

CURRENT *Lines*

APRIL 2026



A monthly publication for
Tri-County EMC Members



POWERED TO SERVE YOU

Don't forget to #ThankALineman on April 13!

Every day, and often in the most challenging conditions, lineworkers stand on the front lines of our electric system to ensure reliable power for the communities we serve. On Lineman Appreciation Day, Tri-County EMC proudly recognizes the dedication, skill, and sacrifice of the linemen who work tirelessly to keep our lights on.

Whether responding to storms in the middle of the night, maintaining miles of distribution lines, or upgrading equipment to improve reliability, our crews perform work that is both highly technical and physically demanding. Their commitment to safety is essential to delivering dependable electricity to our members. (25969001)

Their efforts often take place behind the scenes, but their impact is felt by every home and business across our service territory. Tri-County EMC is grateful for the hard work and dedication of our lineworkers. Please join us in thanking them for their service to our community and for the vital role they play in powering our lives.

WHAT'S NEXT AT TCEMC?

5/25

Memorial Day

Both the Gray and Eatonton offices will be closed.

6/1

Beginning of hurricane season in Georgia

For info on storm preparedness, visit www.tri-countyemc.com.

6/1

Operation Roundup June Deadline

Non-profits can apply for grants up to \$15,000.

SAFE, SIMPLE, AND AFFORDABLE BACKUP POWER CONNECTION



Severe weather can arrive with little warning and often brings power outages. Having a reliable way to safely connect backup power is an important part of any storm preparedness plan.

Tri-County EMC now offers socket-mounted transfer switches. A socket-mounted transfer switch installs directly at the electric meter and allows a portable generator to supply power to your home through your existing electrical system. Tri-County EMC provides free installation, and because the device mounts at the meter base, no interior rewiring is required. Please contact us at 478-986-8119 for more information.

TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS \$38,000 IN OPERATION ROUNDUP GRANTS TO LOCAL NON-PROFITS

On March 12, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board of Directors met to discuss applications for Operation Roundup Grants. Ten organizations were awarded for a total of \$38,000 to fund a variety of community needs and projects. The Operation Roundup program is made possible through the generosity of our members who elect to have their bills rounded up each month. The next round of grant applications will be due June 1.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BALDWIN COUNTY

\$14,500 to install the HVAC systems in two new habitat homes

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF PUTNAM COUNTY

\$10,000 to purchase and install the electric wiring and fixtures for Putnam Home #29

STONE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

\$1,000 to continue the church's household essentials pantry

VELMA MCFADDEN FOOD BANK

\$1,500 to purchase food for the food bank

CIVIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF MILLEDGEVILLE

\$2,000 to provide glucometers and blood pressure cuffs for low-income patients at Oconee Valley Healthcare

JONES COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

\$2,000 to purchase 200 smoke detectors and 50 carbon monoxide detectors for low-income elderly Jones County residents

JONES COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION

\$1,000 to refurbish 10 retired newspaper boxes into Free Little Libraries in Jones County

JONES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

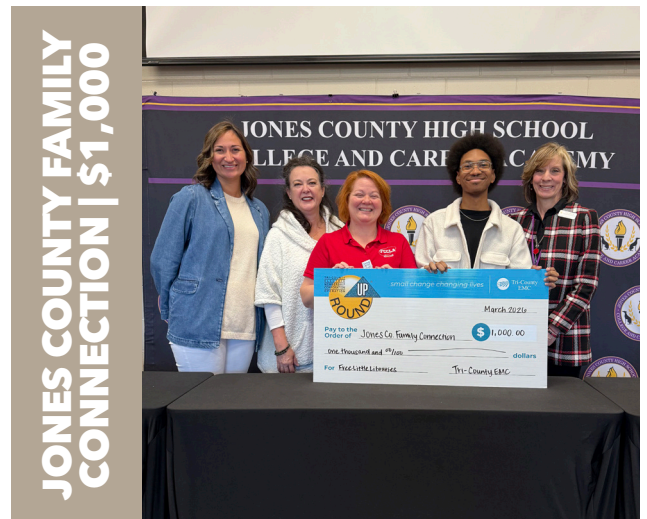
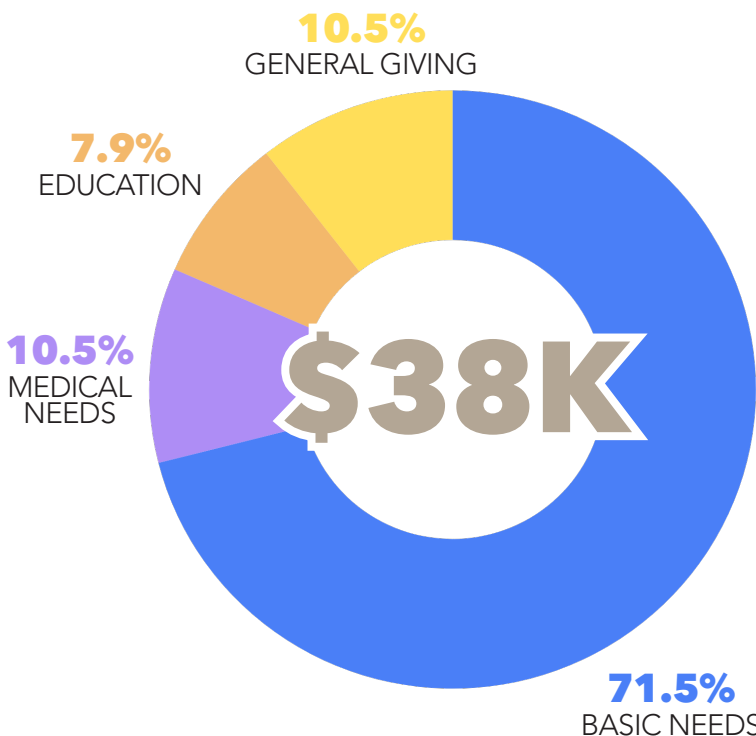
\$2,000 to cover the cost of the library's Summer Reading Program

CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE MASTER COMMISSION

\$1,500 to support the annual youth programming budget

MAGGIE CALIFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

\$2,500 to help cover costs associated with repurposing the old school and grounds into a community resource center



APRIL IS SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Spring is in the air...and so are home projects! April marks the start of the peak outdoor project season in Georgia. In many cases, Tri-County EMC, Tri-CoGo, and other utilities run cable underground to provide service to your home. As your electric cooperative, we maintain a proactive approach to ensure our members practice safe digging when considering their next home project. Whether planting a tree, constructing a backyard fence, or installing a new sprinkler system, always check that you are not digging near any buried electrical or fiber-optic cable.

Contact 811 at least three business days before any digging project to ensure you are clear of any buried electrical or fiber-optic cable in your area. You can submit an eRequest online at **Georgia811.com** or call 811 to reach the automated system. From there, Georgia 811 transmits the project location and description to the affected member utility companies, who will be responsible for sending a location technician to the proposed area. Once underground lines are marked, you will know the approximate location of utility lines and can practice safe digging. Failure to contact 811 before digging can lead to serious safety hazards, including striking buried electrical lines, which may result in severe injury or even loss of life. It can also cause costly damage, widespread outages affecting entire neighborhoods, and significant fines and repair expenses. Before you dig, take the necessary precautions.



LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE 2026 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

After a competitive application process, high school junior Tripp Arnold of Jones County and sophomore Cayden Burner of Putnam County have been selected to represent Tri-County EMC on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership experience sponsored by Georgia's EMCs.

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has provided promising high school leaders with an up-close look at the nation's government, history, and public service while fostering connections with students from across Georgia and the United States. (38017003)

The 2026 tour is scheduled for June 12-19 and will include approximately 115 student delegates from Georgia. Participants will gather in Atlanta before traveling to Washington, D.C., where they will explore the federal government firsthand. While in the nation's capital, delegates will meet with elected officials to discuss issues important to their local communities and visit historic sites such as the U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Supreme Court, and Arlington National Cemetery.

In addition to learning about U.S. government and history, students will participate in leadership development and team-building activities designed to help them build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and deepen their understanding of their own leadership potential.

Congratulations and safe travels to Tri-County EMC's representing delegates!



Tripp Arnold, JCHS



Cayden Burner, Gatewood



RECIPE Box

TURKEY NECKS AND NAVY BEAN SOUP

Courtesy of Ms. Ernestine Parks

- 2 packs of turkey necks
- 1/2 pack navy beans
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 beef cubes
- 1 tbsp onion powder
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 1 can cream of celery

In a large pot, cook the turkey necks until done, then set aside. In a separate pot, cook the navy beans with the beef cubes until tender, and add the chopped onion. Place necks in the pot with the navy beans and add onion powder, garlic powder, olive oil, pepper, white vinegar, and cream of celery. Cook for 30 minutes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen! Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

Three account numbers are hidden in parentheses in this issue of Current Lines. If you find your FULL account number, call 478.986.8126 to claim a \$50 bill credit.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by US Mail to US Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

WORK ZONE, WORK SAFE

April 20-24 is Work Zone Awareness Week

Work Zone Awareness Week serves as an important reminder of the shared responsibility we all carry when traveling through active work areas. For utilities like Tri-County EMC, where linemen and field crews regularly work along roadways to maintain and restore power, this awareness is not just seasonal; it is essential every day.

Work Zone Awareness Week highlights the simple yet critical behaviors that can save lives: slowing down, staying alert, obeying signage, and giving crews adequate space to work. These actions not only protect workers but also help ensure that restoration efforts are completed without delay. (87813002)

