

GreyStone Power brings you

January 2016

GEMC

# georgia<sup>®</sup>

M A G A Z I N E



**GreyStone Power is cutting costs to help your pocketbook, page A**



**GREYSTONE**  
POWER CORPORATION

*An Electric Membership Corporation*



# The GreyStone Connection

THE POWER OF MEMBER CONNECTIONS

A LOOK INSIDE: **p. C** HOW CAN YOU SAVE THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

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## Miller's Minute

As we begin a new year, there is excitement for the future. In 2016, GreyStone will be cutting costs to reduce rates, as we make plans for a rate reduction in spring. Several measures being taken are making this possible.

Our new billing system will save \$15 million over the next 10 years. A new power supply contract has cut our wholesale power costs. And your voices heard collectively on Capitol Hill are helping to control future power costs.

Your employees at GreyStone, a not-for-profit cooperative, serving you since 1936, are on "wallet watch."

We're tightening our belts to provide the most reliable energy possible at even more competitive prices than in the past. Our cost-cutting efforts equal savings for you. That's good news to start off 2016!

- Gary

Gary Miller,  
President/CEO



## A vision cast 50 years ago still burns

By AMANDA BUSBY, Editor

In 1965, with a suitcase packed full of clothes and dreams, 12 Georgia students embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. Little did they know that they would be blazing a trail for thousands more students to follow in their footsteps over the next 50 years.

With only three Georgia electric cooperatives participating on this inaugural trip, the winning teens were awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., so they could gain a better understanding of American history and their role as citizens. Today, 38 cooperatives around the state participate in the Washington Youth Tour (WYT) by sponsoring students from schools within their service areas.

The inaugural Georgia group left Savannah, traveling by train, and met up with nearly 600 students from 17 states in the nation's capital. They

had the opportunity to meet with U.S. senators and representatives, visited historic places, toured the Capitol and cruised with delegates from around the country on the Potomac River. The highlight of their trip was a special invitation from President Lyndon Johnson to a Rose Garden reception at the White House.

It was former President Johnson who first envisioned beginning the WYT in 1957 when he was a senator. He expressed his desire at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting to "send youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." In the years that followed, participation slowly grew among the state cooperatives, including Georgia.

Students are given the same his-



Beth McMillan



torical and leadership opportunities now as the first students who participated. This year, GreyStone Power selected five students to join the nearly 1,700 other teens from 43 states participating in the national event.

GreyStone delegates (as seen below, from left) Alexei Antonovich, of Alexander High School; Cheyenne Tippens, of Alexander High School; Vincent Buckman, of Lithia Springs High School; Jordan Fitzgerald, of Paulding County High School; and Andrew Sheffield, of Landmark Christian School, were among the 111 students representing Georgia.

The Youth Tour is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens that rewards academic achievement and provides them a backstage pass to America's history at the nation's capital. Students also have the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone by connecting with other student leaders from around the country.

"Sometimes the best experiences in life come when you step out of your comfort zone," shares Andrew Sheffield, one of the five 2015 GreyStone Power delegates. "This experience has shown me what it's like outside of the bubble I live in at school."

Each year, high school juniors are recognized and recommended for WYT by their school counselors based on their exemplary academic achievements and leadership potential. Last spring, 49 students in the GreyStone service area accepted the challenge to test for a chance to become a WYT delegate and travel to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip, as well as the opportunity to rediscover themselves.

Not much has changed over the

past 50 years. Today's delegates are given the same opportunity to not only learn lessons in leadership, but also about the electric cooperative movement, American history and how their government works. These students witness our country's history firsthand as they visit national landmarks, tour the nation's capital and museums, and



even talk to their local congressmen.

"The Youth Tour is a trip for the leaders of the community. It's impossible to be surrounded by leaders for a week and not absorb some of their qualities," explains GreyStone delegate Cheyenne Tippens.



It has become a primary goal of the WYT to help co-ops promote stronger communities and a stronger nation by giving as many young people as possible the ability to make meaningful, lifelong contributions to their communities.

GreyStone has participated in the WYT program for 49 years. Each year, GreyStone representatives visit participating schools within the service area and present the program to the counselors and the students they have selected as school leaders. Students are given study materials, then asked to test on that material at the GreyStone office. A sense of accomplishment can be seen on the winners' faces as their names are announced at a banquet in their honor.

