



Creative Niche Markets – One of the Secrets to Success for our Communities

Many of you have heard the saying that communities must establish “niche markets” to create a robust economy. That is exactly the economic environment that has been and continues to be created in our Coweta-Fayette EMC service area. We have world-renowned movie studios *and* regional medical centers of excellence, located just a few miles apart. This transformation to new and innovative business ventures has been extraordinary.

The secret to success in our area is attributable to forward-thinking community members dreaming big, building consensus and implementing great ideas with enthusiasm and resolve.

Fayette County is currently focusing in on the completion of a Fayette Visioning Initiative that holds great promise. The Visioning project has utilized focus groups, online surveying and public meetings to gain consensus from the residents of Fayette County about what should be the priority goals over the next five years. I commend everyone who has participated and hope you, too, will participate in and support the implementation of the Visioning goals when they are finalized this summer.

We are also very blessed to have excellent Chambers of Commerce members who are actively engaged in promoting economic prosperity and a better quality of life. Additionally, our public officials have stepped up to make it easier to start up and conduct a business. One great example is the Coweta County Commissioners’ decision to set the impact fee rate to 0, a move which will provide exponential future benefits to our Members and the community at large.

Competition is fierce when companies consider between locating in our area vs. other communities. The change in the impact fee puts us on a level playing field with other areas and gives us the opportunity to promote the many outstanding attributes and advantages available locally. We praise the Coweta

County Commissioners’ excellent understanding of economic development.



At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we believe in commitment to our local communities. We consistently do an excellent job of providing reliable energy at a reasonable cost with superior customer service. We always strive to meet or exceed our Members’ expectations. The recipe for our success is no secret. It is our innovative, hard-working and dedicated employees who make all things possible,

and I continue to take great pride in all they do for our Members.

Our employees and I are actively involved in the communities in many leadership, committee and team capacities. We participate and serve our Members in economic development, education, community development projects, public safety and many other important areas. We engage in these activities because it is important for the business community to demonstrate, through their actions, that we can achieve great things *together*.

Some of you may remember way back in elementary school that the core items were typically referred to as reading, writing and arithmetic. If you did well with these three core courses, you were on target for success.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, our core items are maintenance, right-of-way and new construction programs supported by a robust utility customer service network and back office support systems staffed by professional caring employees. You could say it’s our “niche.”

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"
Anthony H. Sinclair “Tony”

Serving Power to the Stars

Think there's no glamour in the electricity business? Guess again! With Pinewood Atlanta Studios operating in Fayetteville as one of Coweta-Fayette EMC's members, Hollywood is closer than you could ever imagine.

Since last spring, when the Pinewood Studios Group—one of the leading providers of studio and related services to the worldwide film and television industries—announced a joint venture with River's Rock LLC (an independently managed trust of the Cathy family), our service area has been abuzz with talk of movies, stars and our newly minted status as the epicenter for film.

The project, the first phase of which was recently completed off Sandy Creek Road, consists of a world-class, multi-million dollar film studio complex to be built out over the next seven years, which will eventually be able to house numerous feature film, television, music, video game and commercial productions per year.

Pinewood Atlanta Studios is a full-service film and entertainment facility comprised of five sound stages totaling 100,000 square feet, as well as 300,000 square feet of workshop and production office space, all on 288 acres right down the road from Coweta-Fayette EMC.

According to Andrew Smith, Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs for the Pinewood Studios Group, the globally renowned company has been in operation 78 years and is associated with 21 of the 23 Bond films. Their facilities in the UK include the famous "007 stage," the largest of its kind in Europe, as well as an impressive underwater stage. Pinewood currently has studios in the UK, Malaysia, Canada, the Dominican Republic and Germany.

"We're excited about Pinewood Atlanta Studios – it's a wonderful development," said Smith. "When I visited, I loved it. The people are very hospitable, and I enjoyed my time there."

Smith said the decision to build a studio in Georgia, and Fayette County in particular, just made sense due to the state's great film-making history and friendliness, plus the attractive destination, skilled workforce, tax incentives and convenient physical location near Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Georgia's film industry is having a record-high economic impact—our state is one of the top five production destinations in the country, with entertainment tax credits, a large and experienced crew base, myriad production resources and a variety of landscapes and locations.

And from a business development standpoint, this booming industry in Georgia has been a great provider of jobs and tourism. "The economic benefit from film-making is considerable," Smith said.

In fact, some vendors will even be able to set up specialized shops for Pinewood on site. Atlanta-based home improvement retailer Home Depot recently opened its first-ever private store there for exclusive use of film, TV and video production crews. More vendors are slated to follow suit.

