

Why All of the Crews Around My Neighborhood?



Global Mapping Solutions crews will inventory every pole, and piece of equipment in Victory's infrastructure.

You may notice extra crews in our service area carrying hand-held computers, cameras, and GPS devices. They are conducting an inventory of our electrical system and record the location, condition, and photograph each piece of equipment using special tools.

Having this type of data will greatly improve our response to outages and improve service to our members.

The folks you see are experts. Their trucks and four-wheelers will have the Victory Electric logo. They will also be carrying identification that confirms they are working for Victory Electric.

If you have any questions please contact us at 620-227-2139 or visit www.victoryelectric.net.

Happy Mother's Day



Victory Electric would like to wish all mothers a happy Mother's Day on May 11.

Holiday Closing



In observance of Memorial Day Victory's office will be closed on Monday, May 26. Have a Safe Holiday!

Take a Vacation from High Power Bills

Soaring temperatures and sultry summer nights can cause electric bills to skyrocket. This summer, take a vacation from high electric bills by making your home—and your family's habits—more energy efficient.

Beat the Heat

Air conditioning helps most Americans beat the sweltering summer heat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill. Proper maintenance and smart use of your home's cooling system will help keep your electric bill in check.

First, make sure your air conditioner's external unit is clean and free of debris. Clear away dead leaves or overgrown plants and weeds to enable the unit to perform as it should.

Second, change all of the air filters inside your home quarterly, or more often in homes with allergy sufferers or smokers. Fresh filters not only reduce the strain on your cooling system, but improve the air quality in your home.

Third, the DOE recommends that you set your home's thermostat as high as possible, while still maintaining a comfortable environment for your family during the summer months.

Bumping the thermostat up at least two degrees can make a noticeable difference on your power bill. Investing in a programmable thermostat can lead to even greater savings by automatically adjusting it so that the cooling system runs more often when you are at home and less often when you are away.

Made in the Shade

Windows are not only great sources of natural light in your home, but also great sources of heat during the

summer. Curtains, blinds, and shades are some of the most cost-effective ways to make your windows and home more energy efficient. These window coverings offer low-cost, stylish solutions to shield the sun's rays and keep the interior of your home cool and comfortable. Proper weather stripping and caulking around window panes and casings will also improve the function of your windows by keeping the cool air in and the hot air out. Solar film applied to your home's existing windows will further repel the summer heat.

Daily Grind

Today's appliances are more energy efficient than ever, performing better and using less electricity than they did in the past. But despite their functionality and efficiency, most major household appliances give off heat when in use.

During peak daytime temperatures, the residual heat from appliances can put an unnecessary strain on your home's cooling system and send your power bill soaring. Cooler temperatures in the early morning or late evening make these ideal times for running the dishwasher or washing and drying clothes.

When possible, turn off your dishwasher's dryer cycle. This prevents even more residual heat from warming your home and saves on your power bill. Washing your clothes in cold water and hanging them out to dry are also great strides in reducing your household energy consumption.

As your summer heats up, call on your friends at Victory Electric for more ways to lower your power bill. You can also visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little changes around the house can add up to big energy savings.

Consejos prácticos para el Mes Nacional de Seguridad Eléctrica

Mayo es el Mes Nacional de la Seguridad Eléctrica y Victory Electric se une a la Fundación Internacional de Seguridad Eléctrica para crear conciencia sobre los posibles riesgos eléctricos para el hogar y la importancia de la seguridad eléctrica. La campaña de este año, "Volver a lo básico", desafía a los consumidores a realizar evaluaciones de seguridad eléctrica del hogar una prioridad.

Según la Asociación de Electrónica del Consumidor, hoy un hogar tiene un promedio de tres televisores, dos reproductores de DVD, por lo menos una cámara digital, una computadora de escritorio y dos teléfonos celulares.

Hogares modernos funcionan con electricidad, pero si usted no mantiene correctamente sus productos eléctricos puedan crear riesgos. La buena noticia es que la eliminación de los riesgos de su casa no tiene por qué ser difícil o costoso.

Muchas casas y sus sistemas eléctricos fueron construidos antes que los electrodomésticos de hoy en día incluso se inventaron. La demanda actual de energía puede sobrecargar el sistema eléctrico de una casa antigua.