Today, WYT alumni, prospective participants and others interested in the program can visit the Youth Tour website, [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop), to learn about its history or reconnect with fellow WYT alumni.

To learn more about the WYT or for student participation information, contact your school counselor or call 770-370-2600.

# Do It Yourself

## Ask the Expert

### Winter safety

It's winter and we are now in typically the coldest month of the year. You can count on your heating system running overtime, increasing your energy costs. Remember that your heating system will run much cleaner and economically if the furnace filter is replaced every four to six weeks in the winter heating season. Check your filter and replace it if needed.

Home safety is important to everyone. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), electric portable space heaters are responsible for more than 21,000 home fires and 1,500 injuries and deaths every year. To that end, the NFPA recommends the tips in the box below.

#### DIY tips to remember

**W**hen shopping for a portable electric space heater, make sure the model you buy has been tested by Underwriters Laboratory or another reputable testing organization.

**T**urn off heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.

**P**lace the heater on a flat, solid surface.

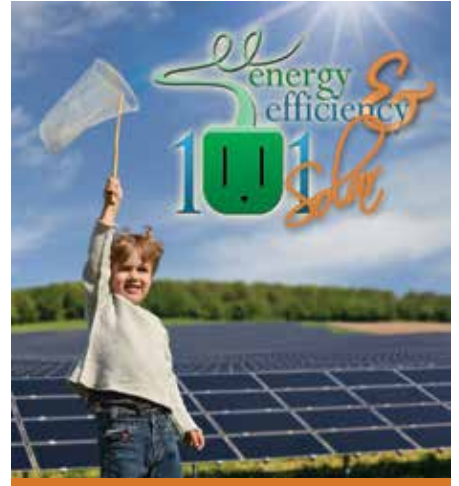
**K**eep everything that can burn, such as paper and bedding, at least three feet away from the heater.

**K**eep kids three feet away from space heaters.

**P**urchase portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off that activates when the heater tips over.

**D**o not use extension cords with portable space heaters. Plug the cord directly into outlets.

**D**o not use a portable electric space heater with a damaged cord or plug.



**GET EQUIPPED WITH  
DO-IT-YOURSELF  
SKILLS AND LOWER  
YOUR ENERGY BILL**

#### UPCOMING SEMINARS

**EE101:**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016  
and**

**Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016  
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**GreyStone Power Auditorium  
4040 Bankhead Hwy.  
Douglasville**

Seats are limited, so reserve yours now! Seminar is for adults only. No children, please, as they may disturb someone else trying to learn.

For more information, call 770-370-2070 or visit [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com).

### Contest time!

Let's have some fun! Send us an energy-efficient tip or suggestion that you and your family have used. The most interesting and resourceful response will receive the grand prize of a \$100 gift certificate from a home improvement store. Second and third prize winners will each receive a \$50 gift certificate. Send entries via mail to Attn: Rudy Echols, c/o GreyStone Power, P.O. Box 897, Douglasville, GA 30133-0897, or via email to [efficiency@greystonepower.com](mailto:efficiency@greystonepower.com).

Deadline to enter,  
**March 1, 2016!**

*Winning comments  
will be published in  
upcoming articles.*



**Rudy Echols**  
Energy Services Manager



# Member Savings

## Co-op Connections® Card



It's a new year, and there's no time like the present to start a new habit and set personal goals, especially if it will help you save money!

As a GreyStone member, we make it a point to look out for you. With the Co-op Connections® Card (CCC), you are connected to valuable discounts from hundreds of local and national retailers including dining, shopping, automotive, professional services, travel and more!

Take advantage of the savings today. Join in on the savings and call 770-370-2273 to request your card! To learn more about the various CCC programs and get the most up-to-date

business discount listing, visit online at [connections.coop/greystonepower](http://connections.coop/greystonepower).

