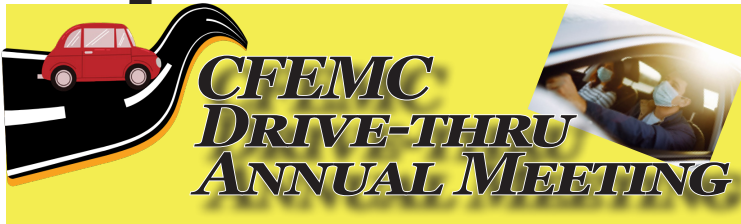




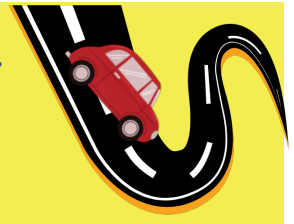
Coweta-Fayette



powerlines



Who: Coweta-Fayette EMC members
When: Saturday, October 10, 9-11 a.m.
Where: Coweta-Fayette EMC headquarters in Palmetto
Visit: utility.org/about-us/2020-annual-meeting/ for more information



FAYETTE STUDENT WINS COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Finishing high school during a pandemic meant Fayette County High School graduate, Christel Vivor, missed out on several milestones. As homecoming queen and co-captain of the cheer team, Vivor looked forward to prom and graduation. She saved enough money to buy a dress she never got to wear. Instead of walking with the rest of her class, Vivor participated in her school's virtual graduation ceremony.

Despite all the cancellations of 2020, winning the Walter G. Harrison scholarship was a big milestone and cause for celebration. "That was the first scholarship I've won," said Vivor.

The Walter G. Harrison scholarship is a statewide award from Georgia EMC. The selection committee chooses students based on grades and test scores, extra-curricular involvement, and financial need. Only 11 students across the state of Georgia receive the award.

As a second-generation immigrant—Vivor's mother is from Ghana, and her father is from Togo—Vivor wanted to attend a college that valued diversity. Vivor originally intended to enroll at a historically Black college or university. Both Howard University and Spelman College accepted her. However, Vivor ultimately decided to attend the University of Georgia (UGA).

During her time as President of Fayette



Christel Vivor, Fayette County High School

County High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter, Vivor had the opportunity to tour UGA's campus. "It really felt like home even though it's a really big campus," she said. After speaking with a representative from UGA's Office of Institutional Diversity, UGA became Vivor's top school.

Leading up to her first semester in college, Vivor has been working part time at ALDI and Chick-fil-A to help her mother pay the bills. She also held an internship at Delta Community Credit Union, which "had to end because of the virus."

Without her internship at Delta Community Credit Union, Vivor said, "I wouldn't have discovered what I want-

ed to do." Vivor explained, "When I was depositing Delta employees' checks, they would always tell me stories about how they were pilots or how they work for corporate, and it really interested me."

Vivor said she plans to pursue a career in finance. "I really have a passion for math even though I sometimes get frustrated with it. It's a love-hate relationship," she laughed.

Vivor also looks forward to studying abroad while in college. "I haven't been out of the state, and I haven't been out of the country," she said.

Throughout her time working and going to school, Vivor prioritized community service. Vivor uses her off-hours to participate in fundraisers and outreach to underserved youth. She also volunteers as an usher and reads to children at her church.

For Vivor, winning the Walter G. Harrison scholarship symbolizes her chance at "being financially, emotionally and physically stable" after a year characterized by uncertainty.

Coweta-Fayette EMC will open the 2021 Walter G. Harrison Scholarship application process this fall. Applicants must reside in the household of a Coweta-Fayette EMC member or employee. Check www.utility.org/news-center/scholarships-applications/ for updates.

770-502-0226

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Coweta-Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer /M/F/Y/D

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
 WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP WINNER - 1
 HOW SMART CHOICE SOLAR WORKS - 2

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!



This year you don't have to wait until Annual Meeting Day to vote. You can mail in your ballot or vote online once you've received your registration prize.

You can even pick up your member appreciation prize early this year by visiting one of our three locations during the week of Oct 5-9.

If you forget, you can still take part in our drive thru annual meeting on Oct 10, and drop off your ballot then.



The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable electricity to you, the members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is "concern for community." To me, this principle is in the DNA of Coweta-Fayette EMC, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On." Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have thought back in March, that the COVID-19 virus would test our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we've all been challenged to operate differently, and CFEMC has stepped up.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations so you continued to receive the power you count on. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in lobby availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. In addition, this year we are holding our first ever Drive-Thru Annual Membership Meeting because the health and safety of everyone, is our top priority.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those that were hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. Your Board also authorized a special capital credit return of \$5 million because we know many of you experienced job loss or reduced work schedules. That's what makes being a cooperative special. It's not about the profit, it's about you – the member.

And while we certainly missed visiting with you in person, we found new ways to stay connected. We have ramped up our social media presence so we can make sure you are receiving up to date information. We've participated in virtual meetings supporting the local Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Authorities and more to make sure when things are back to normal – and I believe they will be normal soon – our communities are set to thrive and prosper.

Just because the world is different doesn't mean we stop. In fact, as I write this, we have crews working in Louisiana at a sister co-op helping them recover from Hurricane Laura. That neighbor helping neighbor mentality is really what it's all about. I tell you about all of these efforts not to boast about CFEMC and our employees (who have gone over and above during these unusual times) but to explain how much we care about our community.

We've seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that's what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I'm heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

Seventy-five years ago, CFEMC was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do – Power On.

HOW SMARTCHOICE SOLAR WORKS

1 YOU PURCHASE A SHARE OF THE MICHAEL C. WHITESIDE SOLAR PLANT.
By grouping the solar panels together, costs can be shared and power output maximized. Shares cost \$7 per panel, up to 10 panels.

2 THE ENERGY GENERATED IS DISTRIBUTED TO THE POWER GRID.
Each of our 5,472 panels generates around 55 kilowatt hours per month. The energy goes to the grid so it can travel to your home.

3 THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOUR PANELS PRODUCE IS SUBTRACTED FROM YOUR TOTAL USAGE.
Your bill will show the amount of energy your panels produce. That number is subtracted from your total energy consumed that month. You pay for the remainder of your bill at the standard rate, plus the cost for your share of panels.

SIGN UP TODAY AT UTILITY.ORG/SMART-CHOICE-SOLAR

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