



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

MARCH 2021

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SPRING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As a cooperative, we are committed to helping our communities grow and thrive. An important part of this commitment is investing in the education of our youth through scholarships. The deadline to submit an application for the Cooperative Scholarship and the Operation Roundup Scholarship is April 15. Learn more about each scholarship below and on our website.

COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Each spring, Tri-County EMC awards three \$2,000 Cooperative Scholarships to students residing within the cooperative's service area. One scholarship is awarded in each of the three Tri-County board districts.

Applications are judged equally on academics, financial need and community involvement. To apply, visit tri-countyemc.com/cooperativescholarship.cms.



OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to funding community grants, the Tri-County EMC Foundation offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students (with preference given to nontraditional students) to help pay their college costs. Through Operation Roundup, four \$1,000 scholarships are awarded annually to students residing in the homes of Tri-County EMC members.



The applicant must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college or university and have maintained at least a 2.0 average. Applications are judged equally on academics, financial need and community involvement. To apply, visit tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms.

WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Andreanna Adams was named Tri-County EMC's finalist for the Walter Harrison Scholarship. She will go on to compete in the statewide scholarship competition for one of twelve \$1,000 scholarships. Statewide scholarship winners will be announced in April.

Andreanna is a senior at Putnam County High School. She plans to attend Augusta University and major in psychology and criminal justice. Upon graduation, she plans to become an FBI agent.

For more information on scholarships offered through Tri-County EMC, visit us online at tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms.

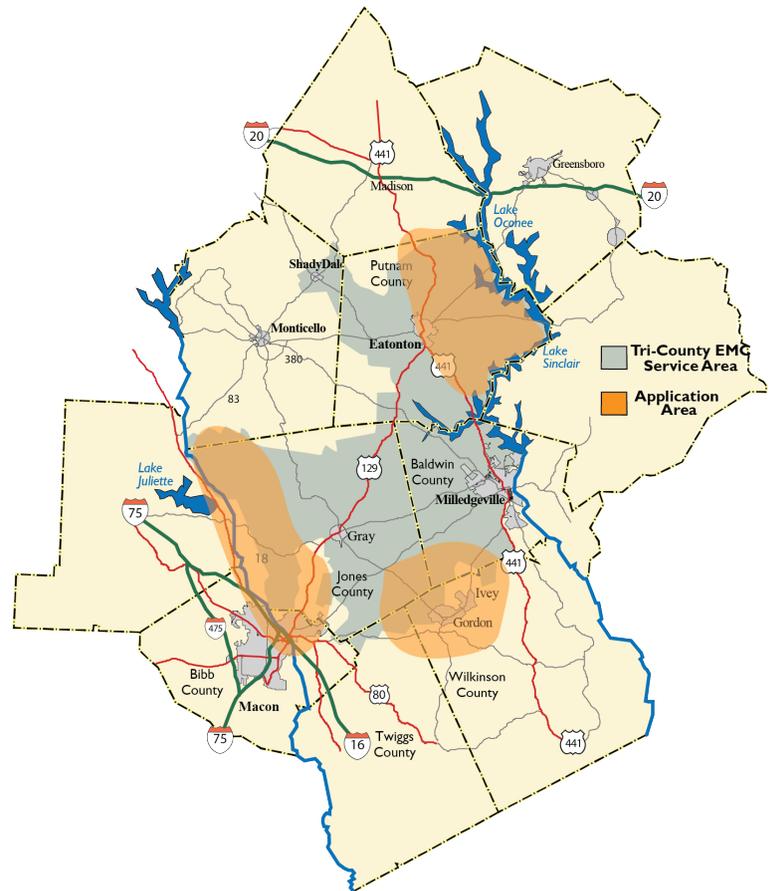


RIGHT-OF-WAY SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

In April, Tri-County EMC will begin 2021 herbicide application. NaturChem, our spraying contractor, will apply herbicide to keep trees, brush and foliage from interfering with the delivery of your electric service. Overgrown trees and other vegetation within 15 feet of overhead power lines are trimmed year-round. Herbicide is applied in five-year cycles. This year's herbicide application will occur in northern Putnam County, western and southeastern Jones County, southwestern Baldwin County and northern portions of Twiggs and Wilkinson Counties.

The map to the right shows the general area where the maintenance will occur. For a full list of streets that will be affected, or more information on Tri-County's right-of-way program, visit tri-countyemc.com/rightofway.cms. Only nonrestrictive, nonresidual chemicals are used. Landscaped areas such as lawns, streams or ponds will not be sprayed.