Victory Electric ofrece los siguientes consejos para ayudar a identificar y eliminar los riesgos eléctricos para proteger a usted, su familia y su hogar:

Cerciorarse centros de entretenimiento y equipos de computadora tengan suficiente espacio para ventilación.

- ▶ Utilice cables de extensión como una solución temporal, y nunca como una fuente de alimentación permanente.

- ▶ No coloque los cables de extensión en áreas de alto tráfico, debajo de las alfombras, o al otro lado de los pasillos, donde representan un peligro potencial.

- ▶ Utilice un protector contra sobretensiones para proteger su computadora y otros equipos electrónicos de los daños causados por los cambios de voltaje.
- ▶ La fuerte dependencia de regletas es una indicación de que usted tiene muy pocos puntos de tomas de corriente, para hacer frente a sus necesidades. Tener toma de corriente adicionales instaladas por un electricista calificado y con licencia.
- ▶ Mantenga los líquidos, incluyendo bebidas, lejos de elementos eléctricos como televisores y computadoras.



Evite sobrecargar los enchufes con adaptadores y demasiados enchufes con electrodomésticos.

Conciencia sobre la seguridad eléctrica y la educación de los consumidores, familias, empleados y comunidades evitarán los fuegos eléctricos, lesiones y muertes.

La Fundación Internacional de Seguridad Eléctrica (ESFI) patrocina el Mes Nacional de Seguridad Eléctrica cada mes de mayo para aumentar la conciencia pública de los riesgos eléctricos que nos rodean en el hogar, el trabajo, la escuela y jugar. ESFI es (c) 3 sin fines de lucro 501 dedicado exclusivamente a la promoción de la seguridad eléctrica. Para obtener más información acerca de ESFI y seguridad eléctrica, visite www.electrical-safety.org.

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.



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THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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FROM THE CEO

Co-ops: We Come in All Shapes & Sizes

What is a co-op exactly?

When you hear the word "co-op," what comes to mind? We hope you think of your friends here at Victory Electric, but maybe you think of a local farmers' co-op or a credit union. You might be surprised to learn that co-ops, or cooperatives, can be found in many industries—and they offer a variety of services, each designed to serve their members in the best way possible.

A cooperative is a not-for-profit organization owned by its members. Across the globe, cooperatives remain steadfast, annually generating more than \$500 billion in revenue and providing more than two million jobs.

As a member of Victory Electric, you have a voice—in other words, you're not just a customer. Every year in April, you have the right to vote for the cooperative's board of trustees. The trustees represent members in ten different districts and each of them welcome members to contact them to address any comments or concerns.

Victory Electric strengthens our community by supporting economic development. As our service area grows, our distribution system grows, which makes it easy to see why strengthening the local economy makes sound business sense. We are involved in various local projects, such as Dodge City Days, the Victory Electric Community Health Fair, Pumpkin Painting and Carving Festival and

the Christmas Parade of Lights and Chili Cook-off.

Co-ops offer a variety of services

So, what other kinds of co-ops are out there? Co-ops fall under a variety of categories and services, including agriculture and forestry; consumer and retail; banking and credit unions; health and wellness; and utilities, to name a few.

Here are a few other national co-ops you might recognize.

- ▶ **Welch's Grape Juice:** More than 1,000 family-farmer owners make up the Welch's Grape Juice family, located throughout the U.S. and Canada.

- ▶ **Ace Hardware:** More than 4,600 Ace Hardware stores are independently owned and operated by local entrepreneurs.

- ▶ **Sunkist:** This not-for-profit company's membership is comprised of numerous growers located throughout California and Arizona.

The list of cooperatives goes on and on, and as you can see, we come in all shapes and sizes. At Victory Electric, our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. For more information about the services we offer, visit www.victoryelectric.net.



Shane Laws

Thanks, Shane

Weatherization Program Helps Save Local Family

Organization helps local citizens conserve energy & save money

Not only did the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) save the Garcia family money—it may have saved their lives, too.

WAP has a long history of dramatically reducing energy bills for low-income families. An often unsung component of the program, however, is the careful approach

WAP takes to ensure the health and safety of its clients. The WAP agency, Interfaith Housing Services, Inc. (IHS), serves 25 counties in southwestern Kansas, recently put those benefits in the spotlight.

