



Coweta-Fayette



# powerlines



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER?

### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY DURING CO-OP MONTH

Electric cooperatives don't just power our community by using the latest technology to string lines to homes and businesses and deliver electricity. As an active member of this community, we not only provide jobs and tax dollars to our local economy, we also support our schools, elected officials and growing businesses to make our home the best it can be.

Consumer-members like you created our cooperative to meet community needs. Co-ops work with economic developers to recruit industries that will bring jobs to our area. These jobs bring good people who participate in community programs that fulfill other community needs: coaches, choir members, civic group leaders – all kinds of volunteers.

Building strong communities is one of our core values at Coweta-Fayette EMC. It takes a team effort to make that happen. Each of you, who participate in Operation Round Up, are members of that team. Check our our Facebook page beginning this month

and running through Christmas, to see how your pennies are making a difference. We are highlighting all of the organizations who have received funds from the Operation Round Up program this year.

If you are interested in signing up for the program, you can call one of customer service agents or visit our website for details.



**1. YOU ARE PART OWNER.**  
 Yep, you read that correctly. We don't have investor-owners who are driven by profit. Instead, you, our member, own the company.

**2. YOU GET A VOTE.**  
 Because you're part owner, you get a vote. CFEMC is a democracy. Members like you vote for the Board of Directors and make important decisions at Annual Meeting.

**3. YOU PAY LESS.**  
 CFEMC is not-for-profit. We strive to be good stewards with your money and keep costs as low as possible. We also save you money on prescriptions, food, entertainment and more with your free Co-op Connections card.

**4. YOU GET MONEY BACK.**  
 Your money purchases power and pays for infrastructure and operating costs. If there's any profit above that, we give the money back to you in Capital Credits.

**5. YOU ARE HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY.**  
 Your membership makes a difference. We educate the community on safety and energy efficiency. We give grants to teachers and local charities. We even hired a team dedicated to bringing good jobs to the area.

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## THE LATEST AND GREATEST IN SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY

Today's smart home has blossomed to near Jetson-esque capabilities. The applications for home automation are racing ahead, fueled by the near ubiquitous availability of wireless technology and the growth of the Internet of Things.

The actual smart home gadgets and technologies continue to evolve, but the mobile app seems to be taking the lead. Let's catch up with the advances in some key areas.

Smart thermostats deserve top billing as they were truly the first smart device to become mainstream. Product choices abound with smart options for baseboard electric being developed, while the focus remains solidly on convenience, energy savings and peace of mind.

Geofencing is one of the best enhancements in this category. Link your smart thermostat to your smart phone, set a radius around your domicile, and whenever you cross that boundary your thermostat goes into away or return mode, depending on which way you are heading.

Smart security is surging. Smart door locks were the first entrants in this category. More recently, video doorbells have entered the fray where you can see who is at the door from anywhere in the world. Very slick.

Wireless cameras have dropped in price, allowing you to canvas your home and property to keep an eye on things anywhere. Get an alert? Open the app and find out what's going on at home.

Smart smoke and CO sensors are key in the safety sector, with the capability of sending alerts to your phone, allowing remote status checks and silencing alarms from the app—all without sacrificing that awful, ear-splitting alert we have come to love.

Smart appliances are slowly grinding forward. Refrigerators with cameras allow you to check for needed items while at the grocery store, and dryers sense when electric use is highest and turn off—talk about demand response! Even HVAC systems, including window air conditioners, are sporting mobile apps these days.

There is not a huge amount of automation for stoves and cooktops. Controlling this appliance remotely seems too dangerous unless the feature is to turn it off. In that case, chalk up another one for peace of mind by resolving that nagging vacation worry, "Did I turn the stove off?"

Smart lighting seems to have become a convergence of mood, efficiency, convenience and security. This is where a smart hub and its software might make sense. Setting up a coordinated lighting schedule is easier from a single interface. Create "scenes" for individual rooms or for the whole house. For security, grab a scene that gives your castle a lived-in look.

Perhaps the coolest new entrants are the voice-controlled assistants. These are receiv-

ing a lot of attention and, depending on the capabilities they are given, have the potential to command everything via voice, freeing you from the tedium of opening an app to control something. For example, there is a skill for Alexa that, if set up with your co-op's billing and metering systems, allows the homeowner to ask for current bill amounts and receive alerts when a specific use has been reached.

The smart home circa 2018 is a lot closer to the cartoon vision of the Jetsons. With the ease of installation, programming and use enabled by wireless technology and smart phone apps, anyone not already engaged with smart home tech should at least consider dipping a toe in the water.

*Tom Tate writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.*



# POWERFUL SOLUTIONS



Coweta-Fayette  
www.utility.org



Resources  
www.relycosecurity.com

Quick response. Reliable products.  
That's the C-F EMC difference.



Coweta-Fayette EMC's subsidiary, Relyco Security Resources, not only offers you peace of mind through their home automation and security systems, they have a trained and dedicated staff ready to work with you on home energy solutions.

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



## The President's Message

Chris Stephens  
CEO

As we celebrate Co-op Month in October I wanted to highlight how we work together to make sure you receive the most reliable service at an affordable price.

Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Electricity is an integral part of society and most people only think about it at two times: when their monthly bill arrives or when the power is off.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, you have a strong team hard at work. Our team makes sure we are utilizing technology to reduce outage times and locate potential problems on the electric system before they occur. They are taking an active role in attracting new industry to our area and fostering economic development activities for the existing ones. They are putting programs in place that help you identify ways you can better manage the energy use of your home and business. They are committed to doing whatever it takes to improve and sustain our communities.

At CFEMC we understand the value of teamwork – after all, it's one of our founding principles. Whether in times of need or times of triumph, you can count on a strong network of cooperatives and their members band together to meet challenges and celebrate successes. Whether restoring power following a storm, teaming up to attract business or fighting for affordable energy initiatives cooperatives unite to protect our members' interests.

Energy policy is extremely complex. You can rest assured we will continue to be an advocate for you and work to protect your best interest. We meet with, and provide information to our local, state and federal lawmakers on the real impact decisions have on you.

You don't have to be an energy expert to know keeping electricity affordable is in everyone's best interest.

People often ask, "What's in it for me?" But here at Coweta Fayette EMC our job is to ask, "What's in it for our consumer-members?"

Before we make any decision at the EMC, that's what we think about. How will it impact you?

I'm extremely proud of how our EMC team puts you first in the decision making process.

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