

Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off

The annual Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 27, 2017, 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 Kennedy St George at 620-371-7738 or email her at kennedy@victoryelectric.net.



Nov. Office Closing



Our office will close at 1 p.m. on November 22, and will be closed on November 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving. All of us at Victory Electric wish you a happy Thanksgiving!

Come Get Your CFL!

This month's lucky winners are... **JERRY AILEY, KAREN DUNN,**

GERTRUDE HERMAN, MARISELA RUEDA, JULIO VICENTE, DONNA WILLIAMS, IN YOU and FRANK ZVEGLICH.

Come by Victory Electric Cooperative to get your free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Every month, Victory Electric gives members free CFL light bulbs, which can be picked up at the office.

Congratulations to this month's light bulb winners!

Your Efficiency Tip

Unplugging small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use could save you more than \$10 a year.

See a Wholesale Rate Reduction

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boards to realize savings on the wholesale level, Victory Electric's members see a bigger impact and savings on electric bills.

Financial assessments had projected a wholesale rate decrease beginning January 1, 2018. The Sunflower and Mid-Kansas boards of directors could have used the fourth quarter of 2017 to increase company revenue; however, unlike investor-owned utilities, co-ops are not-for-profit entities, and our sole purpose is serving you, our member. Instead of waiting

until January 1 to implement the wholesale base rate reduction, your boards of democratically-elected representatives voted, as self-regulated utilities, to pass on the savings starting October 1. It's just one more cooperative difference.

In this month of thanks, let's pause to appreciate that we have a voice in our nation, our state, our communities, and, yes, in our electric cooperative. We at Victory Electric are proud and thankful to have the opportunity to serve you. Happy Thanksgiving.

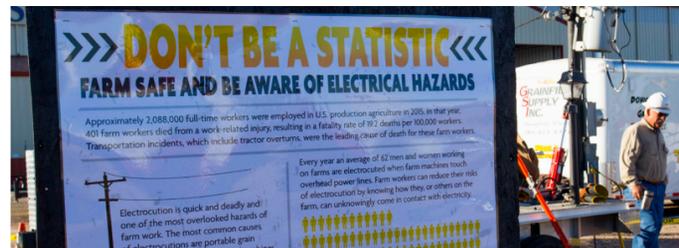
Cooperative Careers at 3i Show

Victory Electric attended the 63rd Annual 3i Show last month to educate the public about electrical safety on the farm and cooperative careers.

The first day of 3i included a career day for area high school and community college agricultural programs where Victory Electric gave a presentation about careers in the cooperative.



Dodge City Community College Line Program students gather to learn about cooperative careers and electrical safety at the 3i Show.



A poster displayed throughout the 3i Show shows statistics about farming safety to avoid electrical hazards.



COOPERATIVE Energy Explorers

Autumn Crossword Puzzle

Autumn is finally here! Complete the crossword puzzle below by filling in the Autumn words that fit the clues. If you need help, use the word bank at the bottom of the page.

ACROSS

- Fruit you bob for.
- This is a fun outing that usually takes place in autumn and can be enjoyed from a wagon, truck or trailer—as long as it's filled with hay.
- These are orange and can be carved to decorate your home during Halloween.
- These change colors during autumn months.

DOWN

- These fall from oak trees and squirrels love to collect them.
- This is what most people eat on Thanksgiving Day.

Word Bank

- APPLE
- TURKEY
- LEAVES
- HAYRIDE PUMPKIN
- APPLE
- TURKEY
- ACORNS

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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FROM THE CEO

Members to See Savings After Wholesale Rate Reduction



Shane Laws

It's November. While we should often recognize the benefits of living in this country, in Kansas and in our communities,

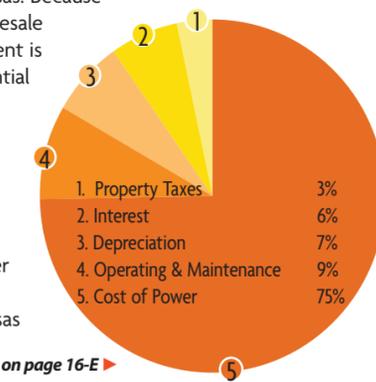
Stable loads, along with effective internal cost management, have resulted in strong financial standings for Sunflower and Mid-Kansas. In our mission to provide you with reliable energy at the lowest possible cost, the boards, and your Victory Electric representative, voted to pass those savings on to you.

November gives us an intentional pause to be grateful for all we have.

