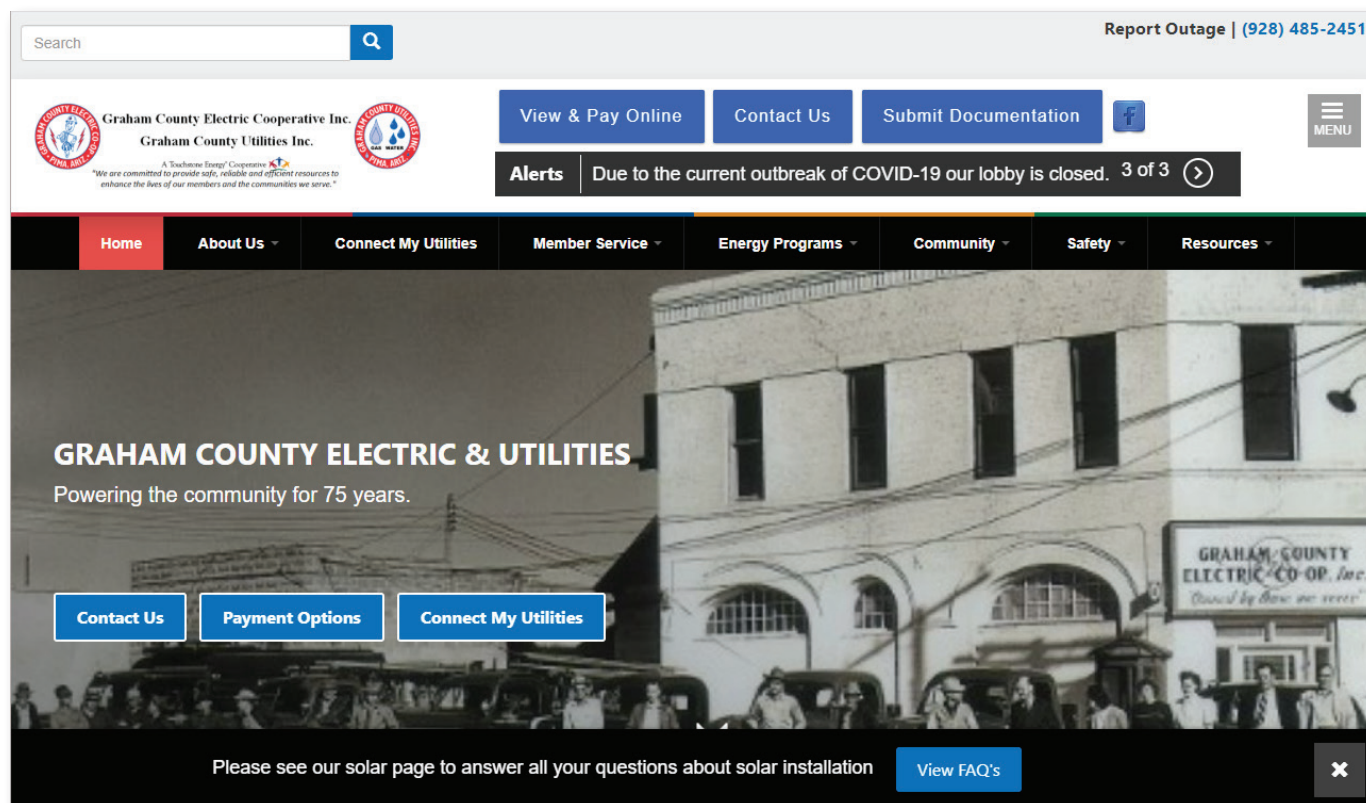


GRAHAM COUNTY



GCEC Has a New Website

Information at your fingertips

Graham County Electric Cooperative and Graham County Utilities have upgraded their website.

Take a look at the updated look and feel of www.gce.coop. Besides being easier to use, the full website is now available while using a smartphone. With technology upgrades, everyone has information at their fingertips.

Some of the features include:

- Same information on all devices.
- Easy buttons for linking to direct information, such as

Where to Find Us Online

Check us out on additional social media platforms.

- ▶ Facebook: @GrahamCountyElectricCooperative
- ▶ Instagram: @grahamcountyelectric
- ▶ Twitter: @coop-gce

contact us, payment options, connect my utilities, solar information and more.

- Current news articles with additional related information.
- Appearance and structure with easy-to-find drop-down menus.
- Improved search bar.
- Quick links for industry news and energy efficiency information.

