



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

THIS IS A TEST

“This is a test and only a test ...” We have heard that familiar phrase numerous times, and it is usually followed by a series of screechy, irritating sounds that make fingernails scratching on a chalkboard seem like harp music. But the noise ultimately accomplishes the goal of getting our attention and preparing us for potential action.

Life is full of tests. We start taking them the minute we are born, and they are a staple of our diet until the day we leave this world. Babies are tested by adults as they are continually prompted to walk and talk. When first steps result in falls, the “encouragers” lift the little ones up and bestow words of support and joy. Baby’s first garbled sounds are interpreted by parents as the beginnings of speech, and they translate the primitive “words” for those who have not yet learned that language. As we enter into childhood, the tests continue. Training wheels are removed from bikes, and we are launched into space destined for a crash landing. But that same support group lifts us up and brushes us off, and we try again — and we ultimately master the skill and glide effortlessly down the road. As we begin our journey into academia, we are bombarded by tests designed to demonstrate our ability to learn and to retain knowledge. Tests are constantly bombarding us.

The interesting thing about life’s tests is that we are often unaware that we are being tested. We are constantly learning and growing in our experiences, and every day, our knowledge and abilities are tested. There will be failures, but we often rise to the challenges and find success. The greatest tests that we face are tests of faith, both faith in ourselves and faith in God. Life is not simple. It involves an exceptional amount of joy, but sometimes the journey also inflicts a significant amount of pain. We will get angry, frustrated, and confused, but we must never lose hope. That same network of encouragers will be there cheering us on, and we must return the favor whenever we get the opportunity.

As we approach the Christmas season, let us be grateful for all that we have been given. Celebrate God’s love with your family and friends and cherish your time together. Life is truly a wonderful and extraordinary blessing. If you already realize that, then you have passed the most important test.

Merry Christmas and God bless!



Jerry Kackley
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO





SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

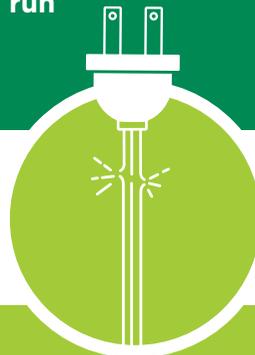
It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause a serious shock or start a fire.



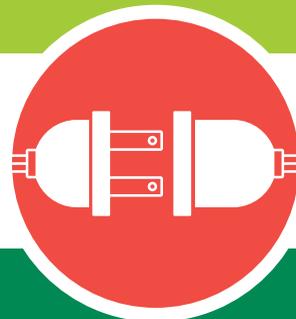
Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

2019 GRADS



FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

You could win more than \$4,750 in our **Children of Members Scholarship** program!

- Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the Community tab
- Interviews will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019
- Deadline to apply: Friday, Feb. 1, 2019

Graduating Seniors: Have you overcome unique and significant personal challenges on your way to academic excellence?

FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

- Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the Community tab
- Deadline to apply: Friday, Feb. 1, 2019

You could win a \$750 scholarship in the

Touchstone Energy[®]
Achievement Scholarship
Program!



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

Welcome Tim Riley Jr.

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes Tim Riley Jr. to the cooperative line crew. Tim began employment in October 2018 as an apprentice lineman. He is a graduate of West Muskingum High School and he brings work experience in the telecommunications construction field. Tim resides in Duncan Falls with his wife, Stacey, and their baby daughter, Ellie. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and sports. Tim is also a volunteer firefighter for the Wayne Township Fire Department.



We welcome Tim to the cooperative family.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers, and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: energy.gov



Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and employees wish all members a merry Christmas.

The office will be closed for the Christmas holiday,
Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25.

It will also be closed for the New Year's holiday
Tuesday, Jan. 1

Is your name and account number here?

If it is, call the cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to LED lightbulbs (limit 6 bulbs). Thanks for reading the local pages of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| #51-0841-42-01..... Chad A. Hulboy | #60-0636-40-00 Timothy Kendle |
| #21-0305-01-04 Donna K. Lightfoot | #15-0002-02-01..... Gary R. Lynn |
| #35-0182-02-10 Cheryl D. Lowry | |
| #52-0023-14-03 Roy T. Quillin | |



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

800-521-9879 | www.gmenergy.com

OFFICE

17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, OH 43762

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ELECTRIC RATES

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$22/mo.
First 500 kWh/month — 12.169¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month — 10.845¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$360/yr.
First 800 kWh/yr. — 19.769¢/kWh
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — \$10.645¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 10.845¢/kWh
(Minimum annual charge — \$360/yr. for service between March 1, 2018, and Feb. 28, 2019)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$24/mo.
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 12.569¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 10.845¢/kWh

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

First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 0.465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/mo. — 0.419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/mo. — 0.363¢/kWh

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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