

## Strength that Shines — Honoring Our Lineworkers

*Every day, in all kinds of weather, lineworkers keep the lights on for our members. This Lineworker Appreciation Month, we recognize their dedication, skill, and sacrifices in keeping our power grid reliable.*

### Cooperation & Community

At Jones-Onslow EMC, we work with other cooperatives to restore power when disaster strikes. Whether assisting after a hurricane or supporting another cooperative, our crews embody “Cooperation Among Cooperatives.” They also serve locally, restoring power, educating about safety, and volunteering at events. Their commitment goes beyond the job—helping neighbors and strengthening the community they call home.

### Keeping the Grid Reliable

Electricity is essential to our daily lives, and our lineworkers ensure that homes, schools, and businesses stay powered. Maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, and rapid outage response keep the grid stable and resilient. Their expertise and dedication make the difference between inconvenience and reliability, ensuring our members have the power they depend on.

### Sacrifice & Pride

Linework is demanding, requiring long hours, dangerous conditions, and time away from family. When storms hit, they leave the comfort of their homes to restore power, often working through nights, weekends, and holidays. Yet, every restored light and every grateful member is a reminder of why they



Photo Credit: Justin Steller

do what they do. There’s a deep sense of pride in their work—knowing they’re making a real impact in people’s lives.

### Thank You, Lineworkers!

This month, we thank the men who power our lives. Your dedication, courage, and hard work do not go unnoticed. Because of you, our community remains strong, and our power stays reliable. Thank you for all you do!



joemc.com



joemc@joemc.com



(910) 353-1940



259 Western Blvd, Jacksonville  
1225 Hwy 210, Sneads Ferry

# Celebrate Earth Day with Smart Energy Savings!



April 22 is Earth Day, a time to reflect on how we can better care for our planet. One of the simplest ways to make a difference is by conserving energy. At Jones-Onslow EMC, we're committed to helping our members reduce energy waste and lower their bills—all while protecting the environment. Small changes in your daily habits can lead to big savings and a more sustainable future.

## Easy Ways to Save Energy at Home

- UNPLUG AND POWER DOWN:** Electronics and appliances still draw power even when turned off. Unplug devices or use power strips to cut off energy waste when not in use.
- ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT:** Lowering your thermostat by just a few degrees in the winter or raising it in the summer can significantly reduce your energy consumption. Consider a programmable thermostat for optimal efficiency.
- SEAL AIR LEAKS:** Drafts around doors and windows can let in outside air, making your heating and

cooling system work harder. Weather-stripping and caulking can help maintain a comfortable temperature and reduce energy waste.

- USE ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES:** Look for ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances that use less electricity and water, helping you save money while reducing your carbon footprint. Before shopping, see our ENERGY STAR® appliance rebates on our website.
- TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL LIGHT:** Open your blinds during the day to brighten your home naturally, reducing the need for artificial lighting.

At JOEMC, we offer resources and programs to help our members maximize their energy savings. From energy efficiency tips to rebates on energy-saving home upgrades, we're here to support a greener future. Visit [joemc.com/energywise](http://joemc.com/energywise) for more information on how you can make your home more energy efficient.

This Earth Day, let's work together to reduce our energy use and lower costs.

for all you  
**Weekend Warriors**  
Safe Digging Is No Accident

Always call  
**811**  
Before You Dig

[nc811.org](http://nc811.org)

## Don't Dig Up Trouble

Before starting any outdoor project that involves digging, it's crucial to consider the potential risks and take necessary precautions. Striking underground utility lines—such as gas, electric, water, or telecommunications—can lead to dangerous accidents, costly repairs, and service disruptions that affect entire neighborhoods.

To prevent these hazards, always **call 811 before you dig**. This free service allows homeowners and contractors to request a utility locate, ensuring that underground lines are properly identified and marked. By taking this simple step, you're protecting yourself and helping keep your community safe. Think bigger before you dig—**call 811 first!**

# HELPING YOU STAY ON TRACK

Do you sometimes forget when your electric bill is due? Or have an elderly parent that needs help staying on track with their bills? Then notifications are for you! If you have a cell phone associated with your electric account, you are automatically enrolled in our Outage Text Alerts program. But did you know that you can also receive other notifications from JOEMC? These notifications ensure that your account is up-to-date and you do not have surprises on your monthly electric bill.

