

Don't Let Electrical Hazards Haunt Halloween!



Victory Electric wishes you a **Safe and Happy Halloween!**

Halloween is the most festively frightening night of the year, but don't make yours fraught with danger. Here are some safety reminders:

- ▶ As you're decorating, make sure you and your parents check for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- ▶ Fasten all outdoor lights securely to trees and other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture insulating cords and damage wires.
- ▶ Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather, and remains a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- ▶ Make sure all outdoor electrical lights and decorations are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). If your outlets aren't equipped with GFCIs, have an electrician install them or buy a GFCI adapter plug. Don't overload outlets with too many extension cords and strands of lights.
- ▶ Keep power cords off walkways and porches that trick-or-treaters may use. You don't want them to trip.
- ▶ Have mom or dad leave the porch light on for trick-or-treaters, and be sure to turn out all spooky lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. This will also save energy.

Time Change Begins Nov. 6

On November 6, remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a great time to: change the batteries in smoke detectors and have a professional check your fire extinguishers.

Welcome to Your Hometown Co-op

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to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community.

In addition to Cooperative Month, this month we kick off a year-long celebration marking the International Year of Cooperatives. Our theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates loud and clear in our turbulent

national—and global—economy. The year offers a chance for us to showcase our legacy of innovation and achievement, and reminds us of what's important in business—putting people first.

One out of every four Americans is a co-op member; there are more than 1 billion members around the world. Co-ops fill a community need, giving a voice to folks that profit-driven businesses often overlook. Co-ops share a common set of principles and values, including self-help and—one of



my favorites—democracy.

Electric cooperatives may only serve 12 percent of Americans, but our lines cover 75 percent of this great nation. By banding together, we deliver power to 42 million rural Americans in 47 states—and we're not finished.

We want what you want—affordable energy bills and the comfort of knowing lights will turn on when you flip a switch. We work

throughout the year to invest in our electric system and keep power reliable. We focus on

educating members how to use energy efficiently. We talk to you in the grocery store and on the street, listening to your concerns and ideas.

Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local—living and working alongside those we serve. That's the cooperative difference.

'Til Next Time, TJ

Victory Electric Bill Payment Options

Victory Electric has several convenient options for you, the member, to pay your bill.

In addition to paying in our office or by mail, options

include online bill pay at www.victoryelectric.net, drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City, and a pay station at Mr. Payroll, 400 E Wyatt Earp.



CFL Charlie Says

"Come Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are... Glenn Unruh, Marlon Smith, Richard Scott, Dan Boatright, Isabel Chacon, Photosamone Keovongkoth, Carlos Puentes, Connie Renteria, and Randolpho Renova.

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative and get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month Victory Electric will be giving members free CFL light bulbs. Congratulations winners!

Why Buy Local?

Why buy local? There are numerous benefits to buying local. First, when those coveted big businesses look to building or locating in a city or town, they look at the statistics of how many people buy local. Ford County has total retail sales of \$484.7 million, and compared to other towns and counties approximately the same size, we don't do as well.

In Finney County (Garden City), they have total retail sales of \$680.7 million, almost \$200 million more in sales than in Dodge City. Great Bend and Liberal do approximately the same in total retail sales, but they have approximately 2,000 less households than Dodge City.

Therefore, towns like Garden City, which is approximately the same size as Dodge City, will attract more businesses because they draw in more local buyers.

Another important fact that many forget when they travel is the cost to travel to those places. Using Wichita and Garden City as examples, using the calculation (IRS mileage rate x the miles) + (average Ford County hourly wage x time to drive), the average person is spending almost \$17 going to Garden City and \$57 going to Wichita, without even opening your wallet at a store.

In an article in the Chamber Executive Convention 2009, Dennis Lauver, president and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, listed five key benefits to buying local, those include:

- ▶ Save money and time when you shop near home.
- ▶ Keep money in our own economy.
- ▶ Build our schools and cities (assuming a local option sales tax).
- ▶ Provide property tax relief (assuming a local option sales tax).
- ▶ Keep family and friends employed in your community.

We will continue to feature a local business in this newsletter on a quarterly basis showcasing your options in Dodge City and Ford County.

We encourage you to buy local and in the future be more competitive to receive new businesses in town.

The Alley Provides Positive Teen Hangout

The Alley, Dodge City's teen center, opened in December 1997, as a result of the community's reaction to the tragic, untimely death of Dodge City teenager, Justin Mercado, in October 1996.

