

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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VP of Construction Receives Cofer-Langston Award

Donald Appling, VP of Construction at Tri-County EMC, received the Cofer-Langston Award earlier this month during the statewide Georgia Foreman and Supervisors' Association meeting.

The honor is awarded annually to the person who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to promoting training and safety in the rural electric program. A nominee must also employ and abide by all industry safety rules and use them in his or her personal, professional and civic life.

"Safety has always been one of Donald's primary goals," said C. Hill Bentley, CEO of Tri-County EMC. "He has promoted safety both inside and outside of the workplace his entire career."

Appling began his career at the cooperative in 1977 as a meter reader. Since then, he served as a Staking Technician, Field Engineer, Operations Supervisor, Manager of Construction and Maintenance and Vice President of Construction Services – a role he has held since 2009.

"Donald has a great working relationship with his employees," continued Bentley. "He has an open door policy and encourages employees to think for themselves."

Appling recognized the need for more in-depth training for cooperative employees which led to the hiring of a full-time Manager of Safety and Training, a position created at Tri-County in 2013. He continues to work closely with the safety department developing and scheduling training for employees. (69117001)

During Appling's career, Tri-County EMC has received numerous No-Lost-Time Accidents awards – an accolade recognizing cooperatives that have no-lost time employee accidents in a calendar year. The cooperative also participates in the Safety Accreditation program through Georgia EMC and continues to receive top scores.



Donald Appling (left), VP of Construction Services, accepts Cofer-Langston Award.

Bring One For The Chipper

Bring your Christmas trees and natural wreaths to the Overland Way Convenience Center on Saturday, January 2. Tri-County EMC's right-of-way contractor, Aplundh, will be chipping trees from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Mulch chipped from the trees will be available for you to take home.

Overland Way Convenience Center
153 Overland Way | Gray, Georgia
Saturday, January 2 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Trailer for Sale

Tri-County EMC has a 8 ft. X 24 ft., 20 ton utility trailer for sale “as is” by sealed bid. All bids are due by January 15. For more information, contact Willie Jones at 478.986.8183 or 1.866.254.8100 ext. 8183. The trailer is located at our Eatonton Office, 112 Recreation Rd. The trailer must be picked up and paid for within 30 days of notification of a winning bid. **Please Send Sealed Bids to:** Tri-County EMC, Attn: Willie Jones, Trailer Bid, PO Box 487, Gray, GA 31032. *Please include your name, contact information and the amount you want to bid in a sealed envelope.*



Christmas Card Art Contest

Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th living in the Tri-County EMC service area were invited to participate in the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card Art Contest. A total of 74 entries were submitted. The top three submissions are shown below. The first place artwork will be featured on the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card. Congratulations to our winners!



Emily Harrison, 2nd Place



Jaedyn Freeman, 3rd Place

Rylie Faulk, 1st Place



See the winning Christmas card artwork from each grade level on Facebook!

Lights of Christmas Past

According to folklore, it was Protestant Reformer Martin Luther who first had the idea to illuminate trees to replicate the stars among the evergreens during the winter season. While some accounts say the lighting of Christmas trees dates back to the 1600s, this tradition was not brought to the United States until the early 1800s. During this time, candles were used to light Christmas trees, posing a fire hazard in homes. Products were invented to keep the flames away from the drying tree, including glass votives, hanging lanterns, and weighted candle holders, but many Americans were skeptical of lighting a tree.



During the late 1800s, electricity was becoming more widespread across America. Thomas Edison invented the first light bulb in 1879 and shortly after this in 1882, Edison's friend and business partner,

Edward H. Johnson, wired the very first strand of Christmas tree lights. Johnson, now known as the Father of Electric Christmas Tree Lights, hand-wired 80 red, white and blue bulbs and used them on his own Christmas tree, which he also wired to revolve at a speed of 6 times per minute. As the tree revolved, the lights twinkled off and on.

President Grover Cleveland electrically illuminated the White House Christmas tree to resemble Johnson's tree in 1894. This caused interest in electric Christmas lights to grow, but the majority of Americans still used candles on their trees due to the cost.

While the majority of Americans were just getting electricity in their homes and were still skeptical of the power, wealthy Americans were eager to have electric lights on their Christmas trees. Some spent as much as much as \$2,000 or more to have an electrician wire electric lights on their trees.

In 1903, General Electric began to sell Christmas lights to the public at \$12 per 8-lamp strand – equal to about \$300 in today's dollars. Department stores also had the light strands available for rental for \$1.50 – about \$37 per strand in today's dollars. After this, National Outfit Manufacturer's Association (eventually NOMA Electric Company) came on to the scene and made lights that most Americans could afford. The company dominated the Christmas light industry until the 1960s, when many lights were being imported from outside the US.



credit: Library of Congress



Modern Christmas lights continue to evolve, becoming safer and more efficient each year. While many homes still use incandescent Christmas lights, LED lights are the most efficient technology available. LED lights consume 80-90% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last much longer than the traditional incandescent bulb.



Operation Roundup Scholarship Winners

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, judged anonymously, 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 our recipients! (80942001)



Amy Hall of Jones County currently attends Georgia College and State University and plans to obtain a degree in Criminal Justice.



Emily Newsome of Putnam County currently attends Central Georgia Technical College and plans to obtain a degree in a STEM field.

Sources:
www.history.com
www.oldchristmastreelights.com
 Detroit Post and Tribune
 Library of Congress, www.loc.gov

Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number in this issue of Current Lines and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your bill credit.

LIHEAP: Georgia's Heating Assistance Program

The Georgia Department of Human Services provides assistance on heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to low-income families, the elderly and other applicants who qualify. When applying for assistance, be sure to have your proof of income from the last 30 days available, as well as proof of Social Security numbers for each household member, your last month's heating

bill, and proof of citizenship or legal immigration status. (486)9001

For local heating assistance, contact the community action agency that coincides with the county in which you reside listed to the right. For more information about the LIHEAP program, call 1-800-869-1150 or visit www.liheap.org. You can also contact your local organizations, listed to the right, for further assistance.

For heating assistance call...

Bibb County
Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
478-738-3240

Jones & Twiggs Counties
Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.
478-922-4464

Baldwin, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam & Wilkinson Counties
Overview, Inc.
478-453-4111

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Holiday Office Closures:
Dec. 24-25
Jan. 1



Recipe Box

Party Cheese Ring

Thanks to Teresa Hawk of Putnam County for submitting this recipe! **Did you know that 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.**

Ingredients:

- 1 envelope Knox gelatin
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup cold water
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 8oz. grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsps bell pepper, finely chopped, any color
- 2 tbsps. pimento
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Directions:

Sprinkle gelatin over cold water. Stir until dissolved. Combine the sour cream and mayonnaise and then gradually add the gelatin mixture until the mixture is well-blended. Stir in the remaining ingredients and chill until the mixture is slightly thickened, then stir again lightly. Pour the mixture into a 4-cup jello ring mold. Chill until firm, at least overnight. Serve with crackers.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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