



CURRENT LINES

SEPTEMBER 2024

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TRI-COGO PROVIDES FREE WI-FI THROUGH CARESOURCE GRANT

On August 19, Tri-CoGo and the Jones County Community, joined with Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones to celebrate a partnership that brought Wi-Fi access points to local community centers. Utilizing a grant from the CareSource Foundation, Tri-CoGo partnered with the Jones County Board of Commissioners and Jones County Family Connection to place wireless access points at four locations: the Morris Bank Recreation Complex (Highway 18), Liberty Park (Upper River Road), Fire Station #3 (Round Oak Juliette Road), and Fire Station #9 (Griswoldville Road).



Those without internet access can now connect for free to Tri-CoGo's 100% fiber network by scanning the QR codes on signs at these community locations. "I'm very proud of this partnership with CareSource, Jones County Family Connection, and the Jones County Board of Commissioners," said Tri-CoGo Chief Operating Officer Greg Mullis. "For those who still cannot get, or cannot afford, high-speed internet at their home, I'm proud that our community now has four safe places to connect to free, fast service."

Tri-CoGo now has service available at over 24,000 locations, including nearly 1,500 locations served by Georgia Power, and the company continues to grow at about 3% per month.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRI-COGO'S 100% FIBER INTERNET SERVICE AT [TRI-COGO.COM](https://www.tri-cogo.com)

DIRECTORS' ELECTION IN PROGRESS

Cast your vote for a chance to win up to a **\$500 bill credit!**

Tri-County EMC's Annual Meeting will take place next month on Thursday, October 17 at 2 PM at Tri-County's office in Gray. An important part of the meeting is the election of the board of directors. All members can participate in the election without attending the meeting. On September 17, every Tri-County EMC member will be sent a ballot by mail or email. All members who cast a vote will have a chance to win a \$500 bill credit or one of ten \$50 bill credits. Below are the biographies of the three directors running unopposed for re-election. (90344002)



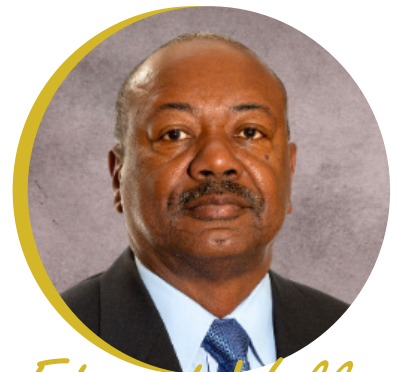
George Comer
DISTRICT 2
POST 2

George "Buck" Comer graduated from Jones County High School. He served in the US Air Force as a Sentry Dog Handler and completed a tour of duty in Vietnam. Following his service, he graduated from Macon Technical College with a Pipe Welding and Machinist Certification and worked with Atlanta Gas Light for 37 years. Buck is a supporter of the Animal Rescue Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Milledgeville, and the Ronald McDonald House and is a member of Clinton United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Cheryl, have one child, Tracy, and one grandson.



Chap Nelson
DISTRICT 1
POST 2

Chap Nelson has lived in Jones County his entire life. He has been a skilled nursing center administrator and registered nurse for the past 30 years and currently works at Autumn Lane Health and Rehabilitation in Gray. Chap is an avid outdoor sportsman and chainsaw carver. He and his wife, Leslie, love dogs, traveling, and music events. He has two grown children, Sylvan and Brick Lee.



Edward Walker
DISTRICT 3
POST 2

Edward "Ed" Walker has lived in Baldwin County his entire life. He began his professional career as an educator and later entered the kaolin industry, where he worked for 35 years at BASF/Kamin LLC. Before his appointment, Ed served 12 years on the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board for Operation Roundup. He currently serves on the Milledgeville/Baldwin County Development Authority, Fall Line Regional Development Authority, and the Sinclair Water Authority. Ed enjoys spending time with family and working on farm projects. He and his wife, Vanessa, attend Beulahland Bible Church.

IS YOUR ACCOUNT LISTED AS A BUSINESS, CHURCH, CLUB, OR OTHER ORGANIZATION?

Any Tri-County EMC member whose account is listed as a business, church, club, or other organization must use a Letter of Authorization Form to designate a voting representative. The form must be completed and notarized and returned with your ballot.

