



**WHEATLAND  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**NEWS**

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2005 W Fulton  
P.O. Box 973  
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67846  
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P.O. Box 1446  
Great Bend, KS  
67530  
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Harper, KS 67058  
620-896-7090

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P.O. Box 966  
Leoti, KS 67861  
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310 Broadway  
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**FROM THE MANAGER**

**Save with Co-op Energy Efficiency Programs**

As a member of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy efficiency programs offered by Wheatland. Because we are a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, our goal is to provide safe, reliable power at a competitive price for our members. This means helping you save money on your monthly electric bill.

How exactly does practicing efficiency habits save you money? It's common sense that if you use less electricity, your bill will be lower, but there's more to it than that. Wheatland purchases electricity from Sunflower Electric/MKEC, our wholesale power provider. When electric use is high, we pay peak demand charges for the electricity we purchase. By incorporating energy efficiency into your daily routine, you are helping to reduce the demand for electricity, thus lowering its overall cost. As a co-op, we pass these savings directly on to you!

As you will see in this month's feature article, there are a number of ways to save by incorporating some basic energy efficiency practices into your home. Things like caulking around windows and doors, turning off lights when you leave the room and using a programmable thermostat, are great ways to start saving.

There are also some larger investments you can make in your home like replacing your old heating and air

conditioning system (HVAC), replacing doors and windows and updating your home lighting to more efficient LED lighting to increase energy efficiency. Wheatland offers rebates to residential members to help offset the cost of replacing your old HVAC system. (See our website and click on "Get Rebates" for more information.)

Wheatland also helps you monitor your energy use with our Kill-A-Watt energy monitor program. You can check out a Kill-A-Watt energy monitor at your local library and use it at home to see which appliances use the most energy and adjust your usage accordingly. And soon, with the implementation of our new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), you'll have access to even more information to help you monitor your energy use. You'll be able to track when your energy use is high and other details about your energy use. This information will be available at your fingertips and will help you keep energy savings top of mind.

Wheatland is pleased to offer these energy efficiency programs and tips for you, our members. As you can see, there are many ways to save, and we want to be your trusted energy resource. To find out more about energy efficiency programs and tips, contact your local office or visit our website at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net).



Bruce Mueller

**Until next time, take care.**

# Energy Efficiency MAKEOVER

Invest in Your Home—Invest in Your Community

BY SHEILA HELM, MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

For most, our home is the largest investment we make in our lifetime. However, over time, it is important to continue investing in your home to maintain energy efficiency, which will lead to saving on your energy bills in the long run. But this can be difficult for homeowners for many reasons. Energy efficiency updates can be expensive and often confusing.

As an electric cooperative, we at Wheatland hold “Concern for Community”—one of the seven electric cooperative principles—close to our hearts. We strive to exemplify this principal daily by ensuring the “lights are on” when you need them and through our support of local organizations and events, but our team wanted to start a new project to provide community outreach in a new way.

Our vision developed into the Energy Efficiency Makeover. With this project, we hoped to aid a local member in identifying inefficiencies in their home and complete improvements to their home at no cost to them, but during the course of the project, it became so much more. The quest to complete the project turned into an overwhelming demonstration of the commitment by all involved.

We began working with local organizations to find a Wheatland member candidate. During the selection process, we had the pleasure of meeting Varna Johnson. Born in Arkansas, Varna grew up with five brothers and six sisters, moving to Great Bend at the age of four. Attending local schools, Varna graduated from Great Bend High School in 1962 and continued her involvement in the school system by working in the central kitchen for USD 428, providing meals for all Great Bend students. Retiring after 34 years of service, Varna holds close the memo-

ries and friendships she made while working in the kitchen.

We began the Energy Efficiency Makeover in early February. Although cold outside, Varna's home provided comfort and warmth: She greeted us with an infectious smile that instantly made us feel like old friends. During our visit she shared her fond memories of her late husband and the love she has for her daughters and grandchildren.

To start the project, we needed a local contractor to help us—this is where we met Matt Hoisington of C&V Home Improvement. Matt has served as C&V Home Improvement's president since 2010. To say that Matt has a philanthropic heart would be an understatement: Without hesitation, he graciously agreed to be a part of the project.

Matt and I met with Varna to complete an energy evaluation of her home. Matt began by inspecting the attic insulation. "Good insulation should be 10-12 inches in thickness; whereas, Varna's attic only has less than 1 inch," Matt said.

Matt then moved to the outside walls and

removed the outlet covers to inspect the insulation, checked the doors and windows for air leakage, and took measurements throughout the home.

As Matt worked, we shared a few daily energy saving tips with Varna. We advised her to set her thermostat to a temperature as low as comfortable in the winter months (65-68 degrees Fahrenheit is suggested when the house is occupied). With an ornery grin, Varna looked over at Matt breaking a sweat as he completed the energy evaluation.