## THE NOTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE INCLUDE:

**1. Daily usage alerts:** Will help you understand your consumption and how the weather plays a part in your usage.

**2. Third-party notifications:** Do you have a family member that is deployed or an elderly parent that needs help staying on track with their monthly bills? This notification can be set-up so that you can receive an email/text with Daily Usage Alerts, Two-day Due Date Reminder, Cutoff Notification, Severe Weather Notification or Planned/Unplanned Outage.

**3. A two-day due date reminder:** If your day is filled with multi-tasking and your monthly bill tends to slip your mind, this reminder is for you! This gives you the benefit of making your payment on time. With our convenient payment options – FlexPay, online bill pay, mobile app, remote PaySite kiosks, or our Jacksonville and Sneads Ferry offices drive-thru lanes, you can always be sure not to miss a payment due date.

**4. Cutoff notification:** Alerts are sent the day the account is scheduled for disconnection for nonpayment.

**5. Payment receipt:** Paid your bill online or through the mobile app and would like a receipt? A receipt can be emailed to you.

If you'd like to receive notifications, log in to your account on JOEMC's online portal and select "notifications" from the menu on the left to sign up. Once in this tab, you will add your email address and anyone else you would like to receive updates. Still have questions? Call **910-353-1940** and speak to one of our member services representatives.



## BUTTERY CINNAMON BUN POPOVERS

*Crispy outside yet hollow inside, these light and airy pastries represent the American version of Yorkshire pudding. Bend these buttery beauties to your will and make them sweet or savory as you wish. Take note that this recipe calls for using a mini popover pan.*

Serves: about 18  
Source: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 sticks salted butter, divided
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 1½ cups milk, room temperature
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon honey
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup loosely packed brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

### DIRECTIONS

1. Melt butter and set aside to slightly cool.
2. Whirl eggs with milk in blender until combined. Add 3 tablespoons of melted butter, vanilla, flour and salt. Blend again until frothy. Let batter rest 15 minutes. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place rack in lower third oven and remove higher racks that might impede rising.
3. Lightly brush cups and rims of mini popover pan with butter (a mini muffin pan will work for a less puffy popover). Place into hot oven for 2 minutes. Carefully remove and fill about ¾ full of batter. Bake 20 minutes. Do not open oven door. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and continue baking for 10 minutes.
4. While baking, mix the sugars and cinnamon into a bowl. Remove popovers from oven and poke with a knife to release steam.
5. Cool slightly to touch. Add honey to remaining butter and brush popovers so it seeps into the poked holes. Dip each top into the cinnamon sugar.
6. Best if served immediately or warm later in a 325-degree oven for 5 minutes.
7. Serve with leftover melted butter and cinnamon sugar and encourage "dipping!"



# Be Ready for Storm Season



Gary Ray, CEO

Spring is on our doorstep, and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities, like cooking out with family and fishing.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

JOEMC crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our crews take all necessary precautions before they work on downed lines.

I encourage you also to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) for additional resources:

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials and that your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside essential household items you will need, including flashlight batteries, a manual can opener, and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

### And Don't Forget...

- If you plan to use a portable generator, ensure it's rated to handle the power you need. Always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely, especially the part about operating the

generator outdoors and locating it away from your home as far as possible.

- Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check the co-op's Facebook page for restoration updates.
- Severe storms can bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged or drive through floodwaters.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by weather events and lessen the storm's impact. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook — call our office at **(910) 353-1940** or go to the outage hub at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) — this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. I recommend you plan today as storm preparedness is always the best defense.



Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Some scammers will contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm.

If post-storm repairs to customer-owned equipment are necessary, we will advise you to work with a licensed contractor. If any charges are applicable, you will be billed through your account.



Source: Utilities United Against Scams

