

Flint Energies awards community mural grants to Byron, Montezuma, and Pinehurst!

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Flint Energies announced today that the cities of Byron, Montezuma, and Pinehurst have been selected as the 2026 recipients of the cooperative's Rural Mural grant program. Through the initiative, Flint Energies will award each community a \$10,000 matching grant to support the creation of large-scale public murals that celebrate local history, culture and identity. Each community will also contribute approximately \$2,500 toward its respective project.

The mural projects are designed to enhance downtown spaces, encourage tourism and create meaningful community gathering points through public art.

The City of Byron will feature its mural on the old school building next to the Byron Municipal Complex located at 200 Moseley Road. The mural will be located right beside the new Byron skatepark location. The artwork will commemorate the 1970 Atlanta Pop Festival, Middle Georgia Raceway and the local peach industry. The project, sponsored by the Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau, will also mark the second Rural Mural located in Byron.

The City of Montezuma will transform the side of the two-story building located at 102 E Railroad Street with a mural highlighting the area's natural resources, Flint River and Beaver Creek, and the town's agricultural roots with peaches and native flowers. This mural project is sponsored by the Montezuma Downtown Development Authority.

In Pinehurst, the mural will adorn the exterior wall of the local Millwood Masonic Lodge, at 279 Fullington Avenue. The mural, sponsored by the City of Pinehurst, will celebrate Pinehurst's agricultural and historic roots while honoring the city's community pride.

The communities of Byron and Montezuma have partnered with acclaimed Southeastern muralist Chris Johnson to complete their projects. Since 2017, Johnson has created more than 50 murals throughout the Southeast, helping communities tell their stories through vibrant public art.

The City of Pinehurst has selected Lacey Eason, a Georgia-based mural artist to paint their mural. Eason's work focuses on transforming everyday spaces into colorful visual landmarks that celebrate local culture and community pride.

Flint's Rural Mural program fosters collaboration between the cooperative and rural communities to create lasting outdoor art installations that strengthen local identity, inspire economic development and encourage cultural tourism. The initiative focuses on celebrating the rich history and diversity of communities throughout Flint's service territory while increasing the number of accessible public art spaces across the region.

By drawing travelers off major interstates and into small-town downtowns, the Rural Mural program encourages visitors to explore local businesses, restaurants and attractions throughout the area. Visitor spending generated through tourism directly benefits the communities hosting the murals and contributes to ongoing economic vitality. To date, the program has supported the installation of 15 murals across 10 counties of Flint's 17-county service territory.

"We are thrilled to partner with Byron, Montezuma and Pinehurst on this year's Rural Mural projects," said Marian McLemore, Vice President of Cooperative Communications for Flint Energies. "These murals do far more than beautify buildings – they tell the stories of the people who call these communities home. We are proud to support projects that celebrate local heritage, inspire community pride and create opportunities for economic growth throughout rural Georgia."

Previous Rural Murals projects are located at:

- 100 North Sumter Street, Oglethorpe
- 20 South Broad Street, Butler
- 111 North Broad Street, Buena Vista
- 102 West Church Street, Fort Valley
- 50 West Monroe Street, Talbotton
- South Matthews Street, Roberta
- 110 South Camellia Blvd., Fort Valley
- 28 Church Street, Ellaville
- 101 East Main Street, Marshallville
- 209 Main Street, Byron
- 4 West Main Street, Butler
- 104 East Church Street, Fort Valley
- 115 East Main Street, Fort Valley
- 254 Wright Avenue, Roberta
- 105 North Church Street, Thomaston

Earlier this year, Flint Energies invited rural communities located in the Co-op's service territory to apply for the Rural Murals grant. Flint Energies' service area encompasses parts of Bibb, Chattahoochee, Crawford, Dooly, Harris, Houston, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Muscogee, Peach, Schley, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Twiggs and Upson counties. In March, the Cooperative received several grant applications. The top three scoring mural ideas were funded.

About Flint Energies

Flint Energies is a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by its members in parts of 17 central Georgia counties. Flint employs 220 employees and serves more than 100,000 electric meters. We are 100% locally-controlled and democratically governed by nine Directors elected from among the membership. In 1937, Flint Energies was created to bring people together to meet common needs like reliable electric energy, and our mission remains focused on improving the quality of life in Middle Georgia. Flint Energies is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Follow Flint on X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