The Letter of Authorization Form can be found at the below link.
www.tri-countyemc.com/election.cms

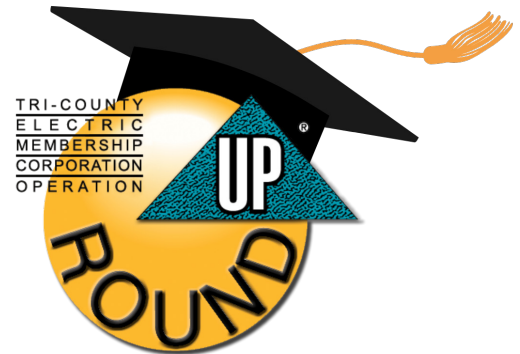


APPLY FOR THE OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP

An opportunity for both traditional and non-traditional students

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also provides scholarships to two deserving students in the service area twice per year. The \$1,000 Operation Roundup Scholarship is awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students based on academic standing, financial need, and community service. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. (74919001)

To apply, a student must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college, university, or technical college and have maintained at least a 2.0 average. Applications can be mailed by request or completed online at tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms.



TEACHERS: WIN UP TO \$1,500 FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



Tri-County EMC will award \$30,000 in grants to teachers at schools within the service area to execute innovative projects in their classrooms.

MISSION

The Bright Ideas program provides grants for local teachers to improve education in classrooms through innovative projects that would not otherwise be funded.

ELIGIBILITY

Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K through 12th grade in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Jasper, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties are eligible to apply.

CRITERIA

Projects will be judged by a panel of retired educators based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement, and budget.

LIMIT & TERM

Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500. Grants will be awarded annually based on merit and must be used within 18 months. Follow-up reports may be requested by Tri-County EMC.

Applications must be completed online at tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms by midnight on October 1. (95641001)



RECIPE BOX

TACO CASSEROLE

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb ground beef or turkey
- 2 tbsp taco seasoning mix, divided
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup diced onion, divided
- 2 tsp minced garlic, divided
- ½ cup diced bell peppers, optional
- 4 tbsp vegetable or canola oil, divided
- 1 ½ cups rice
- 3 cups broth or water
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes or diced tomatoes
- 3 – 4 cups grated cheese, cheddar, Monterey jack, or pepper jack
- 4 cups tortilla chips, slightly broken

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium saucepan, heat 2 tbsp oil over medium-low heat. Add ½ cup onions, and 1 tsp garlic and bell peppers. Cook 2-3 minutes or until onions are translucent. Add rice, 1 tbsp taco seasoning, salt and pepper to saucepan, stirring to coat. Pour broth over rice. Bring rice to a boil then lower heat to gently simmer for 15–20 minutes.

While rice is cooking, heat 2 tbsp oil in a skillet. Add ½ cup onions and 1 tsp garlic to skillet and cook over medium-low heat for 1–2 minutes. Add ground meat to skillet, breaking up with a wooden spoon as you add it. Add 1 tbsp taco seasoning and salt and pepper. Cook until meat is cooked through. Drain any excess grease. Add tomatoes to skillet and cook to heat through. To assemble, sprinkle broken chips in the bottom of a 9x13 inch casserole dish. Spread cooked rice over tortilla chips then layer with beans followed by meat mixture, ending with cheese. Place in preheated oven for 10 – 15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with whatever taco toppings you like, salsa, sour cream, scallions and cilantro. Serves 8.

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.

THE TRUTH BEHIND A POWER BLINK

And knowing when to call your EMC

You just got home from work, put your bags down, and try to preheat the oven to start dinner. That’s when you see it—the blinking “12:00” on the digital clock. While you begrudgingly reset all of the digital clocks in your house before you start dinner, you likely wonder, “Did the power even go out today?”

The state of the blinking clock is usually caused by a blink in the electrical system. While blinks can be frustrating, they show that an electrical system is working properly.

Blinks happen when something comes in contact with a power line, like a tree limb or squirrel. To minimize the possibility of damage to the electrical distribution system or your home, a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of electricity for less than a second. If the obstruction remains on the line, the breaker opens and then tries to re-close and restore power. If the obstruction is still on the line after the third try, the breaker opens and does not re-close automatically. This will result in a power outage. A Tri-County EMC lineman will then be dispatched to manually remove the obstruction and reset the breaker to restore power.

Power blinks have always been part of electric service. They just weren’t as noticeable until more sensitive electronics entered the marketplace. So, while blinks can be aggravating, they are actually protecting our electrical system and preventing a power outage. Reporting these blinks as an outage to Tri-County EMC is unnecessary.



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**
- Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman**
- Dan Greene, Secretary/Treasurer**
- George “Buck” Comer, Chap Nelson, Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey, Ed Walker**

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Monthly Publication for Tri-County EMC Members

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer