



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

OCTOBER 2024

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BEWARE OF UTILITY PHONE SCAMS

They're currently haunting our service area

There is nothing more scary than your sensitive information falling into the wrong hands. As technology progresses, utility scams are getting more and more creative.

You can't always trust the Caller ID on your phone. Spoofing is a scam that makes you think a phone call is coming from a legitimate company when it's not. In the last few months, we have heard reports from members that have received phone calls from an unknown party posing as a Tri-County EMC employee and demanding an electric payment over the phone. "While we do make automated courtesy calls notifying you if your bill is past due, we will never call you and demand your credit card information for immediate payment," says Communications Specialist Anna Smith. "If you are ever suspicious of any call demanding payment from Tri-County, hang up and call us at 1.866.254.8100 to verify your account balance and due date."

Signing up for autopay is a great way to make sure your power and internet bills get paid on time each month. Both Tri-County EMC and its internet affiliate, Tri-CoGo, offer autopay programs that will automatically draft your checking account or credit card on your due date. Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices, please remember that they can also pose a threat to your privacy. Updating your cyber-security software, creating strong passwords, and thinking before you click can protect your identity from hackers trying to steal information.

Once your personal or financial information is compromised, it takes a while to resolve. Tri-County EMC members must remain aware of all possible utility scams haunting our service area.

TRI-COUNTY ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF GIFT CARD DRAWINGS

Tri-County EMC recently ran a promotion designed to increase participation in its Smart Pay Automatic Draft, e-billing, and online voting programs. “Many have been affected by postal service delays over the last several months, including Tri-County EMC and its members,” said Communications Specialist Anna Smith. “Programs like autopay make the monthly billing process easier while decreasing the risk of lost or late payments.”

By simply signing up for one or more of these programs by the August 13 deadline, members gained entry into a drawing for two \$500 gift cards. Participants received one entry for signing up for one program, or five entries for signing up for all three. Members who were already signed up were automatically included in the drawing.

Our two lucky gift card winners were Mr. William Lumpkin of Putnam County (pictured below) and III Properties, LLC. While the promotion may be over, members can sign up for autopay, e-billing, or online voting any time by visiting www.tri-countyemc.com.



CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

Artwork due November 8

Tri-County EMC is now accepting entries for its annual Christmas Card Art Contest! Students who attend school in the Tri-County service area in grades K - 5th grade are invited to design this year's company 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, our website, and our social media pages. **Cash prizes will be given** to the top three finalists and one winner from each grade level. (74437003)



Instructions on how and where to submit artwork can be found online at www.tri-countyemc.com/christmascardartcontest.cms. All artwork must be submitted by Friday, November 8.

LOW INCOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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 below.

Bibb County:

Macon-Bibb Co. Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
478.738.3240 | maconbibbeoc.com

Jones & Twiggs Counties:

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.
478.922.4464 | mgcaa.org

Baldwin, Jasper, Putnam, & Wilkinson Counties:

Overview, Inc.
478.453.4111 | overviewinc.com

Morgan County:

Action, Inc.
706.546.8293 | actionathens.org

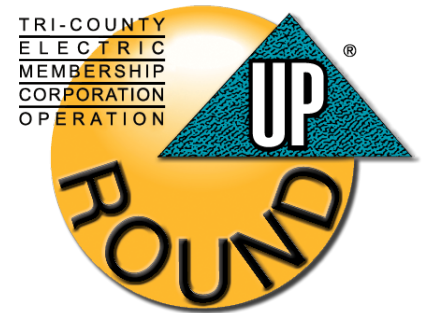
DOCUMENTS TO APPLY

- 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 each adult household member
- Verification of Social Security or unemployment benefits for all applicable household members

TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$32,275 IN SEPTEMBER

Next application deadline is December 1, 2024

The Tri-County EMC Foundation Board met in September to discuss applications submitted by non-profit organizations for Operation Roundup Grants. The ten organizations that received funds are listed below. “Through the generosity of our members electing to round their power bills up every month, we are able to give back to the communities we serve,” expressed Tri-County EMC CEO Ray Grinberg. “One hundred percent of the funds generated from the Operation Roundup program are donated to local organizations for worthy projects benefitting the Tri-County service area.”



