

# ¿Alambrado de Casa Sobre la Colina?

## Considere la Posibilidad de Actualizaciones Sencillas para Aumentar la Seguridad

Nada tiene el encanto de una casa antigua en una granja de familia o una linda casa en el distrito Centro histórico. Pero a menudo se empaquetan actualizaciones cosméticas y estructurales con el encanto acogedor.

Al actualizar inicio, una capa fresca de pintura y accesorios actualizados puede vienen a la mente. Pero ¿por qué contratar un profesional para actualizar el cableado detrás de una placa de interruptor o salida? ¿Conoces que los peligros ocultos a menudo requieren un profesional quien sabe qué inspecciones y permisos son necesarios. Comió aquí unas pistas para averiguar si la red eléctrica del hogar necesita un conmutador profesional.

- ▶ **Tipo de cableado.** Cableado moderno es aislado, lo que significa que está cubierto en plástico. las casas antiguas pueden tener cableado de cobre o aluminio. Cableado de cobre puede funcionar tan bien como cableado moderno si se está en un buen estado y no ha alterado o instalado correctamente. Sin embargo, aumenta el riesgo de incendio en hogares con cobre y cableado de aluminio. Corrosión aluminio area de cobre puede provocar concesiones sueltos causando incendios. Utilice sólo aprobó aluminio switches, puntos de venta, y otros accesorios si su casa tiene aluminio - aprobaron switches y accesorios si su casa tiene cableado de aluminio.
- ▶ **Tapones de caen fácilmente de tomas.** Enchufes sueltos son fuego alto peligro.

Tomas más antiguos que han perdido su control necesita ser sustituido. Por suerte esta actualización es asequible.

- ▶ **No hay suficientes puntos de venta.** Este uso de aumento de cargadores para celulares y muchos otros dispositivos electrónicos significa salidas son de una alta demanda, sobre todo en casas viejas donde tomas no son tan abundantes. Puede provocar una falta de tomas en sobre uso e de cables de extensión y tiras de energía. Asegúrese de utilizar calidad, calibre 14 o más gruesos cables que están aprobados por Underwriters Laboratories (UL) nunca sobrecargan una toma. La sobrecarga puede causar calor, a riesgo de incendio. Considere la posibilidad de contratar a un electricista para añadir puntos a tu casa.
- ▶ **Peligro en zonas húmedas.** Tomas GFCI (interruptor de circuito falla tierra) ahora son necesarios en los alrededores de agua como cerca de un fregadero de la cocina o baño o al aire libre. Pero en las casas antiguas, GFCIs pueden no se hayan instalado. Es bastante simple remplazar los viejos recipientes con GFCIs; contratar un profesional para actualizar tomas cerca del agua.
- ▶ **Viento causa luces parpadear.** Si observa las luces parpadear en días ventosos, puede ser debido cables desgastados en el weatherrhead (donde líneas aéreas entrar en su casa). En contacto con su cooperativa eléctrica para comprobar weatherhead cableado.

### Visite Sitio Web y Únase a Nosotros en Facebook

Visite nuestro sitio web [www.victoryelectric.net](http://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.



When the power goes out, the little things can become surprisingly big!

Small comforts you rarely think about are the things you may miss the most during a power outage. That's why Kohler generators build the fastest-responding generators in the industry. Learn more at [KohlerSmartPower.com](http://KohlerSmartPower.com). Victory Electric is now selling Kohler generators. Please contact Josh at 620-227-2139 for more information.

Shift into High Gear.

The power to go farther and faster is at your fingertips, thanks to high-speed broadband Internet service from Victory Electric. Eliminate roadblocks to websites. Download photos, music and video at a record pace.

Broadband isn't the future... it's the present. Experience the Internet in overdrive.

Call 620-227-2139

# DON'T MESS WITH YOUR SAFETY!

## CALL VICTORY ELECTRIC'S ELECTRICIAN SERVICE TODAY!

If you are worried about your safety or have an electrical problem, Victory Electric's Electrician Service is here to meet your needs. Our qualified electricians do residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural work. Call Jim Mies today for more information.

