



## New UWG Campus 'Breathing Life into History'

For millennia, education and community have gone hand-in-hand: for one to thrive so must the other. They are vital to our success, heritage and growth.

A perfect example of the two working harmoniously together can be seen in the recent renovation of the old historic Newnan Hospital at 80 Jackson Street, now the beautiful new University of West Georgia (UWG) Newnan campus. UWG has been in operation in Coweta County since 1988, and undergraduate enrollment has more than quadrupled in the past ten years. Coweta students account for 40 percent of UWG Newnan's enrollment, while 60 percent represent more than 50 other Georgia counties.

UWG Newnan offers day and evening classes in any of the 106 degree programs available on the main campus in Carrollton, and through the ACCEL program, which covers the cost of tuition, high-performing high school juniors and seniors can dual-enroll in university core classes in Newnan while still in high school.

In addition to the core curriculum, UWG Newnan offers two full undergraduate degree programs—Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The undergraduate nursing program has grown so rapidly that expansion of both facilities and faculty became necessary. Graduate degree programs offered at UWG

Newnan include M.Ed. and Ed.S. in Early Childhood Education, and Master's in Business Administration.



*Junior BSN nursing student Adrienne Duke and a "patient"*

UWG Newnan is also a popular test-taking site for students taking online courses through programs at dozens of universities across the country.

According to Elizabeth Jennette, Associate Director of Development for UWG, the revamped Newnan campus—with its modern and inviting student study spaces, state-of-the-art technology, brand-new vented labs and classes until 10 p.m.—offers a unique opportunity for all kinds of learners in the surrounding communities. It doesn't matter if you are a dual

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## The President's Message

*Chris Stephens  
President and CEO*

As we celebrated our nation's 239<sup>th</sup> birthday this Independence Day, many of our dedicated employees were busy restoring service to a number of cooperative members affected by bad weather.

Mother Nature has had her say so far this summer. With strong thunderstorms rolling through the area on several occasions, our hard-working men and women here at Coweta-Fayette EMC have served consumers' needs as quickly and safely as possible, no matter the time of day or date on the calendar. In an effort to provide the best outcome, it takes the best people. This starts with recruiting the finest employees and continues with training them to further that knowledge throughout their career.

As we look ahead and prepare for our future, we must also plan for the next generation of coopera-

tive personnel. Supporting local schools is a critical component in this process. Encouraging youth to stay committed and obtain a quality education at the top-notch systems within our service territory is vital to their future—and ours—as they enter the next phase of their lives. These choices not only affect their destinies, but also the fate of our communities. Superior education and economic development are inextricably linked.

We also think it's important to support higher learning institutions like colleges and technical schools within our community. This allows many individuals to stay local while advancing their education. From West Georgia Technical College and Brewton-Parker College to the University of West Georgia and the new Georgia Military College, plus others, we are in a position to further enrich talent right here in our own backyard.

Coweta-Fayette EMC will continue to support schools in our area, as we believe a solid educational foundation is a predictor of our communities' successes. This will allow us to continue providing you the quality of service you expect—the best.

## New UWG Campus *continued from front page*



*State-of-the-art vented chemistry lab*

enrollment student, a traditional high school graduate, an adult learner, a nursing cohort or getting your master's...

"We will provide an education to everyone wanting an education in Coweta County," she said.

And with an updated hospital as your new school, you can bet the nursing facility is first-rate. With tile from the original building intact and the old ICU being used as a simulation for skills-based learning, the past comes alive.

"This is amazing," said junior BSN nursing student Adrienne Duke. "It's completely different from the other facility."

With the move from the old UWG Newnan location, the nursing program gained more instructional space, an overhead skills lab, quiet space for study,

various simulation rooms and several medical dolls that can cost upwards of \$100,000.

"Nurses can truly start here and finish here," Jenette said. "UWG is extremely blessed to have two locations like this."

Although currently open for summer classes, UWG Newnan will be holding several grand opening festivities, including a "college for a day" for the community Friday, August 14. Their student enrollment goal for the fall is 1,000; the 2018 goal is 3,000.



*UWG Associate Director of Development Elizabeth Jennette and a "newborn" medical doll*

"The scope of what a campus like this can do for one of our communities is tremendous," said EMC CEO Chris Stephens. "They are taking a landmark and breathing life into history. UWG is a true asset to this region, to healthcare and to education."

# EMC Hosts Legislative Lunch for Elected Officials

Coweta-Fayette EMC held a lunch and learn session for local legislators June 4 at cooperative headquarters in Palmetto to discuss the electric utility industry.

CEO Chris Stephens presented a synopsis of Coweta-Fayette EMC's history to an audience that included area county commissioners, state legislators and congressional field representatives. He defined the co-op's service territory and organizational structure, provided statistics and photos, and shared his thoughts on projected growth and system demand.

