

GreyStone Power brings you

# GEMC Georgia<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

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JANUARY 2023



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honored  
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[www.georgiamagazine.org](http://www.georgiamagazine.org)





Photo Credit: Robb Maag

## MILLER'S MINUTE

# HIGH-SPEED SERVICE

Your electric cooperative was formed in 1936 by a small group in Douglas County with a dream of bringing power to the people. They formed the Farmers Electrical Association to deliver electricity to an unserved area of west Georgia. Today, GreyStone Power has the opportunity to bring a different kind of service to those in our territory who are unserved or underserved.

GreyStone is launching a pilot project to provide access to high-speed internet to over 5,000 unserved and underserved locations within its service area. In much the same way that electricity transformed the lives of our members, we expect that the benefits of high-speed internet in these communities will mean better health, education and economic outcomes.

We are excited for the chance to serve our members in another way that will make life better, and we look forward to delivering reliable high-speed internet access through the subsidiary we are forming. You can read more about this project on page E of this newsletter. Stay tuned to our website for more updates as the pilot project progresses.

- Gary

Gary Miller,  
President/CEO

*The GreyStone Connection, which wraps Georgia Magazine, is a quarterly newsletter published by GreyStone Power to keep you informed about the cooperative you own.*

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Johns, Chairman, District 8, Douglas County

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Milton Jones, District 7, Fulton County

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#### LOCATION

3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy.

Hiram, GA 30141

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#### CONTACT US

Main 770-942-6576

Outage 1-866-GREYSTONE (473-9786)

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#### OTHER WAYS WE SERVE YOU

Co-op Connections® Card, 770-370-2436

EMC Security, 770-370-2030

Gas South, 1-855-802-2768

Go Energy Financial Credit Union, 470-514-3000

Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2080

SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070

Cooperative Solar, 770-370-2070

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#### DOWNLOAD OUR APPS

The GreyStone Power app allows you to pay your bill, view billing history and electricity use, and verify payments. The Outage Helper app lets you report an outage, receive live restoration times and view an outage map. Download both apps from the App Store or Google Play on your mobile devices.

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#### FIND THE BOLT AND ENTER TO WIN!

Find the hidden lightning bolt (⚡) in the following GreyStone pages and send us an email to [MemberMatters@greystonepower.com](mailto:MemberMatters@greystonepower.com) with the subject line: Find the Bolt!

Include the following information in the email: the page you found the lightning bolt on, your full name, your phone number and your member account number. You will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card.

*GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Not available in the EU*

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



*From left, GreyStone Power Director of Key Accounts Jeff Noles; Director of Economic Development Patrice Frady; Commercial Marketing Manager Wayne Glover; Vice President of Engineering Nadia Faucette; Director of State Government Affairs Blake Doss and Vice President of Marketing & External Affairs Tim Williams attended the topping out ceremony for the GreyStone Amphitheater.*

The City of Douglasville and GreyStone Power representatives marked a key milestone in the construction of the GreyStone Amphitheater with a topping out ceremony. The Douglasville town green and amphitheater project is being constructed at the intersection of Church Street and Club Drive.

Vice President of Marketing & External Affairs Tim Williams spoke at the event about how Douglas County has played a role in the electric cooperative's history from the very beginning. He noted that the former office location of the co-op, back when it was known as Douglas County EMC, was steps away from the amphitheater site.

The topping out ceremony offered GreyStone employees the chance to celebrate the co-op's roots while demonstrating another way that GreyStone is making life better in the communities it serves. GreyStone employees had the opportunity to leave their mark at the Nov. 7 event by signing the final structural beam that will be added to the facility.

Construction of the town green and amphitheater on the old jail site are part of Phase 1 of the project, which is expected to be completed in the spring.

## Foundation scholarships

Attention, students! GreyStone Power is awarding five \$3,000 scholarships to GreyStone Power members or their children who are either seniors in high school or enrolling in college annually. The scholarships, provided by the GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc./Operation Round Up, are awarded based on need and academic achievement. All ages are eligible.

The scholarships are given based on academic performance as well as school and community activities and are made possible by GreyStone members who agree to round up their electric bills to the next dollar. The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 13, 2023. Applications are available at [greystonepower.com/scholarships](http://greystonepower.com/scholarships).





Kathryn Green

# The *leadership* experience of a *lifetime*



**G**reyStone Power is accepting applications from area high school and home-schooled juniors to compete for an all-expenses-paid spot on the 2023 Washington Youth Tour. This inspiring, weeklong leadership trip offers participants the opportunity to experience U.S. government and U.S. history firsthand while having fun, making new friends and developing leadership skills.

