



## The Heart of Our Grid: Paying Tribute to Lineworkers this Month

It's Lineworker Appreciation Month, a time of reflection and gratitude for those who diligently serve our community. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly, often in challenging conditions, to ensure that our homes stay powered and our lives remain uninterrupted.

As we honor this special month, we'd like to offer a glimpse into the world of linework and the individuals who comprise our team.

### The Challenges Lineworkers Face

Linework is inherently risky, and the constant presence of high-voltage electricity poses a significant danger. Each day, these heroes navigate unpredictable weather

conditions and hazardous environments to maintain the integrity of our power grid. Despite the risks, they remain steadfast in their commitment to safety and service.

### The Training and Expertise

Becoming a lineworker is not just a job; it's a journey that requires years of training and experience. From apprenticeships to ongoing education, they continually sharpen their skills to meet the demands of their profession. Their dedication to learning ensures that JOEMC is equipped to handle any situation that arises.

### The Physical Demands

The physical demands of linework are undeniable. Whether hoisting equipment,

climbing poles, or traversing rugged terrain, their work requires strength, agility, and resilience. While the physical toll can be challenging, they take pride in knowing that their efforts keep our community-powered and connected.

### The Sacrifices They Make

As lineworkers, they often sacrifice time with their families and the comforts of a predictable schedule. Emergencies can arise anytime, requiring them to respond swiftly and decisively. Despite the personal sacrifices, they're driven by a sense of duty and service to their community.

### The Pride in Our Work

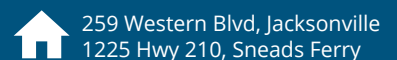
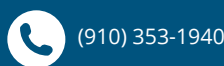
Despite the challenges they face, lineworkers feel a profound sense of

pride. They work alongside dedicated professionals who share their commitment to service, forming a bond that transcends the job itself. Whether restoring power after a storm or witnessing a community member's gratitude, the rewards of their work are immeasurable.

As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Month, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the lineworkers who keep our community-powered and connected. Their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice deserve recognition.

Thank you, lineworkers, for all that you do.

**#ThankALineworker**



# Streamlined Bill Payment Options with JOEMC

## Convenience. Flexibility. Simplicity.



Paying your bill with Jones-Onslow EMC is easier than ever, thanks to our convenient online platform. With just a few clicks, you can securely manage your account, view your bill, and make payments from the comfort of your home or office. No more worrying about mailing checks or waiting in line—our website puts the power in your hands.

But if online isn't your preferred way to do business with JOEMC, don't worry—we've got plenty of other options, too. You can pay your bill in person by using one of our drive-thru options located at our Jacksonville or Sneads Ferry Offices or through our automated phone system. You can also pay in your neighborhood at one of our PaySite Kiosk or at one of our Pay Where You Shop locations. You can find more information about these payment options under the Member Services tab at joemc.com.

If you are still looking for another convenient option, check out our budget billing program to help you manage your expenses by spreading your payments evenly throughout the year.

And if you're on the go, our reassuring mobile app lets you pay your bill anytime, anywhere. It's quick, easy, and secure, so you can stay on top of your finances no matter where life takes you. With Jones-Onslow EMC, paying your bill has never been simpler.

## Don't Dig Up Trouble: Call 811 First!

Before embarking on any outdoor project involving digging, it's crucial to consider the potential risks and take the necessary precautions.

Whether planting a garden, installing a fence, or simply landscaping your yard, digging can pose significant dangers if utility lines are inadvertently struck.

By contacting 811, homeowners and contractors can request a utility locate, ensuring that underground lines such as gas, electric, water, and telecommunications are identified and marked before digging. This simple step helps prevent service disruptions and costly repairs and safeguards against potential injuries or even fatalities. Think bigger before you dig, and always call 811 first.





# It's Earth Day!



## Harnessing Home Energy Savings

As we gear up to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, let's come together as a community for a cause that hits close to home. This annual event isn't just a global affair; it's a chance for us to unite and make a tangible difference in our communities.

When it comes to environmental stewardship, your actions, no matter how small, can have a significant impact. By taking these simple steps to reduce your energy usage, you're not just contributing to a healthier planet; you're also making a difference right here in our neighborhood:

**1 CHECK YOUR LIGHT BULBS:** Stroll through your home and swap out any old incandescent bulbs for energy-efficient LED ones. This will not only brighten up your space but also lower your energy bill.

