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# Electronews

## Shop Small This Holiday Season

### THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., INC.

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Concern for Community is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, and Victory Electric's commitment to community drives everything we do. We want to power meaningful connections with the member-owners we serve. That's why it's so important for Victory Electric to support businesses in the communities that make up our service area and do what we can to help them thrive.

Whether they're located in small farming communities or micropolitan areas such as Dodge City, rural electric cooperatives like Victory Electric are engines of economic development that power our communities. We work with businesses of all sizes, charitable organizations and civic groups to improve the quality of life in rural America and boost economic growth.

Victory Electric serves members located in all or parts of Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Finney, Clark, Haskell, Edwards, Kiowa and Meade counties.

Many of the hundreds of local businesses in our coverage area are also cooperative members, and we are proud to support them, no matter their size.



Shane Laws

Small businesses generate about 44% of U.S. economic activity and employ about 59 million people, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. This year's Small Business Saturday is Nov. 30, the Saturday after Thanksgiving and in between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which mark the start of the holiday shopping season.

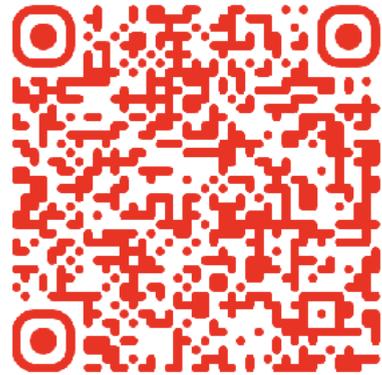
Although shopping online may be

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# 2025 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Attention all high school juniors! You could score an **all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime** plus receive a **\$500 Scholarship** upon graduation!



IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR A **TRIP OF A LIFETIME!**

At Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, June 14-20, watch history come alive as you explore world-class museums and monuments and take a cruise on the Potomac River. You'll meet with elected officials, learn about the cooperative business model and make new friends from all over Kansas and 43 other states.

At Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 11-17, go rafting on the Colorado River, tour a power plant and enjoy the beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery. You'll also develop your leadership skills and connect with about 100 other high school students from Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma.



## Victory Passes Savings to Member-Owners

For all of 2023 and up through the most recent billing in 2024, Victory Electric member-owners received a credit every month for the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA). The ECA is a pass-through variable charge or credit on monthly electric bills. Member-owners received an average ECA credit of 1.33 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2024 through the end of summer.

The ECA varies each month based on wholesale pricing and the market rate for energy. Variable costs — such as fuel, market energy purchases and other fluctuating energy-related operating costs — determine how much our power supplier spends during the process of generating power. The ECA allows Victory Electric

to respond to market changes by adjusting bills either up or down when wholesale power costs exceed or fall below the base rate. The ECA ensures that Victory Electric collects no more and no less than the actual cost of wholesale power.

Victory Electric does not mark up or profit from any increases in the cost of wholesale energy that are passed on to member-owners of the cooperative through the ECA. And when the cost of wholesale power goes down, the ECA allows Victory Electric to pass the savings to our member-owners as a bill credit. Your monthly bill has reflected these pass-through savings as an ECA credit since October 2022.

## Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-Off Set for Dec. 2

Pull out grandma's top-secret chili recipe, dust off your apron, polish your ladle and warm up the roaster! While you're making plans for the upcoming holidays, grab some lights and get ready to decorate a trailer for the 25th annual Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-Off, which returns to Dodge City on Monday, Dec. 2.

Starting at 4 p.m. the Dodge City Visitor Information Center will transform into Santa's House, where you can take a free photo with the jolly man himself and tell him what you want for Christmas.

At 4:30 p.m. at the Boot Hill Museum, the public is invited to taste samples of the chili contest entries. Awards for the judges' winning selections will be announced at 4:45 p.m.

Then at 5:30 p.m., join us at the Visitor Center for the Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony events.

The evening will conclude with the annual Parade of Lights beginning at 6 p.m.

Times are subject to change. For more information, follow the Christmas in Dodge City Facebook page at [facebook.com/christmasindodgecity](https://facebook.com/christmasindodgecity), email [askcommunications@victoryelectric.net](mailto:askcommunications@victoryelectric.net) or contact the Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau.