“Engaging our members, communicating and providing current information is something we have been working on the past several years,” says Communications Manager Diane Junion. “We initially started with launching our Facebook page a few years ago. Then we added Twitter and Instagram to our social media platforms. But

having the upgraded website just adds to our ability to communicate information to our membership.”

As the website evolves, there will be more news topics and educational tools for members.

Graham County Electric Cooperative just celebrated 75 years in business. The core of GCEC is its mission statement:

“We are committed to providing safe, reliable and efficient resources to enhance the lives of our members and the communities we serve.”

The new website is just a part of enhancing the lives of our members with ease of information at their fingertips. ■

Scholarship Recipients Announced

Due to COVID-19, the local high school graduating classes of 2020 had a number of different ways they received scholarships. Some local schools provided a video production from the presenter for a virtual scholarship. Others provided a list of recipients and donors along with the video production of their virtual graduation.

Graham County Electric Cooperative Foundation recognizes the following recipients who were awarded scholarships of either \$250 or \$500 from the foundation to help with students' college or university education.

- Harley Lofgreen, Pima High School.
- Jaden Preston, Ft. Thomas High School.
- Jordan Juan, Ft. Thomas High School.
- Angelina Villalba, Mt. Graham High School.
- Skylar Waters, Mt. Graham High School.
- Cami Lines, Safford High School.
- Kristiana Alva, Thatcher High School.
- Kelsi Hunt, Thatcher High School.

Good luck to all of the 2020 graduating seniors with their future endeavors. ■

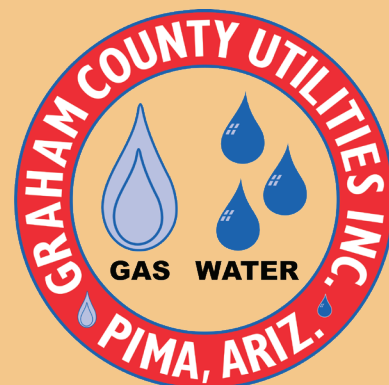


Graham County Utilities Annual Meeting Postponed

The Annual Membership Meeting of Graham County Utilities Inc. has been postponed because of COVID-19. The new meeting date has not been determined, but likely will be in the fall. A new notice will be sent to all members when a date has been scheduled. Information will be posted on our website and social media platforms.

Results of the mail-in election will be reported at a later date as well.

Keep abreast of office lobby openings/closings by visiting www.gce.coop or on Facebook at facebook.com/grahamcountyelectriccoop.



GRAHAM COUNTY

Want the Convenience of Paying Your Utility Bill Automatically?

Sign up for Graham County Electric Cooperative's SurePay program at www.gce.coop in July or August to be entered into one of four drawings. Winners can select a \$50 Visa gift card or \$50 applied toward your monthly bill.

Go to Monthly Payments using SurePay, complete the fillable form, and submit it along with a canceled check. It's that easy!

The four drawings will take place every two weeks on July 20, August 3, August 17 and August 31.

If you have issues signing up for SurePay, contact our office at 928-485-2451 or call April at 928-485-8661.

SUREPAY PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION TO HONOR UTILITY BILL

YOU WILL BE
ENTERED FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN
\$50 JUST FOR
SIGNING UP

\$50

NAME OF BANK _____

LOCATION _____

I, the undersigned, a member of Graham County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and, or Graham County Utilities, Inc., do hereby authorize said cooperatives, through an authorized employee, to present monthly energy bills to the above named financial institution for payment as an automatic ACH transaction. I understand my responsibility to let the cooperatives know about any changes to my bank account information at least ten days before payment is to be deducted. I further authorize said financial institution to pay those bills from my account until such time as I may revoke this order with at least ten days advance written notice.

Bills will be deducted on the 10th of every month unless that date falls on a weekend or holiday, in which case they will be deducted on the following business day.

Bank Account #

Bank Account Holder Name

Bank Account Holder Signature

Date

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Customer # *(Located on utility bill)*

Member Name *(If different than above)*

Member Signature

Date

Note: Questions?? Call GCEC at (928) 485-2451.

Please return the completed form along with a "VOIDED" check to:

Graham County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Attention SurePay Program
PO Drawer B
Pima, AZ 85543

Maintenance is the Key to Reliability



Depending on climate and soil conditions, power poles can last anywhere from 25 to 50 years or longer when pressure-treated with a preservative to protect against rot, fungi and insects.

When poles are found to be compromised during the routine testing process, they are flagged by a yellow tag or an orange ribbon, depending on the severity of damage.