If chosen, a student will become one of five delegates sponsored by GreyStone and will join more than 100 teens from other EMCs across Georgia to represent the state during the 2023 Washington Youth Tour to be held June 15-22, 2023.

Candidates who compete to win the weeklong experience are student leaders chosen by counselors or staff from participating high schools in GreyStone's service area. Candidates will receive information about GreyStone Power and will submit a short video incorporating the information they learned. The students who earn the top five scores on their video win the trip!

GreyStone delegates who are selected for the Youth Tour have the opportunity to visit historical sites and monuments, as well as make connections with other high achieving peers while participating in an unforgettable weeklong journey in the nation's capital. The Youth Tour includes face-to-face meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training and discussions on important issues with students from other states.

Students will also have the chance to interact with delegates from other states, as the tour brings more than 1,800 students from across the country to D.C.

The Washington Youth Tour is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, and there are more than 50,000 alumni from the program. For more information on the program, contact your school counselor or call GreyStone's Youth Tour coordinator at 770-370-2059.

*"I had such a wonderful time on the trip. From solemn memorials and monuments that celebrate tragic and heroic events from the past to fascinating museums and landmarks, the trip was a perfect balance of times of both fun and reflection. I met lots of wonderful people and the time we spent together learning and exploring our nation's capital allowed us to form friendships that will continue into the future. It is truly something I will always remember!"*

**-2022 GREYSTONE DELEGATE SAMUEL NOONAN**

Kathryn Green





## AROUND GREYSTONE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET COMING TO UNDERSERVED AREAS

**G**reyStone Power Corporation is launching a pilot project to provide access to high-speed internet to over 5,000 unserved and underserved locations within its service area.

To deliver the same excellent service its members expect, the electric cooperative is forming a subsidiary to operate the soon-to-be constructed fiber network.

Construction on the multimillion-dollar project will begin in 2023, with the first members expected to be connected in 2024. The electric cooperative will own 100% of the fiber network and will lease the network to its subsidiary, which will operate the system.

The pilot project's proposed route is expected to provide broadband access to members in areas of southern Fulton County, southern Douglas County, portions of eastern Carroll County and a small section of southern Paulding County.

The subsidiary will offer three

speed tiers, including 100 megabits per second (Mbps), 1 gigabit per second (Gbps), and 2 Gbps. Although prices have not been finalized, the co-op is committed to delivering competitive prices and reliable service to its members. GreyStone Power will not see its electric rates impacted by the costs of its affiliate.

"Much like the electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) brought electric service to those unserved parts of the state in the 1930s, today's EMCs are now bringing high-speed internet to unserved or underserved areas. We decided to form the subsidiary because it was a unique opportunity to make life better for our members," says GreyStone Power President/CEO Gary Miller.

Although the project is still within the planning stages, the subsidiary is expected to bring fiber-to-the-premises to over 5,000 locations, covering approximately 447 miles with aerial and underground fiber. Once the project area is finalized,

look out for further communication from GreyStone on how to express early interest to become a future subscriber.

GreyStone Power Vice President of Engineering Nadia Faucette believes the co-op is well-positioned for a successful project. "As we've seen with electric co-ops throughout the state, we will have the infrastructure and business systems in place to help communities access the benefits of high-speed internet, which includes better health, education and economic outcomes," she says.

Along with those assets, Miller says, is GreyStone Power's proven record of member satisfaction. "We want to deliver the same level of excellent service with our subsidiary that our members have come to expect with GreyStone Power."

GreyStone will provide consistent updates on the project through its website, social media, and other communication avenues.

AROUND GREYSTONE

# MEETING OF MEMBERS



GREYSTONE POWER  
2022

## ANNUAL MEETING

As members gathered in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic for GreyStone Power's 85th Annual Meeting to discuss the business of the co-op, President/CEO Gary Miller spoke to members about why it's a good time to be a GreyStone member.

In 2022, GreyStone returned \$12 million in capital credits to members and former members in addition to continuing the Wallet Watch program. Plus, members paid some of the lowest rates in the state among 94 utilities.

"Looking back over the past year, GreyStone has faced numerous challenges as we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19, including the economic burdens of rising prices and supply chain issues. But as we look at some of the most pressing concerns

confronting our world today, I think you will find that GreyStone is in a better position than so many other utilities," Miller says. "It's a good time to be a GreyStone Power member."

In light of other areas of the country that have warned their residents of the potential for rolling blackouts, GreyStone is better positioned on reliability than many across the country. The co-op has a well-balanced power generation portfolio, and an increasing number

of carbon-free resources, including renewables and nuclear power. GreyStone has never had a situation where there were brownouts or blackouts. Members can count on GreyStone for reliable service, with a reliability rating at 99%.