**2 KEEP YOUR HVAC SYSTEM IN CHECK:** Regular maintenance of your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is important. Changing the air filters can improve efficiency, keeping your home cozy without wasting excess energy.

**3 TINKER WITH YOUR THERMOSTAT:** Your thermostat can be a secret weapon in the fight against energy waste. Ensure it's programmed sensibly and adjusted to match your household's schedule, ensuring you're not heating or cooling an empty house.

**4 SEAL UP DRAFTS:** Take a proactive approach to keep the elements out and comfortable by sealing up any drafts around windows and doors. A bit of weather stripping and caulk can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable and energy-efficient.

While these actions may seem modest, they add significant energy savings over time. And remember, if you're looking for more ways to go green in our community, we're always here to help.

So, let's join forces this Earth Day, right here in our own backyard, and show some love to the place we call home. Together, we can make a real difference for our local environment and future generations.



## CREAMY FRIED CHICKEN SALAD ROLLS

*What's a Southern picnic without fried chicken? Or chicken salad? We've combined the two in these stuffed rolls! The salad can be a bit messy, so we stuffed it into top-split hot dog rolls so the goodness doesn't fall out.*

Source: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)  
Serves: 2

### INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups fried chicken\*
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons sweet pickle juice
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup roughly chopped sweet pickle chips (we used Mt. Olive Sweet Heat Bread & Butter)
- 4 cups iceberg lettuce, roughly chopped
- 2-3 stalks celery, diced (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup)
- 2-3 green onions, dark and green parts, finely chopped
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon black pepper
- Hot sauce, a few shakes (optional)
- 2 packages (8-count) top split rolls
- Chives, snipped as a garnish (optional)

\*Fry your own chicken, or buy some. (We used Bojangles' 4-piece dark meat fried chicken and 6 tenders, including skin.) You can also use prepared frozen cooked tenders.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Chop up chicken into small pieces. In a separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients except rolls. Fold chicken into mixture. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
2. When ready to serve or pack your picnic, stuff salad into rolls and keep safely cooled.



**May 11-12, 2024**

[www.cherrypointairshow.com](http://www.cherrypointairshow.com)

# No Matter the Day, No Matter the Time



Gary W. Ray, CEO

As April arrives, our thoughts turn to a date of particular significance within electric cooperatives in North Carolina: April 8, N.C. Lineworker Appreciation Day. It's a moment to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of the dedicated JOEMC linemen and all linemen across the country. Their unwavering commitment ensures an uninterrupted power supply, exemplifying their extraordinary dedication regardless of the time or day. Join us as we celebrate the significance of the linemen that power so many communities.

These linemen are the epitome of dedication and expertise, embodying the spirit of service as they keep our communities powered and connected. Our linemen

maintain thousands of miles of power lines across six counties. They are the backbone of our electrical infrastructure, ensuring uninterrupted electricity flow 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

Working with high-voltage electricity and facing various weather conditions, from scorching heat to freezing cold, linemen rise to the challenge with unwavering resolve. They undergo rigorous technical training and adhere to strict safety protocols, spending numerous hours each year honing their skills and mastering safety regulations.

Did you know that the gear they carry while climbing utility poles can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water! Yet, with precision and expertise, they can climb poles ranging from 30 to 120 feet tall, tackling the physical demands of their job with unparalleled proficiency.

Linemen work with high-voltage equipment, requiring specialized skills and mental toughness, knowing

that shortcuts are not an option in this line of work. Despite the inherent risks, they remain steadfast in their commitment to our community, often listed among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. During severe weather events and major power outages, linemen are the first to respond, leaving the comfort of their homes and families to restore power to our community. Their selflessness and dedication are unmatched, and they understand the importance of their role in powering our daily lives.

So, let's take a moment to salute all linemen for their tireless efforts and sacrifices. The next time you see a lineman, remember the immense dedication and expertise they bring to their work, keeping our lights on and our homes comfortable, regardless of the day, time, or weather conditions. These workers are the true power behind our power, and we are grateful for their unwavering commitment to our community. Thank you, linemen, for your exceptional service and dedication!



A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



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