



The Power of the Public Library System

As our once vast, unknowable world becomes increasingly reshaped by technology into a wonderfully close-knit global community, it's more important than ever to remember the value of our small-town neighbors and the keys they hold to our past and future, as well as our imaginations.

One such dynamic institution we often take for granted is the local public library – the original search engine – a cornerstone of healthy American communities and a critical component to continuing our way of life. These safe havens are more than mere random book collections, but rather mainstays of the liberties we hold dear: free access to books, ideas and information imperative for education, employment, enjoyment and self-government.

In Fayette County, the first library was organized in the 1920s by the Fayette Woman's Club, which eventually helped raise money for the inaugural building of the Margaret Mitchell Public Library in the fall of 1948 (with assistance from its namesake). Mitchell learned of the ladies' dedication and hard work toward their goal and donated books and funds.

Now called the Fayette County Public Library, part of the Flint River Regional Library System, this 28,000-square foot facility on Heritage Parkway has been joined by the Peachtree City Library on Willowbend Road and the Tyrone Public Library on Commerce Drive in providing services like children's pro-

grams, downloadable audiobooks and ebooks, reading recommendations, computer and language courses and much more to our area. The one-story traditional brick building is equipped with an educational lab, distance learning center and Georgia history/story hour rooms, among others. It has been recognized statewide for excellent



programming and even has a baby grand piano on site!

The Coweta County Library System is comprised of one central library and three branch locations, and it offers residents many opportunities to engage beyond its walls by promoting an exchange of information and ideas, intellectual development, literacy, reading and lifelong learning.

The Central Library, a vibrant, 25,000-square foot interactive learning venue opened in 2008 and inspired by the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, works with the community through direct outreach to schools, camps, day care/senior centers, childcare facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, businesses and local government

continued inside spread





The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
President and CEO*

A group of your elected representatives (Board of Directors) and I just returned from Washington, D.C., where we presented several issues and concerns that affect you to our delegation of elected officials. We were warmly met by Senators Johnny Isakson and David Perdue as well as our Congressman Drew Ferguson, all of whom took time out of their busy schedules to discuss upcoming legislation. Two key issues that we raised were related to the Rural Utility Service (RUS) loan program and electric cooperative tax priorities.

With a growing service territory, consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives like Coweta-Fayette EMC must borrow money to add new facilities to meet the growing demand. In fact, electric cooperatives around the country maintain nearly half the nation's electric distribution lines, which cover 75 percent of America's land mass, while serving only 12 percent of all business and residential electric consumers. Cooperatives meet that unique challenge in part by utilizing RUS loans to finance affordable, reliable electric service to approximately 42 million people. These loans contribute to deficit reduction because they are repaid with interest to the U.S. Treasury. In fiscal year 2017 alone, electric loan repayments will net more than \$300 million to the

U.S. Treasury. The federal government is currently operating under FY 2016 spending levels for FY 2017 via a continuing resolution. For FY 2018, we support continuing the RUS electric program loans.

Our delegation also attended a reception for newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, whose responsibilities include overseeing the RUS program.

As a state senator and governor, he was recognized as a leading authority on energy and utilities, agriculture, transportation, emerging technologies and economic development, and for his ability to grasp the nuances of complex problems.

Electric cooperatives use a wide range of technologies to generate power, help consumers efficiently use that power, and maintain a resilient grid to deliver that power. As consumer-owned utilities, electric cooperatives work to keep energy costs affordable for member-consumers while keeping power reliable and safe. Various tax incentives for energy production help electric cooperatives keep that power affordable.

We'll continue to keep you updated on any information we have available, as these important issues develop. For now, you can rest assured that your elected representatives on the EMC board have your interests in mind. After all, they are member-owners too!

Unwanted Guests: Treat Ants before They Damage

We all know nature is pretty unpredictable, and that even the smallest creatures can have a huge impact on our environment. One of the biggest nuisances for members and electric cooperatives comes from the unlikeliest of tiny perpetrators: the fire ant.