"Our co-op depends on members like you actively participating in the business and electing local directors who will work toward our continued success," Miller says.



## EFFICIENCY 101

# Electric vehicle REBATES

Electric vehicles (EV) are the future, and more and more automakers are jumping into the arena. As this happens, more resources have become available for consumers in the way of tax credits, rebates and special electricity rates.

GreyStone Power offers a \$250 rebate for residential members who purchase a Level 2 charger and have it installed at their home.

The requirements for the rebate are: The EV charger must be purchased within the last 90 days; proof of charger installation; and charger must be UL rated. NEMA 14-50 adapters DO NOT qualify for this program.

To request an EV charger rebate, please visit [greystonepower.com/rebates](http://greystonepower.com/rebates).

For more information and resources about EVs and if they are right for you and your household, please visit [greystonepower.com/ev](http://greystonepower.com/ev).



# Surge MasterPlus

## SURGEMASTER PLUS

During a storm, lightning may strike at any moment, causing a power surge that could damage or destroy your TV, personal computer and other everyday electrical appliances in your home. This can be avoided by investing in GreyStone Power's SurgeMaster Plus program. This program is not insurance, but it is proven to reduce your risk of loss should a power surge come your way. Surge protection can extend the lifetime of sensitive electronic equipment by protecting it against harmful power surges. To learn more about the SurgeMaster Plus program and how to sign up, visit [greystonepower.com/surge-protection](http://greystonepower.com/surge-protection).



# improving service

## FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS



**In those rare times your power goes out, you can now receive text updates from GreyStone. To sign up, text ENROLL to 81492. Giving you up-to-date information is another way GreyStone makes life better.**

Message and data rates may apply. For members who wish to opt out of our texting service, text STOP to 81492 to opt out.

# Give your kitchen a break.

Recharge your culinary talents and let someone else do the cooking. Oh, and save money in the process!



## DINE LOCAL AND SAVE

[connections.coop](http://connections.coop)





# GreyStone employees for heroic efforts



# honored

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE AND SAVING LIVES

Making life better for GreyStone members doesn't just stop at electricity. For this group of GreyStone employees, it also means to help save lives.

Each year, the co-op honors those employees who went above and beyond in their service to members, recognizing emergencies or other situations and being quick to respond or lend assistance as they live out GreyStone's guiding principle to surpass members' needs and expectations. Those employees are recognized with a Gatekeeper Award.

This year, GreyStone had a record number of Gatekeepers, with 20 different incidents involving our employees helping others in the community.

Jeff Adair, Danny Alsobrook, Jacob Brumbelow, Kevin Cargle, Jared Childers, Nabil Chabayta, Terri Conkle, Anne Dabbs, Chris Dilbeck, Steven Dilbeck, Vincent Faison, Heath Hale, Leigh Hall, Sher Harris, Matt Ingram, Blake Johnson, Byron Jones, Josh Kirby, Robert McLain, Hunter Patterson, Kara Pearson, Leroy Perryman, Brad Phillips, Jay Postell, Hunter Ramsey, Jarred Stevens, Travis Turner and Paul Wood were among this year's recipients of the Gatekeeper Award. In addition, Childers won three Gatekeeper Awards for separate incidents.

Matt Frame was honored with a Lifesaving Award by Georgia EMC, the statewide trade association for Georgia's 41 electric membership cooperatives, and GreyStone Power.

Frame was eating dinner with his family when his 4-year-old daughter got very quiet. She put her hands over her mouth and when he asked if she was choking, she was unable to respond verbally. Frame opened her mouth to find obstructions but did not see anything, so he told his wife to call 911. He knew his daughter was too small for the traditional Heimlich maneuver, but he remembered his training and knew how to handle the situation. Frame put his daughter face down over his knee and began giving her back blows. After several blows, a chunk of pizza dough about the size of a golf ball dislodged from her throat, and she began to cough and cry. He undoubtedly saved his daughter's life.

GreyStone also honors an annual GEM Award winner. The GEM program awards those employees who have gone the extra mile for their coworkers, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and collaboration. This year's GEM recipient was Yoselin Santillan.

*GreyStone employees were honored for going above and beyond for their families, friends, co-workers and members of their community in an award ceremony held in November 2022.*

# Top Five Reasons to **LOVE YOUR CO-OP**

1

Outage text alerts

2

Some of the lowest prices in Georgia\*

3

99% reliability rating

4

Marketplace deals and rebates

5

Convenient self-service payment options



**GREYSTONE**  
POWER CORPORATION  
**Making Life Better**

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



*GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*\*According to the 2022 winter residential rate survey by the Georgia Public Service Commission. Based on the residential use of 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month.*