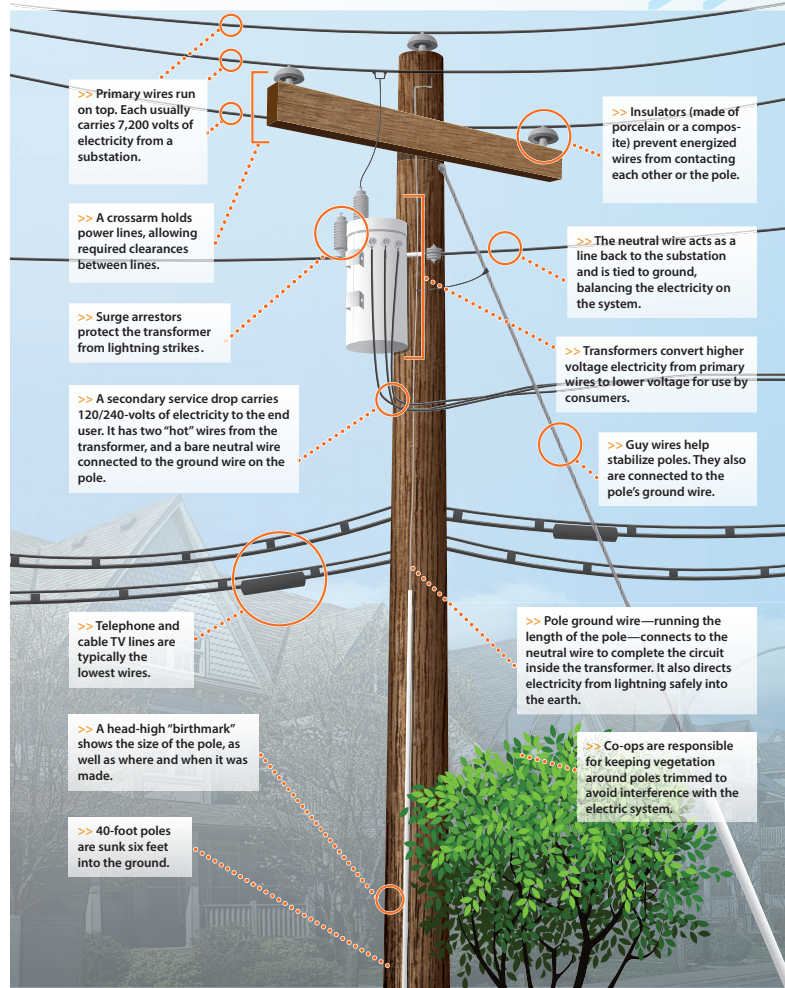


Why Electric Cooperatives Replace Utility Poles

>> What's on that pole?

This illustration shows basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles. Not all poles have all this equipment on them. They vary according to location and the service they provide.



You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Victory Electric's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement.

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces — all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a Victory Electric line crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

Know What's Below: Dial 811 Before You Dig for Your Fall Projects

Fall is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Or perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

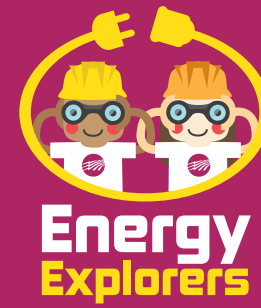
Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center.


Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and the affected local utilities will be notified.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury

FALL COLORING SHEET



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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THE VICTORY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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FROM THE CEO

This November, Let Your Voice Be Heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several elections. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline—with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Kansas, we saw a voter turnout percentage of 23.5 percent in August.

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we can change this.

At Victory Electric, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give

you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this month. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

We hope that this momentum will continue through Victory Electric's Board elections in April at the Annual Meeting. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country and communities, one vote at a time.

Thanks, Shane



Shane Laws

New #Whopowersyou Campaign Honors Inspiring Members Like You

Victory Electric, in conjunction with Touchstone Energy, is hosting a campaign to honor community members who inspire, empower and motivate others.