# Working on the Line

## Line Crews Conduct Pole-Top Rescue Training

Victory Electric's line crews completed their annual pole-top and bucket rescue training and qualification in September. The important exercise prepares linemen to safely and quickly secure and lower an injured coworker from the top of a pole or aerial device to the ground.

Linemen have 4.5 minutes to place a mayday call, put on their gear, climb the pole, properly secure a life-size mannequin and lower it to the ground. They also perform a similar exercise to practice rescuing someone from the bucket of a bucket truck.



# Victory Crews Provide Mutual Aid

The mutual aid model demonstrates the cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Victory Electric line crews recently traveled to Butler County, Kansas, and Aiken County, South Carolina, to help other co-ops restore power to their members. We appreciate all their efforts and thank them for going above and beyond to provide assistance to their co-op neighbors, both near and far.

## BUTLER COUNTY

Severe thunderstorms with high winds the evening of Sept. 20 destroyed 42 poles near Potwin in Butler County, including 15 double-circuit transmission poles, according to Butler Electric Cooperative, which is based in El Dorado, Kansas.

Victory Electric was one of five co-ops sending crews to aid Butler in replacing the poles and restoring power to its members. Five Victory Electric linemen provided additional manpower and equipment to bolster Butler's power restoration efforts.

## AIKEN COUNTY

Fifteen Kansas electric cooperatives, including Victory Electric, recently answered the call from Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, South Carolina, to provide mutual aid assistance after Hurricane Helene left its service territory devastated and 100,000-plus of its members initially without power. The co-op reported 92% of its system was down at the height of the storm and stated that "it's more than power restoration, but a complete system rebuild."

Twelve Victory Electric linemen made the nearly 1,300-mile trip to South Carolina with equipment and supplies to assist with Aiken Electric Co-op's power restoration. They joined dozens of other crew members from cooperatives across Kansas.



Carlos Rojas Garcia, Dustin Forsyth, Ryan Stephenson, Landon Elling and Ross Ackerman assisted Butler Electric Cooperative after severe storms caused damage in September.



Tyler Trent wades through high water while pulling line as part of Victory's power restoration assistance in South Carolina.



Marlon Hernandez and Jesus Ruiz work near a tree that was uprooted during Hurricane Helene.



Victory Electric is proud of our linemen for demonstrating Cooperation Among Cooperatives when providing assistance to Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, South Carolina. Pictured from left: Jacob Gleason, Clayton Stein, Jeremy Elling, Tyler Trent, Marlon Hernandez, Dayton Edmunds and Ross Ackerman.

## Cold Weather Rule Begins Nov. 15

Victory Electric is a self-regulated electric utility, so it is not under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). However, Victory Electric participates in KCC's Cold Weather Rule disconnect procedures for qualifying residential member-owners from Nov. 15 through March 15.

The cooperative will not disconnect service during that time period when the local National Weather Service forecasts the temperature will fall below 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the next 24 hours. However, the cooperative may disconnect for non-payment between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, when the temperature is at or above 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

### HOW TO QUALIFY

- ▶ Contact Victory Electric as soon as possible if you are unable to pay your electric service bill.
- ▶ Victory Electric will inform you about the Cold Weather Rule requirements and set up a payment plan.
- ▶ Make the initial payment and comply with the stated payment arrangements every month to avoid disconnection or the initiation of a deposit.
- ▶ Continue paying your monthly bill on time along with any payment arrangement installments.

### DISCONNECTION POLICY

- ▶ Any outstanding balance remaining not set up on a payment arrangement by March 15 is required to be paid-in-full by March 16 to avoid disconnection.
- ▶ If your account is disconnected for non-payment, any past due balance plus the reconnection fee must be paid-in-full to restore power.



The cold weather rule will begin on Nov. 15. To participate in the cold weather rule, you must inform Victory of your inability to pay your bill and set up a payment plan.