# 620-227-2139 OR 800-279-7915

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
 P.O. Box 1335, 3230 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Dodge City, KS 67801  
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THE VICTORY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

electronews



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Editor

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Exercise Your Membership Rights

Now, as always, it's a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative.

Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, our members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Kansas consumers pay their electric bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots at electric co-ops like ours. Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, co-ops try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

Unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who keep an eye on generating profits for people living far away, your co-op's trustees have only one thing in mind: keeping lights on safely, reliably and keeping costs affordable in our local community. That's why you elected them. That's what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend the service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were back then.



Terry Janson

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve.

Continued on page 16-B ▶



Happy St. Patrick's Day !!

Time changes on Sunday, March 11 at 2 a.m.



## Mark Your Calendars

| April 2012 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | U  | F  | S  |
| 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8          | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15         | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22         | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29         | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Victory Electric has been scheduled for April 10 at the Dodge City Civic Center.

A meal will be served and everyone attending will have a chance to win some great door prizes. Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming annual meeting.



### CFL Charlie Says Come Get Your Free CFL!

This month's winners are...

- ▶ Kevin Eichman
- ▶ Maria Mejia
- ▶ John Melcum
- ▶ Bill Montgomery

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

### Tip of the Month

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow—a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel, and where you live. Learn more at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

## Board of Trustees Meeting Notice

Please take notice that the Board of Trustees of Victory Electric Cooperative, Inc., will meet on March 27, 2012, at 10 a.m. at the Cooperative Headquarters, 3230 N. 14th Street, Dodge City, Kansas, to discuss and vote on the modification of the Net Metering Rider and the Parallel Generation Rider. The board will consider removing the following language from both schedules:

*"To the extent that the Customer-generator controls the Renewable Energy Resources,*

*and meets the requirement and accepts all of the obligations of this Net Metering Rider (or Parallel Generation Rider), the Customer-generator is not required to own the generating facilities."*

Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any rate change. The meeting is open to any member that wishes to attend. Any member with questions may contact Jerry King at 620-227-2139.

## 2012 Nominating Committee Report

On February 2, 2012, the committee of nominations, who were appointed by The Victory Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., Board of Trustees, submitted the following candidates for trustees of the cooperative to be elected to a three-year term at the Annual Meeting of Members to be held on April 10, 2012.

The following candidates were nominated:

- ▶ **District 1—DARYL TIEBEN**
- ▶ **District 3—KEN SCHULTE**
- ▶ **District 8—ROBERT PEINTEK**
- ▶ **District 8—CEDRIC DREWES**
- ▶ **District 10—MAX JANTZ**

All members in these districts will be eligible to vote for the candidates.

### Exercise Your Membership Rights *Continued from page 16-A*

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize the co-op approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work for other needs just as effectively as it delivered affordable power to rural Americans.

The seven principles upon which electric co-ops were founded—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and members' economic participation, among others—are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s.

Leadership at Victory Electric shares the same concerns as you. We are accessible. You can give us

a call at the office and know someone here is listening. At our annual meeting on April 10, 2012, visit with us in person and share insights on how you want your business operated.

In these days of economic turmoil, folks who receive electricity from co-ops are lucky. As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve. Trustees and employees at your co-op share the same values and have the same pride of place as you do because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

That's the cooperative difference.

*'Til Next Time, TJ*

## Home Wiring Over the Hill? Consider Easy Upgrades to Boost Safety

Nothing has the charm of an older home on a family farm or a cute cottage in a historical downtown district. But cosmetic and structural upgrades are often packaged with the cozy charm.

When upgrading your home, a fresh coat of paint and updated fixtures may come to mind. What about hiring a professional to update the wiring behind a switch plate or outlet? Do you know the hidden dangers of aged wiring in your home? Don't take on wiring problems yourself—electrical upgrades often require a professional who knows what inspections and permits are needed. Here are a few clues to find out if your home's electric network needs a professional switch.

▶ **Type of wiring.** Modern wiring is insulated, meaning it is covered in plastic. Older homes may have copper or aluminum wiring. Copper wiring can work just as well as modern wiring if it is still in good condition and has not been altered or improperly installed. However, fire risk increases in homes with both copper and aluminum wiring. Corrosion to aluminum from copper can lead to loose connections causing fires. Use only aluminum-approved switches, outlets, and other accessories if your home has aluminum wiring.

