



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

OCTOBER 2023

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month, and Tri-County EMC is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, but each has a common goal: to serve to its members.

There are nearly 40,000 cooperatives in the United States today, and 900 of those are electric co-ops. Electric co-ops power 56% of the nation's landmass, bringing electricity to 42 million homes and businesses.

Electric co-ops, including Tri-County EMC, exist to serve their members. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs. Similar to how we brought electricity to under-served rural communities in 1939, Tri-County is now providing 100% fiber internet service through its subsidiary, Tri-CoGo. We are constantly looking for ways to more efficiently serve you.

Cooperatives help communities grow by working for the common good. While our purpose is to provide our membership with safe and reliable energy, our mission to enrich life in the communities we serve is equally important. Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles, and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

We will continue to listen and learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you - because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. (66662001)



CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

Artwork due November 10

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “Every artist was at first an amateur.” Christmas is just around the corner, and Tri-County EMC is now accepting entries for our annual Christmas Card Art Contest!

Students who attend school in the Tri-County service area in grades K - 5th grade are invited to design this year’s company Christmas card. Artwork provided by the students should be Christmas/Holiday themed and will be judged by a committee of employees. The overall winner’s design will appear on Tri-County EMC’s Christmas Card which will be mailed to friends and associates of the cooperative. The artwork will also be featured in the December issue of Current Lines, our website, and our social media pages. **Cash prizes will be given** to the top three finalists and one winner from each grade level. (90109001)

Instructions on how and where to submit artwork can be found online at www.tri-countyemc.com/christmascardartcontest.cms. All artwork must be submitted by Friday, November 10.



BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

There is nothing more scary than your sensitive information falling into the wrong hands. As technology progresses, utility scams are getting more and more creative.

You can’t always trust Caller ID on your phone. Spoofing is a scam that makes you think a phone call is coming from a legitimate company when it’s not. We often hear reports from members that have received phone calls from an unknown party posing as a Tri-County EMC employee and demanding an electric payment over the phone. “While we do make automated courtesy calls notifying you if your bill is past due, we will never call you and demand your credit card information for immediate payment,” says Communications Specialist Anna Smith. “If you receive a suspicious phone call, just hang up and call us directly.”

Auto-pay is a great way to make sure your power and internet bills get paid on time each month. Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices, remember that they can also pose a threat to your privacy. Updating your cyber software, creating strong passwords, and thinking before you click can protect your identity from hackers trying to steal information.

Once your personal or financial information is compromised, it takes a while to resolve. Tri-County EMC members must remain aware of all possible utility scams haunting our service area.



TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$36,455 IN SEPTEMBER

Next Deadline is December 1

The Tri-County EMC Foundation met in September to discuss applications submitted by non-profit organizations for Operation Roundup Grants. Out of 21 applicants, 10 were awarded grants totaling \$36,455 to go toward community projects in our service area. "Through the generosity of our members electing to round their power bills up every month, we are able to give back to the communities we serve," expressed Tri-County CEO Ray Grinberg. "100% of the funds generated from the Operation Roundup program are put directly back into worthy projects benefitting the Tri-County service area." Operation Roundup is a strictly voluntary program. Members can sign up at www.tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms.

BALDWIN COUNTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

\$1,000 to purchase home essential items for families in need at the Early Learning Center.

CAFE CENTRAL, INC.

\$2,500 to help fund the replacement of worn cookware and equipment used to serve food to the community.

CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE MASTER COMMISSION

\$3,000 to support developmental programming for the 2023-2024 school year.

EATONTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

\$1,000 to support the Putnam County Christian Learning Center.

GEORGIA LION'S CAMP, INC.

\$3,000 to support the Campership program for local individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

JONES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$2,000 to support additional community programming offered by the library.

LAKE OCONEE BAPTIST CHURCH BROTHERHOOD

\$5,000 to aid a local Putnam County family who recently lost their belongings in house fire.

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

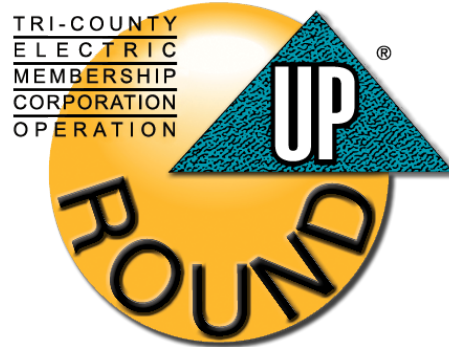
\$2,000 to support local children's wish expenses including wished-for items, medical equipment, and travel.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

\$8,500 to fund the replacement of a roof, drywall, and remediation in the home of a local community member.

NEW DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH

\$3,455 to install a stairlift in the home of a local community member.



SMALL CHANGE CHANGING LIVES SINCE 2001

12K ROUNDUP PARTICIPANTS

1.7M DOLLARS GRANTED

650+ PROJECTS FUNDED

RECIPE BOX



SAUSAGE CHEESE BALLS W/ PEPPER JELLY GLAZE

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 1¼ cup of whole wheat all-purpose baking mix
- 1 lb. pan sausage
- 2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped scallion
- Your favorite hot pepper jelly, for glazing and serving

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, combine the contents of the baking mix with sausage. Use your hands if necessary. Once the dry ingredients are completely absorbed into the sausage, mix in the cheese until incorporated. Form mixture into walnut sized balls. Place the balls on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake for 15-18 minutes until golden brown and sausage is cooked through.

Heat ¼ cup of your favorite pepper jelly in the microwave for about 30 seconds.

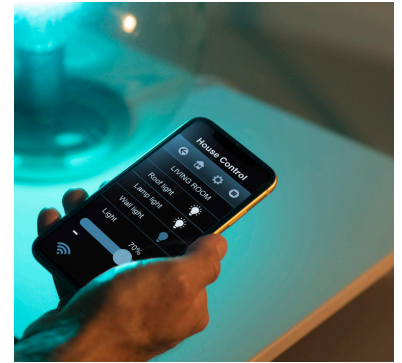
With a pastry brush, coat the sausage balls with the pepper jelly glaze, and be sure to serve extra on the side for dipping. Yields approximately 30-35 sausage balls.



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.

GET SMART ABOUT HOME LIGHTING

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative technologies, which includes smart lighting. Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. With the help of 100% fiber from Tri-County EMC's internet subsidiary, Tri-CoGo, members can benefit from a variety of smart lighting options.



Perhaps the number one benefit to using smart lighting in your home is the increased energy efficiency. Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. With the holidays approaching, consider using LED lights on your Christmas tree or on the outside of your home. Smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the palm of your hand. Smart plugs are also a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs. (62994001)

Whether you're looking for more convenience or better ways to manage your home energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. As your trusted energy advisor, Tri-County EMC can help you determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs so you can start shopping!



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100

www.tri-countyemc.com

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CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer