



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

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Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us

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FROM THE CEO

This Holiday Season, Remember Your Co-op Cares

For many of us, the holidays prompt thoughts of giving back, spreading love and sharing joy.

Perhaps you commit random acts of kindness like sharing your time, treasure and talent with local charities or cooking for and serving food to the hungry. Or perhaps you simply try to embrace the season by showing gratitude and kindness to those around you.

However you share your own unique holiday spirit, know that we here at Twin Valley Electric Cooperative strive to share our spirit with you as well, during the holidays and throughout the year.

When many people are lighting their homes with festive decorations or entertaining and cooking for family and friends, we are working to provide you with the most affordable and reliable electric service.

We help members keep energy use in check by providing energy efficiency tips. We help you save driving time

by providing the option to pay your bill online or by using our free mobile app. We also help keep your family safe by providing electrical safety tips—information that is especially important this time of year. Visit our website, www.twinvalleyelectric.coop, for more information about the service we offer our members.

Not only does Twin Valley Electric Cooperative care through the benefits, savings and services we provide, but also in the ways we give back to our community.

We are nothing without our members. We understand that we cannot thrive unless you thrive, so we do all we can to strengthen our community.

From your friends and neighbors at Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a happy holiday season!



Reed Metzger



Wishing our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. In observance of the holidays, our office will be closed on **Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Jan. 1.**

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Project will Reduce Energy Waste, Allow Backfeeding During Major Outage

Many members in the surrounding Parsons and Mound Valley areas have noticed the ongoing construction project that began last January. The line crews have been working on a 12-mile, three-phase conversion project. Our goal and purpose of this project is to improve backfeeding and line loss between our Parsons East metering point and the Mound Valley substation. Line loss, also known as energy waste resulting from the transmission of electrical energy across power lines, takes place in all electric cooperatives.

The original line consisted of 35-foot poles with an average circumference size of 10 inches. These poles were spaced up to 400 feet apart. We are replacing these poles with 40-foot poles that have an average circumference of 14 inches and we are spacing them 285 feet apart. We are retiring the current copper weld conductor that has an ampacity rating of 140 and replacing it with 1/0 aluminum conductor steel reinforced “ACSR” with an ampacity rating of 230. These items, along with trading out 8-foot crossarms for 10-foot crossarms, are some of the main items you will visually notice on this project, along with the clearance of trees that was required for the construction to begin. This three-phase line provides

electricity to a large number of members. We are now able to use this section of line as a backfeeding scenario if our power supplier has an outage, or we encounter a disaster, like an ice storm.

Replacing conductors, maintaining the line clearance, and correcting and maintaining load balance across all three phases are ways to reduce energy waste. These three important items are being addressed on this project in hopes of reducing line loss at Twin Valley.

While taking on this project, our main goal was to continue to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective energy. This is something we strive to accomplish each day.

I would like to thank the land owners who have allowed us to stage some of our job trailers and equipment on their property, and, last but not least, I would like to thank the linemen at Twin Valley for an exceptional job of completing work safely and efficiently. As of now, the crews have completed two-thirds of this project and are looking forward to completing the remainder after the first of the year.



Adam Myers



Twin Valley Participates in Touch-a-Truck Fundraiser

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative participated in the Curious Minds Discovery Zone’s Touch-a-Truck fundraiser held in Marvel Park in Parsons. Area residents were able to bring their children to touch, climb on and explore their favorite construction trucks, utility vehicles, farm equipment and emergency vehicles.

Twin Valley Electric’s Line Superintendent Adam Myers was busy handing out safety coloring books and explaining to visitors the type of equipment we use and how we use it.

Top Left: Twin Valley Electric members Matthew and Pamela Atteberry along with their grandchildren visit with Line Superintendent Adam Myers while attending Touch-a-Truck.

Top Right: Twin Valley’s digger derrick truck was honored to fly the American flag.

Bottom Left: Corbin Myers tests the driver’s seat of one of Twin Valley’s utility trucks.

Attention High School Juniors

Apply for a FREE Trip of a Lifetime!



During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., students meet with our elected officials. Next year's tour will be June 13-20, 2019.

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. will send one high school junior to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.

To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over



Each year, campers go rafting during Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Next year's camp is scheduled for July 12-18, 2019.

information provided by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a **SHORT INTERVIEW ON FEB. 1, AT 3 P.M.** to pick the winners. To apply please complete, sign and return the application below to Twin Valley, 1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS, 67330 **BY JAN. 18.**

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office. Finalists will take a quiz and then be interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative office.

To find out more, contact Jennifer Manahan at 866-784-5500.

Contest Application for Youth Tour—Due Jan. 18

Mail or deliver to Twin Valley, 1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

Name of Applicant _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ School _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Phone _____ Twin Valley Account # _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2019 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Unplug electronics to avoid drawing a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use. **Source:** energy.gov



Show You Care with Safety-Minded Gifts

As you create your holiday gift list this year, consider adding safety-minded gifts as a way to show you care. From a smart doorbell to a smoke detector, a gift that keeps loved ones safe gives peace of mind and could help save lives.

Consider the following tips and gift ideas to help keep everyone on your gift list safer this holiday season and throughout the year:

For adults

- ▶ Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ▶ A flashlight with extra batteries for emergencies
- ▶ A roadside emergency kit
- ▶ Reflective clothing for runners or walkers
- ▶ Gloves with LED lights or hand-held “knuckle lights” designed for runners
- ▶ A smart doorbell to see who’s at the door while at home and away
- ▶ Gift certificates for home services (home maintenance, such as HVAC inspection or chimney sweeping)
- ▶ A fire extinguisher for the kitchen
- ▶ A pack of GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets and a gift certificate for a qualified electrician to install them
- ▶ A cozy bed blanket to replace an older electric blanket; those more than 10 years old are often unsafe
- ▶ Aftermarket safety systems for cars that don’t have them, which include features such as forward-collision and lane-departure warnings
- ▶ A rear-view camera and dash cam for vehicles not equipped with them
- ▶ A pet harness for use in a vehicle; make sure it has earned crash-test certification

For kids and youth

- ▶ Age appropriate gifts (see recommendations on box or toy); children

younger than age 3 should not have access to toys with small parts and avoid marbles and small balls for small children

- ▶ Safety gear such as helmets and knee and elbow pads when gifting scooters, roller blades, bikes and other riding toys
- ▶ Hover boards—these units should be compliant with UL safety standards (new hover boards that are UL 2272 certified are fire safe; boards bought before 2016 do not have this certification)
- ▶ Many gaming consoles are equipped with internet browsers and chat features that allow players to communicate with each other, so be aware of these capabilities in any game or electronic device

For other safety tips and information, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Give the gift of safety!



Portable Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

Designed for locations where there is not a permanent GFCI installed, these devices detect an abnormal flow of electricity and shut off the power, preventing shock or electrocution.



Outdoor Remote Control Outlet Switch

Leaving outdoor lighting on overnight can be costly and pose a potential hazard. With this gadget, any and all devices plugged in to it can be turned off and on remotely.





Tamper Resistant Outlets (TROs)

Great for families with young children, TROs are wall receptacles that have shutters that stay closed unless a plug with two prongs is inserted into the outlet.

Note: While plastic safety caps are a cheaper alternative, it may be possible for children to remove these.



Heavy Duty Extension Cord

Power devices safely. Too often the tools or equipment necessary for larger projects are powered by extension cords that are inadequate for the environment or heavier electrical load.