

April 2016

GEMC

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M A N I E



**Rates drop
April 1!**
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?

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 2 • APRIL 2016

Miller's Minute

I'm happy to announce that on April 1, our new rate decrease goes into effect after approval by your Board of Directors. This means a net savings to the average 1,100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) per month user of around \$9.50 a month. That is a blended summer and winter average net savings of more than 8 percent!

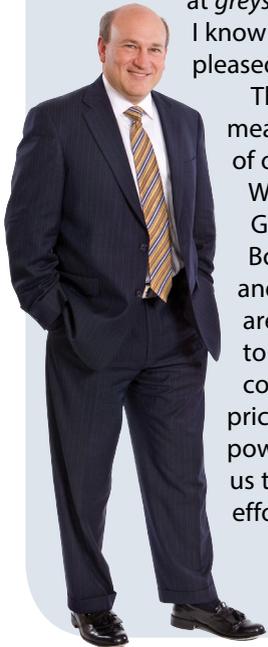
Most of you will see a notation on your bill that shows you are receiving a Wallet Watch credit each month. You can compare your savings under the new rate to what you would have paid under the old rate by visiting our website at greystonepower.com.

I know you will be pleased.

This doesn't mean the end of our Wallet Watch effort. GreyStone's Board of Directors and employees are committed to providing you competitively priced, reliable power. Count on us to continue that effort.

- Gary

Gary Miller,
President/CEO



Reduced rates = more money in your wallet

GreyStone members will see lower costs on their electric bills beginning in April. A rate decrease approved by the Board of Directors and announced by President/CEO Gary Miller at October's Annual Meeting goes into effect on April 1.

The decrease is a result of a favorable renegotiation of GreyStone's long-term wholesale power contract, along with several years of fiscal belt tightening and a concentrated effort throughout the cooperative on cutting costs to reduce rates.

Although the monthly service charge on residential bills rendered beginning April 1 is increasing (from \$11.75 to \$25), energy charges are dropping substantially. **The bottom line is—your monthly power bill is going down.**

Residential members using 372 kilowatt-hour (kWh) or more will see a decrease in their monthly bills. The average residential member who uses approximately 1,100 kWh

monthly will see an overall bill decrease of around \$9.50 per month. That's a total annual savings of more than \$113—extra money in your wallet!

"We are very pleased to be able to pass along these savings to you, our members," says President/CEO Gary Miller. "Our goal is to always provide the most competitively priced, reliable power possible. You deserve our diligence in keeping costs affordable."

Thousands of GreyStone members also helped reduce rates by making their voices heard on Capitol Hill over the last several years in the Take Action campaign. "Your willingness to make a stand helped halt or delay actions planned by the government that would have increased electricity costs substantially. More

GreyStone members took part in contacting their federal legislators than

What will you do with your bill savings?



Photo Credit: Robb Maag

any cooperative in Georgia, and most co-ops in the U.S. We owe you a debt of gratitude for making your voices heard," he said.

Two years ago, a decision was made to put a new billing system in place which will save GreyStone more than \$15 million over the next 10 years. While there were growing pains, the results contributed to the reduction of rates.

"Our Wallet Watch effort has certainly contributed a great part in reducing costs, and you can count on us to continue keeping an eye on the

bottom line," says Miller.

As a part of the rate decrease, fees were restructured so that the bill reflects costs more accurately. It costs GreyStone almost as much to serve a home that uses several thousand kWh monthly versus one that is using none, but has an active meter. Both homes require that the meters and rights of way be maintained, power lines, poles and transformers be serviced, as well as other related costs. By increasing the monthly service charge, all users will pay their fair share in the cost of the electrical system. By lowering the rates,

most members will see a net decrease in their power bills.

For more information, see the chart below or visit our website at greystonepower.com. The website contains a calculator that enables you to plug in your kWh use to compare your total bill under the new rates versus what it would have been under the previous rate structure.

Working together we save! Visit the Save Money/Energy or Membership Benefits pages of our website to learn about more ways to save.



Residential Rates

Winter (November - May)

Prior service charge*	\$ 11.75	New service charge	\$ 25.00
2015 PCA**/kWh***	\$ 0.0152	2016 PCA/kWh	\$ 0.0143
First 650 kWh	\$ 0.0740	First 500 kWh	\$ 0.0460
Next 350 kWh	\$ 0.0720	Next 500 kWh	\$ 0.0720
Over 1,000 kWh	\$ 0.0637	Over 1,000 kWh	\$ 0.0645
Wallet Watch credit	\$ 0.0000	Wallet Watch credit	\$ 0.0770

Savings per month = \$9.44*

*Assuming average monthly 1,100 kWh use

*SERVICE CHARGE

The service charge is a set monthly fee that covers the up-keep of our electrical system, such as lines, poles, meters, substations and other necessary equipment. Basically, everything it takes to bring electricity to you.