When planting trees this spring, always be sure the width of the foliage of the mature tree will not grow within 15 feet of each side of a power line. It is important to keep trees, limbs and climbing plants away from power lines to prevent outages and power blinks. (45890001)



ACCOUNT NUMBER

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.

10 REASONS TO PURCHASE AN EV IN 2021

THE SELECTION HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER

As of this publication, there are 26 total electric vehicle models being offered for sale in the US with sticker prices ranging from as low as \$25,000 to over \$100,000.

NEWER MODELS ELIMINATE RANGE ANXIETY

As battery technology advances, so does the range on EVs. While most EVs now have a 200+ mile battery range, some models offer up to a 400 mile range. And if you just want low-cost, low mileage options, there are still 100 mile range vehicles on the market.

EV RESALE VALUES ARE RISING

Kelley Blue Book predicts that the Tesla Model X will hold 44% of its value after five years. This compared 37.4% for a Honda Accord.

ELECTRICITY IS CHEAPER THAN GASOLINE

Even with gas prices remaining relatively affordable, it's still cheaper to keep an electric car running. For example, the 2020 Honda Civic can get 32 miles for \$2.30 in gas, compared to the Nissan Leaf that averages 10 cents in electricity for that same mileage.

PUBLIC CHARGING STATIONS ARE MORE COMMON

Charging stations are popping up across Georgia and the US. According to the Alternative Fuels Data Center, there are currently 1,327 Level 2 and DC Fast Chargers (3200 outlets) in Georgia. And they are continuing to gain popularity in Middle Georgia, with more than 40 public chargers (123 outlets) available.



EVS HAVE LOWER MAINTENANCE COSTS THAN A GAS-POWERED VEHICLE

Imagine never having to pay for an oil change again! A service visit for an EV costs much less than its gas-powered counterpart and includes just tire rotation, replacing the cabin air filter, wiper blades and topping off the washer fluid.

EVS CREATE ZERO TAILPIPE EMISSIONS

Because they run on an electric motor instead of gas, EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions. For that reason, many national companies, including Amazon, are converting their fleets to electric vehicles to do their part in protecting the environment. (76541001)

MORE USED EVS ARE COMING AVAILABLE

Many people chose to lease electric vehicles when they were first coming on the market rather than buying them. Now those 3-5 year leased cars are coming on the market at reduced rates.

GET A REBATE FROM TRI-COUNTY WHEN YOU PURCHASE AN EV

If you purchase a new car in 2021, 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.

CHARGE FOR FREE AT TRI-COUNTY EMC OFFICES

Tri-County EMC has electric vehicle charging stations available at both our Gray and Eatonton office locations, free of charge.

Electric Vehicle Incentive

Let 2021 be your year to purchase an electric vehicle with the help of EV365! If you purchase a new car in 2021, 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.



RECIPE BOX

ROPA VIEJA WITH CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 8 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 Vidalia onion, cut into quarters then sliced crosswise
- 2 red bell peppers, cut into thin strips
- 2 yellow bell peppers, cut into thin strips
- 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes (or 6 vine-ripe tomatoes, diced)
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 2 tablespoons sweet paprika
- 1/2 cup Spanish green olives, sliced

DIRECTIONS

Season chicken thighs with salt and pepper. In a large skillet or Dutch oven, add 4 tablespoons of olive oil over medium heat. Add chicken thighs, and sear chicken on both sides to cook through completely. Remove from skillet and let cool slightly. Using your hands or two forks, shred chicken and set aside.

To the same skillet add remaining 4 tablespoons olive oil and heat over medium heat. Add onions, peppers and garlic and sauté for 5 minutes, until onion is almost translucent. Add tomatoes and sauté for 2 minutes, until they begin to break down. Stir in cumin, oregano and sweet paprika. Add olives, if desired. Simmer for 15 minutes or until vegetables are cooked. Stir in shredded chicken. Season with salt and pepper, if needed. Serves 6-8.

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.

THREE EASY DIY PROJECTS TO SAVE ENERGY

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WATER HEATER

Insulating an electric water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. If your water heater is new, it is likely already adequately insulated. But if your water heater feels warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation. You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. To install it, turn off the water heater, wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. For electric water heaters, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. Silicone caulk, the most popular type, is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack. Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

WEATHER STRIP EXTERIOR DOORS

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed. (76585002)



**Tri-County
EMC**

Owned By Those We Serve

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www.tri-countyemc.com

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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CURRENTLINES

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Tri-County EMC Members