

# current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

## In this issue:

**HVAC  
Checkup**  
page 1

**ourSolar,  
Cooperative  
Scholarship**  
page 2

**Operation  
Roundup,  
Vote Online**  
page 3

**myTCEMC App,  
Recipe Box**  
page 4

## Importance of An HVAC Checkup .....

**Y**our HVAC system is important for creating a comfortable and cool environment inside your home as summer temperatures rise. Routine maintenance of your unit is necessary to prolong the life of your HVAC system and improve efficiency. There are a few things you can do to ensure your unit is running safely and efficiently, but annual maintenance from a professional HVAC technician may uncover faulty equipment and safety hazards you may overlook.

### DO IT YOURSELF

Here are a few simple things you can do to ensure your unit is running efficiently:

#### Check Your Thermostat:

Set your thermostat to 78°F in the summer to stay cool and lower your energy bill. For every degree you increase your thermostat setting, you can save up to 5% on your energy bill.

#### Change Your Air Filters:

Dirty air filters can decrease the life of your unit and increase your energy bill. Change your air filters at the frequency recommended by the filter packaging, which usually suggests every 4-6 weeks. An added bonus: a clean air filter means less dust in your house and less time cleaning!

#### Keep Your Unit Clear:

Remove debris from the unit. Be sure to trim back plants and foliage to at least 18 inches from the unit. Hose down the outdoor unit if it begins to accumulate dirt. Be sure all indoor vents are not blocked by curtains, rugs or furniture so that air can efficiently cool the home. (11010001)

### ASK A PROFESSIONAL

Below are a few things you can expect to see in a maintenance check of your HVAC system from a professional technician:

#### Check Refrigerant Charge:

Too much or too little refrigerant can cause the system to run less efficiently at a higher cost to you.

#### Check Evaporator and Condenser Coils:

Dirty coils can decrease efficiency and cause your system to run longer, shortening the life of the unit.

#### Clean and Adjust the Blower:

As dirt accumulates on the blower fans, airflow is reduced. This can reduce the efficiency of your unit by 15%. Making annual adjustments ensures airflow and comfort.

#### Tighten Electrical Connections:

Loose connections can be dangerous and shorten the unit's life span. The technician will also check to see the unit is using proper voltage and current.

#### Lubricate Moving Parts:

Lack of lubrication on the moving parts can cause the unit to overheat and break down while increasing your energy bill.

#### Check System Controls:

The start cycle, operation and shut off of a system should occur in a particular order to operate safely and efficiently.

#### Inspect the Condensation Drain:

Properly functioning cooling units will condensate when they run. Typically, that water drains outside the unit and out of the home for indoor units. Over time, sludge and algae can block the pipe causing water damage to your unit and your home, particularly for units located in the attic.



# Cooperative Solar

**A**re you interested in solar power but don't want the hassle of installing panels on your property? Enroll in ourSolar, a cooperative solar program from Tri-County EMC.

A 1 MW solar array has been constructed at the Tri-County EMC office in Putnam County. Members can purchase up to four 1.22 kW blocks of energy for \$25 each. The panels will remain on site, but the energy produced by the blocks you purchase will be credited to your bill. Each block is estimated to produce 160-250 kWhs per month.

With ourSolar, there is nothing to install or finance, and there is no contract. You can end your participation at any time, although you must wait 12 months to rejoin.

The panels will begin generating energy this month. For more information or to enroll, visit us online at [www.tri-countyemc.com/cooperativesolar.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/cooperativesolar.cms) or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100 or 478.986.8100.

**We're Bringing Solar Power To You.  
No Risk. No Rooftop Required.**



## Advantages to Cooperative Solar

- No installation or maintenance costs for you
- No holes in your roof
- Lower costs per kWh through economies of scale
- No issues with shading or roof direction
- Renters or homeowners with restrictive covenants can participate
- No up-front costs, financing or long-term contracts
- Limited to 4 blocks per account

# Cooperative Scholarships Awarded

**E**ach year, Tri-County EMC awards \$6,000 in scholarship funds through the Cooperative Scholarship. Three students from the co-op's service area each received a \$2,000 Tri-County EMC Cooperative Scholarship in June. Funds were awarded based on academics, financial need and a demonstrated commitment to the community in which they reside. Recipients were chosen by an independent panel of judges based on anonymous applications. The next Cooperative Scholarship deadline is April 15, 2017.



### **Ariel Daniels**

Ariel Daniels of Baldwin County plans to attend Mercer University in the fall and major in sociology and political science and become a civil rights attorney.



### **Krisa Forehand**

Krisa Forehand of Jones County plans to attend the University of Georgia in the fall and major in athletic training and become a physicians assistant.