For our part, we worked diligently to provide electric service to our "little Hollywood" by their January production-start deadline. Although not officially disclosed by the studio, be on the lookout for the first movie rumored to begin filming soon: MARVEL Comic's blockbuster Ant-Man, starring Paul Rudd and Michael Douglas. Keep your eyes peeled for star sightings... you never know who you'll find on our lines!



EMC Trust Awards Scholarships to Outstanding Technical College Students

Congratulations to our 2014 winners!

To help students in our service area acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to compete in an ever-evolving workplace, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors recently awarded \$16,000 to deserving technical school attendees for 2014.

Sixteen students enrolled at both Southern Crescent Technical College (Griffin Tech) and West Georgia Technical College were selected to receive individual \$1,000 scholarships for tuition, books or course-specific tools and equipment.

This funding, made possible by Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up Program, was awarded to top academic performers seeking financial assistance. The winners of this year's scholarships were selected by the Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation Board and the West Georgia Technical College Foundation Board based on a combination of need and academic performance.

Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc./Operation Round Up has awarded 141 technical scholarships totaling \$179,400 since the program began in 2000.

Operation Round Up is a Coweta-Fayette EMC program that contributes more than \$250,000 each year to worthy groups in our service area. These awards are made possible by voluntary contributions from co-op members whose monthly electric bills are "rounded up" to the nearest dollar. The difference between what is actually owed and the next highest dollar is placed in an interest-bearing account, and this money is managed through a separate board of directors, the Coweta-Fayette EMC Trust.



Stacey P. Brewer
Healthcare Science
Sharpsburg
West Georgia Tech



Haydee Burgess
Technical Specialist
Sharpsburg
West Georgia Tech



Robert E. Cole, III
Air Conditioning Technology
Newnan
West Georgia Tech



Logan Davis
Welding & Joining Technology
Newnan
West Georgia Tech



Charity Daly
Registered Nursing
Moreland
West Georgia Tech



Stephanie Gillespie
Internet Specialist
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Ginny L. Harrison
Medical Assistant
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Melissa Head
Registered Nursing
Newnan
West Georgia Tech



Jana R. Holley
Radiologic Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Sandra Hornsby
Health Information Technology
Brooks
Southern Crescent Tech



Letrice M. Jackson
CIST Networking
Sharpsburg
West Georgia Tech



Alexandria Kirk
Registered Nursing
Sharpsburg
West Georgia Tech



Jeanne Lewis
Medical Assisting
Senoia
Southern Crescent Tech



Vernon Ruth, Jr.
Criminal Justice Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Kathryn Waldrup
Dental Hygiene
Sharpsburg
West Georgia Tech



Christie Whitlock
Registered Nursing
Newnan
West Georgia Tech

Summer energy efficiency: MYTH VS. FACT

Myth: When I'm not home, keeping my air conditioner at a lower temperature throughout the day means it doesn't have to run harder to cool my home when I return.

Fact: To save energy, set your thermostat to a higher temperature during the day, and lower it when you return home.

Myth: Closing vents on my central air conditioning system will boost efficiency.

Fact: Closing vents can cause the compressor to cycle too frequently and the heat pump to overload. You'll also use more energy.

Myth: Time of day doesn't matter when it comes to running my appliances.

Fact: Time of day does matter when running electrical loads. For example, take advantage of the delay setting and run your dishwasher at night to avoid peak times of use and save energy.

Myth: Bigger is always better when it comes to cooling equipment.

Fact: Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Anthony H. Sinclair, President and CEO
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

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POWERlines

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Commitment to Community: Celebrating Earth Day 2014

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we believe it's important to inform our members about environmental sustainability and to energize them to secure a healthy future for their families. This year, over one billion people and thousands of organizations took part in the 44th anniversary of Earth Day, and your co-op is proud to be among them.

On April 22, we participated in the global, grass-roots celebration by providing energy efficiency literature, green snacks and bottled water in the lobbies of all three EMC office locations. Members also had the chance to sign up for a hanging plant drawing.

To further honor the key messages associated with Earth Day—now the largest civic observance in the world—Coweta-Fayette EMC donated hanging flower baskets to Savannah Court Assisted Living in Newnan and Dogwood Forest Assisted Living in Fayetteville.

"The small ways we show appreciation for our planet are just as important as the monumental acts," said EMC Marketing Vice President Mary Ann Bell. "Environmental activism and related service projects can be a catalyst, regardless of size or scope. Inspiring others to be good Earth stewards and to appreciate the beauty of our planet are initiatives we support."

In addition to community activities, cooperative personnel marked the 44th annual Earth Day observance by wearing green and participating in office festivities. Employees were given reusable grocery totes and encouraged to use them instead of plastic bags.

Begun in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day is recognized around the globe as a way to inspire awareness and appreciation for our environment.



Savannah Court in Newnan



Dogwood Forest in Fayetteville



Sheri Cuttino of Fairburn won a beautiful hanging basket at our Palmetto office.