

# NEWS



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## Manager's Message: Let's Connect

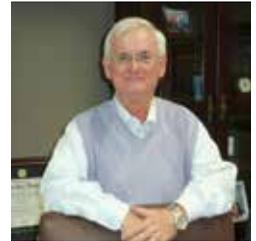
**W**hen we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smart phones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op (that’s you!), there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As member of Tri-County EMC, you help to power good in our local community through initiatives like Operation Round Up and our Employee Funded Scholarship Program. We depend on you because you power our success, and when Tri-County EMC does well, the community thrives because we’re all connected.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from Tri-County EMC through a variety of programs, products and services that we offer our members. For example, we can help you save money on your energy bill through our Home Energy Advisor Program. When you download our Tri-County EMC app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you follow Tri-County EMC on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, annual meeting information, energy saving tips, scholarship and Bright Ideas grant information and more! You’ll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping

**J. Michael Davis**  
General Manager



with community service projects—and who doesn’t enjoy seeing good things happening in our community!

When you sign up for text alerts, you can receive notices on outage and restoration information and your daily usage.

By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on potential savings or important information.

Tri-County EMC relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can—whether that means attending our annual meeting, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply downloading our app.

Tri-County EMC exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com) or call 800-548-4869. We look forward to connecting with you!

### Staying Informed About Outages Just Got Easier

Did you know that you can receive text outage alerts from Tri-County EMC? This alert will notify you of a declared and restored outage as well as an estimated time of restoration.

- Sign up today by visiting our customer service portal at <https://billing.tcemc.com/oscp/Default.aspx?IsfromPortal=1>
- Log into your account or if “New User” create an account
- Click on “My Alerts” Tab
- Select “Outage Declared Alert,” “Outage Restored Alert” and “Estimated Time of Restoration Alert”

If you need you need assistance creating your online account, please contact a TCEMC Member Services Representative at 800-548-4869.



# Tri-County EMC Offers Payment Options to Fit Members' Needs

## Bank Draft

There are several ways to pay your electric bill at Tri-County EMC, but the easiest is by Bank Draft. Why worry about paying your bill each month when you can take advantage of our FREE Bank Draft service and your monthly electric bill will be securely drafted from your bank or credit card account. You'll still receive a statement by mail or email each month, and the amount will be drafted on the payment due date. You can even opt to have us securely draft from your checking or savings account—or you can use a credit or debit card.

## PrePay

Would it be easier for you to make smaller daily or weekly payments rather than a single monthly payment?

If so, our PrePay program may be right for you! Growing in popularity, PrePay was developed for members who needed an easier way to manage their bill. Others simply want the convenience to “pay as you go” in any amount you choose (with a \$20 minimum per transaction), on whatever schedule you like.

PrePay members can save money because no deposit is



required and there's never a late fee. Simply keep a balance of any amount in your account to keep power flowing. Tracking your balance is also easy: choose to receive a cellular phone text or email text. For more information on this payment method.

Everything's easy, because doing business with Tri-County EMC should be. Call the co-op office at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, for specific payment option details. For more information on payment options, visit [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com) and look under the My Energy Account tab.



## Scholarship for Non-Traditional Student Now Available!

**A**re you a non-traditional student? Adult learner? Tri-County EMC is proud to offer a scholarship to serve those deserving adult learners, also known as non-traditional students with their dream of returning to school to further their education. This scholarship is valued at \$400 and is available for a “non-traditional” student returning to school to pursue a college degree.

To qualify, you must be an active member of Tri-County EMC or member of spouse living on the system, 21 years of age or older and not a previous winner of Tri-County EMC scholarship. Applicants must be accepted into an accredited University or Community College or technical school.

Applications may be obtained on our website at [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com). Applications must be received on or before March 31, 2021.

# Cold Weather Prep:

## *Getting the Best of Old Man Winter*

**T**here's lots to love about winter: hot chocolate, cozy sweaters and fires crackling in the hearth. At the same time, tumbling temperatures make heating systems work harder and create weather conditions that can sometimes lead to power outages.