Fire ants are widely known in our area for their lively and aggressive behavior, swarming over anything from pets to people, and their painful stings have probably affected us all at one time or another. They invade homes, school yards, athletic fields, golf courses, parks, farms and electrical equipment, costing humans billions of dollars every year in repairs and treatment.

These little insects constitute a whopping \$638 million-a-year headache for the nation's electric and telecom industries. Annually, they have also caused about \$6 billion in damages in other sectors, including schools and HVAC companies. They mostly live in the Southeast, but are continuing to migrate westward.

Fire ants infest about 320 million acres. For unknown reasons, they are attracted to electric switching mechanisms. When fire ants make contact with wires, they get electrocuted... but not before they release pheromones that attract other ants. The rest of the colony doesn't realize what is happening; they simply respond. Eventually, the accumulation of dead fire ants can cause equipment from working properly and could result in an outage or voltage problem.

Coweta-Fayette EMC has an ongoing maintenance program to inspect underground pad-mounted transformers, and this includes inspecting for fire ant activity. We are unable to guarantee protection from animals and/or vermin from interfering with the power supply. We are unable to guarantee that service will not be interrupted due to acts of nature or equipment failure.

The Power of Libraries *continued*

agencies. With designated areas for adults, along with child-/teen-oriented sections, a computer lab for free technology classes and outdoor patios for lounging, there's something for everyone.

The current geographic placement of libraries in Coweta—the Central Library on Literary Lane, the A. Mitchell Powell Jr. branch on Hospital Road, the Senoia branch on Pylant Street and the Grantville branch on Park Drive—provides a seven-mile immediate service radius, and programs like *Kids' Corner*, *Teen Connection*, summer reading and *1,000 Books B4 Kindergarten* keep more than 82,000 registered users busy year-round. Its mission is to be your library when and where you need one.

Per Central Manager Machel Hill: "When we say, we're '*Here for You!*,' it's more than a tagline, it's an understanding that information goes beyond assisting our customers in finding a fact or locating the next book to read."

Indeed, there is much more to doing real research than typing a few words into a search engine, and librarians are trained to do this sort of high-level exploration. Author Neil Gaiman sums it up perfectly: "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one."

Librarians have always been major defenders of intellectual freedom, long before many people knew what it was. They preserve and record knowledge and help keep their organizations economically efficient. "In the age of information, libraries and librarians are needed more than ever to assist customers in finding good information," says Hill. "But learning and library use also happens beyond the hours and doors of the physical building. With digital resources, the library's always open."

One of the busiest times for libraries across the board is when kickoffs occur for the ever-popular summer reading programs. Although centered around fun, these initiatives are desperately needed to fight the cumulative effects of the "brain drain" some kids experience during breaks year after year. "If we can keep kids reading, we can keep them from losing information and keep them on grade level," Hill says.

Given the myriad opportunities our local facilities offer—portals to all the world's knowledge, passports to wonders and miracles as large as one's imagination, a bridged gap between the "haves and have-nots," a leveled intellectual playing field, economic development benefits, jobs to find, new ideas to experience, hope against tyranny and ignorance, glimpses into the lives of others and stories to get lost in—a free library card seems like the best investment you'll ever make.



Age Equipment

in the U.S., and for electrical circuits and contact with live are releasing pheromone colony doesn't and to the stimulus. ants may prevent lead to a potential

aintenance program to mers and other equipment. However, it is to stop fire ants, n power lines and/or hat service will not pment failure.

Members can help reduce the chance of an outage or voltage problem by watching for signs of fire ants in their yards around electrical equipment and treating the area before they potentially cause any damage. Fire ants are reddish-brown in color, and their mounds may be found along the base of your transformer. It is also recommended that you check with your insurance provider to make sure you are covered for damage caused by fire ants and other animals.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Unwanted Guests: Treat Ants before They Damage Equipment

We all know nature is pretty unpredictable, and that even the smallest creatures can have a huge impact on our environment. One of the biggest nuisances for members and electric cooperatives comes from the unlikelyst of tiny perpetrators: the fire ant.

Fire ants are widely known in our area for their lively and aggressive behavior, swarming over anything from pets to people, and their painful stings have probably affected us all at one time or another. They invade homes, school yards, athletic fields, golf courses, parks, farms and electrical equipment, costing humans billions of dollars every year in repairs and treatment.

