



CFEMC Dazzles Flat Rock Middle School Students With Drone

When Natiel Carby, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher at Flat Rock Middle School in Tyrone, wanted to host a computer science job fair for his students in honor of National Computer Science Week, he stopped by a Coweta-Fayette EMC branch while running errands to see if anyone could help. “It was a shot in the dark,” said Carby.

Connections between computer science and Coweta-Fayette might not be obvious, but Carby remembered CFEMC’s Bright Ideas program that awards grants to local educators for innovative classroom projects. CFEMC signed up to show students how utilities use technology to keep the lights on.

Chellie Phillips, Vice President of Communications and Public Relations; Allison Smudricks, Director of Human Resources and John Moore, Vice President of Engineering, came to Flat Rock with a drone and infrared camera to captivate students.

Coweta-Fayette’s crews use drones, for inspections, to see pole-tops and “anything we can’t see,” said Moore. “In the future, crews will use drones to survey damages after storms.”



(TOP) John Moore, CFEMC VP of Engineering, answered students’ technology questions. (BOTTOM) Flatrock Middle School students gathered around the drone and operated the camera.

Crews use infrared cameras to inspect substations and transformers to look for hotspots and issues that need preventative maintenance.

“It is important for younger students to see there are jobs that use what they’re learning in the classroom, and they can get ideas about where they can take that,” said Moore.

“Talking to students as young as middle school-age is important because by the time students enter high school, they are already thinking about whether they will enter the academic or technical path post-graduation,” Allison Smudricks said, and “Getting them familiar with the Co-op and the kinds of technology we use allows them to think

about the kind of work they would like to pursue.”

Smudricks said the students gathered around the EMC table took “selfies” with the drone and made references to ghost hunting shows when playing with the infrared camera.

Smudricks said “one of the seven Cooperative principles is service to the community,” and working with local schools is a way that Coweta-Fayette fulfills that principle. For more information about Coweta-Fayette’s service to our community’s schools, go online to utility.org/schools/.



The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
President and CEO*

Coweta-Fayette EMC has a vested interest in the communities we serve: our members, those who we serve, our employees and directors all live within these communities.

In fact, “concern for community” is one of our guiding principles. These three words are not a marketing scheme; they are one of the defining guidelines that make cooperatives special. This principle has many meanings—from being good stewards of our environment to supporting local schools.

“Concern for community” takes many forms. But the common thread involves doing whatever it takes to improve and sustain the community, whether it’s a single act as simple as installing lights at a local ballpark or as complex as economic development.

One of the proudest ways CFEMC and our members give back is through Operation Round Up. Each month, our members that have elected to participate, round up their electric bill to the next dollar. The average donation per month is 50 cents. With close to 80,000 members, that small change adds up.

This year, through Operation Round Up, funds have been awarded to more than 25 organizations; scholarships totaling \$62,000 enabled students to

pursuing their education; and through the Bright Ideas program, \$30,000 was distributed among teachers who are bringing innovative programs into the classrooms of our local schools. In total, since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up has distributed nearly \$5M back to our community.

In addition to CFEMC’s community endeavors, our employees have a long history of giving back to the communities we serve. They donate their own time from coaching little league, volunteering with various organizations, raising funds, participating in Relay for Life, to serving as leaders of local civic clubs and churches.

We believe building stronger communities is truly a team effort. Just imagine what we can accomplish together by caring for our communities.



3 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking for easy ways to lower your energy bills this winter? Here’s a few tips from the Department of Energy:



Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out.