The next day, Matt sent me his proposal of the improvements that would benefit Varna's home:

- ▶ Caulk window wraps to keep out air and moisture;
- ▶ Install weather strips around doors;
- ▶ Provide proper insulation for the attic area;

**I am truly blessed to be chosen for the energy efficiency makeover. The generosity and compassion of everyone involved is sincerely appreciated.**

## Energy Efficiency Makeover Projects Before & After



Varna's attic had less than an inch of insulation prior to the Energy Efficiency Makeover. Matt Hoisington, C&V Home Improvement, increased the insulation to the recommended 10-12 inches.



ProVia donated an entry door and storm door to replace Varna's previously inefficient door.

# THANK You to our sponsors

## CENKAN LEAD TESTING, LLC

CenKan provides lead paint inspections and paint risk assessments across the state of Kansas.



1371 NE 190 Rd.,  
Claffin, KS 67525  
620-282-3634  
www.cenkan.com

## C&V HOME IMPROVEMENT



C&V Home Improvement began as a small insulation company back in 1976 and evolved into a company that provides an array of products that increase a home's beauty and energy efficiency.

1107 10th St., Great Bend, KS 67530  
620-796-2500  
www.cvhipros.com

## PROVIA

Provia was found in 1977.



They are a nine-time recipient of the Department of Energy's Energy Star Partner of the Year Award—the only door company to receive this award.

2150 State Route 39, Sugarcreek, OH 44681  
877-389-0835  
www.provia.com

## SERVICE CONCEPTS

Service Concepts was initiated in 1999 by 30 electric cooperatives and is a partner with Touchstone Energy. They provide electric cooperatives with energy and water efficiency products, kits and services.

7172 Lakeview Parkway West Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46268  
877-738-6824  
www.serviceconcepts.coop

- ▶ Insulate the ambient walls of the foundation; and
- ▶ Replace single entry door with a new steel entry door and storm door.

At the bottom of his proposal, he left one final note: "I have put in a request to ProVia to see if they will donate the door and storm door. If not, I'll cover that cost." Amazing! We were moved to see a local business so humbly exemplify "Commitment to Community."

We met with Varna the following week to discuss the proposal items and another surprise. Despite being located over 1,000 miles away in the rolling hills of Sugarcreek, Ohio, ProVia agreed to donate the doors.

"When Matt contacted me and explained the project, it just made sense," said Joe Klink, director of corporate relations at ProVia. Their contribution exemplified their commitment to serving customers.

The generosity continued. Jack Willenberg, president of CenKan Lead Testing, LLC, completed a lead paint test for the door replacement. This was an option under the Lead-Based Paint Pre-Renovation Education Rule (Lead PRE), a Federal regulation that affects renovations/repairs in residential housing built before 1978. Unless proven the affected components do not have lead paint, contractors are required to follow the Lead Safe Work Practices (LSWP) per Federal and State of Kansas Department of Energy regulations. Jack not only tested the door for lead paint, he graciously donated a whole-house lead paint inspection and a risk assessment.

LED light bulbs are proven to operate between 70 and 90 percent more efficiently than traditional incandescent bulbs. Service Concepts, a cooperative initiated by 30 electric cooperatives, donated LED bulbs to update the interior lighting in Varna's home: Co-ops serving co-ops—it's a good thing! They serve as a com-



Varna Johnson welcomed Wheatland employees and sponsor participants into her home for the Energy Efficiency Makeover.

plete source for high quality and competitively priced energy saving products, kits, and services.

All of the Energy Efficiency Makeover projects were finished by mid-March, courtesy of Wheatland and our partner C&V Home Improvement, and our gracious donors CenKan Lead Testing, LLC, ProVia, and Service Concepts.

"I know these improvements will help lower my monthly energy bill, and I am truly blessed to be chosen for this energy efficiency makeover," said Varna. "The generosity and compassion of everyone involved is sincerely appreciated." Thank you, Varna, for the opportunity to know you.

Thank you, Matt, for your partnership on this project and to everyone who made this project a success.

"I cannot tell you how great it feels to be a part of this community project," said Matt. "Certainly, I feel called to help Varna and am thankful you invited us to participate." I totally agree, Matt.

Ready to explore where energy efficiencies can be found in your own home? Visit Wheatland's website at [www.weci.net](http://www.weci.net) under the Education tab for energy saving tips and tools. Or contact your local home improvement and HVAC contractor to check on efficiency options available for your home. Save energy, save money!

# Make the Most of Your Ceiling Fans

*By turning on the fan, you can turn up the savings!*

Ceiling fans are helpful tools in keeping your home's indoor temperatures comfortable and if used properly, they can also help lower your energy costs.

