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Coweta-Fayette

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting

When: October 14, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Where: Coweta-Fayette EMC Headquarters Near Palmetto

Come join in the fun and learn more about your cooperative during this year's Member Appreciation Day. Each family will receive a LED lantern.

Fun Activities can be enjoyed by the entire family. There will be games for children and bingo for adults, plus door prizes and kids' crafts.

Information on energy efficiency, green power, Operation Round Up, Touchstone Energy, Relyco Security and True Natural Gas will be available outside on the midway before the meeting begins.

Concessions, including Chick-fil-A biscuits, popcorn, cotton candy and soft drinks, will be available for all, free of charge.

Your Annual Report will be mailed to you in September in a window envelope, as in previous years. It will have "Coweta-Fayette EMC Annual Meeting Notice and Annual Report enclosed" on the front. Please save the address portion of the mailing for registration at the meeting.



The Grand Prize will be a \$1,000 credit on your electric bill. You must be present to win, so be sure you mark Saturday, October 14, on your calendar and join us for a day of fun and valuable information at this year's Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting.



The smart home for the savvy and not-so-savvy

By Tom Tate

The concept of the smart home is not as new as you might expect. In the late 1980s, as a product manager for Honeywell, I got to see a real smart home.

Honeywell's smart home contained impressive automation capabilities. Lighting, security, fire monitoring, temperature control and appliance use were all automated to adapt to occupant and environmental inputs.

But the learning curve for the user would be steep. In one room, Honeywell engineers filled a closet floor-to-ceiling with programmable logic controllers (an industrial digital computer). Talk about something for the tech-savvy!

Today, more than 30 years later, the world has the advantage of the internet and ubiquitous Wi-Fi. The development of these two communications capabilities has spawned a proliferation in the number and type of devices that can be "connected" and used to create smart homes.

For those who feel they are not-so-savvy when it comes to technology, good news abounds. Most devices offer a very simple setup. A typical process goes like this; power up the device, identify your Wi-Fi network from a list the device recognizes, and type in your password. You'll be connected and ready for action.

Even easier is the one-button connection using the Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) feature of many routers. Fire up the device, press the WPS button and click the connect button in the device's program. Best of all, most devices offer an app for your smartphone.

For those who are tech-savvy, the sky is the limit. An abundance of inexpensive microcontrollers and peripheral sensors and controllers support the creation of a smart home system from scratch. A programming approach

termed IFTTT (If This Then That) enables users to connect different devices so an action or output from one generates some reaction in another.

I recommend swinging by one of the earliest purveyors of home automation goodness, *Smarthome.com*. These days, anything can be automated: lights, curtains, entertainment systems, door locks, garden watering, weather monitoring, appliance use... This is a great place to see what is possible.

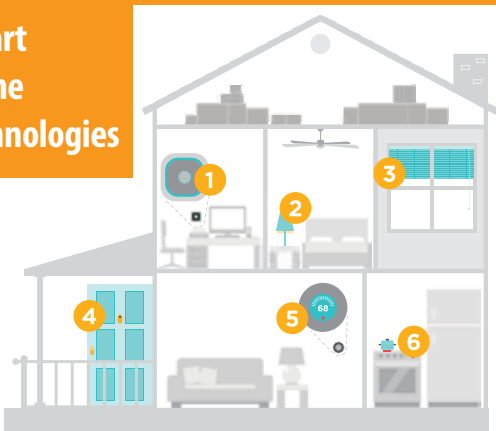
Aside from being extremely cool and making life easier, a smart home can dramatically reduce energy consumption, especially for the major energy consumers in our homes, like lighting and temperature control. Technically savvy or not, I recommend everyone get their feet wet in the smart home pool.

Relyco Security, a subsidiary of Coweta-Fayette EMC, has provided products and services – which now include smart, connected automation features – for residential and commercial customers for 20 years. Relyco's smart products include security and fire protection, energy-saving thermostats, remote door locks, doorbell cameras, lighting control and video surveillance, all accessed through the customer's smartphone. These energy-saving smart devices that control temperature and lighting can be combined with Coweta-Fayette EMC's flexible electric rate options to save money.

Be sure to check with the energy experts at Relyco Security about programs related to smart devices.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Smart Home Technologies



1 Smart Hub/Bridge

If you are looking to make your home smart without having to hire a company to install an interconnected system, then an internet-connected smart hub is the first thing you'll need. A smart hub will allow you to control all your smart devices from one app by acting as a middle man that facilitates communications between all your smart home devices.

2 Smart Lighting

Like most items in a smart home, smart lighting can be controlled with a few swipes of a smart phone app. But smart lighting is more than just convenient. Smart light bulbs are more energy efficient than standard incandescent bulbs. Some

bulbs use GPS on your phone to determine your location, and can turn on or off depending on where you are located. Some bulbs are even voice controlled!

3 Smart Blinds

Smart blinds can be useful for those who have tall, hard-to-reach windows; for those who have difficulty moving around the house; or for those who simply want to smarten their home. Smart blinds allow you to schedule your blinds to open and close during certain times of day – a bonus if you are trying to be energy efficient – or control them via an app.

4 Smart Locks

Smart locks allow you and anyone else you wish to enter your home with ease. Some smart locks let you open your doors with your cell phone. Some let you see who is coming and going while you are out of the house. Some even allow you to assign security privileges to certain people.

5 Smart Thermostat

A smart thermostat is a great way to keep your home smart and energy efficient. Many smart thermostats can learn your heating and cooling behavior and will auto-schedule based on your preferences.

6 Smart Cooking Appliances

Smart cooking appliances, like smokers, allow you to cook a perfect meal away from home, without burning the house down! Wi-Fi technology makes these cooking appliances smart!