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resolve them.”

“I can't say enough good things about the architects and engineering team that was assembled for this project,” said General Manager Matthew Akins.

“Mr. Robin Millard and his team did an excellent job from designing and planning as well as management of the project from start to finish,” said Akins.

BRMEMC brought one



Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, far left, gets an up close look at the new BRMEMC facilities in Young Harris. Photo/Libby Shook

of their former employees, Mike Kelley, back out of retirement to oversee the project.

Kelley retired as Director of Operations after 36 years of service.

“Mike was our eyes and ears on the project and he made sure that we got what we paid for,” said Akins.

In keeping with the notion of 'going green' the following have been implemented at the new site: geothermal wells for the HVAC system for the Administrative and Operations buildings which include 143 deep vertical wells located under the employee parking lot.

Byers Well Drilling installed the geothermal wells during Phase 1 of the project; a rainwater collection system which involves an underground concrete tank sized to hold at least 38,000 gallons of water and collects rainwater from the Warehouse/Materials Handling building.

The rainwater is used for the irrigation system and for flushing the toilets and urinals in the Administration and Operations building.

During dry months, a water well supplies water to the tanks as a back-up. The BRMEMC has cut the cost of water purchased from the City of Young Harris by up to 50 percent; a daylight harvesting system using clerestory windows provide natural lighting into the open office areas and auditorium.

When the natural lighting increases, the artificial lighting decreases in order to conserve energy; and finally, a geothermal HVAC system made of 59 water-source heat pumps which provide multiple zones of heating and cooling and are supported by the geothermal wells.

This HVAC system does not require a chiller or a boiler. The system takes advantage of the moderate temperatures underground to improve efficiency and reduce the operational costs of the HVAC system.

Some additional features at the new site include lavatories, toilets, and urinals which are controlled by sensor-operated faucets and flush valves to promote a sanitary

environment; a sound masking system has been added to the open office areas which covers up unwanted sounds; an access flooring system with recessed floor slabs and removable floor panels is used in the open office areas and in some of the private offices and provide flexibility for future growth and rearrangement of the cubicles; and last, but certainly not least, is the safety and security systems which allow dispatch to monitor the HVAC system, fire alarm system, access control/security system, emergency generators, fire suppression systems, etc. throughout the site.

The dispatch monitoring center is set up to monitor inclement weather and can pinpoint power outages as well as issues with broadband services even before a call comes in. When a customer calls in, the overhead computer screens let them know if the issue is isolated or widespread and they know exactly where the problem originated.

According to Akins, the old EMC building was originally constructed in 1955. At that time, they had approximately 7,800 members and only 32 employees. The old building was renovated in 1971 and again in 1995.

“By 1995, we had occupied the old building for 40 years and we had approximately 29,400 members and 125 employees. Today, we have 42,000 members and 195 employees,” said Akins.

During the renovation of the old building in 1995, all of the operations and engineering employees were relocated into an old sewing plant building.

Initially this was supposed to be a temporary move until a new building was constructed. The construction of the operations and engineering building was postponed and those employees continued to work out of that facility, Akins said.

“In late 2006, early 2007, BRMEMC management, with approval from the Board of Directors, began making plans for a new headquarters facility,” said Akins. “Initially the plan was to construct a new administration

building adjacent to the old office building and then renovate the old office building and convert it into an operations and engineering building,” said Akins.

Akins said that due to the fact that the BRMEMC did not own enough real estate adjacent to the old building, “the initial conceptual plan involved the construction of a new two or three story administration building and a two-story parking deck.”

“We also did not have real estate to build a new larger warehouse facility. Another issue we were facing at the old location was the fact that Brasstown Creek Road split the property in half,” said Akins. “Our pole and transformer lot, fuel station, and truck shed was located on one side of Brasstown Creek Road and the buildings were on the other side of the road. This was a safety concern with the vehicles crossing back and forth across Brasstown Creek Road every day,” said Akins.

Akins said that after spending considerable time evaluating all of the options and issues involved with the construction of new buildings at the old location, the BRMEMC management decided to search for a larger tract of property in the Young Harris area.

“We knew that we wanted to keep our headquarters located in Young Harris because it is centrally located in our service territory and the EMC has always called Young Harris home,” said Akins.

“I believe we have a new headquarters facility that we can all be proud of,” said Akins.

“We are all very proud of the fact that a lot of local laborers, subcontractors, and suppliers were part of our project. BRMEMC committed early in the planning for this project to do everything we could to ensure that locals were given the opportunity to participate and we even included language in the contracts that encouraged local participation and required bidders to list local suppliers and subcontractors that they planned on working with,” said Akins.

Legal Ads

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

In Re: Estate of Haskel H. Drake, Deceased Estate No. 12-185

The petition of Melva Lynn Drake, for a year's support from the estate of Haskel H. Drake, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before January 21, 2013, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Dwain Brackett, Probate Judge
By: Kristin Stanley
Probate Court Clerk
65 Courthouse Street
Blairsville, Ga. 30512
706-439-6006
N(Dec26,Jan2,9,16)8

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF UNION
IN RE: Estate of Brenda Lee Lynch, Deceased

All debtors and creditors of the Estate of Brenda Lee Lynch, deceased, late of Union County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands and payments to the Personal Representative(s) of the estate, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the Personal Representative(s).

This 21st day of December, 2012.
By: Kristin Stanley,
Clerk of the Probate Court
65 Courthouse Street, Suite 8
Blairsville, GA 30512
N(Dec26,Jan2,9,16)8

We Care - A Respite and Support Group for Caregivers

“Attending the “We Care Support Group” has given us added strength and encouragement to meet the daily tasks as a caregiver. Everyone needs support and we are thankful that we are able to give and receive support from others in similar circumstances. This past meeting was a great help dealing with various emotions that accompany the tremen-

dous responsibility of being a caregiver, such as, anger, guilt, anxiety, helplessness, irritability, and depression.”

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 4th at 12 noon. Please join us for lunch and our great discussions around the table.

For questions and reservations, please call 706-745-2942. N(Dec26,22)CA