



Tri-County  
EMC

# CURRENT LINES

JANUARY 2023

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### *A Message from Your Chairman*

With the goal of providing safe and reliable power at the forefront of our EMC, our crews will continue to stand ready for any potential severe weather outages in 2023. We appreciate your continued support of our linemen, and your patience with our personnel when those outages occur.



**Brenda P. Green**  
Chairman

Like many industries across the country, electrical co-ops are not immune to the impacts that stem from inflation. Tri-County EMC is facing the same challenges of material shortages, longer lead times and higher prices for supplies and components, and rising interest rates. In addition, higher wholesale power costs are impacting our member's rates. Planning ahead is now more important than ever and despite the challenges we face in the new year, our EMC will remain committed to service excellence and continue to strive for cost effectiveness.

On a more positive note, many of our members are now enjoying 100% fiber internet powered by Tri-County EMC. With over 3,000 connected customers, our fiber subsidiary, Tri-CoGo, will continue making strides to bridge the rural digital divide throughout our service territory. Members interested in receiving internet service can sign up on the website, [tri-cogo.com](http://tri-cogo.com).

Tri-County EMC is 100% member focused, meaning we are always looking for new and better ways to serve you. While electricity and internet are essential services that we provide, we hold great purpose in our commitment to invest in the communities we serve and encourage you to check [tri-countyemc.com](http://tri-countyemc.com) for opportunities related to scholarships, grants, leadership programs, and economic development.

I wish each of you a *Safe and Happy New Year!*



# WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

## JUNE 15-22, 2023

applications due February 15

### BACK IN-PERSON!

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions, Washington Your Tour is officially back in-person! Tri-County EMC will sponsor two local high-school students to represent Georgia as a delegate on the Washington Youth Tour, a week-long, all-expenses paid, adventure in Washington, D.C.

The fast-paced, high-energy program is designed to give students a taste of democracy in action, expose them to the nation's rich history through visits to national monuments and museums, and encourage students to become active in their communities.

The tour begins in Georgia where students get to know each other, and learn about Georgia's 41 EMCs and the electric cooperative industry. Students will engage in many team building exercises and leadership activities. The group then travels to Washington, D.C. to connect with more than 1,500 students from across the country! (86642002)

### WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

- Students must reside in a home served by Tri-County EMC.
- Public, private and home-school students are eligible.
- Participants must be 16 years of age by June 15, 2023.

### HOW TO APPLY

To complete an application or to learn more, visit [tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms).

Applications must be submitted by February 15, 2023, and include:

- Completed application form with signature
- Letter of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Parental/Guardian permission signature
- Current photo of applicant (preferably school photo)

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

### POTOMAC RIVER CRUISE



### ARLINGTON CEMETERY



### SUPREME COURT TOUR



### MOUNT VERNON VISIT



### AND MUCH MORE!



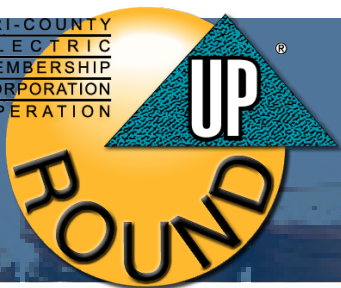
*The Youth Tour made a great impact on my leadership skills. It forced me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to learn from other top-notch delegates. The people that you bond with are really what make it the experience of a lifetime.*

Jenna Mullis, Putnam County



## REFLECTIONS





# TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$25,000 IN DECEMBER

*In December 2023, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved grants for 8 projects, totaling \$25,032.10 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities.*

**BALDWIN COUNTY  
EARLY LEARNING  
CENTER:**

\$250 to purchase underwear and socks for the children at the Early Learning Center

**CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE  
MASTER COMMISSION:**

\$7,000 to support programming for a Christian youth ministry in Haddock

**FUMC OF EATONTON:**

\$5,000 to purchase food for children's backpacks each weekend

**LAKE OCONEE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH:**

\$2,000 to purchase food for Lake Oconee Lutheran's "Little Free Pantry", a pantry located outside with non-perishables for the community to access

**LIFEPOINT WORSHIP  
CENTER:**

\$3,500 to rebuild a handicap ramp for a widow

**STONE CREEK BAPTIST  
CHURCH 1808:**

\$3,750 to furnish 30 suitcases for children in foster care, each filled with toiletries, pajamas, undergarments, and a book

**VELMA MCFADDEN  
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY:**

\$1,400 to cover the cost of food purchased for the Velma McFadden Missionary Food Bank

**LAKE COUNTRY  
BAPTIST CHURCH:**

\$2,132.10 to rebuild a handicap ramp to code for an individual being transported by stretcher to receive weekly dialysis



*Velma McFadden Women's Missionary Society received an Operation Roundup Grant to cover the cost of food purchased for the Velma McFadden Missionary Food Bank in Haddock.*

## 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-roundup.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/operation-roundup.cms) or mailed upon request by calling 478.986.8126. The next deadline is March 1, 2023. (90465001)



## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Tri-County EMC will award \$10,000 in scholarships to students with a primary residence in our service area this year. Visit us at [www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms) to learn more or to apply.