▶ **Plugs fall out of outlets easily.** Loose plugs are a high fire danger. Older outlets that have lost their grip need to be replaced. Luckily this upgrade is affordable.

▶ **Not enough outlets.** The increasing use of chargers for phones and many other electronic devices means outlets are in high demand, especially in older homes where outlets are not as plentiful. A lack of outlets can result in overuse of extension cords and power strips. Be sure to use quality, 14-gauge or thicker cords that are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Never overload an outlet. Overloading can cause heat, leading to fire risk. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to add outlets to your home.

▶ **Danger in wet areas.** Ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets are now required in areas around water like near a kitchen or bathroom sink or outdoors. But in older homes, GFCIs may not have been installed. It is fairly simple to replace old receptacles with GFCIs; hire a professional to upgrade outlets near water.

▶ **Wind causes lights to blink.** If you notice your lights blinking on windy days, it may be due to worn wiring in the weatherhead (where overhead lines enter your home). Contact your electric co-op to check weatherhead wiring.



Many hidden electrical issues could be hidden in your home. Be sure to have your electrical inspected before buying or remodeling.

## Shop Co-op!

Victory is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives in America. We're just one type of cooperative—more than 29,200 operate in our country, including a large segment of the agriculture industry. From dairy to oranges, and almonds to cotton, our nation's farmers know the value of the cooperative business model.

The next time you're at the grocery store, see how many items you can purchase that were produced by a co-op.

Starting in the produce section, pick up some Ocean Spray cranberries or Sunkist oranges, tangerines, grapes or grapefruit.

Cruise **Ocean Spray** on over to the refrigerated cases and take a look at the eggs—95 percent of America's eggs are produced and marketed by co-ops. Then pick up some Florida's Natural orange juice, Land O'Lakes butter, Cabot or Tillamook Cheese, and Organic Valley milk. Need a warm drink? Try Equal Exchange coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

Finally, drop some Blue Diamond almonds in your cart—a perfect pick-me-up for that 3 p.m. slump.

The cooperative business model promotes self-sustainability and local economic growth. Support our nation's cooperatives, and local co-ops in Kansas, as we work together to build a better world.

Find a co-op near you at [www.go.coop](http://www.go.coop).



## Victory Electric Hosts 14th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar



Members attend the 14th Annual Irrigation Seminar.

Victory Electric's 14th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar had a great turnout on February 3, 2012.

This year's event sported a large number of attendees and speakers. Victory arranged for eight speakers to discuss a variety of topics from Trends in crop leases to irrigation decisions during drought conditions.

### Victory Continues Outstanding Safety Record

The employees of Victory Electric Cooperative were honored recently for their safe working practices.

Victory's employees worked a total of 263,975 worker-hours last year without a lost-time accident. The cooperative was honored in Topeka during the 70th Annual Meeting of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), the statewide association for the electric cooperatives that serve in Kansas.

In order to receive the award, the employees must go a complete calendar year without missing a

We would like to thank the guest speakers and vendors who helped with this event. Victory would also like to thank all of the employees of the cooperative who helped organize and run the event.

We encourage all area irrigators to look for their invite next year and attend the 15th Annual Irrigation and Technology Seminar.



The KEC Loss Control, Safety and Compliance (LCS&C) department presents Paul Schmidt, with a certificate of recognition for the cooperative's safety achievement. From left: Stacey Marston, LCS&C instructor; Paul Schmidt; Todd Bailey, LCS&C instructor; and Larry Detwiler, director of LCS&C.

full day of work due to an injury or accident.

"This award is well deserved and speaks to the dedication and professionalism of all of our employees," said Terry Janson, General Manager.

## Bill Payment Options



Pay your bill online at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://www.victoryelectric.net), at our office or by mail or at any of our pay stations.

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](http://www.victoryelectric.net), drop boxes at Victory Electric and City of Dodge City, and a pay station at Mr. Payroll, 400 E. Wyatt Earp.

### Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at [www.victoryelectric.net](http://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](http://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.