Mercado was an innocent bystander who was fatally shot by a gang member's gunfire at the Boothill parking lot, once a popular hangout for teenagers. His memory continues to be the driving force behind The Alley.

Fourteen years after opening, The Alley remains a place that provides safe, fun entertainment for teenagers in a tobacco, alcohol and drug-free environment, offering a dance floor, basketball, pool tables, foosball, internet, television, video games, café seating, snack bar, and is currently going through changes to offer much more.

More than 30 high school students make up The Alley's teen board, which plans events, raises funds and works at community events, learning valuable entrepreneurial, social and teamwork skills.

The Alley holds dances on most Friday evenings and high school events on Friday or Saturday nights. Special events include homecoming dances, after prom parties, pep rallies, Halloween parties, etc. Teenagers from surrounding communities are welcome at The Alley!

Head to the EZ at 3!

The Alley recently started the EndZone (EZ) afterschool program for nearly 1,700 fifth through eighth graders in USD 443, in conjunction with Dodge City Parks and Recreation.

Every day, hundreds of students go home to an empty house after school. The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex. EndZone is open from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and provides a



Victory Electric donated the labor to upgrade and install new lights at The Alley to benefit the afterschool program. The electricians, Harold Bogner (left) and Ross Adams replaced non-working lights, outdated fixtures and security lights.

quality, affordable afterschool program that keeps students safe, inspires learning and helps working families balance work and family life. The program is designed to offer homework assistance, develop healthy youth, provide leadership opportunities, teach life skills, improve social skills and self-esteem, and offer physical and recreational activities.


Fun Bus

The Dodge City Parks and Recreation "Fun Bus" offers safe transportation by picking students up at school and dropping them off at the EndZone location. The Fun Bus picks up students every day at Comanche Intermediate at 2:55 p.m. and Soule Intermediate/Middle School at 3 p.m.

The Alley is open to seventh and eighth graders on Monday and Wednesday and to fifth and sixth graders on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Sheridan Center hosts fifth and sixth graders on Monday and Wednesday. EndZone at The Alley is FREE and the Sheridan Center charges only \$1 per day (swimming is included). Parents are responsible for picking up their children by 5:30 p.m. at The Alley or Sheridan Center.

Victory Electric encourages you to visit The Alley.

This article is dedicated to the life and memory of Justin Mercado. The Alley will never forget.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE MANAGER

Welcome to Your Hometown Co-op

Our community has changed over the years. You may remember as a kid buying groceries and hardware at mom-and-pop stores—most are now long gone, driven out by national retailers.

It seems everything today has become a bit generic, focused more on profits than people. Yet, it's nice to know we still have locally-owned and controlled businesses we can count on—such as Victory Electric Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities—you, as a member, own a portion of the business. One benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

Electric co-ops operate at cost—collecting enough revenue to run and expand the business but with no need to raise rates to generate profits for distant shareholders. When Victory Electric has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members in cash or as a bill credit.

Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all stripes have celebrated Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

Electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why by receiving electricity from the co-op, you're a member—an owner, really—of the business. Without members, there would be no Victory Electric.

Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of trustees every April at our annual meeting.

One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the areas in which our members live and work. From sponsoring a local school's baseball team



Terry Janson

We give our members a voice, and we are local—living and working alongside those we serve.

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Cold Weather Rule Effective Nov. 1 to March 31

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay.

The requirements members must meet to qualify for the program are summarized below.

- ▶ Members must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ Members and the cooperative will reach a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

Please note that failure to follow the requirements, illegally diverting utility service, receiving service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement, will disqualify you from receiving the benefits under the Cold Weather Rule.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect a service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 35 degrees F, or be in the mid 30s or colder within 24-hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

If you have questions on the Cold Weather Rule, please contact Sandy at 620-227-2139.

Seal Cracks to Save Energy & Money

Finding and sealing air leaks can save you energy and money. Here's a tip from Victory Electric that can help keep your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter while lowering your utility bills.

Caulking cracks and openings can save you \$212 a year. Find cracks by waiting for a windy day and then carefully holding a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical outlets, and other spots where outside air may infiltrate. If the smoke stream moves horizontally, you've found a leak that needs to be sealed.

Experts recommend using water-proof, flexible, and long-lasting silicone caulk to seal cracks and gaps that are less than one-quarter-inch wide. Remove any old caulk and clean the surface before applying new caulk.