ADVENTURE BAGS, INC.

\$1,000 to provide overnight necessities to children facing displacement

BALDWIN COUNTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

\$2,025 to purchase sensory equipment for an indoor playground at the Early Learning Center (20213001)

GA TRANSPLANT FOUNDATION

\$2,000 to support the financial assistance programs provided to organ transplant patients residing in the Tri-County EMC service area

KAPPA KAPPA IOTA CHAPTER

\$1,500 to support Backpacks for Kids, a program that delivers backpacks filled with essentials to children victimized by abuse, homelessness, and poverty

LAKE OCONEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\$4,500 to support Sheds of HOPE, a ministry that builds sheds for families to store their belongings after losing their homes in a disaster

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

\$7,900 to replace a roof and repair ceilings and walls in a house belonging to a local community member living in poor conditions

\$2,100 to construct a walk-in shower for a Putnam County woman who has medical issues

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

\$5,000 to help cover the cost of patients’ families staying at the Ronald McDonald House

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

\$1,250 to support athletes participating in the State Competition

THE PLAZA ARTS CENTER

\$2,500 to support the Youth Arts Education Program

UNITED IN PINK, INC.

\$2,500 to purchase food and transportation vouchers for individuals receiving active cancer treatment

Your small change changes lives!

FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Following the appointment of Mr. Edward Walker to the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors and the resignation of Mr. Bruce Dempster, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board had two vacant seats to fill. The nine-member foundation board meets quarterly to facilitate the Operation Roundup program and determine which projects receive funding. As stated in the bylaws, the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors is responsible for appointing new members to the foundation board when there is a vacancy. “We are excited to welcome Mr. Frank Moss and Mr. Justin Jones of Baldwin County to represent our District 3 membership on the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board,” said Communications Specialist Anna Smith. “Their leadership capabilities and community involvement make them uniquely knowledgeable of the needs throughout our service area.”



Mr. Frank Moss



Mr. Justin Jones



RECIPE BOX

HONEY CINNAMON PECAN LATTE

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

LATTE

- 4 oz strong brewed coffee, cooled immediately, or cold brew concentrate
- 6 oz ice
- 3 tbsp Honey Cinnamon Pecan Butter
- 1 tbsp local honey, or more to taste
- Pinch salt

GARNISHES

- Whipped cream
- Chopped candied pecans
- Cinnamon
- Honey

DIRECTIONS:

LATTE

Place all latte ingredients in a high speed blender. Pulse a few times to crush ice, then blend for 10-20 seconds (depending on your blender) until pourable and smooth but still thick with tiny ice crystals.

ASSEMBLY

Serve in a tall glass with whipped cream, a sprinkle of cinnamon, a drizzle of honey, and chopped candied pecans. Enjoy outdoors while admiring the fall colors.



Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month, and Tri-County EMC is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, but each has a common goal: to serve its members.

There are nearly 40,000 cooperatives in the United States today, and 900 of those are electric co-ops. Electric co-ops power 56% of the nation's landmass, bringing electricity to 42 million homes and businesses.



Electric co-ops, including Tri-County EMC, exist to serve their members. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs. Similar to how we brought electricity to under-served rural communities in 1939, Tri-County is now providing 100% fiber internet service through its subsidiary, Tri-CoGo. We are constantly looking for ways to more efficiently serve you.

Cooperatives help communities grow by working for the common good. While our purpose is to provide our membership with safe and reliable energy, our mission to enrich life in the communities we serve is equally important. Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles, and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

We will continue to listen and learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you - because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. (54961001)

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Did you find your TCEMC account number? Three random account numbers are hidden in this issue of Current Lines. Find your COMPLETE account number inside parentheses for a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors
Brenda P. Green, Chairman
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Dan Greene, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Chap Nelson,
Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson,
Mike Rainey, Edward Walker

CURRENT LINES
Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer