



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

OCTOBER 2020

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

October is one of the best months on the calendar. It's the first sign of cooler weather, colorful fall foliage and, of course, Halloween. In addition to all of these, October is exciting for Tri-County because it's National Co-op Month! This is a time to recognize and celebrate the cooperative business model.

That's right, Tri-County EMC is a cooperative. We're a not-for-profit business that exists solely to serve you, our members, with safe and reliable electricity. And we've worked diligently to do that since we first brought power into our service area in 1939.

At Tri-County, we do more than supply power. We're committed to make our communities a better place to live, work and play through economic development projects, civic involvement, grant programs, scholarship programs and leadership programs.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as technology upgrades and equipment.

We hope you will think of Tri-County EMC as more than your energy provider, but as a local business that supports this community. We will continue to learn from you, our members, about your needs and priorities so our service area can thrive.

BE AWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

If you receive a call, email or text demanding an immediate payment of your electric bill, it could be a scam. As technology advances, so does the creativity of scammers. If you receive a suspicious phone call, follow the tips below.



ASK QUESTIONS

A representative from Tri-County would know your account information, such as the amount of your last bill payment. If they don't have that information available, hang up the phone and don't respond to text or email messages.



TAKE YOUR TIME

Be aware of calls, texts or emails asking you to act too quickly. If it seems like you are being rushed, hang up the phone and contact us directly at 1.866.254.8100 to verify your bill's due date.



PAY DIRECTLY

Be suspicious if a caller tells you to pay your bill with a special payment option, like a prepaid credit card. Always pay your bill directly to Tri-County EMC - via phone, online, mail, myTCEMC app, bank draft or in person at our drive-thru.



KEEP YOUR INFO SAFE

Never provide personal or financial information to anyone initiating contact with you claiming to be from Tri-County. If you are suspicious, hang up and call us directly at 1.866.254.8100 to verify the request.

LIHEAP: LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program that assists low-income households in heating or cooling their homes. The heating assistance application cycle begins November 1. If you are interested in applying, please contact your local Community Action Agency, listed to the right.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY:

- 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 for the applicant
- Proof of income for the last 30 days for each adult household member (i.e. paycheck stub or public assistance verification letter)
- Verification of Social Security or unemployment benefits for all applicable household members

LIHEAP CONTACTS BY COUNTY:

Bibb County:

Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
478-738-3240
<http://mgcaa.org/>

Jones & Twiggs Counties:

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.
478-922-4464
<https://www.maconbibbeoc.com/default.aspx>

Baldwin, Jasper, Putnam & Wilkinson Counties

Overview, Inc.
478-453-4111
<http://overviewinc.com/>

Morgan County

Action, Inc.
706-546-8293
<https://actionathens.org/>

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Did you find your Tri-County EMC account number? Three random account numbers are hidden in parentheses in each issue of Current Lines. If one of the hidden numbers matches the account number listed on your bill, call us at 478-986-8126 to claim a \$50 bill credit.

TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$21,952 IN SEPTEMBER

In September 2020, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved grants for 6 projects, totaling \$21,952 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities.

BURN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA:

\$2,500 to purchase items to assist patients in the burn center, including pressure garments, virtual reality distraction therapy goggles, clothing and transportation vouchers.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF PUTNAM COUNTY:

\$5,675 to purchase and install an HVAC unit for a Habitat home.

NEW DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH:

\$6,500 to repair the roof and replace damaged sheetrock for a paraplegic individual in Jones County.

