



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

AUGUST 2022

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APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR BRIGHT IDEAS EDUCATION GRANTS

Applications Due October 15

The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by Tri-County Electric Membership Cooperative, provides grants for teachers to improve education in local classrooms for innovative projects in grades Pre-K through 12 that would not otherwise be funded.



Since 2008, Bright Ideas Grants have funded \$330,000 in projects in schools throughout Tri-County's service area. Funded grant projects include chicken coops, robot construction kits, classroom news broadcast gear and more. Teachers can be awarded up to \$1,500 per grant. (96775001)

“The goal of the Bright Ideas program is to bring opportunities to classrooms,” said Kim Broun, Manager of Energy Services. “We want to make an impact on our future community by investing in local education.”

The program is made possible by unclaimed capital credits, which can be used for education and economic development efforts.

Educators can learn more about Bright Ideas and complete a grant application at tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms. The next deadline to apply is October 15.

TRI-COGO FIBER INTERNET ENTERS BALDWIN COUNTY

Tri-CoGo fiber internet is now available for Tri-County EMC members living in southwestern Baldwin County. This area (Zone 10) includes portions of County Line Church Road and Pancras Road and is the first zone to go live in Baldwin County.

Tri-CoGo has been constructing fiber within the Tri-County EMC service area since the business went live in May of 2021. Construction began in Jones County, and is now moving into Baldwin County, eventually making a ring throughout Tri-County EMC's service area to make internet available to all EMC members. "There are many rural, underserved areas within the EMC service area that deserve to have fast, local and affordable internet and phone services," said Greg Mullis, COO of Tri-CoGo. "Tri-CoGo is ready to provide that service."

Zone 10 in Baldwin County represents the ninth zone to become eligible for Tri-CoGo's fiber internet service since last September, with more than 2,000 customers in Jones County already having service.

Tri-County EMC members interested in receiving internet or phone service from Tri-CoGo can pre-register at tri-cogo.com. Pre-registered customers will be notified by email when service is available in their area.



GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Applications Due September 1

Good communities like the ones we serve are made up of great non-profit groups, civic groups and volunteers. If your group is in need of funds for a project that serves a community within the Tri-County EMC Service Area, apply for an Operation Roundup Grant!

Since 2001, Operation Roundup Grants have funded projects throughout the service area including food banks, school supply drives, youth programs, community CPR classes, food & clothing distributions, literacy initiatives, wheelchair ramps and so much more. The program is made possible by the money raised from Tri-County EMC members that choose to round their electric bill up to the next dollar.

Learn more about Operation Roundup and complete a grant application for your organization at tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms. The next deadline to apply is September 1.



**ACCOUNT
NUMBER**

Did you find your account number? 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.

COOPERATIVE ELECTION BALLOTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Each year, Tri-County EMC holds an annual meeting of the membership as well as a board of directors' election. And each member that casts a vote in the election will be entered to win a cash prize of \$500, or one of ten \$50 prizes. Ballots will be sent to each member in September. If you would like to receive your ballot via email, enroll in online voting on our website (tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms) prior to August 25. If you have voted online in past elections, there is no need to register again. If you do not opt to vote online, a ballot will automatically be sent to you in the mail. If you choose to vote by mail, the ballot can returned via mail using the postage-paid envelope. If necessary, ballots can be returned at either Tri-County EMC office drive-thru. (90391001)

Ballot items for this year's election include candidates for the Post 3 director seats. Candidates for these director seats are listed below. In addition, there is a proposed bylaw amendment on the ballot.

Our annual meeting will take place on October 20 at 2PM at the Tri-County EMC Office in Gray. The meeting will also be streamed on Facebook. Look for additional details on our website and in the September 2022 issue of Current Lines.



ON THE BALLOT

Post 3 Director Seats

**Post 3 District 1,
Jones & Bibb Counties**
Cecil B. Patterson, Incumbent
Douglas G. Maddox

**Post 3 District 2,
Putnam, Jasper & Morgan Counties**
Mike Rainey, Incumbent

**Post 3 District 3,
Baldwin, Wilkinson & Twiggs Counties**
Marion Nelson, Incumbent

Bylaw Amendment

Shall the Bylaws of Tri-County EMC be amended to add to the Bylaws "or emailed" in Section 4.06?

Nominations, Section 4.06

The Secretary shall cause to be mailed **or emailed** to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, at least sixty (60) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, by district, to be elected at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Minutes Approval

Do you approve the Annual Meeting Minutes from 2019-2021?

SAVE THE DATE
ELECTRIC VEHICLE
Lunch & Learn

Thursday, November 3
11:30AM - 1:00PM

@ the Jones County Chamber of Commerce



RECIPE BOX

SPICY CHEESY TACO PASTA

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground beef or turkey
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup jarred mild salsa
- 8 ounces uncooked rotini pasta
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Mexican-style cheese
- 2 tablespoons diced pickled jalapeños (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Cook ground meat in a large deep skillet over medium-high heat. Drain grease. Stir taco seasoning into ground beef then stir in water, salsa and pasta noodles. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat. Cover, simmer 15 minutes until pasta is tender, stirring occasionally. Turn off heat and stir in cheese and jalapeños (optional).



SPICY CHEESY TACO PASTA

Thanks to Erin Weston of Gordon for the recipe. 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.

STUDENT ATTENDS COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Davin Pickel, a student at Baldwin County High School, represented Tri-County EMC at the Georgia Cooperative Youth Conference held July 18-22 at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington. The mission of the conference is to educate students about cooperatives, build their leadership skills and promote teamwork through a series of activities, trainings and presentations.



During the 5-day conference, students engaged in activities such as the Congressional Insight Workshop, where they participated in making staff, media and legislation decisions to gain a deeper understanding as to why their political involvement in the legislative process is important. Other highlights of the conference included personality assessments and the "Co-ops 101" program in which speakers discussed the cooperative way of business including history, organization, member benefits, opportunities and current issues.



Students that attended heard presentations from council members, Georgia EMC, GEMC Federal Credit Union, Dairy Farmers of America, Staplcton, Southern States and Farm Credit as well as the Georgia Cotton Commission.

Visit tri-countyemc.com/youthleadershipcamp.cms to learn more about the conference. (88143001)

tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms | Due October 15

Tri-County Offices will be closed on September 5 for Labor Day.



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

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members