



## BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

The GUC Board of Commissioners elected Tommy Stoughton, Minnie Anderson, and Kelly Darden, Jr. as their officers at their July 15, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Stoughton, a Partner at Kittrell and Armstrong, LLC, was elected Chair. He served as Chair-Elect for the past year and Secretary in 2019-2020. He has served on the Board since 2015.

Ms. Anderson, a retired educator, was elected Chair-Elect. She has served on the Board since 2016 and served as Secretary in 2020-2021.

Mr. Darden, a Mental Health Counselor and internationally-known outdoorsman/broadcaster, was elected Secretary. He has served on the Board since 2018.



*Kelly Darden, Tommy Stoughton, and Minnie Anderson*

Greenville Utilities is owned and operated by the citizens of Greenville and is governed by an eight-member Board of Commissioners responsible for approving rates, development plans, the annual budget, and setting policy. Board members serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two terms.

## GUC CREWS ASSIST LOUISIANA



In the early hours of August 28th, 17 GUC Electric and Logistics employees left Greenville in response to a call for assistance from Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) in Louisiana as they prepared for Hurricane Ida. Our crews staged at the Cajundome on the 29th where they waited out the storm. Ida did not impact the LUS service area as much as they had anticipated, so LUS arranged for our crews to travel with them to assist in Houma, LA, a community devastated by Ida.

As a community-owned utility, GUC is part of a network of municipal systems that have mutual aid agreements designed to help each other during urgent situations such as this hurricane. We are proud of our employees who did not hesitate to leave their families and lend a hand to those in need.

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR: HELP FAMILIES STAY WARM THIS WINTER

Your donation of a few dollars a month can help a family this winter. Neighbor to Neighbor is GUC's voluntary program that is supported through customers' tax-deductible contributions. GUC matches contributions – up to \$20,000 this year to help meet the increased needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Find out how you can make a difference – all the details, along with a sign-up form are on [guc.com](http://guc.com).



## MOVING? STAY SAFE!

We are often asked if customers should be at home when their services are connected. We require you to be home when your natural gas service is connected. For your safety and protection of personal property, we also encourage you to be home when your electric and water services are connected. Make sure all heat-producing appliances (stoves, ovens, toasters, space heaters, clothes dryers, hair dryers, etc.) are off or unplugged before your electricity is turned on. You should also make sure that all water connections (faucets, ice makers, washing machine hookups, etc.) are completely off when your water is turned on. **Play it safe and enjoy your new home!**





## DETECTING A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

**LOOK.** Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.

**LISTEN.** An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.

**SMELL.** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance to create the familiar, rotten-egg-like odor you associate with natural gas. You should take action even if you detect only the faint odor of natural gas in the air.

Find out more at [guc.com/natural-gas-safety](http://guc.com/natural-gas-safety).

If you think you have a gas leak, please call our Emergency Hotline immediately at 855-SOS-2GUC (855-767-2482).

## COOL WEATHER SAVING TIPS

Cooler weather is on its way! When temperatures drop, customers use more electricity and natural gas to heat their homes and businesses.

Outdoor temperatures drive home energy usage more than any other single factor. While none of us can control the weather, we do encourage customers to take steps to reduce energy usage and lower bills as much as possible. We advise that you focus your efforts on the biggest energy user – heating.

A heating system on average uses 60% of a home's energy. It can even be as high as 85% with electric-resistance heated homes. As outside temperatures decrease, heating systems must work harder to maintain a home's set temperature.

### Heat Pumps:

- If you have an electric heat pump, in winter only, find the lowest comfortable setting, and don't change it. Set it and forget it. The Department of Energy recommends a setting of 68 degrees. Every degree you lower the setting will save you money.
- When you adjust the thermostat on a heat pump system, even by just one degree, it automatically forces the less economical back-up system to start running. This can be costly!

- If you are leaving your house for a few days, turn your heat down on your heat pump system.

### Other Forms of Heat:

- For other forms of heat (natural gas, oil, propane, geothermal, electric furnace and electric baseboard), adjust your thermostat as needed daily, and throughout the day. The Department of Energy recommends a setting of 68 degrees (or lower).
- If you're gone for several hours or more, set the thermostat at 55 degrees, or even cut it off (unless pipes are in danger of freezing). Be sure to turn the thermostat down at night and cover up with blankets.



## CEASE THE GREASE

You may find yourself cooking more this time of year, so we want to remind you that fat, oil, and grease are a real "pain in the drain." They are the major cause of problems we find in sewer lines. GUC does everything it can to prevent sewer spills, but we can't do it alone. We need your help!

Things like oil, butter, margarine, shortening, pan drippings, and sauces can cause blockages in sewer lines. Clogged lines can lead to sewer spills, which are bad for the environment, and can be expensive. The best way you can prevent sewer spills is to never pour fat, oil, or grease down the drain. Instead, let it cool down, collect it in a container -- like a used soup can or jar -- and throw it in the trash.