NORTHRIDGE CHRISTIAN RAMP MINISTRY:

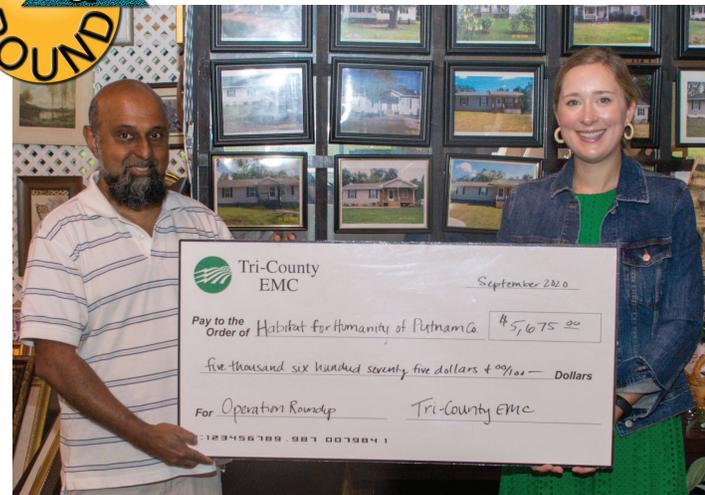
\$1,828 to purchase materials to assist in home repairs for individuals in need in Baldwin County.

OPERATION APPRECIATION:

\$2,500 to help cover the basic needs of military families within the Tri-County EMC service area.

VELMA MCFADDEN MISSIONARY

FOOD PANTRY: \$2,950 in funds to purchase a tent to be used as shelter during food distribution and to help purchase food for the food pantry.



Murali Thirumal with Habitat for Humanity of Putnam County accepts an Operation Roundup Grant to be used to purchase an HVAC unit for a Habitat home.

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 charitable or government institution, civic organization or other non-profit group 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. The next deadline is December 1, 2020. (88342001)

REAL LINEMEN WEAR PINK

This month, our linemen will wear pink hardhats as they go into the field to repair and maintain power lines. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness for breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women after skin cancer. In fact, one in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. It's also the second-leading cause of death among women in the United States.

Visit the American Cancer Society online at <http://www.cancer.org> to see how you can support the fight against cancer. (89304001)



RECIPE BOX

CROCK-POT APPLE BUTTER

INGREDIENTS

- 5-6 pounds apples (about 12), peeled, cored, chopped
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar, plus more, to taste
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup apple cider
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Fill a slow cooker with the apples. Add 1/2 cup granulated sugar, brown sugar, cider and vanilla. Cook all day on low heat, stirring occasionally, until the apples have broken down and the mixture has the texture of a puree or a smoothie. Add more sugar to taste. Add cinnamon and cloves to taste, if desired. Ladle the mixture into hot jars, seal with hot lids and process in a boiling-water bath for 10 minutes. Makes 20 half-pint jars.



This recipe is courtesy of the Georgia Magazine Archives, Nichelle Stewart, Rockin' S Farms. 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.

CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

Artwork Due November 6

Tri-County EMC is seeking students (grades Kindergarten through 5th grade) to design the Tri-County EMC 2020 Christmas Card. Artwork provided by the students should be Christmas/Holiday themed and will be judged by a committee of employees. The overall winner's design will appear on Tri-County EMC's Christmas Card, which will be mailed to friends and associates of the cooperative. The artwork will also be featured in the December issue of *Current Lines*, on www.tri-countyemc.com and on Tri-County EMC's social media pages. If you are interested in having your child participate, please fill out the release form at www.tri-countyemc.com/christmascardartcontest.cms and return it with the artwork to:

Tri-County EMC
Attn: Christmas Card Contest
PO Box 487
Gray, GA 31032

Although our lobbies are closed, you may also turn in entries to either office drive-thru. Please do not fold the artwork. The deadline to turn in entries is Friday, November 6. The winner will be announced on social media and our website on Wednesday, November 11. If you have questions, please contact Kim Broun at kimb@tri-countyemc.com or 478.986.8126. (82819003)



PRIZES:

The first place winner's artwork will be featured on the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card, in the December *Current Lines* on tri-countyemc.com and the cooperative's social media pages. The winner will also receive \$50.

Overall 2nd Place: \$40
Overall 3rd Place: \$25
Grade Level Winners: \$10

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100
www.tri-countyemc.com

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members