

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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District Offices

Garden City
2005 W Fulton
P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
620-275-0261

Great Bend
2300 Broadway
P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-4223

Harper
302 W. 6th
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
620-896-7090

Leoti
N Hwy 25
P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
620-375-2632

Scott City—Main
101 Main Street
P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885

Syracuse
206 1/2 N Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878
620-384-5171

Tribune
310 Broadway
P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879
620-376-4231

In Case of an Outage

After-hours and emergency reporting call
1-800-ON AGAIN.

FROM THE MANAGER

Loyal Connections

Co-ops change lives in the communities they serve

Loyalty is a prized virtue—to country, family, even the schools we attend. We keep those ties strong throughout our lives, me included: I still wear the colors of Texas State University at football games.

We at Wheatland Electric Cooperative also have loyalties, to the members and communities we serve. We have deep connections here, because each community we serve is our home, and you are our neighbor.

When you signed up for electric service with Wheatland Electric you became a member-owner, not a customer—because each of our 23,424 members owns a portion of the cooperative. That means we care about improving the quality of life in the areas we serve. From sponsoring the scoreboard at the high school football stadium to giving donations to the various local charities in the communities we serve.

Wheatland Electric doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and competitively priced electric service—and doing so in a way that makes things better for future generations. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, we have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run our business in a financially sound manner. This structure helps keep your electric bills competitively priced.

We take our jobs seriously, but we also take our community roles seriously, too.

Want to work with us? Tell me what would make life better in your community. Please go to Wheatland's website and send your ideas to weci.net and click on the "contact us" button in the top right corner.



Bruce Mueller

“We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and competitively priced electric service—and doing so in a way that makes things better for future generations.”

Until next time, take care.

Dave Reese Retires



Eilene Jacobs helps Dave Reese hold his retirement cake. Reese retired in August after 34 years of service.

DAVE REESE, journeyman lineman, retired August 5 after 34 years of service at Wheatland Electric.

Steve Wilson, Line Superintendent in the Harper District, presented Reese with his plaque and told him Wheatland Electric employees and trustees wish him well in his retirement. Wilson also thanked Reese for his many years of service.

Consider These Tips During an Outage

Below are a few important things not usually considered during an electric outage situation:

- ▶ Check on family and friends who have oxygen concentrators. They could need your help connecting an oxygen tank until power is restored.
- ▶ Phones might not work without electricity. A trip to the home of a person in need might be necessary to ensure their safety.
- ▶ If your loved one or a neighbor is reliant on a lift chair, they will not be able to get up without help.
- ▶ A medical alert system that uses a cable modem might not work more than a few hours. Persons using that type of system may not be able to call for help.

Scam Alert! Bogus Phone Calls

Recently, one of our members was contacted by someone claiming to be from Wheatland Electric. The caller informed the member that their bill was overdue and demanded payment over the phone in the amount of \$600. The member did not provide any personal information to the caller and contacted our service office in Harper, to verify the validity of the call.

Wheatland Electric will never contact our members in this manner in an attempt to collect on a past due account.

The number of telephone scams trying to obtain money and personal information from unsuspecting victims is increasing according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB). The offer the following tips to help you keep your valuable information out of the hands of scammers:

- ▶ **Confirm that you are speaking to a legitimate Wheatland representative.** If you have concerns, hang up and call us directly at one of our district offices or 620-872-5885.
- ▶ **Be wary of anyone demanding immediate payment** in the forms that are difficult to trace, such as Western Union or MoneyGram.
- ▶ **Never give your credit card, debit card, Social Security, ATM, checking or savings account numbers** to anyone who comes to your home, calls or sends an e-mail requesting information. **You** should



Beware of callers claiming to be co-op employees who request bank account routing numbers or other personal information.

always be the one to initiate such transactions.

- ▶ **Never allow anyone claiming to be a utility service person into your home unless you have scheduled an appointment**, the person has proper identification or you are certain of their identity.

In addition, there are a number of other scams being reported by other utilities as well. One such scam involves the caller identifying themselves as being from the local utility and requesting that the victim leave their work or home for a utility related cause. (I.e., gas leak, power outage, etc.) If the caller is able to convince the victim to leave their home or work the scammer could then orchestrate a burglary attempt.