- **Walter Harrison Scholarship:** Applications Due February 1
- **Operation Roundup Scholarship:** Applications Due April 15
- **Cooperative Scholarship:** Applications Due April 15



# RECIPE BOX

## WARM COLLARD GREEN CHEESY BACON DIP

### INGREDIENTS

- 8 Slices thick cut bacon, diced
- 14 Cups chopped collard greens; stems removed
- 1 ½ Cups diced onions
- 3 Tablespoons minced garlic
- 3 Cups grated cheddar cheese (12 ounces)
- 1 ½ Cups grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 Cup mayonnaise
- 8 Ounces cream cheese
- 16 Ounces sour cream
- 3 Tablespoons hot sauce
- Salt & pepper

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Heat a Dutch oven over medium heat. Cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon from pan, draining on paper towels, reserving ¼ cup of bacon grease. Add onion and garlic to reserved grease, cooking until translucent. Add collard greens in batches, stirring to wilt before adding more. Once all collard greens are wilted, add cream cheese. Stir cream cheese until melted then add sour cream, mayonnaise and hot sauce, mixing well to combine. Add 1 cup Parmesan, cheddar and bacon to pan, stirring until cheese melts. Season with salt & pepper to taste. Pour mixture into ovenproof dish. Sprinkle remaining Parmesan over dip.

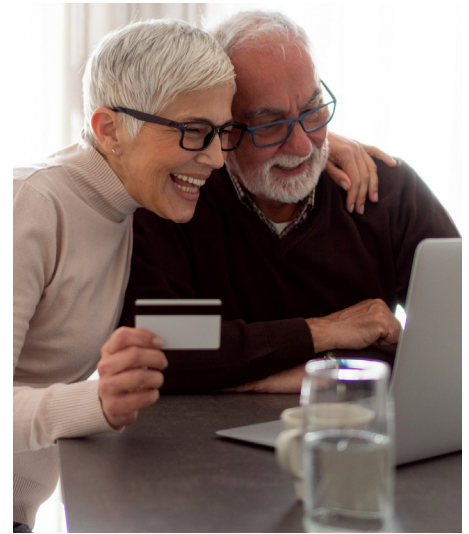
Bake 30-40 minutes or until bubbly and brown. Serve with tortilla chips, crackers or French bread. Serves 12.

*This recipe is courtesy of Georgia Grown. Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to [annaj@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:annaj@tri-countyemc.com) or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.*

## E-BILLING SYSTEM UPDATE

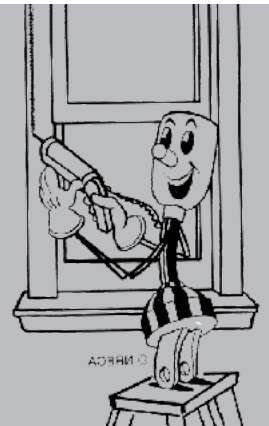
Tri-County EMC's E-billing system recently changed after undergoing a scheduled update. Monthly bills will continue to be sent by email for viewing, but members can no longer pay their bill directly from the provided link. Online payments can be made through the customer portal, accessed at [billing.tri-countyemc.com/onlineportal/Customer-Login](http://billing.tri-countyemc.com/onlineportal/Customer-Login), or the myTCEMC mobile app. Members who do not already have a login for the portal can easily create an account.

In addition to making payments, the customer portal gives members the ability to create billing alerts, make payment arrangements, check monthly energy usage, register for Operation Roundup, report outages in the area, and more! Members who do not wish to make payments through the portal may utilize the Quick Pay option under the billing section of the website. For more information on billing, visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/billing-overview.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/billing-overview.cms).



## January ENERGY TIP

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weather-strip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible. (200724002)



**Tri-County  
EMC**

**Owned By Those We Serve**

P.O. Box 487  
Gray, GA 31032  
478.986.8100

[www.tri-countyemc.com](http://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**  
**George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,**  
**Chap Nelson, Marion Nelson,**  
**Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey**

### CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for  
Tri-County EMC Members