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Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday

General Information

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Nights, Weekends, Holidays

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Daniel P. Murphy

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Large industry vital to NEC's residential consumers

THE CURRENT RECESSION has stressed families' budgets all across South Carolina, and Newberry County has felt the pain with some plant closings such as Sea Pro Boats and Renfro. Other industrials in Newberry County have responded to the economic downturn by curtailing operations and scaling back. The effects of industrial "tightening" trickle down to our local retailers and our families.

In Newberry County, it could have been far worse. With two of NEC's largest industrial consumers, Komatsu and Caterpillar, the recession has actually had beneficial effects. These two industries have both closed operations in other states and brought the assembly operation to their Newberry County plants, providing for new jobs and additional stimulus to our local economy.

"We can't stress enough how our industrial base here in our service area plays an important part in keeping our rates low, benefitting our families who are struggling to pay their home electric bills as the cost of wholesale power continues to rise," said NEC President and CEO Dan Murphy. "If we had lost a significant number of our industrial consumers due to this tough recession, we simply would have had to re-spread our local operating costs across fewer sales, and the burden would have fallen more on our residential consumers, our families. We have really been blessed here in

Newberry County in that we have not lost much industry and even seen expansions during this downturn."

To illustrate, machinery setup is beginning at Dalkotech, Inc., the newest tenant in the Newberry County Industrial Park and a component supplier to Komatsu, Inc.'s Newberry facility. The \$600,000 investment is expected to employ 50 people at full operation. Dalkotech's decision to locate in Newberry was announced earlier in the fall.

"We chose Newberry for two primary reasons," said Jacques Iza, vice president of Dalkotech. "First, we wanted to be close to our customer Komatsu, who we have supplied since 2001. Just as important is the skilled local workforce. We are absolutely confident we can find the workers we need in the area."

With Dalkotech's announcement, the Newberry County Industrial Park is at capacity. Newberry Electric Cooperative is a supplier to the park and will serve Dalkotech. "As excited as we are from an electricity side to have an industrial park at full capacity, we are even more excited about the job creation and retention that capacity means for the communities in our service territory," said Dan Murphy, president of Newberry Electric Co-op. "We welcome Dalkotech, Inc. as an industrial member of our co-op and pledge to them reliable electric service and support for their operations."



Dalkotech sc



Making more Connections

Local merchants sign on to offer discounts



DEBRA SHAW

LOCAL MERCHANTS CONTINUE TO SIGN UP to offer discounts to Newberry Electric Cooperative members through the Co-op Connections program.

The latest is Fish Man Farms, LLC in Silverstreet, which specializes in pond stocking, weed control and pond maintenance. Debra Shaw, manager of member and public relations at the co-op, notes, "They even deliver to your pond!"

Local Co-op Connections discounts include:

- ▶ **A Frame of Mind**, 1114 Main St., Newberry, 276-9990. *15 percent off framed and unframed art and custom framing orders.*
- ▶ **Carolina Gifts and Collectibles**, 1110 Main St., Newberry, 276-4387. *10 percent discount.*
- ▶ **CVS Pharmacy**, 1210 Wilson Rd., Newberry, 276-6350. *Discounts on prescriptions.*
- ▶ **Diane's Stable Steak House**, 111 Grace St., Prosperity, 364-2100. *5 percent off orders of \$20 or more.*
- ▶ **Fish Man Farms, LLC**, 1153 S.C. Hwy. 121,

Purchase an adult buffet at regular price, and Penny Hamm, owner of Hamm's Hawg Heaven offers members a 50 percent discount on a second adult buffet.

Silverstreet, 276-2070. *10 percent discount on all products and services.*

- ▶ **Hamm Hardware & Building Supplies**, 309 S. Main St., Prosperity, 364-2611. *\$25 off per pair of Redwing Boots. Discount may not be used with or added to any other sale for a larger discount.*
- ▶ **Hawg Heaven BBQ**, 11375 CR Koon Hwy., Prosperity, 364-4294. *Buy one adult buffet, get 50 percent off a second adult buffet.*
- ▶ **Newberry Ace Hardware**, 2427 Wilson Rd., Newberry, 276-8206. *5 percent discount on cash sales. Certain restrictions apply.*
- ▶ **Ronnie's Restaurant**, 2067 Wilson Rd., Newberry, 276-3016. *Free iced tea with a dine-in buffet meal.*
- ▶ **Walmart Pharmacy**, 2812 Main St., Newberry, 276-2211. *Discounts on prescriptions.*

▶ **Wilson's Refrigeration & A/C Service, Inc.**, 5941 Highway 176, Pomaria, 276-9685. *\$100 discount on system replacement, \$50 discount on referral on system replacement or new installation. 10 percent discount on annual service contract.*

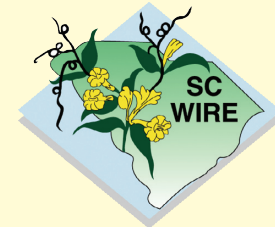
Merchants interested in participating in the Co-op Connections program should contact Shaw at the co-op, 276-1121, or e-mail dshaw@nec.coop.

Co-op offers scholarships for Piedmont Tech students

Newberry Electric Cooperative sponsors two \$500 scholarships per year for Newberry County students attending Piedmont Technical College.

Priority is given to a student who uses services from NEC. If there are no students who fit these criteria, the scholarships can be awarded to other students from the county. Open to students in any curriculum, the scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement and financial need. The scholarships can be used at any Piedmont Technical College location, including the Greenwood campus, the college's centers in Laurens, Newberry and Saluda counties, and for online courses.

Call the Piedmont Technical College Foundation, (864) 941-8614, for more information or to request an application.



WIRE offers \$2,500 scholarship for women

Applications are being taken for a \$2,500 scholarship for women awarded annually by WIRE, a community service organization affiliated with electric co-ops in South Carolina.

The WIRE Opportunity Scholarship is awarded to a woman who may not have been able to attend college when she graduated from high school but now wants to further her education. WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) awards the scholarship based on financial need and personal goals.

Applicants must:

- ▶ be a member of a South Carolina electric co-op
- ▶ have graduated from high school or earned her GED at least 10 years ago
- ▶ be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university, and
- ▶ demonstrate financial need.

Women who have previously obtained a four-year college degree are not eligible. Applicants may have previously earned a two-year degree or some college credits. The scholarship, which can be used for the fall 2010 or spring 2011 semesters, will be paid jointly to the winner and her college of choice.

Applications are available at Newberry Electric Cooperative. The deadline to apply is June 1. Mail or fax the application to WIRE Scholarship Committee, Attention: Christy Overstreet, Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 1057, Bennettsville, SC 29512; fax (843) 479-8990.