Stephens also talked about Coweta-Fayette EMC's energy supply mix of gas, coal, nuclear and renewables, as well as Green Power EMC's current projects across the state.

Additionally, EMC officials discussed a few of the key issues facing cooperatives today: solar power; an aging workforce; member interface; and potential Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

"It's always great to sit down with our elected officials and learn from one another," Stephens said. "We have the utmost respect for civil servants and appreciate the hard work they do."

After lunch, guests were invited to tour the facility.



*EMC legislative lunch attendees shown l-r are: (back) Coweta Commissioner Bob Blackburn; Fayette Commission Chair Charles Oddo; Rep. Virgil Fludd; Rep. Randy Nix; Fayette Commissioner David Barlow; Rep. Robert Trammell; (front) Matt Brass, Field Rep. for Lynn Westmoreland; Amy Turner, Field Rep. for Johnny Isakson; State Sen. Valencia Seay; and Mark Smith, Field Rep. for David Perdue.*

## Summer Storms Rock Service Territory

Summer in the south, with its combination of heat and humidity, is notorious for turbulent weather, and this particular season has proven no exception.

On June 24, a powerful microburst with strong wind gusts and damaging lightning struck the Tyrone area, resulting in trees and limbs falling on numerous homes, vehicles and power lines. Much of the damage from this weather event occurred in the Whispering Pines mobile home community on Senoia Road, and we are thankful our members escaped unharmed.

At the peak of the storm, Coweta-Fayette EMC experienced approximately 9,000 members without power, with much of the service restored by 2 a.m.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of the effort shown by the men and women of Coweta-Fayette EMC today," said CEO Chris Stephens. "Considering the number of members off and the extent of the damage, they did an incredible job."

Storms July 1, 3 and 4 also brought damage to poles due to lightning strikes and downed tree limbs.

During future summer storms, please remember to stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines



*Photos by Amy Scott, Fayette Newspapers, Inc.*

could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Coweta-Fayette EMC by calling 770-502-0226 immediately.

# Attention Relyco Security Monitoring Customers

In an effort to increase communication efficiencies, we recommend that Relyco Security monitoring customers add



**800-776-0465** to their cell phone preset or stored phone numbers as **“Alarm Monitoring.”** Georgia state law mandates that our monitoring center verify all security alarms by attempting to contact a minimum of two phone numbers of the customer, when an alarm is sent by the system.

By adding the **“Alarm Monitoring”** tag to the phone number referenced, you will know when our alarm monitoring center is calling and attempting to verify the alarm. This will help expedite assistance if it’s necessary and also reduce the number of false alarms that are dispatched to the 911 agency, saving valuable public resources.

Thank you for your assistance regarding this important item.



*Security Resources*

## New Payment Features Coming Soon

Watch for details in the coming months on upgrades to our mobile phone app and automated services system. These upgrades will include more payment options, as well as more information you can use to manage your account.



# Hot Days Mean Higher Power Bills

Soaring temperatures and hot summer nights can cause electric bills to skyrocket. During the summer, when temperatures are in the 90s or above, most cooling systems reach their full capacity. The efficiency of the system will decrease, causing the comfort level to also diminish. Add in humidity and the system will run longer trying to keep your home at the desired temperature. Added moisture in the air can cause you to feel warm, therefore causing you to lower your thermostat.

Air conditioning helps most Americans beat the sweltering summer heat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill. Proper maintenance and smart use of your home's cooling system will help keep your electric bill in check.

First, make sure your air conditioner's external unit is clean and free of debris. Clear away dead leaves or overgrown plants and weeds to enable the unit to perform as it should. Second, change all of the air filters inside your home quarterly. Fresh filters not only reduce the strain on your cooling system, but improve the air quality in your home.

Third, the DOE recommends that you set your home's thermostat as high as possible, while still maintaining a comfortable environment for your family during the summer months. Investing in a programmable thermostat can lead to even greater savings by automatically adjusting it so that the cooling system runs less often when you are away.

As your summer heats up, call on your friends at Coweta-Fayette EMC for more ways to lower your electric bill. You can also visit our website at [www.utility.org](http://www.utility.org) to find out how little changes around the house can add up to be energy savings.

*Sources: US Department of Energy and EnergySavers.gov*

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

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**POWER**lines

Editor: Mary Ann Bell  
807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268  
(770) 502-0226

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting

**When: October 10, 2015 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 portable 20-piece tool kit for attending.

**Fun Activities** can be enjoyed by the entire family. There will be games for the children and bingo for adults, plus door prizes and children's 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 Varsity hot dogs, fried pies, chips, popcorn, cotton candy and soft

drinks, will be available for all.

**Your Annual Report** will be mailed to you in September in a window envelope just like last year. 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 10, on your calendar and join us for a day of fun and valuable information at this year's member appreciation day and annual meeting.

