



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

APRIL 2022

THIS MONTH'S NEWS

- Tri-CoGo Connects It's 1,000th Customer, page 1 & 2
- Operation Roundup Grants, page 3
- Lineman Appreciation Day, page 4
- Recipe: Navy Bean Soup, page 4
- Statement of Nondiscrimination, page 4

TRI-COGO CONNECTS IT'S 1,000th CUSTOMER

On Thursday, March 10th, customers, employees, local dignitaries, and residents gathered to commemorate Tri-CoGo achieving it's 1,000th customer, just one year after the announcement of its formation as Tri-County EMC's broadband internet subsidiary. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, with music, lunch from Agave Azul and Nu-Way, and celebratory cake at the Tri-County EMC office in Gray.



Many stakeholders, including Tri-CoGo's Chief Operating Officer, Greg Mullis, are excited to see the new company reach this special milestone. "I'm very proud of our employees, the contractors assisting us, and the way the community has supported us. We've come so far in just a year. To think that we started building fiber on May 17, 2021 and served the first customer 105 days later. To have reached 1,000 installs this quickly is a testament to the dedication of our wonderful team and to the demand from the community for broadband internet," said Mullis.



Continued on Page 2

Chief Operating Officer of Tri-CoGo speaks about 1,000th Customer milestone and how it was achieved

TRI-COGO *Continued from Page 1*

In conjunction with celebrating the 1,000th Tri-CoGo customer, the Jones County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the event, officially inaugurating Tri-CoGo as the newest internet service provider in Middle Georgia, now serving Jones County, and soon-to-be serving portions of Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Baldwin, Putnam, Morgan, and Jasper County. Haley Watson, Executive Director of the Jones County Chamber of Commerce, has high hopes for what fast internet could mean for the community. “Fast internet in Jones County opens up endless possibilities for growth,” says Watson, “With fast and reliable internet, Jones County can attract cutting edge industries and businesses. We can officially move into the 21st century.”

Tri-CoGo has already exceeded the expectations of many Jones County residents, including 1,000th customer Sheila Martin, for which high-speed internet was not a viable option in the recent past. Sheila is thankful that her new internet service has vastly improved her work from home experience. “With having to work from home the past 3 years, we have tried everything from satellite internet to jetpack, and it made it difficult,” said Sheila, “After the first day of having Tri-CoGo, it made a world of a difference, not only with work but streaming as well.” Sheila described the picture on her television as being more sharp when streaming, and without constant buffering with her Tri-CoGo Fast Gig Plan. “We now not only love where we live, we get to love our internet as well!” commends Sheila.

Fiber Operations Manager, Joe Lightsey, has no doubts that Tri-CoGo will continue to excel in the ISP industry, as the company maintains its goal of installing 60 new customers a week. In March and April, two more zones are scheduled to be open for internet service.

Construction continues as crews make their way across the Tri-County EMC service area. Tri-CoGo’s fiber engineering consultant anticipates that crews will soon install the 500th mile of fiber. The last two of nine total fiber huts have been set at Forest Lake and Lick Creek Substations. Phase 2 construction is projected to begin this summer.

“While reaching the 1,000th customer is exciting, we know there’s lots of work ahead of us, with thousands more still waiting to receive their service,” says Mullis, “We strongly encourage anyone interested to visit our website and pre-register.” (40282002)

Availability maps and a complete listing of Phase 1 zones with anticipated dates can be found on the company’s website at tri-cogo.com.



Haley Watson speaks on what fast internet will mean for Jones and surrounding counties



1,000th Customer, Sheila Martin, accepts gift from Tri-CoGo Chief Operating Officer, Greg Mullis.



After the first day of having Tri-CoGo it made a world of difference, not only with working from home but with streaming as well.

Sheila Martin
1,000th Customer

**FOLLOW TRI-COGO
ON FACEBOOK
AND INSTAGRAM
FOR UPDATES!**



TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$20,028 IN MARCH

In March 2022, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved grants for 7 projects, totaling \$20,028 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities.

BALDWIN COUNTY CHILD AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER:

\$1,000 to purchase age-appropriate car seats for children at the Early Learning Center.

JONES COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION:

\$3,528 to purchase book bags for Jones County Students.

MEN OF LAKE OCONEE, INC.:

\$5,000 to replace rotting windows and pillars in the home of a single mother with limited income.

MEN OF LAKE OCONEE, INC.

\$5,000 to replace the leaking roof, and mold remediation, of a widow with limited income.

OCMULGEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE:

\$2,500 to purchase school supplies for Back-to-School Events in the Tri-County EMC Service Area.

OVERVIEW, INC.:

\$2,500 to purchase food boxes that will be distributed to families in need at the organization's annual Big Pop-Up Event. (91946001)

SINCERITY MASONIC LODGE OF JONES COUNTY

\$500 to construct a handicap ramp for a local resident that was injured in a motorcycle accident.



Overview, Inc. received a grant to purchase food boxes that will be distributed to families in need.

ABOUT OPERATION ROUNDUP:

Operation Roundup is funded by voluntary contributions from Tri-County members to the Tri-County EMC Foundation. Participants have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar, with that surplus amount going to fund Operation Roundup. Any non-profit, civic, religious or government organization located within Tri-County's eight county service area are eligible to receive funding. Applications must be for special needs or projects. Applications can be found on our website at tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms or mailed upon request by calling 478.986.8126.

**NEXT
GRANT
APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
6.1.22**



TRI-COUNTY
ELECTRIC
MEMBERSHIP
CORPORATION
OPERATION

RECIPE BOX

NAVY BEAN SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. Navy Beans
- 2 slices salt pork
- 1 cup chopped ham
- 1 large (21 oz.) can Rotel (mild)
- 2 small yellow onions, chopped
- 1 large carrot, chopped
- ½ cup celery, chopped
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 bay leaf

DIRECTIONS

Soak beans overnight. In a Dutch oven or stock pot, bring 5 cups of water and the Rotel to a boil. Add beans and ham and cook on low for 30 minutes. Add the other ingredients and cook another hour. Add additional water, if needed. Freezes well.



This recipe is courtesy of Connie Johnson of Eatonton, GA. Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY IN GEORGIA

EMCs across the state, including Tri-County EMC, are joining together to celebrate electric utility linemen on April 11th. In good weather and bad, linemen have your back and are ready to answer the call. Be sure to thank electric lineworkers for the challenging work they do. (77853001)



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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 here, 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.

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Did you find your Tri-County EMC account number? Three random account numbers are hidden in each issue of Current Lines. Find your complete account number inside parentheses in this issue of Current Lines for a \$50 bill credit. Call us at 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.



**Tri-County
EMC**

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100
www.tri-countyemc.com

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,
Chap Nelson, Marion Nelson,
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

CURRENTLINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members