

# Taylor Report

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October 2022

## MORE SAVINGS, MORE AUTUMN ADVENTURE.



The one card that does it all.  
**Connections.coop**



Use your card at these local businesses and start saving money today.  
Don't have a card, stop in the office or we'll mail you one.

### **Advance Auto Parts, Medford**

10% discount on purchases up to \$200.00

### **Broadway Theater, Medford**

Purchase any size popcorn and get a matching size soda for free

### **Glass to Go, Inc., Medford**

5% off in-shop windshield replacement. Buy 1 Rain-X Wiper Blade, get second blade ½ off.

### **Jack's Auto Repair LLC, Stetsonville**

10% off exhaust repairs over \$50.00, 10% off any brake related parts & labor.

### **Life's High Points Photography, Medford**

10% discount

### **Medford Health Mart Pharmacy, Medford**

20% off any Health Mart label

### **Meyer Auto Body, Medford**

5% discount on any body repair over \$500.00. Up to a \$100 value.

### **Meyer Lumber, Dorchester**

5% discount on discountable items, excluding all sale and clearance items (cash sales only). Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounts/promotions. Card must be presented at each purchase.

### **Meyer Tire and Service, Medford**

\$5.00 off any passenger or light truck tire- not good in conjunction with any other coupons or offers.

### **Napa Auto Parts, Medford**

10% discount on cash & carry items (excludes engines, engine kits, transmissions, oil labor & sale items)

### **Northwoods Embroidery, Medford**

Free digitizing on embroidery. Free set up on first color of screen printing.

### **River Country Cooperative**

Athens, Greenwood, Owen

10% discount on all dog and cat food

### **Ron's Auto Body Repair, Medford**

10% off for anyone over 55 or older on labor

### **Schierl Tire & Service Center, Medford**

\$5.00 off an oil change. \$10.00 off parts for service repairs.

### **Stetsonville Lumber, Stetsonville**

5% off single purchase over \$500.00-not good in conjunction with other coupons or offers.

### **Stetsonville Oil Company, Stetsonville**

\$5.00 off oil lube filter service.

### **Strama's Self-Serve, Medford**

Buy one ice cream (cone or dish) and get the 2nd ½ price.

### **Subway, Medford & Colby**

50¢ off any sub or salad

### **Tallman Landscaping**

5% off labor on projects over \$1,000 – free estimates

### **Taylor Credit Union, Medford and Abbotsford**

Free rental for one year on 3"x5"x22 1/2" safe deposit box – new rentals only. Requires existing savings account or initial savings account with \$5.00 balance. Limit one per family.

### **Turtle Bay Gardens, LLC, Medford**

10% off purchase

### **Wanke Builders, Medford**

Free foundation water proofing on your new home purchase

### **Willow Cottage Pet Grooming, Medford**

\$5.00 off full groom service

# What does the price of natural gas have to do with my electricity? And why did my bill go up this month?

Historically, we have used primarily coal with some hydro power and nuclear for generation sources. For various reasons there has been a shift away from coal-fired plants. The transition to renewable energy sources has begun to displace the coal-fired plants. The variable nature of the renewables does leave time in the day when we need to use some sort of energy source that can quickly fill in those gaps. Natural gas power plants are much like jet engines and can respond quickly to fit that need. When natural gas prices were exceptionally low, some of the plants were even designed to be base load plants that ran on a more consistent basis. Looking at a quick comparison between coal and natural gas, coal plants have much higher construction costs and require more staff to keep them operational. A natural gas plant costs much less to build and requires as few as a handful of employees to maintain and operate it. The fuel is what makes up the difference in the operating costs. Coal is cheap and plentiful and with primarily only one industry using it, stable with regards to price. Natural gas, on the other hand, is utilized in many industries and has a more globally influenced price. This creates

volatility in gas prices. Both increased usage in our industry and global influences creating more stress on the gas market, have caused prices for gas to rise significantly higher. With the increased use of gas generation and reductions in coal units, our power supplier (and the national market in general) sees much more variation in the costs to run our units. Lately, in the high use months of July and August, the cost of natural gas was also very high. That drove up our power bills almost 30% over the normal cost. Since we function as an "at cost" utility, we need to pass those costs along through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) mechanism. The PCA looks at the costs over the past few months and tries to average out any spikes to limit the volatility of the bills that we see. In this case, one unusual month was followed by a second, amplifying the costs. With this adjustment being the largest one we have seen, the board authorized combining it with the anticipated PCA charges and spreading it across the next few months rather than one large hit this month. So, you can expect to see the \$0.0095 per kWh adder for the rest of the year.



## Happy Halloween

Halloween is a time for candy, costumes and in some cases, outdoor lighting or inflatable decorations. While preparing for and enjoying the holiday, follow these safety precautions:

### Outdoor lighting

- Inspect each electrical decoration. Check cords for cracking, fraying or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Also, inspect for damaged plugs.
- Make sure any lights, animated displays or other electrical outdoor products are safety tested by a reputable laboratory such as UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and approved for outdoor use.
- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into ground fault circuit interrupter-protected outlets.
- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Always carry a ladder or other long object or tool in a horizontal position.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Division and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips:

### Costume safety

- Wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
- Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape for added visibility.
- Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eye care professional for a proper fitting and

instructions on how to use them.

- Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision. Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy by putting a small amount on your arm.

### Food safety

- Do not let your little ones (or anyone) eat candy or other treats until they have been inspected at home.
- Check all labels for potential food allergens.
- If you have very young trick-or-treaters, remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys from the goodie pile.

## Board Report – August 2022

- Approved July disbursements totaling \$425,499. 12 new member applications, and July 2022 construction in the amount of \$64,479.
- Reviewed financial results for July with \$398,302 Operating Margins and \$634,811 Total Margins year to date.
- Approved the retirement of 3 estates valued at \$5,445 for a net present value of \$3,309.
- There were 8 outages in July, with average YTD outage time per meter of 0.1564 hours.
- 24 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the August 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$20,929.
- Other topics covered included upcoming rate changes, a review of director policies, the upcoming member appreciation banquet, employee benefits changes, NRECA Regional Meeting, and DPC updates.