Use the following tips to make the most of your ceiling fans:

**1 Flip the switch** – Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades to change the blade direction. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counterclockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill.” Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.

**2 Adjust your thermostat** – In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner or in-

stead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.

**3 Choose the right size** – Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan with a diameter of 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.

**4 Turn it off** – When the room is unoccupied, save electricity by turning the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people, not rooms.



## Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

### Anita McCollum

Billing Specialist at Scott City  
40 years at Scott City

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I am not married. My parents are deceased. I have two brothers and two sisters, who also live in Scott City. Because of them, I have been blessed with multiple nephews, nieces, great nephews and great nieces.



Anita McCollum

#### WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Scott City.

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

My favorite past time is driving. It really doesn't matter where I go. I love getting out on the highway and going anywhere.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TEAM?

Scott City High School Beavers.

#### WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Working at Wheatland Electric for over 40 years.

#### IF YOU COULD HAVE ONE SUPER POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would love to be able to fly; oh, what freedom that would be!

#### WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?

My parents. They led me to know how to be a good Christian person with all that entails.

# Your Wheatland Payment Options

Wheatland Electric has six convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for your electrical use. Bills are due and payable upon receipt. We realize one method of payment does not fit every Wheatland Electric member's needs, so we have several payment options available for your convenience.



## 1. Mail

Wheatland Electric's monthly bill comes complete with a return envelope that you can enclose your bill payment stub and a check or money order in and mail back to your local Wheatland office.

\*\* All payments must be in a Wheatland Electric Office before 5 p.m. on the **Delinquent after Date** printed on your bill to avoid late payment penalties.



## 2. Wheatland Electric Offices or Authorized Pay Agents

You may pay by check, cash, or credit/debit card at any of our offices or authorized pay agents.

All of our offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST (7 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST) Monday-Friday, except for select holidays. (See website for holiday closings.)



## 3. Drop Boxes

Deposit your payment, including payment stub and check or money order in the payment drop box at any of our office locations or at Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th Street in Scott City.



## 4. Pay-by-Phone

**TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-844-262-2417**

Now you can pay your electric bill at your convenience, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Pay-by-Phone is the newest of the many options members have for paying their electric bill. To get started, you'll need your account number, located in the upper right hand corner of your bill.

For security reasons and to comply with Federal Red Flag Rules, Wheatland Electric employees cannot accept payments over the phone. Call 1-844-262-2417 to Pay-by-Phone.



## 5. Online Bill Pay

Online bill pay is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Click the Pay Bills button located in the top-right corner of Wheatland Electric's website or follow [wheatland.smarthub.coop/login.html](http://wheatland.smarthub.coop/login.html).

Members can also download the "Smart Hub" app from the Apple or Android marketplaces on any mobile device.



## 6. Auto Payment/Bank Draft

Wheatland is proud to offer automatic bank draft as a method of bill payment to its members. The account balance (how much you owe for your electric bill) is drafted from your checking account on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or a holiday, the draft will occur the next business day.

Fill out the bank draft application form located at <http://www.weci.net/content/bank-draft-application>, attach a voided check and either mail or hand deliver to any Wheatland office.

Wheatland Electric also has budget billing for those members who prefer to pay the same amount each month. Payments are set at your monthly average, making it easy to budget. An accurate 12-month history of your use at your current residence is helpful in determining payments. If you are interested, please call your local Wheatland Electric Office to see if you qualify.

# Sus opciones de pago para Wheatland

Wheatland Electric cuenta con seis opciones de pago para nuestros miembros. Todos los miembros reciben una factura estándar de su uso eléctrico. Las facturas se deben pagar al ser recibidas. Nosotros sabemos que solo un método de pago no se ajusta para todas las necesidades de los miembros de Wheatland Electric, por eso tenemos varias opciones de pago disponibles para su conveniencia.

## 1. Correo



Su factura mensual de Wheatland Electric viene con un sobre adjunto en el que usted puede mandar su talón de factura con un cheque o cheque al portador (Money Order) y mandarlo a su oficina de Wheatland Local.

\*\* Todos los pagos deben de estar en la oficina de Wheatland Electric antes de las 5 p.m de la Fecha en la que su factura será delincente que esta imprimida en la factura para evitar Cargos de retrasos.

## 2. Oficinas de Wheatland Electric y Agentes de pago autorizados



Usted puede pagar por medio de cheque, efectivo, tarjeta de débito/crédito en cualquiera de Nuestras oficinas o agentes de pago autorizados.

Todas nuestras oficinas están abiertas de las 8 a.m a 5 p.m Tiempo Centro (7 a.m a 4 p.m tiempo montaña) de lunes a viernes, excepto los días festivos. (Vea nuestra página WEB para días festivos observados)

## 3. Buzones de Pagos



Deposite su pago, incluyendo su talón con cheque o cheque al portador (Money Order) en el buzón de pago en cualquiera de nuestras oficinas o en Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th Street en Scott City.