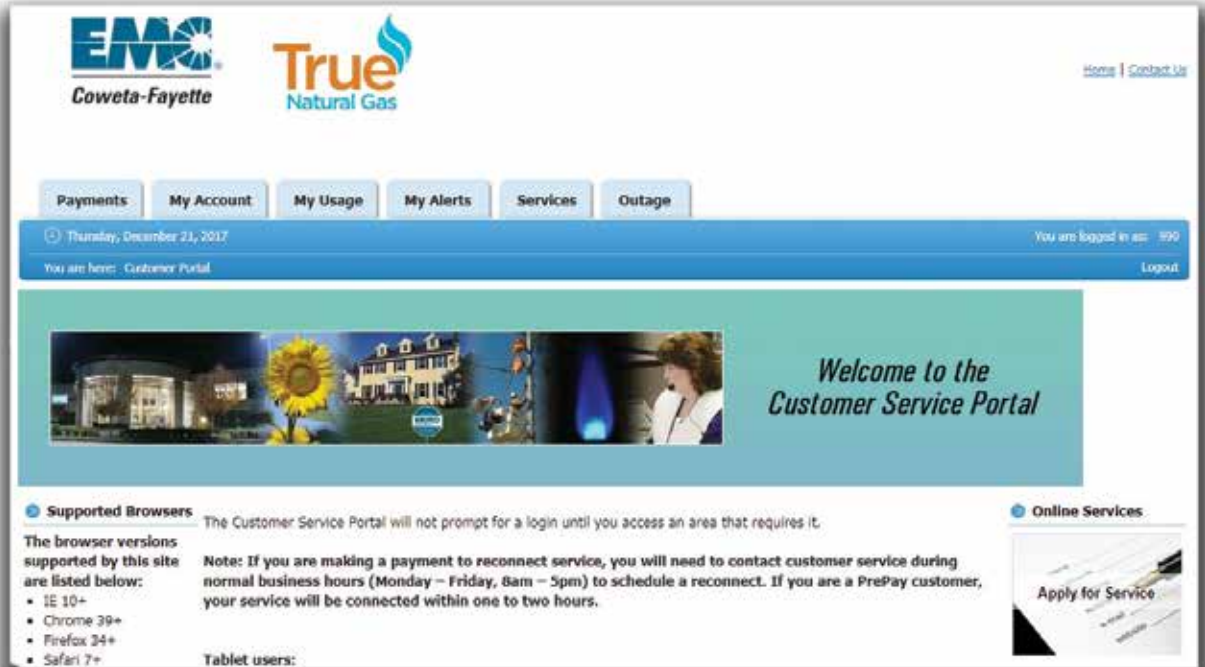


Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.



Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Let Our Online Portal Work For You



If you've ever wondered about a due date but were unable to call Coweta-Fayette EMC, give our online Customer Service Portal a try. Start by visiting CFEMC's homepage utility.org and clicking the large Pay My Bill button on our homepage. This will take you to the portal's main page where you can pay bills online, schedule automatic and draft payments, track your energy usage, report an outage and more.

Pay My Bill

How to sign up

Click "Login" in the right-hand corner of the banner on the portal's main page. When you click on this button, you can select "new user" to create your account. From there, the site will prompt you to fill out an online form to complete the process.

Setting up auto or draft-pay

You can enroll in automatic bill-pay by hovering over the Payments tab, going to Auto-Pay and selecting Credit Card or E-Check. If you hover over Pay by Draft, you can allow payments to be made on the due date to avoid any late fees. Security is CFEMC's priority, so your personal information is safe with our secure site.

Monitor your usage

Our portal will help you with your financial planning by allowing you to view your complete billing history, payment history, as well as daily and hourly usage history. Access these by hovering over the My Usage tab at the top of the page. Simply select your account, and the website will generate a chart that tracks daily and hourly kWh usage.

My alerts

By clicking on the My Alerts tab and selecting your account, you can subscribe to receive text message or email alerts to remind you about due dates, past due accounts, arrangement installment due dates and payment confirmation.

Services

By hovering on the Services tab, you can apply for service, stop service or enroll in Operation Round Up. Enrolling in Operation Round Up rounds up your bill to the next dollar amount to assist local charities.

Report an outage

If you'd like to report an outage, click on the Outage tab, select your account, verify your account information and click Report Outage to submit. This notifies CFEMC so we can restore service as soon as possible.



Your heating costs represent about 50%-60% of your monthly electric bill.

HEATING SYSTEM CHECKLIST

SAVE Energy the EasyWay...

- ▶ **Clean or replace filters monthly or as needed.**
- ▶ **Have your heating system professionally checked and serviced.** A well-maintained heating system will run more efficiently, use less energy and lower energy bills.
- ▶ **Don't block heating registers.** Blocked air vents and registers reduce airflow and make your unit run longer, adding to your monthly bill.
- ▶ **Run ceiling fans in reverse mode.** Reversing the direction of ceiling fans helps push warm air down from the ceiling during the winter.





Youth Tour applications available now

Two students will win a week-long, all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 7-14, 2018 as part of the Georgia EMC and National Rural Electric Association's Youth Tour program.

You will travel with over 100 other students from across Georgia to the Capitol and increase your understanding of rural electrification, gain leadership skills, visits monuments, government buildings and cooperative organizations, and meet elected officials to increase your knowledge of how the federal government works.

Any high school junior living or attending school within CFEMC's service territory, is eligible to participate in the competition.

Interested?

Simply fill out the application located on our website at <https://utility.org/schools/>.

All entries will be reviewed for eligibility and the top 2 applicants will be selected to participate in Youth Tour. Entries will be judged on subject knowledge, originality and community involvement. All participating students will receive a free Washington Youth Tour t-shirt.

Application deadline is Feb 15, 2018.

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

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Coweta-Fayette

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We can even install a charging station for that new electric vehicle you purchased.

Quick response. Reliable products.
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