



Tri-County  
EMC

# CURRENT LINES

JUNE 2020

## THIS MONTH'S NEWS

- COVID-19 Update, [page 1](#)
- Beat the Heat and Save Energy, [page 2](#)
- COVID-19 Update, Payment Options, [page 3](#)
- Scholarships, [page 4](#)
- Recipe: Spring Salad, [page 4](#)

## MOVING FORWARD AMID COVID-19

*Disconnects for Nonpayment Resumed June 1,  
Drive-Thrus Opened May 18*

Tri-County EMC has been carefully considering when and how to reopen our offices. On May 18, we resumed taking payments at our drive-thru windows. Social distancing measures continue to be maintained for employees. For everyone's continued safety, when possible, please make payments and conduct business remotely using our mobile app, website, telephone options or payment kiosks. We will also continue shortened office hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM to allow for proper cleaning. We anticipate reopening our office lobbies at some point this month, but an exact date has not been determined as of this publication.

Tri-County EMC lifted the suspension of disconnections for non-payment on June 1. If you have unpaid balances, we encourage you catch up these balances prior to the due date on your next billing statement. Payment arrangements are available. We encourage anyone currently having difficulty paying current balances to communicate with us so that we may assist you with a payment arrangement that works for you.

We're here to help. Payment options are listed on page 3. For additional information on payment options, visit [tri-countyemc.com](http://tri-countyemc.com). In addition, we are available by phone at 1.866.254.8100.

*Continued on Page 3*

**OFFICES  
CLOSED**

Tri-County EMC anticipates opening offices in June. However, offices will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

## BEAT THE HEAT AND SAVE ENERGY

*Summer is a great time of year — synonymous with sunshine and vacation. But in Georgia, summer also means it's hot and humid. Really hot and humid! To keep your home cool and humidity low, your air conditioner will likely run more, causing your energy use to go up. One way to get the best bang for your electric dollar during the summer heat is to keep conditioned air inside your home. Follow the electric tips below to help reduce your energy use and enjoy summer again! (59416002)*

### STOP AIR LEAKS

Add weather-stripping on doors and windows and caulk the cracks and plumbing penetrations to keep cool air inside and hot air from leaking into your home.

### PUT YOUR HOME IN SUMMER MODE

During the summer, it's best to run your fan in the counter clockwise position. Only keep fans on when people are in the room. Fans cool people, not the air. Also, if you built fires in the winter, make sure the damper to your fireplace is closed so that the cool air can't sneak out through the chimney.

### MAINTAIN YOUR HVAC EQUIPMENT

Make sure there are no leaves, grass or shrubs blocking airflow to your outside HVAC unit. Clear at least 6 feet above the unit and 2 feet around the coils to optimize efficiency. We recommend getting your HVAC system serviced and coils cleaned by a heating and air contractor each year to extend the life of your system.

### INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT

A smart thermostat allows you to set different temperatures for different time periods throughout the day. Once you program it, you won't have to touch it again. You can also control the system from your smartphone.

### PROPERLY INSULATE YOUR ATTIC

Install recommended levels of insulation to lower cooling costs.

On warm days, attic temperatures can get up to 140 degrees. Recommended levels of insulation vary. Contact us to help you determine the right level for your home.

### USE OUR ONLINE ENERGY TOOLS

In our online Energy Efficiency Center, you will find tools to help you conserve energy in your home. The Billing Insights Calculator will help you break down your energy usage using your bills and allow you to perform energy saving scenarios to pinpoint opportunities for savings. In addition, you can use the Appliance Calculator to determine what it is costing to operate each appliance in your home. Visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-calculator.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-calculator.cms) for more information.



## Electric Vehicle Incentive

Let 2020 be your year to purchase an electric vehicle with the help of EV365! If you purchase a new car in 2020, you will receive a \$30 bill credit each month for a year. And if you install a Level 2 charger in your home, you'll receive a \$250 credit. Visit [tri-countyemc.com/electricvehicles.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/electricvehicles.cms).



# COVID-19 UPDATE *(Continued From Page 1)*

## PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR TRADITIONAL PAY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS:

### **Option 1:**

You may pay all unpaid balances immediately or by your next due date

### **Option 2:**

You may elect to make an arrangement to pay any unpaid balances, with the option to spread payments over a six-month period. Balances for any new bill would need to be paid on the normal schedule. For example, if you have an unpaid balance of \$300, you could pay \$50 per month toward the unpaid balance in addition to your current bill. There will be no further late fees or interest charged on the unpaid balance.