Summer (June - October)

Prior service charge	\$ 11.75	New service charge	\$ 25.00
2015 PCA/kWh	\$ 0.0152	2016 PCA/kWh	\$ 0.0143
First 650 kWh	\$ 0.0740	First 500 kWh	\$ 0.0460
Next 350 kWh	\$ 0.0970	Next 500 kWh	\$ 0.0900
Over 1,000 kWh	\$ 0.1080	Over 1,000 kWh	\$ 0.1058
Wallet Watch credit	\$ 0.0000	Wallet Watch credit	\$ 0.0770

Savings per month = \$9.49*

*Assuming average monthly 1,100 kWh use

**PCA

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), an increase or reduction based on the difference in projected versus actual cost of power.

***kWh

Kilowatt-hour is a unit of measurement for electricity used.



Do It Yourself

Ask the Expert

Home improvement time

Winter has never been my favorite time of year, but spring is upon us, and I can't wait for the nice weather it typically brings. Spring is also a time of year where weather is usually pleasant enough that your energy needs will be minimal. Your furnace filter may be dirty from winter use, so make sure you have a clean filter to begin the air-conditioning season. It is also a good time to consider having your air conditioner serviced by a licensed heating and cooling contractor to ensure that it is ready to give you efficient service this summer.

Soon you will be outside cutting grass, preparing your garden and maybe even thinking about a project that you have been contemplating for some time but have not had the time, expertise or money to start. If the project has anything to do with making your home more comfortable, or saving energy, then I have some information that may be of interest.

Along with GEMC Federal Credit Union (GEMC FCU), GreyStone is again offering a loan program that represents an excellent opportunity for members to finance energy efficiency improvements to their existing homes. The improvements can help make your home more comfortable, and at the same time save energy dollars for years to come.

Contest update

In the last issue of *GEORGIA Magazine*, we discussed a contest and prizes for the most interesting and resourceful energy-efficient tips or suggestions sent in by our members. The grand prize will be a \$100 gift certificate, with second and third prize winners receiving a \$50 gift certificate. Time has expired for entries. We have had some excellent responses and are in the process of selecting our winners, who will be announced in the next issue of *GEORGIA Magazine*.

The HomePlus Loan is limited to GreyStone Power members only. It will continue in 2016 until available buy-down funds are depleted. Improvements eligible for financing include, but are not limited to: central heat pumps and air conditioners, replacement windows, insulation and other weatherization products.

Qualifying members have the opportunity to borrow a maximum of \$5,500 for up to 36 months at 2.9 percent APR (annual percentage rate). You can begin the loan process by contacting Marilyn Ragsdale at GEMC FCU at 770-949-3557. Receive additional loan information by visiting greystonepower.com or by calling GreyStone Residential Energy Services at 770-370-2070.

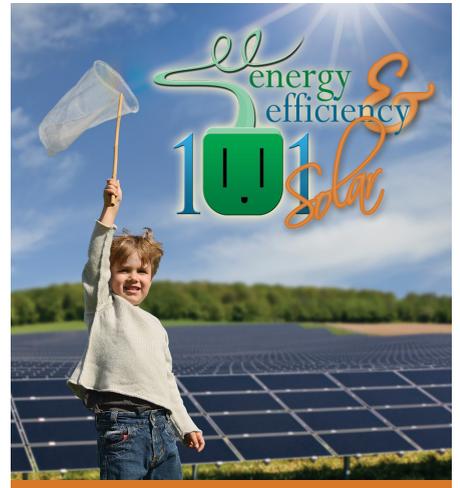
DIY top three

1. Replace dirty winter furnace filters with new ones for the spring.
2. Schedule an appointment to have your heating and cooling equipment serviced by a licensed HVAC contractor.
3. Inquire with GEMC FCU to see how the HomePlus Loan could help you make your home more energy efficient.

Mark your calendar for the next EE101 on **April 14, 2016!**

To register or for more information, call 770-370-2070.

Rudy Echols
Energy Services Manager



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

UPCOMING SEMINARS

EE101:

Thursday, April 14, 2016

and

Thursday, Nov. 10, 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.



Member Savings

Co-op Connections® Card



Everywhere you go these days you will find a loyalty card of some sort, and GreyStone Power is no different. We were ahead of the craze and have been fortunate to offer our members the Co-op Connections® Card (CCC) since 2007. Since that time, our members have saved more than \$2.1 million on prescriptions alone.

In an effort to stay competitive with other loyalty cards, more benefits have been added to the program through the years, allowing our members even more ways to save.

One of the most useful savings can be seen in the discounts of prescription medications. Over the years, many members have experienced a loss of employment, income and even health insurance.

