



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

By the Community, for the Community

October is National Co-op Month



Angie Erickson

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason—

it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Twin Valley Electric, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service

or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Twin Valley Electric was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed.

Twin Valley Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the

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Each year, we participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where our community's brightest young people learn about cooperatives before travelling to Washington, D.C.

By the Community, for the Community *Continued from page 16B* ▶



Our concern for our community leads us to participate in local parades and events in our service area.

That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional

community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective.

utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We partner with local organizations and schools to promote economic development and education. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. We also sponsor a student to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado to develop their leadership skills.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Twin Valley Electric as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



It's Large and In Charge: Respect the Mighty Substation

You may live near or drive by a substation each day and not give it much thought unless you happen to be an electrical engineer or utility employee.

Although they look like something that could transform into a giant-sized, building-stomping, futuristic robot, substations play an important role in providing electricity to your work or home.

As most people know, fenced-in substations are part of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Transformers are contained inside many of them, and their job is to transform voltage from high to low or vice versa depending on its location on the distribution path.

There are three types of transmission substations: step-up, step-down and distribution. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration:

▶ A step-up version receives electric power from a nearby generating facil-

ity and uses a large power transformer to increase the voltage so it can travel to distant locations.

▶ Step-down transmission substations are located at switching points on an electrical grid and connect different parts of the electrical system.

▶ Distribution substations are located near end-users like you and change voltages to lower levels to power homes and businesses.

Besides transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur.

Stay Safe Around Substations

Substations carry high voltages of electricity and they should be respected. Twin Valley Electric and Safe Electricity remind you to:

- ▶ NEVER go near a substation.
- ▶ Teach children to NEVER go near a substation or climb its fence to retrieve a ball or pet. Let them know they should always stay away and tell a parent or adult, who should call us to report the incident at 866-784-5500.
- ▶ In general, teach children about the dangers of electricity from a young age.
- ▶ If a transformer near your home catches on fire, DO NOT try to put the fire out yourself, water and electricity don't mix. Call 911 to report the fire.
- ▶ If you see an issue with or notice something unusual about a substation, transformer or power line, contact us. Never try to address a problem yourself.

For more information about substations, transformers and anything else concerning electricity, call us.