One of our most important rights as citizens living in a democratic republic is the right to have a voice, to elect our leaders. Cooperatives are microcosms of that same democratic republic. At every annual meeting, you elect fellow Victory Electric members to represent you on the board of trustees. The Victory Electric board, in turn, elects a representative to sit on the Sunflower and Mid-Kansas boards of directors. Your representatives make every decision with Victory Electric's members in mind.

One such example is the recent decision by the Sunflower and Mid-Kansas boards of directors to implement a wholesale base rate reduction beginning Oct. 1.

You will see a cost reduction in the energy cost adjustment (ECA) section of your electric bill, which is the section that accounts for the wholesale energy cost to provide you with electricity. The ECA charge has several facets, one of which is the demand and energy charge by Sunflower and Mid-Kansas. Because the wholesale component is a substantial part of your bill, anytime we can work with the Sunflower and Mid-Kansas



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2017 “Sharing Success” Grant Awarded

The Victory Electric Cooperative, Assn., Inc., is pleased to announce **FORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** as the recipient of this year's Victory/CoBank “Sharing Success” Grant. The Ford County Historical Society was awarded two checks totaling \$10,000—\$5,000 from Victory Electric and \$5,000 from CoBank—to help make repairs and restore the Home of Stone—Mueller-Schmidt House.

“The Ford County Historical Society is a group of volunteers who have come together to help preserve history and artifacts associated with Dodge City and Ford County,” said Sonya Hughes, treasurer of the Ford County Historical Society. “The Home of Stone—Mueller-Schmidt House is one of the few remaining connections to the colorful characters of our past and remains a rare, original glimpse into our community's rich history.”

Built between 1879 and 1881, Home of Stone—Mueller-Schmidt House is proudly perched atop a hill on Vine Street, just blocks from downtown Dodge City. Built to be one of the grandest homes in Dodge City, it remains the lone limestone house and is the oldest building in Dodge City still located on its original site.

The home also has the distinction of only two families to have lived in the home. German immigrant John Mueller, his wife Karoline and their children, came to Dodge City from St. Louis in 1875. His boot shop on Front Street did well enough that he was able to invest in a saloon and three cattle ranches. In 1879, he started building his home. It took 18 months to build and was completed in 1881. After the great blizzard of January 1886, John Mueller lost all his cattle (75,000 head) and had to go back to boot making. After two catastrophic Front Street fires, he and his family returned to St. Louis. On March 4, 1890, the home and furnishings sold to Adam and Elizabeth Schmidt for \$5,000. Ford County purchased the home in 1965 and opened as a museum in 1968.

“The Home of Stone—Mueller-Schmidt House is a unique and important part of our local history and it's great to support an organization dedicated to preserving that rich history and increasing tourism to our historic community,” said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. “I'm pleased, on behalf of Victory Electric, to award this grant to the Ford County Historical Society.”

The annual “Sharing Success” grant opportunity, capped at \$10,000, is made

possible by Victory Electric's governing board of trustees, in partnership with CoBank—a cooperative bank that provides loans, leases, export financing and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. CoBank believes strongly in the cooperative principle of “Concern for Community,” and partners with its customers to support worthy causes as a way 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 Electric to give back to the communities we serve,” Laws said.

This is the sixth year Victory Electric has awarded “Sharing Success” grants to local non-profits. Applicants must be federally recognized as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. The Bucklin Library received the grant in 2012 to help fund the construction of its new library building. 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 its “Suits in Space” exhibit. In 2016, a local shelter and food bank, the Manna House, was awarded the grant to repair and upgrade its facilities. And last year, the Depot Theater to upgraded their theater sound system.

For more information on the Victory/CoBank Sharing Success Grant visit victoryelectric.net/content/cobank-sharing-success-grant.



Pictured: (L-R) (front) Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO, Erica Land, Stone House manager, and Kent Stehlik, Historical Society president. Second row: Don Wiles, Floris Jean Hampton, Jan Scroggins, city commissioner, JD Gilbert, county administrator, Amy Grasser, VEC manager of corporate services, and Angela Unruh, VEC CFO. Third row: Ryan Miller, VEC operation manager, Kenny Wehkamp, VEC board trustee, Sonya Hughes, Historical Society treasurer, and Wayne Keller, Historical Society member. Fourth Row: Chris Boys, county commissioner, Shawn Fletcher, assistant county administrator, Cedric Drewes, VEC board trustee, Denzil McGill, VEC IT manager, and Shawn Tasset, county commissioner.