## Welcome new businesses!

**Cyber Security Risk Management, LLC**  
Duluth ..... 844-260-2776  
*Free risk assessment for identity theft consultation (\$149 value).*

**Sherry's Plexus Products**  
Hiram ..... 678-391-8744  
*Free gift with first purchase.*

**The Cool Roofing Company**  
Douglasville ..... 678-540-8193  
*10% off services, up to \$300. Must present card at the time of appointment. Cannot be combined with other discounts or offers.*

**All Clinical Labs at Ricardo London**  
Douglasville ..... 770-456-5777  
*10% off lab work or drug screen.*

**Organize with Heather**  
Dallas ..... 678-383-0694  
*10% off organizing packages of six hours or more.*

**Shane's Rib Shack**  
Douglasville ..... 770-947-4105  
*Free 6-ounce homemade peach cobbler with any purchase.*

**A&C Limousine**  
Cartersville ..... 770-324-8608  
Kennesaw ..... 770-324-8610  
*15% off regular hourly rates.*

**A&E Property Investment**  
Douglasville ..... 770-257-1650  
*One month free rent with signed three-year lease.*

**Eddie Little Photography**  
Douglasville ..... 678-763-2860  
*\$10 off a photo package. Minimum purchase of \$130 or more.*

(continued on page E)

## 2016 saving goals

1. If you don't already have a CCC, or you can't find yours, request a new one by calling 770-370-2273.
2. Use your CCC at over 320 local businesses. *Hint: Having the key fob on your key chain is a great reminder to use it.*
3. Request a business listing (*also available to pick up in each of the GreyStone branches*), or visit the [connections.coop](http://connections.coop) site to become familiar with all of the discounts and savings available to you, locally and nationally, so you won't miss out on savings when you have a need.
4. Have your pharmacy input your card information into their system for future use, so they can compare the cost of your next prescription—CCC vs. insurance.



## Save Every Day

on the everyday things and get more out of life.



Find out what your FREE Co-op Connections® Member Benefits Card can do for you!

# Member Savings (continued from page D)

## Assured Comfort Heating, Air and Plumbing

Winston/Mableton . . . . . 770-942-1938  
*Save \$20 on diagnostic fee, regularly \$79, now just \$59; Save \$20 on seasonal tune-up, regularly \$78, now just \$58; \$50 off any plumbing service or repair (excluding service fee).*

## Back In Line Chiropractic

Dallas . . . . . 770-505-5665  
*Initial visit \$90 (including exam and consultation). Subsequent routine office visits \$50. Offer not valid with other insurance coverage or third-party pay.*

## Debra W. Johnson, CPA, PC

Douglasville . . . . . 770-944-2969  
*\$35 off any service (\$100 minimum). New clients only.*

## Cascade Fence Company Inc.

Atlanta . . . . . 404-344-5226  
*Free single gate with purchase of 150 ft. of any wood or chain-link fence. Single gate only.*

## EMC Security-Medical

Douglasville/Suwanee . . . 770-963-0305  
*Free shipping and one month free monitoring when ordering any EMC Medical Alert.*

## LDT Bouncers

Austell . . . . . 678-760-3061  
*\$15 off inflatable price. \$110 rental Monday-Thursday; \$135 rental Friday-Sunday, all within a 20-mile radius.*

## Atlanta West Hair Company

Douglasville . . . . . 770-942-2225  
*New clients: \$10 off first visit; \$15 off second visit (hair cut and style only). Cannot*



*be combined with 10% discount offer. Returning clients: 10% off any service.*

## Liberty National Life

Villa Rica . . . . . 404-456-8024  
*No cost \$3,000 accidental death policy for member's family. Member and spouse \$3,000 coverage; \$1,000 included for each*



*child. No cost premium only benefits plan set up (Section 125 Cafeteria Plan) for members.*

## Kirkland Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

Dallas . . . . . 770-443-2504  
*\$20 off service call; Free estimates on replacement, 12 months same as cash (SAC) financing; Free Honeywell Touchscreen/Programmable Thermostat or one-year maintenance agreement with new 14 SEER A/C system. \$25 off senior citizen discount; \$25 off armed forces, fire and law enforcement member discount. \*Must show Co-op Card.\**

To print a complete listing of participating businesses, visit the CCC page of [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com).

If you don't see your favorite business listed, refer them to the program! They will simply need to complete and return the participation agreement found on our site. For additional questions about participation, call 770-370-2436.

Ready to get your card? Call us today at 770-370-2273 to request yours.

# A little help goes a long way

The holidays can be an emotional time for many, and if a family has experienced a life-changing event, such as a job loss, that can make the season even more unbearable. Your



participation in Operation Round Up® (ORU) can make a huge difference in someone's life. Contributions help many by putting food on the table or paying a utility bill.