### **Emily Newsome**

Emily Newsome of Putnam County plans to attend the University of Georgia in the fall and major in math or science and get a job working with new technologies.

# Foundation Grants \$18,125 in June



Last month, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved 9 projects, totaling \$18,125 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in our local community. Applications for 20 projects were submitted requesting a total of more than \$100,000. The organizations that received funds last month are:

## Action Ministries:

\$3,000 to assist with the transitional housing costs of three homeless families in Jones, Putnam and Baldwin Counties.

## Cub Scout Pack 34:

\$500 to assist in the cost of annual dues for scouts in the pack that are in need in Putnam County.

## Gray United Methodist Church:

\$5,000 to purchase home repair materials for the River of Life program - a home repair youth mission project serving individuals in need in Jones and Wilkinson Counties.

## Meals on Wheels of Middle Georgia:

\$1,625 to purchase a year of hot meals for an individual in need in Jones County.

## Milledgeville First United Methodist Church:

\$2,500 to purchase materials to construct two wheelchair ramps for individuals in need in Baldwin County for the River of Life Mission Project.

## Putnam County Family Violence Task Force:

\$500 to provide young children in need in Putnam County with school supplies, clothing and toys.

## Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia:

\$1,000 to assist in medical expenses and wellness checkups for residents of the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia.

## Ronald McDonald House of Central Georgia:

\$2,500 to provide 167 nights of stay to families from the Tri-County EMC service area that have children staying in the hospital.

## The Cancer

**Foundation:** \$1,500 to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals with cancer in Putnam County.



**Pictured:** Ronald McDonald House Development Director, Julie Wilkerson (left), accepts an Operation Roundup Grant from Kim Broun, Tri-County EMC Foundation.

## About Operation Roundup:

Operation Roundup is a voluntary program that allows a Tri-County EMC member to round his or her bill to the next dollar with that small amount of change going to fund worthy service projects in the area. If you want your small change to make a big impact in your community, consider enrolling in Operation Roundup. To learn more about the program, visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/operation-roundup.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/operation-roundup.cms). If you have additional questions, please contact Kim Broun at [kimb@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or 478.986.8126.

**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 credit.

## Vote Online in the Annual Election

To opt out of paper ballots and vote online only during your cooperative's annual election, visit us online at [tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms), and complete the form or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100 by **August 30**. By opting out of paper balloting and choosing to vote online, you will be sent your logon information for the voting website via email. You will not be mailed a paper ballot. If you have opted out before, there is no need to opt out again unless your email address has changed. In that case, please complete the on-line form with your updated email address or contact us. If you have questions regarding the cooperative's annual meeting or election, give us a call at 1.866.254.8100 or 478.986.8100. (72089001)

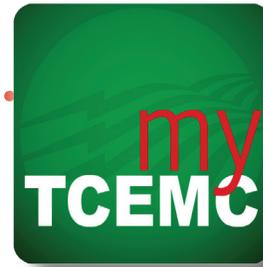
# There's an App for That

Download myTCEMC today!

The Tri-County EMC app is available on the Apple™ and Android™ markets! With the myTCEMC app, your account is available 24-hours a day. Use the app to view your energy usage, make secure payments, view your payment history or report an outage. The app is completely free to download and install. (176001)

## To Download:

Search for Tri-County EMC on the Apple™ or Android™ market and look for the logo pictured here on the right and click download. Once downloaded, your Tri-County EMC account will be right at your fingertips.



## Recipe Box

### Mom's Famous Cheesecake

Thanks to Diane Simmons of Putnam County for sharing this delicious recipe! **Did you know that 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.**

#### Crust Ingredients:

- 1 box of yellow cake mix (remove 1 cup for later use)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large egg

#### Topping Ingredients:

- Dash of cinnamon
- 1 jar or can of cherry pie filling

#### Filling Ingredients:

- 2 (8oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup milk



#### Directions:

Mix the crust ingredients together and spread it into the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. For the filling, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add all other ingredients, omitting the milk, and beat until smooth. Then add 1 cup of the dry cake mix and milk, and beat until smooth.

Pour the filling over the crust, and bake at 350°F for 40 minutes. Turn the pan during the last 5 minutes of baking. Remove the pan from the oven, sprinkle cinnamon on top and let the cake cool. When it is completely cool, spread the cherry pie filling on top, and enjoy!



Tri-County  
EMC

Owned by Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487  
Gray, GA 31032  
478.986.8100  
FAX 478.986.4733  
[www.tri-countyemc.com](http://www.tri-countyemc.com)

#### Ray Grinberg, CEO

#### Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman  
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer  
George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,  
Chester Mercer, Marion Nelson,  
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

#### current lines

Monthly Publication for  
Tri-County EMC Members  
Kim Broun, Editor  
Communications Specialist