



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

OCTOBER 2021

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Tri-County EMC all share something in common: we are all cooperatives. October is National Cooperative Month. Each October, cooperatives of all kinds take the time to recognize and celebrate the cooperative business model. We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities grow and thrive.

When Tri-County EMC began in 1939, it was established to meet a need - to bring electricity to unserved rural areas. This would meet a need not only for our members, but for the greater good of our local communities.

And our mission goes farther than meeting electric needs. We are committed to making our communities a better place through economic development projects, grant and scholarship programs, leadership programs and civic involvement.

In addition to those commitments, we are working to meet the need of rural electric broadband internet service in our communities by constructing fiber lines around our service area. This will enhance reliability and operational services at Tri-County EMC while giving Tri-CoGo the ability to provide broadband internet service to each interested Tri-County EMC member.

We hope you will think of Tri-County as more than a power company, but as a local business that supports this community and constantly looks ahead for the greater good.

REMINDER:

NEW RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1

Visit tri-countyemc.com for additional information.

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

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 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 & Morgan Counties

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

ACCOUNTNUMBER

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 \$19,250 IN SEPTEMBER

In September 2021, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved grants for 8 projects, totaling \$19,250 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities.

BRAVE MEADOWS THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER:

\$1,000 to purchase safety equipment, therapeutic saddles and games, riding helmets and horse care costs.

BURN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA:

\$1,500 to provide direct patient services to residents from the Tri-County EMC service area to help them heal following a burn injury and aid in the transition back home.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MONTICELLO:

\$650 to purchase and install a community message center window to be placed in the Thomas W. Gordon Memorial Park.

JONES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:

\$2,000 to update the children's non-fiction book section for the library.

MIDDLE GEORGIA SONRISE MINISTRY: \$2,500 to assist in the construction of a shelter used for a monthly food distribution to those in need in Jones County.

NEW CITY EAST SIDE CHURCH:

\$1,000 to purchase shelving, racks and supplies for a clothing and food ministry serving Jones County DCFS, The Colby House Pregnancy Center and Communities in Schools.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF CENTRAL GEORGIA:

\$5,000 to provide 250 nights of lodging for families with children in the hospital.

VELMA MCFADDEN MISSIONARY FOOD PANTRY:

\$2,600 to purchase tents, tables, fans and food to aid in food distribution for a food bank serving Jones County.



Leigh Sloan (left), Jones County Public Library, accepts a \$2,000 Operation Roundup Grant from Kim Broun, Tri-County EMC. The grant will be used to update the children's nonfiction book section.

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, 2021. (65768001)

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. (34380001)

RECIPE BOX

OVEN ROASTED VEGETABLE HASH WITH EGG

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sweet potatoes, medium dice
- 1/2 cup multi-colored peppers, medium dice
- Olive or pecan oil, as needed
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Garlic powder, to taste
- Smoked or regular paprika, to taste
- 1 cup Vidalia onion, medium dice
- 1 cup mushrooms, quartered
- 1/2 cup grape tomatoes, halved
- 4 fresh farm eggs, poached or fried just before serving

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine sweet potatoes and peppers in a medium bowl. Drizzle with a little olive or pecan oil, tossing to coat. Sprinkle salt and pepper, and a small amount of garlic powder and paprika over vegetables. Toss again to distribute spices. Spread vegetables on baking sheet. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until tender. Set sweet potatoes and peppers aside. Repeat procedure with Vidalia onion, mushrooms and grape tomatoes. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until tender. Divide all vegetables between 4 ramekins or dishes. Top each dish with a poached or fried egg. Serves 4.



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.

CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

Artwork Due November 5

Tri-County EMC is seeking students (grades Kindergarten through 5th grade) to design the Tri-County EMC 2021 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 5. The winner will be announced on social media and our website on Wednesday, November 10. If you have questions, please contact Kim Broun at kimb@tri-countyemc.com or 478.986.8126. (77071001)



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

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
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Chap Nelson, Marion Nelson,
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members