint areas of inefficiency.

JOEMC's EnergyWise Section: A Resource Hub

JOEMC's commitment to energy efficiency is evident in the EnergyWise section of its website, offering a wealth of resources, tips, and guidance. The Home Energy Calculator, a highlight of this section, provides members with personalized reports, enabling them to identify energy hogs and

make informed decisions about reducing energy consumption.

Identifying Energy Hogs

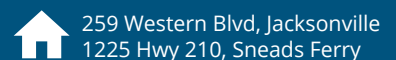
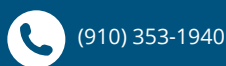
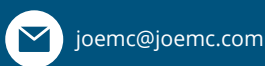
The Home Energy Calculator breaks down energy usage by category, helping homeowners identify appliances or systems consuming excessive energy. Armed with this knowledge, individuals can make informed decisions about upgrading appliances, adjusting usage patterns, or investing in energy-efficient technologies.

Taking Action for Savings

The synergy between Home Energy Calculators and JOEMC's EnergyWise resources empowers homeowners to take meaningful actions. Simple

measures like sealing drafts, upgrading insulation, and investing in energy-efficient appliances, guided by the EnergyWise section, lead to immediate and long-term savings.

Harnessing the power of Home Energy Calculators in collaboration with JOEMC's EnergyWise resources transforms energy management in homes. By understanding energy consumption and implementing targeted changes, homeowners contribute to a sustainable future while enjoying substantial monthly savings. Explore the Home Energy Calculator and delve into JOEMC's EnergyWise section to create a more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally conscious home.



CHILL OUT SAFELY

Winter weather brings its own set of challenges, and it's crucial to prioritize safety at home. Embrace the season with confidence by considering these essential tips, ensuring a secure and comfortable environment for you and your loved ones throughout the colder months.

1. SAFE SPACE HEATER USAGE:

- Place space heaters on solid surfaces, ensuring they are at least three feet away from flammable items.
- Always turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.

2. FIREPLACE SAFETY:

- Only leave a fireplace unattended if the embers are fully extinguished.
- Use a fire screen to catch rolling logs or sparks.

3. CAUTION WITH GENERATORS:

- Operate generators only in open and ventilated areas, never inside a home, including basements or garages, to avoid the risk of carbon monoxide fumes.
- Only connect generators directly to household wiring with a qualified electrician installing a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding, which poses a severe threat to line workers.



Enjoy the beauty of the season while ensuring a secure and warm environment for you and your family.

4. OUTDOOR COOKING SAFETY:

- If using Sterno or charcoal to cook food, do so outside in a well-ventilated area.
- Cooking indoors with Sterno or charcoal can produce deadly carbon-monoxide fumes, which are colorless and odorless.

5. POWER LINE AWARENESS:

- Stay away from downed or sagging power lines.
- Do not attempt to remove tree limbs from lines.
- Never drive or walk over power lines; always assume they are electrified and dangerous.
- Immediately alert your electric cooperative of any damaged lines.

Winter can be beautiful but also challenging. Following these safety tips can help ensure a secure and warm winter for you and your family. Remember, safety comes first!

Dream to Play Ball? (cont.)

fantastic opportunity for two deserving students in our service area to turn their basketball aspirations into reality.

Thanks to the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program, JOEMC is proud to extend a scholarship to one middle school boy to attend the Carolina Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill from June 22-26. Additionally, a middle school girl will be awarded a scholarship to participate in the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in Raleigh from June 16-19.

These scholarships cover all expenses associated with the overnight camps, providing participants an exclusive glimpse into college life. Campers

can stay in college dorms, acquire fundamental basketball skills, and benefit from individual and group instruction provided by Division 1 coaches. The experience is designed to enhance their basketball prowess and foster team-building abilities.

Interested students are encouraged to contact their middle school for



application details to apply for these incredible opportunities or download a TSE Sports Camp application directly from joemc.com. Navigate to the "Youth Programs" section under the "Community" tab. Students must complete and submit the online application by the deadline of March 31 to be considered for these scholarships. Take advantage of this chance to make basketball dreams come true!

Additional questions? Contact Krystal Phillips, Jones-Onslow's Communications and Community Relations Manager, at (910) 353-1940 or kphillips@joemc.com.

Your Time, Your Choice.