This is where the CCC has come in handy. Even though it's not an insurance plan, it provides discounts on prescriptions, vision, hearing, dental, chiropractic and lab and imaging services for those in need.

Today, with the rising cost of insurance and the increase of high-deductible plans which no longer offer a blanket cost for prescriptions, the CCC can be an invaluable tool in saving money for your family.

Here's how it works: First, you will need a card. There are several ways you can get one. You can request your card

via greystonepower.com, ccc@greystonepower.com or by calling 770-370-2273. You can also download the Co-op Connections app on your phone from iTunes or Google Play, or even print your own copy of the card by visiting connections.coop/greystonepower.

back of your CCC at the time of your prescription drop-off to ensure plenty of time for them to input the information into their system for the best rate comparison. If you do not have your card on hand, you can always show your CCC app on your phone.

With the CCC, you'll be able to get 10 percent to 60 percent off most prescription drugs at more than 60,000 independent pharmacies and national chains including CVS, Walgreens, Target, Walmart and many more.

In one year, the CCC processed 412,570 prescriptions nationwide. The pharmacy discount saved members an average of 47 percent on prescriptions, and 94 percent of these were generic! That's a total of over \$9.9 million in savings nationwide!

Some of the most popular medications that have been discounted for members include antidepressants, anti-anxiety, blood pressure, beta blockers, pain relievers, diuretics, antibiotics, anti-seizure and ADHD prescriptions.

We know that many members have faced economic hardships lately, but our hope is that the CCC will help lessen the burden on pocketbooks. It's just another member benefit brought to you by GreyStone Power.

Ready to join in on the savings?

GREYSTONE POWER CORPORATION
An Electric Membership Corporation

Co-op Connections® Card Prescription discounts

Step 1 (Phone icon)
Request a card or download the CCC app through iTunes or Google Play.

Step 2 (Magnifying glass icon)
Research to see if medication is covered. Compare costs and pharmacies through RXpricequotes.com.

Step 3 (Smartphone icon)
Show your card* when you drop off your prescription so the pharmacy has the information necessary to process discount. (*card, fob or mobile app)

Step 4 (Dollar sign icon)
Save money!
Let us know how much you saved! Email your story to: ccc@greystonepower.com.

Learn more at connections.coop/greystonepower

Second, check to see if the prescription that you are interested in is covered under this program. Once you have found your prescription(s), verify which pharmacy around you has the best price. Though many pharmacies may carry the drug, the prices may be different. Estimated drug costs can be found by visiting RXpricequotes.com.

Once you know what you are getting and where, be sure to give your pharmacy the information listed on the

The One Card That Does It All.®

Find all the ways to save at connections.coop/greystonepower.

(Continued on page E)

Member Savings (continued from page D)

Call 770-370-2273 to request your card today! To learn more about the various CCC programs, including the Healthy Savings program, or to get the most up-to-date business discount listing, visit online at connections.coop/greystonepower.

Welcome new businesses and updated offers!

Six Flags Over Georgia and Six Flags White Water

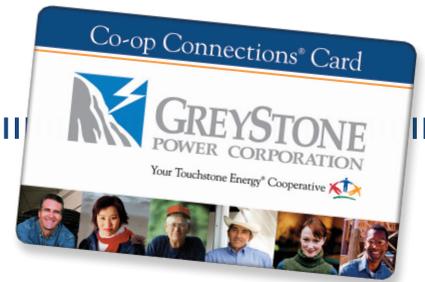
Austell/Marietta 770-739-3400
Special online price for a one-day pass to Six Flags Over Georgia/Hurricane Harbor for \$39.99 (pre-tax); one-day pass to Six Flags White Water for 34.99; or a Combo Gold Season Pass (Six Flags/Hurricane Harbor/White Water/parking pass) for \$61.99 (pre-tax). Visit www.sixflags.com, select your park and

*enter promo code: **gspower16** to receive the discounted price.*



Pro Power Engines, LLC

Fairburn 770-658-6524
\$100 off any engine picked up at Pro Power in Fairburn, Ga.



John Bleakley Ford

Lithia Springs 770-941-9000
\$250 off any vehicle purchase. Must show card at the time of sale.

Want to know what other local businesses offer a discount? Visit the CCC page of greystonepower.com to print a complete listing of participating businesses. If you don't see your favorite business listed, refer them to the program! It's free to join! The new business will simply need to complete and return the participation agreement found on our site. For additional questions about participation, call 770-370-2436.

Need a card? Request yours today by calling 770-370-2273!

Board elections are around the corner

Three seats on the GreyStone Board of Directors are up for election in 2016. The winners will be announced Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Annual Meeting of Members.