## 4. Pago por teléfono

**NUMERO DE TELEFONO GRATUITO 1-844-262-2417**



Ahora usted puede pagar su factura eléctrica a su conveniencia, 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana! Pago-por-Teléfono en la opción más moderna de nuestras opciones de pago que nuestros miembros tienen para pagar su factura eléctrica. Para comenzar, necesita tener su número de cuenta que está localizada en la esquina derecha de arriba de su factura eléctrica.

Por razones de seguridad y para cumplir con las Reglas Federales de Bandera Roja, los empleados de Wheatland Electric no pueden aceptar pagos por el teléfono. El servicio está disponible 24/7 por medio del 1-844-262-2417.

## 5. Pago en línea



Pago en línea también está disponible las 24 horas del día, 7 días de la semana. Oprima el botón **Pay Bills** en la parte derecha de arriba en la página web de Wheatland Electric o siga este link [wheatland.smarthub.coop/login.html](http://wheatland.smarthub.coop/login.html).

Miembros también pueden bajar la aplicación "Smart Hub" de los mercados de Apple o Android para su dispositivo móvil.

## 6. Auto Payment/Bank Draft



Wheatland tiene el orgullo de ofrecer retiro de banco automático como un método de pago de facturas para sus miembros. El saldo de su cuenta (LO QUE DEBE EN SU FACTURA ELECTRICA) será retirado de su cuenta de cheques el 5 de cada mes. Si el 5 cae en fin de semana o día festivo el retiro ocurrirá el siguiente día hábil.

Llene la aplicación para el retiro automático que está aquí <http://www.weci.net/content/bank-draft-application>, incluya un cheque anulado y mándelo por correo o directamente entréguelo en cualquier oficina de Wheatland Electric.

Wheatland Electric también cuenta con facturas en presupuesto para aquellos miembros que prefieren pagar lo mismo cada mes. Los pagos son calculados por los promedios de uso, así siendo más fácil para calcular su presupuesto. El historial de 12 meses sería mejor para poder determinar los pagos. Si está interesado, por favor llame a su oficina de Wheatland Electric local para ver si califica.



*Amanda Martinez*  
Payroll Specialist  
1 1/2 Years at Wheatland in Scott City

## A Day in the Life

# Amanda Martinez

BY SHAWN POWELSON,  
MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES  
AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Before I headed out the door for my appointment to meet with Amanda, I did a quick check of my time approval queue. At Wheatland, if you supervise any employees you are supposed to ensure everything is recorded properly and make sure folks get paid. (Confession: I have to be reminded...on occasion...ok, frequently.)

Aside from being the person responsible for making sure I got paid, I didn't know much about Amanda's job at Wheatland. I arrived at her office and was greeted with an ever cheerful hello. Instead of diving right into the details of her job, we first started by talking about life before Wheatland.

Wow! Amanda had some pretty incredible stories about her time spent as a nanny in the eastern part of the U.S. in her twenties. She nannied for some pretty high-profile people, including then FBI Director Louis Freeh, who even gave her a letter of reference when she applied for a job as a dispatcher with the Garden City Police Department. That position ultimately led to a job as a police officer, where Amanda became a detective and, finally, a sergeant before leaving the force. Today, she still works part time as a campus police officer for Garden City Community College.

At Wheatland, as her title implies, most of Amanda's day-to-day responsibilities revolve around payroll, where she monitors the time input of 135 full-time and two part-time employees. We talked about total number of work days, work hours, standby hours, holiday hours, overtime,

vacation time, sick time, work orders, GL accounts and making everything balance at the end of the month. A short time later, Amanda confessed her secret love for accounting and showed me a bunch of spreadsheets she uses to make sure all the numbers match up. This all looked super complicated to me, but she assured me it was simple enough.

Now, it was time to get into the good stuff—getting paid! All time is entered by the first of the month for the previous month's hours. Then, Amanda has two, maybe three, days to make sure all those numbers and time categories match up to ensure everyone gets paid. It really sounded like a lot to get done in not very much time to me, as I stared blankly at the long list of numbers. (All personal employee information was kept confidential in the making of this article.) Again, Amanda assured me that it was no sweat!

We finished our time together by grabbing a bite at the diner across the street with some coworkers. During lunch, Amanda spoke fondly of her two daughters, Kenzi and Gabby, and her husband, Jamie. We talked of life in Scott City (where Amanda was born and raised). Before we parted ways, I asked Amanda what she liked most about working at Wheatland. Not surprisingly, she mentioned all the great people. Then she talked about the challenge of her position and the opportunity to learn lots of new things. Thanks for the day Amanda and thanks for making sure I get paid every month!