Simplifying Your Monthly Billing with Us

In today's fast-paced world, we get that your time is valuable. At Jones-Onslow EMC, we're committed to making your interactions with us easy and enjoyable, especially when handling your monthly bills.

Our monthly statements are carefully compiled and cover about 30 days of your electric usage. They're designed to keep you fully informed about your

account. Once your statement is ready, make sure to pay it when you get it. We've made it super easy for you.

Recognizing that everyone has different ways of doing things, we offer various ways for you to pay your bills. Whether you like doing things online, setting up automatic payments, or dropping a check in the mail, we've got you covered.

Here are some simple ways to pay:

- **Online:** Pay anytime using e-checks, credit, or debit cards.
- **Bank Draft:** Set up automatic payments from your checking or savings account on the same date each month.
- **Automatic Draft:** Schedule your payment on or before the due date with a debit, credit card, or e-check.
- **Mail:** Send your payment straight to our payment processing center at PO Box 63022, Charlotte, NC 28263-3022.
- **Phone:** Call us at 910-353-1940, select option 2, and follow the instructions to pay with e-check, debit, or credit card.
- **Drive-Thru:** If you're around, you can visit one of our offices at 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, or 1225 State Hwy 210, Sneads Ferry. We've got night deposit boxes there, too.
- **Mobile App:** You can pay on the go by downloading the JOEMC mobile app.
- **Pay Where You Shop:** If you like paying with cash, you can pay your bill at Speedway, Dollar General, and Walmart stores. Check our website for a full list of stores and how to use PayGo.
- **Kiosks:** We have six PaySite kiosks in different places. You can find them in Swansboro, Jacksonville, Sneads Ferry, and Trenton. See our website for the addresses.

For more details on these payment options, visit joemc.com or call us at 910-353-1940. We're here to help ensure your experience with us is as smooth as possible.



LAYERED ENCHILADA BAKE

Servings: 8
Source: www.carolinacountry.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cups Taco Bell Home Originals Thick'N Chunky Salsa
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained, rinsed
- ¼ cup Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing
- 2 tablespoons Taco Bell Home Originals Taco Seasoning Mix
- 6 flour tortillas (8-inch)
- 1 cup Breakstone's or Knudsen Sour Cream
- 1 package (8 ounces) Kraft Mexican Style Finely Shredded Four Cheese

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Brown meat with onions in large skillet on medium-high heat; drain. Stir in salsa, beans, dressing and seasoning mix.
3. Arrange 3 tortillas on bottom of 13-by-9-inch baking dish; cover with layers of half each meat mixture, sour cream and cheese. Repeat layers. Cover with foil.
4. Bake 40 minutes or until casserole is heated through and cheese is melted, removing foil after 30 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting to serve.

A Good Kind of Audit

Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why JOEMC offers free home energy audits.

An energy audit provides a view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas, and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. You could say this is a good kind of audit.

Wondering about the process? First, request the energy audit by filling out the form on our website, joemc.com/request-an-energy-audit-form, or simply give us a call at the office. A qualified energy advisor will then perform the audit at your residence.

Our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use, such as doors, windows,

and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances, including your water heater and heating and cooling system, and, if requested, will conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

“These two free energy audits are just some of the many perks of your co-op membership...”

Finally, the advisor will provide you with an evaluation of your home's energy use, recommendations regarding energy consumption, and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money. One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and, more importantly,

identifying ways to use it more efficiently.

If you don't have time for an in-home energy audit, you can also try a quick and easy do-it-yourself audit by doing an online audit on our website. If you have a few minutes and at least ten months of billing history, go to joemc.com/energywise/online-energy-audit and simply answer a few questions about your home. This home profile is saved, and an analysis is done, breaking down your energy use using your bills. The tool provides bill-specific ways to help you save.

These two free energy audits are just some of the many perks of your co-op membership, so we hope you'll take advantage of these valuable services. If you're looking for more ways to save, check out our additional efficiency offerings, such as online appliance calculators, free or discounted smart thermostats, and EV charging and HVAC rebates. These programs and services are designed with JOEMC members in mind, putting the power to save in your hands.



Gary W. Ray, CEO



Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface-flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



Annual Meeting of Members

March 22, 2024
River of Life Church
2460 Gum Branch Road

Bring the family out for an evening of fun, food, door prizes and entertainment! See more details in next month's newsletter and on social media.

