



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

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THIS MONTH'S NEWS

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KNOW A SCAM WHEN YOU SEE IT

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.



Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the “power company,” in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 1.866.254.8100. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always call us, or use myTCEMC app to check the status of your account. Remember, Tri-County EMC will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

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TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$10,750 IN JUNE

In June 2022, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved grants for 6 projects, totaling \$10,750 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities.



BALDWIN COUNTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER:

\$750 in funds to purchase shoes for 3-4 year old students in need in Baldwin County.

FERST READERS, INC.:

\$3,000 in funds to increase literacy in the Tri-County EMC Service Area by allowing students (up to Kindergarten age) to receive books from the Ferst Readers Foundation.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF PUTNAM COUNTY:

\$4,000 in funds to install HVAC units in two Habitat homes in Putnam County.

NORTHRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

\$1,000 in funds to purchase materials to construct 3 wheelchair ramps for individuals in need in Baldwin County.

RESCUE MISSION OF MIDDLE GEORGIA:

\$1,000 to purchase hygiene kits to be distributed during outreach events in Middle Georgia.

VELMA MCFADDEN MISSIONARY FOOD BANK:

\$1,000 to purchase a 6-month food supply for a food bank serving Jones County.

OPERATION ROUNDUP GRANT QUALIFICATIONS

- Application must be for a special project or need. Donations will not be made to an organization's general budget.

- Project must be located within a county that Tri-County EMC serves (Baldwin, Putnam, Jones, Bibb, Jasper, Morgan, Twiggs or Wilkinson County)

- Organization must be a non-profit, civic, religious or government organization



Velma McFadden Missionary Food Bank was awarded \$1,000 to purchase a 6-month supply to help serve individuals in need in Jones County. The photo above is prepared donations from a recent distribution event.

September 1, 2022
Next Operation Roundup Application Deadline

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.

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Did you find your account number? Find your complete Tri-County EMC 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.

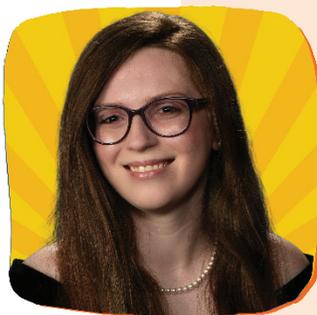
STUDENTS AWARDED OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two deserving 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 Spring 2022 Operation Roundup Scholarship recipients. For additional information on this and additional scholarship opportunities, visit www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms. (17751002)



TYLER ADKINS-CHATFIELD

Tyler Adkins-Chatfield is from Jones County and currently attends Valdosta State University. He is working towards undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Nursing and ultimately plans to become an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and practice in cardiology.



ALICIA BOOTH

Alicia Booth of Putnam County is a graduate of Putnam County High School and plans to attend Augusta University. She has completed associates degrees of Science and Criminal Justice through dual enrollment. She plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in Social Work.

HEAT WAVE BRINGS INCREASED ENERGY USAGE

Temperatures reaching 100 degrees in spring is luckily not something we see each year. But a heat wave in June brought us several record-setting heat days.

Unfortunately, when the temperature goes up, so does the amount of energy used in your home. The largest energy user in most homes is the HVAC unit. And with several days in triple-digit temperatures, those HVAC units were running more and more to keep homes cool. (95460001)



There are several steps you can take to lower your energy usage, which will help lower your energy bill. For simple energy tips that you can apply in your home, visit tri-countyemc.com/energy-saving-tips.cms

In addition, you can take the surprise out of your monthly billing statement by enrolling in levelized billing. Each month, you will pay an average of the past eleven month's bills plus the current month. Your usage will fluctuate a few dollars each month, but there is no periodic "true up" adjustment. To qualify for levelized billing, accounts must have a good credit history and must be at least twelve months old. This service is available for owned residences. Learn more at tri-countyemc.com/levelized-billing.cms.

If you have any questions regarding your account, our Customer Service Representatives are available by calling 1.866.254.8100.

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UPLOAD/DOWNLOAD
SPEEDS UP TO 1 GIG

Local 
BASED IN GRAY WITH
THE SAME LEVEL OF
CUSTOMER SERVICE
YOU EXPECT FROM
TRI-COUNTY EMC

Affordable 
NO INTRODUCTORY DEALS THAT
VANISH OR HIDDEN FEES,
AFFORDABLE RATE PLANS
& GREAT SERVICE

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Sign Up Today!



RECIPE BOX

CAJUN GREEN BEANS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon vegetable or canola oil
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 1/4 cup diced bell pepper, any color
- 1/4 cup diced celery
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon Cajun spice
- 4 cups green beans, washed, strung, snapped
- 2 cups chicken broth

DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic to pan and cook until onions are translucent. Add Cajun spice to vegetables, stirring to combine. Add green beans and chicken broth to mixture. Bring mixture to a boil then reduce heat to simmer. Cook 10 minutes for al dente green beans or 20-30 minutes for ones that are softer. *Serves about 6.*



This recipe is courtesy of Georgia Grown. 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.

SCAMS, *Continued*

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this “refund” scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a “phishing” attempt) or by text (“smishing”), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Tri-County EMC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

DEFEND YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don’t know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. When we perform work on our members’ property, our employees will always identify themselves and can present an employee ID. (43131002)

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

OFFICES CLOSED

Tri-County EMC offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence 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

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CURRENTLINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members