These little insects constitute a whopping \$638 million-a-year headache for the nation's electric and telecom industries. Annually, they have also caused about \$6 billion in damages in other sectors, including schools and HVAC companies. They mostly live in the Southeast, but are continuing to migrate westward.

Fire ants infest about 320 million acres in the U.S., and for unknown reasons, they are attracted to electrical circuits and switching mechanisms. When fire ants make contact with live wires, they get electrocuted... but not before releasing pheromones that attract other ants. The rest of the colony doesn't realize what is happening; they simply respond to the stimulus. Eventually, the accumulation of dead fire ants may prevent equipment from working properly and could lead to a potential outage or voltage problem.

Coweta-Fayette EMC has an ongoing maintenance program to inspect underground pad-mounted transformers and other equipment, and this includes inspecting for fire ants. However, it is beyond the control of Coweta-Fayette EMC to stop fire ants, animals and/or vermin from interfering with power lines and/or power supply. We are unable to guarantee that service will not be interrupted due to acts of nature or equipment failure.

Members can help reduce the chance of an outage or voltage problem by watching for signs of fire ants in their yards around electrical equipment and treating the area before they potentially cause any damage. Fire ants are reddish-brown in color, and their mounds may be found along the base of your transformer. It is also recommended that you check with your insurance provider to make sure you are covered for damage caused by fire ants and other animals.





Home Security System



Energy Savings



Remote Video



Remote Door Lock



Remote Lighting

**Even when you're
far from home,
you're still
in control.**



Home Automation from Relyco means you can manage your home from anywhere while you're away. Control your door locks for security, lights for energy savings, and even keep an eye on family pets. Monitor it all from your smartphone. Talk about peace of mind. Relyco means safe, secure and satisfied.



Security Resources

770-253-4053
relycosecurity.com

Chris Stephens, President and CEO
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James W. Fulton, III, Chairman
Therol Brown, Vice Chairman
J. Neal Shepard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
W. L. Clements
Ross Henry
Daniel C. Langford, Jr.
Alice J. Mallory
Elwood Thompson
Mildred A. Winkles

POWERlines

Editor: Mary Ann Bell

807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268
(770) 502-0226

**Coweta-Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity
provider and employer/M/F/V/D.**



Coweta-Fayette

770-502-0226
www.utility.org

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Earth Day 2017

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we believe in creating a healthy, sustainable environment and protecting our planet for future generations; we know even the smallest actions get huge things accomplished.

With that message in mind, we recently celebrated Earth Day by donating bird feeders and seed to the Tyrone Public Library in Fayette County, as well as Coweta's Central Library, located in Sharpsburg.

EMC employees know it's important to inform members about environmental concerns and to energize them about securing a vibrant home for our descendants to enjoy for millennia to come. This year, more than one billion people and thousands of organizations in countries around the world took part in the 47th Earth Day – held Saturday, April 22 – and took steps to protect our shared environment. Your co-op is proud to have been among them.

We participated in the global, grassroots movement by providing energy efficiency literature, handouts, green snacks and bottled water in the lobbies of all three EMC locations.

"Across the globe, from big cities to small villages, people cleaned up their communities, met with elected officials, planted trees, taught children to protect our Earth and much more," said EMC Senior Public Relations Vice President Mary Ann Bell. "Inspiring others to be good stewards and to appreciate the beauty of our environment are initiatives we support."

In addition to community activities, cooperative personnel marked Earth Day 2017 by wearing green and participating in office festivities.

Green Power EMC (GPEMC), the statewide cooperative devoted to providing power to Coweta-Fayette EMC and other utilities using renewable resources, is celebrating its 16th anniversary. The first green co-op in the state, GPEMC continues to be the largest.

Begun in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day is recognized worldwide as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for our planet.



Coweta-Fayette EMC's Mary Ann Bell (right) presents a bird feeder and seed to Central Library Manager Machel Hill.



The gifts (shown here at Tyrone Public Library installation) were a part of the co-op's annual Earth Day celebration.



Employees at our Palmetto office go green!