As a member, you can nominate any Victory Electric member who inspires you and gives back to your community in extraordinary ways.

Nominations can be submitted at whopowersyou.com until **Nov. 27**. Submissions can either be a photo or video and must be accompanied by a short application.

After **Nov. 27**, voting will take place for the nominee to win a potential \$5,000!

Follow Victory Electric on Facebook and Twitter for more information.

Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off

The annual Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 28, 2016, at Boothill Museum. The chili cook-off judging will begin at 4:30 p.m. Public sampling begins at 5:30 p.m. The parade of lights begins at 6 p.m.

For more information or to enter a chili, contact Micaela Morales at 620-371-7744 or email her at micaela@victoryelectric.net.

Holiday Office Closure

Our office will close on November 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving. Have a safe and happy holiday.



CFL Charlie Says "Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are...

MARK BROWN, JESUS ESCARCEGA, MARK KELLEY and SCOTT MESSINO.

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month, Victory Electric gives members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations to this month's winners!

Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home—typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill.



Penick and Stein Earn Journeyman



Kyndell Penick

Victory Electric congratulates **KYNDELL PENICK** and **CLAYTON STEIN** on becoming journeyman linemen.

The journeyman status is earned with four years of experience and time on the job as well as working through four textbooks. Each book is completed with nine tests and one final exam. At the end of their fourth book, linemen take an accumulative final over all the material. Victory Electric currently has 19 linemen who have their journeyman certification.

Penick began at Victory Electric as an electrician in 2014 and became a fourth class lineman in May of the same year.

Stein began his career at Victory Electric as a warehouse clerk in 2010 and started his line work in 2012 as a fourth class lineman.

"Becoming a journeyman is a goal for each one of our linemen," said Ryan Miller, supervisor of operations. "It makes the guys more qualified and they can then run a crew."

We congratulate Kyndell and Clayton on their accomplishment.



Clayton Stein

Working on the LINE

Victory Electric's tree trimmers **ARMONDO CEJA** and **STEVE JIMMERSON** cleared lines at Youthville. Trimming trees close to power lines is a proactive measure to ensure reliable power.



Steve Jimmerson trims trees at Youthville to keep lines clear.



Armondo Ceja clears the limbs and feeds them into the wood chopper.

Victory Electric and CoBank Award \$10,000 "Sharing Success" Grant to Depot Theater

The Victory Electric Cooperative, Assn., Inc., is pleased to announce the Depot Theater Company in Dodge City as the recipient of this year's Victory/CoBank "Sharing Success" Grant.

The Depot Theater has been awarded two checks totaling \$10,000—\$5,000 from Victory Electric and \$5,000 from CoBank—to help purchase a new lighting control system for the theater.

"The lighting and technical equipment originally installed in the theater is now more than 12 years old, and we find the lighting control board has become less and less dependable and is no longer repairable," said John Snuff, Depot Theater Executive Director. "As the Depot Theater continues to grow, we must occasionally upgrade and replace equipment to provide our patrons with the best possible entertainment experience. We plan to increase our programming with more local theatrical productions, events and special performances, and our stage lighting will play an integral part in assuring each production is of the highest caliber."

The roots of the Depot Theater grow deep into the history of Dodge City. The company began performing as the Boot Hill Museum Repertory Company in 1983, but their true start began 25 years earlier when Rosemary and Lewis Mock created the nightly Long Branch Variety Show at Boot Hill in 1958. The company eventually outgrew their space and created the Homestead Theater in a vacant building adjacent to the Santa Fe Depot.

When the opportunity arose to build a new theater connected to the historic Santa Fe Depot and make use of renovated sections of the old Fred Harvey Hotel and Harvey Girls Dormitory, the company jumped at the chance. Thousands of volunteer hours later and with millions of dollars raised, the current Depot Theater was built and the company officially changed its name to the Depot Theater Company in 2006. Today, the Depot Theater Company continues to provide outstanding entertainment for patrons from across Southwest Kansas and beyond.