The Garcia family requested IHS' WAP services because of their high energy bills, unaware of the health and safety precautions that IHS would take to ensure their well-being. Upon the initial inspection of the home, IHS discovered that the water heater vented back into their attic, spilling life-threatening levels of carbon monoxide, at nearly 100



As a result of a WAP inspection, the Garcia family replaced a water heater, which saved them money and saved their lives.

times the level which is considered safe, into the air they breathed.

After calling one of their WAP contractors, workers replaced the water heater, as well as installed carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.

Ms. Garcia had been on multiple medications for depression, and doctors were unable to figure out the root cause. After IHS's visit, Ms. Garcia visited her doctor who was surprised to find her health significantly improved. Ms. Garcia explained that she received WAP services along with a replacement water heater. The doctor realized that he had been misdiagnosing her depression for years. As a result of receiving WAP services and the other healthy home improvements, Ms. Garcia was able to stop taking five different medications, saving her \$120 in medical costs per month.

In addition the Garcia's reduced their energy bills, saving them money they can now put toward other necessities, as well as their carbon footprint.

IHS uses diverse funding sources to provide health and safety measures that Department of Energy (DOE) funds, their core financial backing for WAP, cannot address in deferred WAP homes.

IHS currently uses up to \$3,000 per home in Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) funds to correct a host of health and safety issues in homes preventing weatherization, and, in the past year, installed expanded health and safety measures in four homes that were followed up with WAP services.

IHS links deferred WAP clients with its in-house Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope (CASH) program, which incentivizes savings by matching clients with \$2 for every \$1 saved in an individual development account. After saving enough money, clients can afford health and safety measures that DOE funds cannot address, thus allowing WAP services to proceed.

The services IHS provided to the Garcia family show the true impact WAP can have in saving money, lives, and the environment. IHS' creative blending of funds using in-house programs has helped improve health and reduce energy burdens on low-income families.

If you are interested in Weatherization Services, please contact their offices at 877-447-5927 or visit their website at www.ihs-housing.org for an application.

Article is adapted from a story courtesy of www.wxplushealth.org.

Victory Annual Meeting a Success



More than 400 members and guests attended the Victory Electric Annual Meeting.

Every year, Victory Electric looks forward to hosting the annual meeting for our members, and this year was no exception. The annual meeting is a great time to get to know our members and to offer information on the activities of the cooperative.

Victory's annual meeting was April 15 at the Western State Bank Expo. Approximately 409 members were present, and many more were served a barbecue dinner.

In addition to the business meeting, members heard presentations from board President Kenny Wehkamp and the 2013 youth tour winners. The 2014 youth tour winners were also introduced. Dozens of great prizes were given throughout the meeting.

The results of the election for four districts on the board of trustees were announced. **JOHN LEIS**, Minneola, District 2; **JIM IMEL**, Bucklin, District 4; **KENNY WEHKAMP**, Cimarron, District 6; and **RANDY QUINT**, Dodge City, District 10 were re-elected in their respective districts.

Thanks to all who attended this year, and we look forward to seeing everyone next year at the 70th annual meeting.



Victory employees Monica Lampe and Melissa Ruiz register members.



Lee Vierthaler helps serve the meal.



Paul Schmidt and Kirk Konrade discuss electrical safety with members.



Board President Kenny Wehkamp addresses the membership.



Dodge City High School Madrigals sing the national anthem.



Board members were available at the meeting to answer member questions.



The 2013 Youth Tour winners Byrum Bittel, Myranda Axtell and Ashlee Redger spoke to members.



From left: Dania Blatnick; Shalor Laws, son of CEO Shane Laws; and Micaela Morales give away prizes.



Shane Laws, Victory CEO, discusses coop issues with the membership.



Dania Blatnick gives a lucky member their prize.



An excited member shows off her deep-fryer she won at the meeting.

CFL Charlie Says "Get Your Free CFL!"

This month's lucky winners are...

Ester Abbey, Geronima Acosta, Julio Vincente, Sharyl Lovelace, Tania Favila, Terry Fann, Katrina Balli, and Stuart Kirk.

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 winners!