Wheatland Electric encourages its members to always call their local service office directly to verify the authenticity of a caller requesting something out of the ordinary. Never provide personal information over the phone, internet or via e-mail to any person or company without verifying the security and authenticity of the transaction.

Efficiency Tip of the Month

Like homes and other businesses, farms of all types can lower their electricity bills by turning off or reducing use of lights and small equipment in outbuildings. Timers and sensors can help, too. Regular cleaning, maintenance, and seasonal tune-ups help keep larger equipment running at top efficiency.

Wheatland Crews Assist in Storm Restoration Efforts

Linemen from the Wheatland Electric Great Bend district traveled to Ninnescah Electric Cooperative in Pratt on August 6-7, to help their crews repair damage from severe storms.

The Wheatland crew worked near Byers. The members of the crew were Foreman, **ANDY PIVONKA**, **TRENT SUCHY** and **BRANDON RITCHIE**.

This is a true example of cooperation among cooperatives, one of the seven principles cooperatives are founded on. Electric cooperatives across the state often join forces during outages to help restore power to all cooperative members.



Trent Suchy (in the bucket) and Brandon Ritchie helped restore power to Ninnescah's members.

Kansas Co-ops Prepare for State Fair

Kansas electric cooperatives and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Kansas are co-sponsoring a high-voltage line safety demonstration in combination with the Kansas State Fair, Sept 9-13.

Cooperative linemen from Wheatland Electric, along with others from CMS Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Midwest Energy, Inc.; and Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., have volunteered to help spread the message.

Teaching the public to stay safe

around power lines is the focus of the electric cooperatives' message at this year's fair. The demonstration, which is part of "Kansas' Largest Classroom," is a half-hour in length and will incorporate a full-size electric safety demonstration, which is on loan from Midwest Energy Inc.

Journeyman linemen from the electric cooperatives will demonstrate proper safety precautions and teach viewers what protective gear linemen use and why, what happens to a person when they come into contact with an energized line and why birds can land safely on power lines.

The public demonstration will operate from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is free of charge for all fair attendees. The demonstration will be located in the Beef Judging building, east of the Oz Gallery.



Cooperative linemen teach students at the State Fair how to stay safe around electricity.

Payment Options

Wheatland Electric Offers Members Several Ways to Pay

The following are the authorized bill payment options available to Wheatland Electric members. Payments by cash, credit card (for residential members only), money order, personal check, certified check or bank draft will be accepted. A fee of \$3.50 will be charged for every credit card transaction. All payments must be in a Wheatland office before 5 p.m. on the Delinquent After Date printed on your billing to avoid late payment penalties.

Drop box: Deposit your payment, including payment stub and check or money order, in the payment drop box at any of the locations listed below or at Scott City Hall, 221 West 5th in Scott City.

In person: Pay your bill at any of our offices in:

- ▶ Caldwell—City Offices, 14 W. Central
- ▶ Crystal's DVDs—111 W. Spring St, Suite B
(Open Tues., Wed. Thurs. & Fri. from 3-9 p.m., Sat. from 2-9 p.m.)
- ▶ Deerfield—City Hall, 622 Main Street
- ▶ Garden City—2005 W. Fulton
- ▶ Great Bend—2300 Broadway
- ▶ Harper—302 W. 6th Street
- ▶ Leoti—N. Highway 25
- ▶ Scott City—101 Main
- ▶ Syracuse—206 1/2 Main
- ▶ Tribune—310 Broadway

Mail: Enclose your bill payment stub along with a check or money order and mail in the envelope provided with your bill. Please allow three to five days for delivery.

Online: Visit www.weci.net and click on Online Bill Pay. Sign up for service and enter an e-mail address for receipts. Please make sure we have your e-mail address on file for your electric or internet account.

Phone: Call any Wheatland office to pay by phone.

All other payment options are considered "unauthorized pay agents." Unauthorized pay agents have no contractual requirement with Wheatland Electric to operate under rules approved by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Wheatland Electric provides no assurance as to the timeliness or accuracy of payments made via unauthorized agents.



Touchstone EnergySM
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

You might not think about it, but it takes miles of cable from your electric co-op to keep us connected and fully charged. Thankfully, it's all at an affordable charge. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

MOBILE PHONES NEED WIRES, TOO.