Fresh caulk takes several hours, or longer, to dry, so it's best to do the job on a dry day when humidity is relatively low

Non-Domestic Bills Mailed in November

Victory Electric will read the meters in October for the fence chargers and small watering loads (among other small rural electric loads), which we classify as non-domestic services.

These bills are mailed annually



Sealing air leaks in your home can save you energy and money—up to \$212 a year!

and the temperature is above 45 degrees F. In addition to caulk, you can use low-expansion spray foam to seal leaks.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.energysavers.gov or the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com.

and consist of the kilowatt-hours consumed in the previous year from November 2010 to October 2011.

If you have any questions or problems with any of these billings, come by or call us at 800-279-7915.

Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook

Visit our website at www.victoryelectric.net. On our website, you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Victory Electric on Facebook at facebook.com/VictoryElectric or by searching for The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc. Check our page for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips. Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with our members.



Sellar Grietas para Ahorrar Energía y Dinero

Encontrar y sellando fugas de aire pueden ahorrar energía y dinero. Aquí

está un consejo de Victory Electric que puede ayudar a mantener su casa más fresco en verano y cálidas en invierno mientras reduce sus facturas de servicios públicos.

Calafatear grietas y aberturas puede ahorrarle \$212 al año. Encontrará grietas esperando por un día ventoso y, a continuación, cuidadosamente sosteniendo un palo de incienso encendido o una pluma de humo junto a las ventanas, puertas, enchufes y otros lugares donde puede infiltrarse el aire exterior. Si la secuencia de humo se desplaza horizontalmente, ha encontrado una fuga que debe ser sellada.

Los expertos recomiendan utilizando calafate silicona impermeable,

No Facturas Domésticos por Correo en Noviembre

Victory Electric leerá los metros en Octubre por los honorarios de la cerca eléctricas y cargadores pequeños de cargas de riego (entre otros pequeños cargas rurales eléctricas), que clasificamos como servicios no domésticos.

flexible y duradero para sellar grietas y huecos que son menos de un cuarto de pulgada de ancho. Quitar cualquier calafate antiguo y limpiar la superficie antes de aplicar nueva calafate.

Fresca calafate toma varias horas más, a secas, por lo que tiene mejor hacer el trabajo en un día seco cuando la humedad es relativamente baja y la temperatura está por encima de 45 grados. Además de calafate, puede utilizar espuma de baja expansión atomizador para sellar fugas.

Para otros consejos sobre cómo ahorrar energía—y dinero, visite www.energysavers.gov o el sitio Web Touchstone® cooperativas, www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Regla de Clima Frío: Efectivo 1 de Noviembre al 31 de Marzo

Los miembros cooperativos que no pueden pagar sus facturas de electricidad durante el periodo de clima frío pueden calificar para este programa, siempre que cumplan con ciertos requisitos de buena fe al intentar pagar.

- ▶ Los miembros deben cumplir con requisitos para calificar para el programa se resumen a continuación.
- ▶ Los miembros deben notificar a la Cooperativa indicado su incapacidad de no pagar sus facturas de servicio en su totalidad.
- ▶ Los miembros deben aplicar a

programas de asistencia financiera federal, estatal o local que pueden ser elegibles para recibir ayuda en el pago de facturas de servicios públicos.

- ▶ Los miembros y la cooperativa llegarán a un acuerdo de pagos mutuamente aceptables.

Tenga en cuenta que si no se siguen los requisitos, desviar ilegalmente servicio de utilidad, recibiendo servicio por manipulaciones o incumplimiento de un acuerdo de pago, le descalificará de recibir las prestaciones en virtud de la regla de

Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook



Visite nuestro sitio web www.victoryelectric.net. En nuestro sitio Web, usted encontrará un calendario de eventos, con frecuencia pregunta, pago de factura y energía calculadora sólo por nombrar algunas herramientas!

También puede ser una fan de Victory Electric en Facebook buscando Victory Electric Cooperativa Assn, Inc. Consulte nuestra página en Facebook para actualizaciones, información de interrupción y consejos de eficiencia de energía. Facebook es una excelente forma de mantenerse en contacto con nuestros miembros.

5th Annual Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival

Sponsored by Victory Electric and Dodge City Community College

October 22, 2011
9 to 11 a.m.

Victory Electric
(3230 N. 14th Ave, Dodge City)

Pumpkin and kits will be provided free of charge.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Reservations are required.

Please call 620-371-7744 to reserve your spot.

Ages 13 and under.