- ▶ If a check or payment is returned to Victory Electric for non-sufficient funds (NSF), the member must re-issue a payment and pay an NSF penalty fee to Victory Electric to avoid possible disconnection.
- ▶ The Cold Weather Rule does not apply to Prepay Power (PowerMyWay) accounts, which will be disconnected if the account balance is at or below \$0.01, regardless of the temperature forecast.

These requirements protect Victory Electric member-owners and the cooperative. For more details about Victory Electric's Cold Weather Rule policies and payment arrangement guidelines, please visit our website at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net) or call our office at 620-227-2139.

## READY YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

Prepare your home for winter with the checklist below to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort.

### INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked for efficient heat distribution.

### MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

### PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of the water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

### PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

### INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.



SOURCE: [WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG)

# Shop Small This Holiday Season

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a convenient option, remembering to support local businesses and entrepreneurs during the holiday season offers long-term benefits. Visiting local small businesses to buy gifts, holiday trimmings and food is an investment in your community. So is attending seasonal events and local entertainment venues.

Think local and shop small — not just on Small Business Saturday but throughout the coming year. Local businesses often reinvest the dollars they earn in the community, which helps create jobs and stimulate the local economy. They contribute to local events and charities in their communities. They're also more likely to develop personal connections with their customers so they can provide more personalized service.

## HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- ▶ Get a take-out meal from your favorite Main Street restaurant.
- ▶ Meet up with a friend at a local coffee shop.
- ▶ Give a gift card to a local entertainment venue and promote local artists and performers.
- ▶ Leave a five-star review and post on social media about positive experiences at your favorite local businesses.
- ▶ Find unique gifts by buying from local artisans, home-based businesses and other entrepreneurs at craft fairs, holiday markets and other community events.

Small businesses are critical to our local economy, and we all benefit when we invest in their success.

THANKS, SHANE

## MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY — COMING SOON



Watch your email on Nov. 4 for Victory Electric's member satisfaction survey.



# Victory Welcomes New GIS Analyst

A Geographic Information System (GIS) analyzes and displays different types of spatial data on a map. To improve the cooperative's efficiencies in staking, mapping and outage management, Victory Electric recently hired **CORBAN GARCIA** as a GIS analyst.

"Victory is excited to have Corban on board," said Victory Electric Chief Information Officer Denzil McGill.

He explained that Garcia will first learn the mapping software Victory Electric uses, then work on as-built drawings as they progress through the co-op's work management system. Earlier this year Victory Electric completed a best practice consultation with National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). Garcia will also be implementing multiple projects identified during Victory's collaboration with NISC.

"With the dedication and determination Victory's employees have already shown toward improving our efficiencies, there's no reason that, with Corban's help, we can't create a world-class geographic information system," McGill said.

Garcia began working in the utility world as a utility locator in Topeka. Before joining Victory Electric, he worked for the City of Liberal as a GIS/CAD/water supply technician and most recently served as Liberal's GIS coordinator.

"I definitely am looking forward to learning more about the electrical distribution system and all the inner workings and all the hardware that goes into making it work, then getting familiar with the software. Those are the two big things that we're focusing on," he said of his new role at Victory Electric.

Garcia received an associate's degree in drafting and design technology from Seward County Community College in Liberal. He is currently enrolled in Fort Hays State University's Geosciences program with an emphasis in GIS, and he will complete his bachelor's degree online while working at Victory Electric.

"I'm grateful to be here, and it's really exciting to have this much to learn and work on," he said.

Corban and his wife, Echo, have three children, ages 18, 17 and 16, who are attending Cimarron High School. He is an avid gardener and enjoys reading, working out and spending time with his family.



Corban Garcia

WELCOME TO VICTORY, CORBAN!

Change one  
light to green  
on your porch,  
home or office  
as a symbol of  
appreciation  
for our  
veterans.



SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO



America's veterans are some of our nation's bravest, hardest-working men and women. However, it is hard to show them the appreciation they deserve when, back home and out of uniform; they are more camouflaged than ever.

**Greenlight A Vet invites all Americans to change one light in their homes to green** — the color of hope, renewal and well-being — as a visible reminder to veterans that they are not alone.



**Pick up your light in our office in November to honor our veterans.**