

Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

Board of Directors

Jim Rex Chairman
Jay Gray Vice Chairman
Shirley Stutz Secy.-Treasurer
Ed Bay Director
John Enos Director
Brian Hill Director
Duane Parks Director
Daniel J. Gunsett Counsel
Jerry Kackley, General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service
rate schedule R-1*

Service Availability Charge \$18/month

First 500 kWh/month 12.769¢/kWh

Over 500 kWh/month @ 10.645¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
annual rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge \$216/year

First 800 kWh/year @ 20.769¢/kWh

Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year @ 11.645¢/kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/year @ 10.645¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$216 per year
for service between March 1, 2015, and Feb. 28, 2016.)

Commercial Service
rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge \$18/month

First 1,500 kWh/month @ 12.769¢/kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/month @ 10.645¢/kWh

*Rider T —

Kilowatt-Hour Tax applies to all rate schedules
and must be added to the rates shown.

First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh

Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh

Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

Rates above will be effective on the 2/10/16 billing.
They do not project the .3¢/kWh decrease for the
11/10/15, 12/10/15 and 1/10/16 bills.

Welcome, 2016

CHANGE THE CALENDARS??? For goodness sakes, it seems like we just changed them. I cannot believe that 2015 has come and gone, and we are now welcoming 2016. Time could slow down just a bit...please. The red hair on my head is fading much too quickly.

Members who attended our regional meetings this past fall learned about some of the things happening at their co-op during the past year. The cold winter provided the revenue necessary to carry us through a rather mild summer. While we continue to see a lower number of new residential services, the addition of some new commercial loads has been a significant benefit to all the members of the cooperative. In addition, stable rates from Buckeye Power, our wholesale power supplier, have helped us keep your rates steady and even enabled us to temporarily reduce rates by \$3 per 1,000 kWh during the last three months of 2015! And don't forget, we had rate reductions in 2014 that totaled \$3 per 1,000 kWh.

But 2015 presented us with some challenges as well. We started talking about the emerald ash borer years ago as it came down to Ohio from Michigan. These little critters are now making their presence known, as evidenced by the growing number of dead ash trees in our service territory. In 2015, we began focusing on the removal of dead trees that could damage our poles and wire. In 2016, we have budgeted an additional \$711,000 to continue this effort. We thank our members who have been kind enough to let us go outside of the typical right-of-way in order to help us keep the lights on for them and their neighbors. That is a great example of the "cooperative" spirit!

The new year will bring with it many opportunities and challenges. As always, your board of directors, the employees and I will continue to focus on controlling costs and maintaining the safe and reliable service that you, our members, deserve.

2015 brought many obstacles to me personally, but friends and family caught me whenever I was falling and lifted me up with their compassion. They shared their strength unselfishly and unconditionally. The best advice I can give anyone is to approach 2016 with hope, love, and faith. Your heart and your mind make an excellent team. With guidance from above and support from those around us, we will be able to overcome any adversity and embrace the hope that each day offers. Happy New Year and God bless! ☺



**Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO**

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$12.8 billion to members since 1988— \$974 million in 2014 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

\$974 million
in 2014

\$12.8 billion
since 1988

Source: National Rural Utilities
Cooperative Finance Corporation

High School **Seniors**

**Are your parents members
of Guernsey-Muskingum?**

\$4,400

**You could win a college, vocational or
technical school scholarship up to**

- Available in both boys' and girls' divisions
- First-place GMEC scholarship: **\$1,000**
- First-place Ohio's Electric Cooperatives statewide scholarship: **\$3,400**
- Runners-up in each competition also will receive scholarships
- Applications due **Feb. 5** to GMEC office

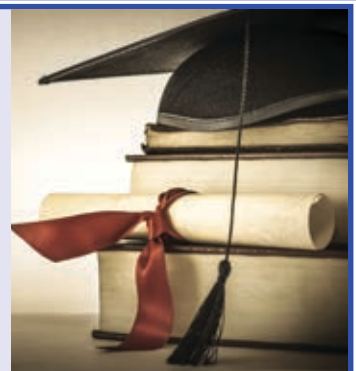
Get applications for these scholarships from your guidance counselor, call GMEC's Heather Baker at 800-521-9879, or visit us online at gmenergy.com!

Applications are due Feb. 5.

For a complete list of rules, call GMEC or visit gmenergy.com.

Touchstone Energy[®] Achievement Scholarship

*Did you overcome unique and significant
personal challenges on your way to excellence?*



Win a **\$2,500** college scholarship!

- First-place **\$500** scholarship, second-place **\$300** scholarship from GMEC
- **\$2,000** scholarship from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives
- Application deadline: **Feb. 5**

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:



YOUTH TOUR 2016

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?

June 10-16

What is Youth Tour?

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Guernsey-Muskingum and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their Congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the country and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. Will you be one of them?

Successful applicants:

- must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Guernsey-Muskingum member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.

Visit gmenergy.com/content/youth-tour for rules and application.

Deadline to apply is **March 4**, with all applicants interviewed on **March 16**.

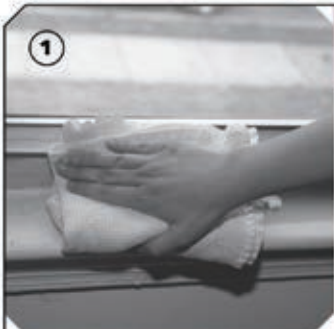
OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

SEAL AIR LEAKS WITH CAULK

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly **HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE**? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with **BIG ENERGY SAVINGS**.

**Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 *Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent - Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



1

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Caulk • Caulk gun • Knife or tool to cut • Rags • Water

1. PREP Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk. Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

2. LOAD You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun. Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

3. APPLY To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought. Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material. Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

4. RELEASE Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

5. CLEAN Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.



2



3



5

CAUTION

Be prepared for WINTER STORMS

BY ABBY BERRY

WHEN WINTER TEMPERATURES DROP and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Guernsey Muskingum cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared. Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

Stay warm:

Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove, during a power outage. These are great options to keep you warm, but exercise caution when using them, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.



Stay safe:

When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is not a good idea to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 800-521-9879 if possible.



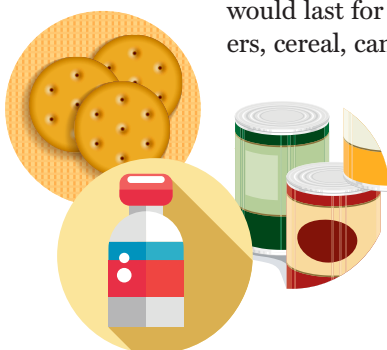
•If using a portable generator, make sure to follow all the manufacturer's instructions and operate them in a dry, open space. Generators can cause serious harm or even electrocution of a home's occupants or the linemen working to restore power, if they're used improperly.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. Guernsey Muskingum is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too.

ABBY BERRY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Stay fed:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends keeping on hand a supply of food that does not need to be cooked and would last for several days. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.



Is your name and location/ account number here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. (Limit 6 bulbs.)
Thanks for reading the GMEC "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #26-0284-22-01 Randy L Pyle
- #53-0143-01-01..... Delores Williams
- #45-0233-03-01 Simon Gump
- #10-0154-19-03..... Susan C McGee
- #12-0615-03-01..... James Everett
- #28-0051-40-02 Grace Hutchinson