To set up an arrangement for 30 days, you may use the app, the automated phone system, or call our office at 1.866.254.8100. To set up an arrangement for longer than

30 days, you must contact a customer service representative by calling 1.866.254.8100.

You may be able to use a portion of your deposit. Please ask a customer service representative if your account is eligible.

### **Option 3:**

You may elect to convert your account to pay•your•way, our prepay payment program. Your unpaid balance will be placed in the cooperative's debt recovery program. 25% of any future payments will be credited against the unpaid balance until it is paid off. Any deposits on your existing traditional pay account can also be used against the debt recovery balance or to charge the initial \$25 balance. Each day, your account will be charged for the energy you use, the minimum bill charge of \$1.48, plus tax.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### ***Will you discount my bill?***

Because Tri-County EMC is a not-for-profit cooperative, any discounts would mean other members would have to shoulder that cost. We will work with our members on payment arrangements as needed, but we are not able to discount bills.

### ***My usage has increased. Can you help me?***

If your residential account has seen increased energy use, it could be a result of having more people at home. If you have usage you can't explain, we have several tools to help, even though we have suspended onsite energy audits. We have multiple virtual energy audit tools available at [www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-calculator.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-calculator.cms). Our energy audit team is also available to assist by telephone.

### ***I lost my income due to COVID-19.***

#### ***Where can I find energy assistance to help pay my bill?***

Through the CARES Act, additional energy assistance funds were released through LIHEAP. For more information, please contact one of the organizations listed to the right based on the county you live in. (82948002)

#### ***To Qualify:***

Annual family income must be less than or equal to 60 percent of the median income for a Georgia family. For a household of one, the income threshold is \$23,776. For a household of five, the income threshold is \$53,040.

Applicants will be asked to provide the following:

- Most recent cooling bill or statement of service
- Most recent heating bill or statement of service
- Social Security cards for each member of the household
- Proof of citizenship or legal residency
- Proof of income for the last 30 days for each adult member of the household. Proof of income can include, but is not limited to, a paycheck stub or public assistance verification letter.
- Verification of Social Security or unemployment benefits for all applicable household members

## COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES:

### **Jones & Twiggs Counties:**

Middle Ga Community Action Agency  
478.922.4464  
<http://mgcaa.org/>

### **Bibb County:**

Macon Bibb Economic Opportunity Council  
478.738.3240  
<https://www.maconbibbeoc.com/default.aspx>

### **Putnam, Baldwin, Jasper, Morgan & Wilkinson Counties:**

Overview, Inc.  
478.453.4111  
<http://overviewinc.com/>

### **Morgan County:**

Action, Inc.  
706.546.8293  
<https://actionathens.org/>

# RECIPE BOX

## SPRING SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- Cut Green Beans (14.5 oz. can drained or fresh cooked)
- 2 Cucumbers, sliced
- 4-5 radishes, thinly sliced
- Lite Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing
- Feta Cheese

### DIRECTIONS

Toss the green beans, cucumbers, radishes and dressing in a bowl. Chill. Top with feta cheese and serve. Serves 4.



Thanks to Faye Taylor of Putnam County for the recipe. Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to [kimb@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

# TWO LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIPS

*Tri-County EMC awards \$10,000 in scholarships each year through three scholarship programs. The Operation Roundup Scholarship is awarded to two students each spring and fall.*

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 2020 Operation Roundup Scholarship recipients. The next deadline for this scholarship program is October 15, 2020. For additional information on this and additional scholarship opportunities, visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms). (85403001)



### ASIA LOGAN

Asia Logan is from Gray and graduated from Augusta University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. She plans to begin South University School of Pharmacy in the fall to become a pharmacist. She is active member of her church and tutors children in several subjects. She also helps deliver medications to sick and elderly patients in her community.



### DYLAN GATTIE

Dylan Gattie is from Gray and is currently attending Georgia Southern University. He is working to obtain a degree in Construction Engineering. Dylan enjoys volunteering and is involved in A Night To Shine and Operation KARE. His goal is to return to the middle Georgia to work in construction, building schools and other educational facilities.

# 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.