"The Depot Theater is an important part of the

local entertainment scene and it's great to support an organization dedicated to entertaining local citizens and increasing tourism to our historic community," said Victory Electric CEO Shane Laws. "I'm pleased, on behalf of Victory Electric, to award this grant to the Depot Theater."

The annual "Sharing Success" grant opportunity, capped at \$10,000, is made possible by Victory's governing board of trustees, in partnership with CoBank—a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it serves, including Victory. This year, CoBank established a \$3 million fund to match charitable contributions made by its cooperative members. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country. CoBank states that partnering with their customers to support worthy causes they care about is a great way for them to make a positive difference and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

"Thanks to our board of trustees and CoBank, the Sharing Success Grant has enabled Victory to give back to the communities we serve," Laws said.

This is the fifth year Victory has awarded "Sharing Success" grants to local non-profits. Applicants must be federally recognized as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. The Bucklin Library received a \$10,000 grant in 2012 to help fund the construction of their new library building. And in 2013, the Mission of Mercy dental clinic in Dodge City was awarded \$10,000. The project funded in 2014 was the Stauth Memorial Museum in Montezuma for their "Suits in Space" exhibit. And last year, local shelter and food bank, the Manna House, was awarded the grant to repair and upgrade their facilities.



Pictured (R1) Katie Ruthi, Depot Theatre Board Member; John Snuff, Depot Theatre Executive Director; Sheri Tieben, Depot Theatre Office Manager; Jerri Imgarten, Victory Electric Manger of Marketing and Communications; Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO; Gilbert Benton, Depot Theatre Chairman of Board. (R2) Jane Gregg, Depot Theatre Board Member; Rae Jean Amy, Victory Electric Executive Administrative Assistant; Mikey Goddard, Victory Electric Manager of Safety and Plant; Ila Siders, Depot Theatre Board Member.

Victory Electric Health Fair a Success, Hundreds Receive Free Medical Services

The Victory Electric Community Health Fair helped members when screenings found a few cases of cancer among the many free exams performed on Sept. 17.

Victory Electric and our partners hosted the 9th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair. More than 70 doctors, health care professionals and vendors from the area graciously donated their time and expertise to offer free services to hundreds of members and attendees.

Doctors and medical professionals provided free services to more than 600 attendees. Free services offered at this year's fair included retina screenings, breast exams, skin cancer screenings, pap smears, dental exams, hearing tests, blood pressure checks, car seat safety inspections, \$20 flu shots, \$12 complete blood screens, and various informational booths.

By the numbers: 170 flu shots completed, 187 blood screenings, 61 skin cancer screenings with two potential cancers found, 149 blood pressure checks, 45 fluoride treatments, 50 dental exams and oral cancer screens, 96 bone density scans, 63 retina screens, 74 pap smears, 61

breast exams, and 49 hearing tests were given.

We would like to thank those who assisted in the planning and organization of the event; you were an invaluable resource. Also, thank you to the 40 volunteers from the community who helped us keep everything running smoothly. We could not have hosted the health fair without you.

We thank all of our partners and sponsors: Dodge City Medical Center, Western Plains Medical Complex, Phillips Chiropractic and Physical Therapy, Dodge City Public Schools, Western State Bank Expo, Landmark Bank, Western Beverage, Service Master, The Inn Pancake House, Tacos Jalisco's, Tianguis Carniseria, JAG and many more. We would also like to give a special thanks to Kelly Stecklein, Kelly Slattery, Erica Soltero, Dodge City Community College Nursing Student, and Dodge City High School FCCLA for their hard work and dedication for the event.

Victory Electric and those who make it possible are already looking forward to the 10th Annual Community Health Fair. We hope to see everyone there!



Attendee learns about Fred the Preparedness dog.



Spinal scan takes place on health fair attendee.



Ford County fireman teaches youth about proper techniques for CPR.



Employees volunteered their time to help at the 9th Annual Community Health Fair.



A participant receives a free retina scan.



A volunteer draws blood from a participant.