On behalf of Graham County Electric Cooperative, Sundance PPI annually tests 10% of the system. GCEC receives a report from Sundance after pole testing is completed. The report summarizes the poles that have been tested and the ones that need to be replaced. It also notes system maintenance work that is needed, such as fixing a broken insulator or tightening loose hardware.

The operations department reviews the list of compromised poles and orders replacement poles. Repairs are prioritized based on level of damage and pole location. The rest are fixed as soon as possible, as time allows.

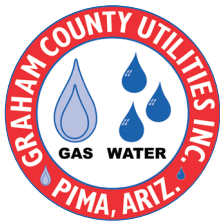
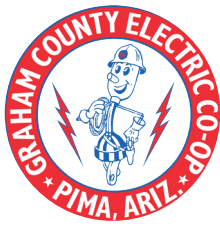
GCEC takes a proactive approach to replacing aged or weathered infrastructure to maintain the integrity of our system and ensure the safety of all.

Other System Improvements

Management has developed a five-year work plan that includes the Hillcrest to San Jose project. Crews will begin work in late 2020 or 2021. The project will replace and upgrade 9.97 miles of distribution line and ensure more reliable power for members. ■



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A new line of poles is nearly ready to replace a stretch in need of repair. A damaged pole is marked for repair with orange flagging tape. A Sundance PPI crew member tests the base of a power pole for rot.



P.O. Drawer B
Pima, AZ 85543

928-485-2451
Toll free: 800-577-9266
Fax: 928-485-9491
www.gce.coop

Graham County Electric Board of Directors:

President Reuben McBride
Vice Pres. Mark Claridge
Secretary Jim Bryce
Chris Claridge
Tommy Clonts
Stephen Hooper
Dennis Jacob
Gene R. Larson
Gerald Schmidt

Graham County Utilities Board of Directors:

President Jeff B. Larson
Vice President Steven Hooper
Secretary Mike Crockett
Jim Bryce
Tommy Clonts
Dennis Jacob
Gene R. Larson
Larry H. Morris
Gerald Schmidt

CEO and General Manager:

Kirk Gray

Assistant General Manager:

Phil Cook

A Touchstone Energy™ Partner

AZ-145 Postmaster: Send address changes to Currents, 5625 NE Elam Young Pkwy. Ste. 100, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Assistant General Manager's Message

Returning to the New Normal

Challenging times would not adequately explain what our nation, state and community have endured during this ongoing pandemic.

As our community returns to normal business practices, we all have seen a new normal when visiting businesses and local establishments. This includes social distancing, wearing masks, limiting the number of customers and directing foot traffic.

We continue to learn about COVID-19 and how to prevent the spread of the virus. Most shelter-in-place and similar orders have expired. Businesses are challenged with the difficulties of opening in a manner that is safe for employees and customers.

Our lobby was closed the past several weeks and business was completed through a variety of methods, thanks to your help. We will open the lobby to customers on July 6 with some additional procedures to protect our members and employees from the spread of COVID-19.

Some of the changes include:

Reducing the amount of lobby traffic.

Most business can be conducted using our drive-up window, visiting www.gce.coop, or calling and talking with our customer service representatives. This includes establishing new services, paying utility bills and requesting account information. If you need an in-person meeting, we ask that you make an appointment by calling our main line at 928-485-2451 to schedule a meeting with our staff.

Environmental cleaning. We clean and disinfect our offices daily, including frequently touched surfaces such as workstations, door handles, and bathrooms. Hand sanitizer will



be available in the lobby area. We encourage good hygiene for employees and our members.

Social distancing. We ask our members to maintain 6 feet of separation, when possible, while visiting our lobby. You will see floor markings to assist you with social distancing and routing of members to our customer service representatives. Please limit the

number of people you bring into the lobby. This will help all of us maintain the current best practice of 6 feet of social distancing. There are signs on the lobby doors asking you to go home if

you are sick or not feeling well. This is necessary to keep our members and employees healthy.

Communications. Account information, new service connects and payments can be completed using the website. When you sign up for SurePay, GCEC/GCU will withdraw from the account you designate the exact amount of your bill on or about the 10th of each month. To sign up for SurePay, go to www.gce.coop, click on the "Member Services" tab and select "Payment Options."

Communicating and working closely with our membership is important to us. We encourage you to take a look at our updated website and see what information is available.

We will continue to use social media to send out real-time information regarding service outages and other important information.

We appreciate our members and value our continued positive working relationship to keep all of us healthy and safe.

Phil Cook, Assistant General Manager