With Old Man Winter settling in, we're preparing at Tri-County EMC. Here's how you can prepare, too:

- **Connect with your co-op** Join many of your friends and neighbors in our social spaces, and get real-time updates about, energy efficiency, our community, power outages and more. Connect at [facebook.com/tricountyemc](https://facebook.com/tricountyemc).
- **Drop the inside temperature** When it's cold outside, your heating system has to work harder to heat your home. By lowering the thermostat a few degrees to 68 or as low as is comfortable, you can reduce your energy use—and your bill.
- **Then, layer up** By adding blankets to beds and sofas, and wearing layers of warm clothing, you'll be cozy and comfortable even if your home is a few degrees cooler.
- **Stock up** Winter conditions, especially icy precipitation, can cause power outages. Just in case, keep emergency supplies on hand. Include flashlights and extra batteries, food and water (for humans and pets), essential medications, salt for icy sidewalks and driveways, and a battery-powered radio to stay connected.

As your local electric cooperative, Tri-County EMC exists to provide the best electric service at the lowest-possible cost. Here are a few of the ways we're working to make sure your lights stay on this winter:

- **Tech upgrades** Advances in technology mean we can offer more to our members. We have invested in technology that pinpoints—and helps us prevent—system issues and outages, meaning our service is more reliable. At the same time, advanced electric meters allow us to respond even faster when outages do occur.
- **Clear lines** An ice-laden tree that brings down a power line could result in loss of power to hundreds of our members. Year round, we carefully trim limbs and manage vegetation that grows around our power lines to prevent outages, blinking lights, safety hazards and ultimately to help our employees restore service more quickly during storms.
- **Constant vigilance** Tri-County EMC vigilantly monitors our system all winter long, around the clock. When bad weather threatens, trucks are fueled, equipment tested and skilled local crews are poised to respond quickly.

As the temperature drops, our commitment remains the same: to provide you, our members, with excellent electric service and powerful information to help you manage your energy use and weather the storm. No matter what conditions Old Man Winter brings, Tri-County EMC is prepared, and we hope you are prepared, too.



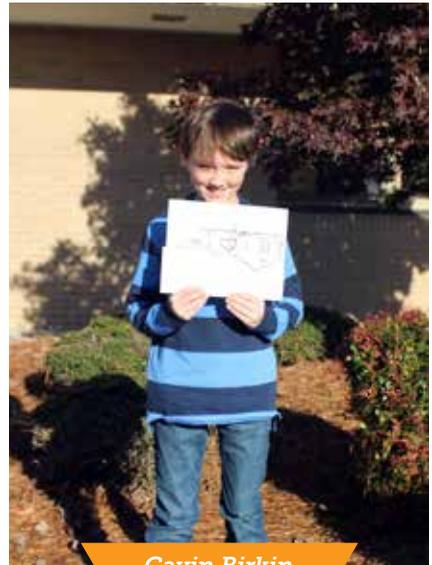
# Local Students Win Annual Meeting Bag Contest

**F**our students had their artwork displayed on the 2020 Tri-County EMC annual meeting bag after winning the co-op's "Design our Annual Meeting Bag" contest.

Faith Futrell of Kenansville Elementary, Gavin Birkin of North Duplin Elementary, Sally Coates of St. Mary Catholic School and Maddox Hamm of North Duplin Elementary, were the four winners selected. Each received \$100.



Faith Futrell



Gavin Birkin



Sally Coates



Maddox Hamm



Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

**Mission Statement:**  
Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

**We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.**

**For Outages or Emergencies:**  
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

[tccmc.com](http://tccmc.com)

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General Manager

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**Robert B. Kornegay**  
Manager, Member Services

**Deidra Grantham, Editor**  
Manager, Marketing and Communications

**Tony Grantham, P. E.**  
Manager, Engineering

**Michael Wood**  
Manager, Operations

**Tamah Hughes**  
Manager, Information Technology

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Dallace Grady

**Jeff Henderson**  
Patrick Lynch

**Randy McCullen**  
Worth Overman

**Brandy Rouse**

**Employee of the month**



**John Cozine**  
John Cozine is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. He has worked with Tri-County EMC since June 17, 2013, and is a first-class lineman for the cooperative. John, his wife, Allison, and daughter reside in Goldsboro.