Director Ed Garrard, who serves District 9, located in a portion of Cobb County, is currently serving and will be retiring this year after 18 years on the Board. Directors currently seeking re-election this year are Jennifer DeNyse, District 5, located in portions of Carroll and Douglas counties, and David Hagenow, District 3, located in portions of Douglas and Paulding counties.

Eligible members may become a candidate by being nominated by the Nominating Committee, or by nomination by petition of members. To be considered by the Nominating Committee, call 770-370-2066 for the application forms and instructions. The deadline to submit the completed forms to the Nominating

Committee is Friday, April 15 at 5 p.m.

An eligible member may also be nominated by submitting a petition signed by 50 or more GreyStone members of record (the name must appear on the electric bill). Call 770-370-2080 to request a petition or print the online petition at greystonepower.com. The deadline to submit the completed petition and required candidate affidavit, also available on the website, is Thursday, June 30.

All nominees are subject to a criminal background check, must live within the geographic boundary of the district they seek to represent and must meet all other conditions of eligibility.

Candidates desiring to have their name and biographical information included in the Annual Meeting ballot edition must submit information in the format and manner required by the Credentials and Elections Committee by Friday, July 1. If you are



unable to determine the district in which you reside, or need additional information, call GreyStone's independent legal counsel, Steve Minor, at 770-214-5108.

Members of the Nominating Committee are Dennis E. Lester, District 1; Beatrice McClung, District 2; James S. Smith, District 3; Pat Skinner, District 4; Kathy Patman, District 5; Laurie Searle, District 6; Harold Reid, District 7; Ed McCray, District 8; and James R. Storey, District 9.



Clipping for bucks

Since 2007, GreyStone Power member and employee Julee Wynns has mastered the art of couponing. Julee was first introduced to couponing via the Internet by her sister-in-law. After a few months and a few clips here and there, she began to organize her new hobby to the point of maintaining a neatly organized notebook, which she keeps in the back of her car so that she will have it available at all times.

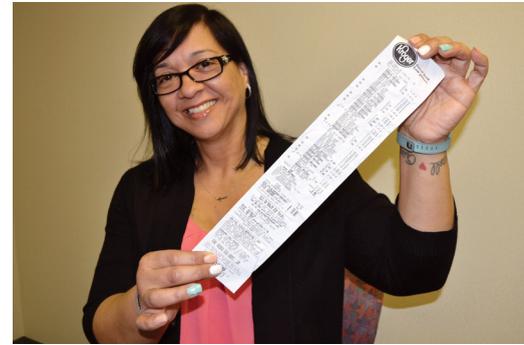
"On one occasion, I had around \$300 worth of groceries in my cart during checkout. After I turned in my coupons, I only paid \$12! That was an amazing feeling," Julee shares.

For Julee, couponing is a family

activity. Her children help by cutting out the coupons each Sunday, then they organize them into piles, based on the layout of the store she most frequents. "My dining room has become our couponing room."

Julee warned that it takes a little work to get the hang of couponing. "It's important to learn the couponing rules for the stores that you will frequent. Because of the growing popularity, many of them have changed how many coupons they will accept and each store is different."

Because sales go in cycles, it's easy to stockpile items, including newly introduced products. "If I buy something



Coupons help the savings add up!

new and the family does not like it, we donate it to the food pantry so that it will not go to waste."

Interested in couponing? Get started by visiting connections.coop/partner-deals to download some great deals from Coupons.com.

Pinterest Pick

Mason Jar Strawberry Lemon Angel Food Trifle

Ingredients:

- Mason jar
- angel food cake
- 1 small package, lemon instant pudding mix
- 3 cups frozen strawberries
- whipped topping or whipped cream

Step 1: Dice angel food cake and set aside.

Step 2: Mix up the lemon pudding as directed on the package. Place in the refrigerator to set.

Step 3: Place the frozen strawberries in a sauce pan and cook them down, on low, until they are soft and have released a lot of juice. This usually takes about 10 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes before layering into jar.

Step 4: Place a layer of diced angel food cake pieces on the bottom of a Mason jar. Add a few heaping tablespoons of lemon pudding on the cake. Then add a few tablespoons of strawberries. Top with whipped topping or whipped cream, then repeat.

For more fabulous recipes, visit us at pinterest.com/greystonepower.



Source: domestically-speaking.com



YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH MONEY CAN SQUEEZE THROUGH A CRAWL SPACE.

I'm saving \$155 a year by insulating my crawl space. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Bottom line, bills are going down...



At GreyStone Power, we've been cutting costs to reduce rates.

Even though the service charge on bills rendered after April 1 is going up, electric rates are coming down. For example, the average residential member, using about 1,100 kWh per month, will see a bottom line

bill decrease of about \$9.50 per month. That's more than \$110 a year!

If you're on Wallet Watch like we are, that's money you can use.

GreyStone Power. Keeping an eye on the bottom line.

greystonepower.com



GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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