Linemen Make History at Lineman's Rodeo

“From the wickedest town in the West, the baddest linemen are put to the test!”

Dodge City, once known as the “wickedest town in the West,” is putting two of its very own to the test. Victory Electric linemen Marlon Hernandez and Felix Strauss competed in the 34th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo. Many employees strive to prove their skills are better than or comparable to their peers through award ceremonies, certifications, or public recognition. For electric linemen, it's called a rodeo. There is no bronc or bull riding and ropes are still used, but not for lassoing livestock.

The International Lineman's Rodeo was held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017, in Bonner Springs. The rodeo is designed to recognize journeyman and apprentice linemen from the U.S. and abroad who are the best in their field.

Hernandez and Strauss made history by being the first linemen from Victory Electric to participate in the International Lineman's Rodeo. As apprentice linemen, Hernandez and Strauss have fewer than four years of utility experience each. Apprentices compete in separate classes than journeyman linemen, who are classified as having more than four years of utility experience. Seasoned journeyman lineman veteran and Victory Electric crew chief, Joel Daniels, attended in a judging capacity.

“As linemen, our job is to ‘keep the lights on,’” Strauss said. “This is a great opportunity for us personally, but the competition is also a great opportunity for our families and the public to see what linemen face on a daily basis. Not every day do you get a chance to compete with the best of the best, so why not take advantage of it?”

Hernandez, a native of Dodge City, lives by his personal motto iPonte Las Pilas! “The literal translation is ‘put your batteries on,’ which you say to keep yourself or someone else from being lazy, slow, tired or not focused,” he said. “I always want to do my best, and this competition motivates me to keep going and be the best.”

The International Lineman's Rodeo attracts the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks and skills. The international rodeo consists of several events during which contestants are scored on following safety protocols and proper procedures and are timed on how efficiently they perform those tasks. In the hurt man rescue event, for instance, a dummy (simulating an

injured line worker) hangs from atop a 40-foot pole and linemen are judged on how safely and quickly they secure the dummy and pulley it to the ground.

“Linemen provide a critical service to our communities, and we are proud of the highly trained workforce at Victory Electric,” said Shane Laws, Victory Electric CEO. “We have some of the best linemen, and the International Lineman's Rodeo allows them the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and showcase their pride of the lineman's trade.”

The lineman duo have been working with Victory Electric's manager of safety, Mikey Goddard, to practice for the event.

“At a recent practices, Marlon and Felix have worked hard at reviewing their safety measures before running various drills. I could not be more proud. It takes a lot of guts and determination to put your skills to the test on such a grand platform,” Goddard said.

Hernandez and Strauss attended safety training and pre-conferences in Bonner Springs in the week leading up to the completion on Oct. 14. Victory Electric asks our members and our community to join us in congratulating Marlon and Felix on their accomplishments at the 2017 International Lineman's Rodeo.



Marlon Hernandez, Joel Daniels and Felix Strauss prepare to leave Dodge City for the Lineman's Rodeo.

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

Victory Electric and our partners hosted the 10th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair on September 30. More than 50 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.

Services offered at this year's fair included breast exams, pap smears, hearing tests, blood pressure checks, car seat safety inspections, \$20 flu shots, \$12 complete blood screens and various informational booths.

For the second year, the Walk to End Alzheimer's was held in conjunction with the Health Fair. New this year, United Healthcare of Dodge City hosted a community baby shower for new and expecting mothers.

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 64 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, Daylight Donuts, Dillons, Dodge House Restaurant, Kirby Meats, Kriz-Davis, Landmark Bank, Peterson Labs, Phillips Chiropractic, Prairie Fire Coffee, Service Master Clean, Tacos Jalisco's, Tianguis Carniceria, Walgreens Pharmacy, Western Beverage, Western State Bank Expo, United Healthcare of Dodge City and many more. We would also like to give a special thanks to Kelly Stecklein, Kelly Slattery, Dodge City Community College nursing student, and the Boy Scouts for their hard work and dedication for the Victory Electric Community Health Fair.

Volunteers	64
Blood Draws	204
Flu Shots	150
Blood Pressure Checks	78
Pap Smears	68
Breast Exams	4
Hearing Tests	106
Vision Screening	182
Car Seat Installations	5



Walkers enjoy the Walk to End Alzheimer's event.



Evan Pyle makes popcorn event for attendees.



Employees volunteered their time to help at the 10th Annual Community Health Fair.



More than 800 people receive medical services at the 10th Annual Victory Electric Community Health Fair.