



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

DECEMBER 2020

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

A Message from CEO Ray Grinberg

The end of the year offers a time to reflect on the happenings of the past 12 months. While this year certainly did not turn out as expected, I'm grateful for the accomplishments we were able to achieve.

First and foremost, we were able to keep our employees and our members safe, keep the lights on and give our members tools to manage their accounts and energy use during the height of the COVID pandemic. In addition, we were able to step up our right-of-way (ROW) trimming efforts with the help of our new ROW contractor, Georgia Right-of-Way. This will help keep our controllable costs down and increase reliability. In addition, we were able to give back. Since January, we've awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to local students and \$46,000 in Operation Roundup Grants to fund special projects from non-profit groups to better our community. In December, we will be awarding \$30,000 to local teachers through Bright Ideas Grants. All community outreach programs are funded through members voluntarily rounding their bill to the next dollar or from unclaimed capital credits – none from the general budget.

While we know the pandemic is not over, we are optimistic that a new year will give us a fresh outlook. As always, we are here to serve and we look forward to working with you in 2021!



WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Due February 1

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP:

The Walter Harrison Scholarship is open to all undergraduate college students whose primary household is served by an EMC. A panel of judges from Tri-County EMC will select one undergraduate semi-finalist to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship at the state level. A combination of need and academic ability will be used to determine winners. The scholarship must be used in Georgia. (89270002)

Tri-County EMC must receive applications by February 1. The award honors the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electrification movement. Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/walterharrison.cms for more information and to download the application.

FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES:

- Operation Roundup Scholarship: Due April 15
- Cooperative Scholarship: Due April 15
- Information on all scholarships can be found at www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms



CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

And The Winner Is...

Kindergarten - 5th grade students were invited to participate in Tri-County's Christmas Card Art Contest. 123 entries were submitted, and the top three submissions are shown below. The first place artwork will be featured on the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card.

In addition to the winners shown here, a winner was chosen for each grade level as well. All winning artwork can be seen on our website at tri-countyemc.com/christmascardartcontest.cms. Winning artists will be awarded at their schools. All artwork submitted will be donated to spread cheer during the Christmas season. (72610001)



1ST PLACE OVERALL

Emma Trantham
3rd Grade, Turner Woods Elementary



2ND PLACE OVERALL

Bentleigh Crumpton
4th Grade, Putnam County Elementary



3RD PLACE OVERALL

Anthony Jimenez
4th Grade, Putnam County Elementary

BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

A Guide to Lighting Labels

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing. Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.

READ THE LABEL

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most efficient bulb to meet your needs. The label includes information on the bulb's brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance and energy used.

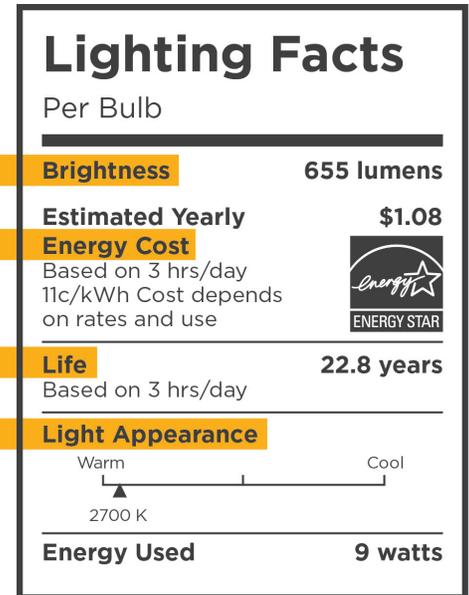
SAVE ENERGY

Bulbs are available in many shapes and sizes to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to ensure energy efficiency.

BUY LUMENS, NOT WATTS

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

LINEMAN RECOGNIZED AS HOMETOWN HERO

Joey Brown, a Tri-County EMC lineman in Gray, was recently awarded the Hometown Hero award from Koppers, the cooperative's power pole provider. The purpose of the award is to recognize cooperative employees from across the nation who have made a substantial difference in their business or community by going the extra mile to help others.

In August, Joey noticed one of Tri-County's members needed a new roof. He took the initiative to work with Sonrise Ministries to apply for an Operation Roundup Grant from the Tri-County EMC Foundation. With those funds secured, he rounded up a group of volunteers, including a fellow lineman, to help replace the roof.

"This is the work of a cooperative at its best," said Kim Broun, Communications Specialist. "Our main mission is to provide reliable electric service, but our employees are also part of this community. And they do their best to look out for their neighbors." (68256001)

Along with the award, Koppers also made a \$500 contribution to Sonrise Ministries.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Tri-County EMC offices will be closed on December 24-25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's Day.

RECIPE BOX

APPLE POUND CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1-1/2 cups vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups self-rising flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 medium apples (any variety), diced, peeled
- 1-1/2 cups chopped nuts (pecans or walnuts)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour bundt pan. Cream together oil, sugar and eggs. Blend in flour, cinnamon and vanilla extract. Fold in apples and nuts. Pour into prepared bundt pan. Bake 1 hour or until cake tests done. Cool 15 minutes in pan before removing. Yields 1 cake.



This recipe is courtesy of Georgia Magazine Archives, originally submitted by Judy Crow of Mount Airy. 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.

OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two students in the service area twice per year. The scholarships are worth \$1,000 and are awarded based on academics, financial need and service to others. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. Congratulations to the Fall 2020 Operation Roundup Scholarship recipients.



JELEASA GRAYNED

Jeleasa is from Putnam County and attends Kennesaw State University. She has volunteered with C5 Youth Leadership and Memphis 901 Community Service. In high school, she was active in the robotics club and enjoys all things STEM related. She is working towards a degree in computer science. Her goal is to create a platform to encourage others to reach their goals in the IT field, regardless of gender, race or economic status.



TIA ADKINS-CHATFIELD

Tia is from Jones County and attends Kennesaw State University. She has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Loaves and Fishes, Jones County Senior Center, and Ronald McDonald House. She was a member of Beta Club, 4-H, Key Club and Art Club and is an active Girl Scout. Tia plans to become a doctor, specializing in gynecology. Her goal is to serve her community by providing healthcare to low income women and teens.

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ACCOUNTNUMBER

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

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www.tri-countyemc.com

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Monthly Publication for
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