If you don't think your change can make a difference, you are wrong. In 2015, we were able to assist 59 organizations by donating \$454,170 to various local charities.

Organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Make-A-Wish Georgia, The S.H.A.R.E. House, Warehouse of Hope and many more are on the front lines

assisting local families.

In order to meet the needs of the community, these organizations need outside assistance. By rounding up your bill each month, money contributed collectively goes a long way by providing severely needed funds to nonprofit organizations in our community. Charitable organizations are able to pay more bills, provide more food and assist in many other daily needs.

For approximately \$8 a year, you can make a difference! For more information about ORU and how you can help, visit [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com).



## Decades of fond memories

In 1968, at the age of 17, a young high school graduate joined the ranks of many as he entered the working world. Not long after joining Douglas County Electric Membership Corporation (now GreyStone Power) as a groundman, Jerry Tucker was deployed to Vietnam to fight for our country.

After three months in action, Tucker (as he is fondly referred to), was injured when a child playing near his base camp removed a pin from a hand grenade on his pack, resulting in his losing half of his right foot. He experienced a long recovery but was able to go back to work more than a year later.

Within three to six months from returning to work, Tucker had learned to climb a pole with his injured foot and was back on the lines. Since that time, his determination and hard work have not only allowed him to climb poles, but also the corporate ladder within the cooperative.

Now, over 47 years later, as supervisor of line construction and maintenance, Tucker recalls fondly all of the changes that have taken place since he first joined the cooperative. "When I first started, we did everything with notes on paper. Now we have computers and automated systems. The addition of



*In his free time, Tucker enjoys caring for his family and his horses.*

bucket trucks into our fleet also made it a lot easier to work," explains Tucker.

"GreyStone has been good to me over the years. I value and appreciate the family environment that we have," Tucker shares when asked about his fond memories. "I am so thankful."

## Pinterest Pick

### Chicken Pot Pie Soup

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked chicken, cubed
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2-3 tablespoons flour
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped
- 4 celery ribs, diced
- 1-10 ounce bag frozen peas
- 3 carrots or 12 mini carrots, chopped
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream or half & half
- 4 cups water
- 2 ½ tablespoons chicken base
- 4 teaspoons Montreal Steak seasoning
- Salt and pepper, to taste

**Step 1:** Bring a large pot of water to

a boil. Once boiling, add potatoes and cook until tender. Strain and set aside.

**Step 2:** In a large pot, melt butter. Once butter has started to melt, add carrots and cook for 1-2 minutes. Then add onion and celery. Season vegetables with Montreal Steak seasoning and cook until onions are translucent. Add in water and chicken base, bring to a boil. Let it cook over medium heat for 10-15 minutes.

**Step 3:** In a water bottle or cup with lid, add ½ cup of Half & Half with the flour and shake vigorously. Add in the remainder of the Half & Half to the pot,



then add flour mixture. Add frozen peas, potatoes and cubed chicken. Season with salt and pepper and add an additional 1-2 teaspoons of Montreal Steak seasoning. Let it simmer 30 minutes, until the soup starts to thicken. Remove from heat and cool for 5-10 minutes.

Source: [adashofsanity.com](http://adashofsanity.com)

For more fabulous recipes, visit us at [pinterest.com/greystonepower](http://pinterest.com/greystonepower).



## I SEALED MY MANUFACTURED HOME AND MY WALLET.

I'm saving \$585 a year by sealing my manufactured home. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)



# We're on Wallet Watch

With a rate reduction planned for the spring of 2016, and rates that are already among the lowest in the state,\* GreyStone Power has been cutting costs to reduce rates.

We've held down operating expenses, negotiated lower power costs and worked with industry allies to ensure member concerns were heard on Capitol Hill.

The cooperative recently returned \$5 million in capital credits to members and offers energy efficiency seminars, home energy audits and tips.

When it comes to power bills, **GreyStone Power is on wallet watch.** We're working hard to provide you with reliable and cost-competitive electricity.

*\*2015 summer rate survey by the Georgia Public Service Commission.  
Based on 1,000 kilowatt hours monthly residential use.*

[greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com)



GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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POWER CORPORATION  
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