



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 P.O. Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420
www.rollinghills.coop

**ROLLING HILLS
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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Contact Us

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 P.O. Box 339
 Beloit, KS 67420
 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

Tip of the Month

Insulating your water heater tank could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. Pre-cut jackets or blankets are available for around \$20.
Source: energy.gov

Watt's Happenin'—2016 Election



Linnea Beebe

Just think, In a little more than five weeks, hopefully, the mudslinging will all be behind us. One of the most important things that you can do as a registered

voter is to vote, either by absentee ballot or by visiting your polling location on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016. Regardless whether you are a registered Republican, Independent, Democrat or Libertarian, your vote is important.

Rolling Hills Electric held a Co-ops Vote “Meet and Greet” with local politicians for members, the community and employees to gather political insight of those campaigning for office.

If you are like me and many others, this has been an extremely stressful national election cycle. Who and what are we to believe? Has the media driven this craziness? What if we don't want either candidate? If so and so wins, are we doomed for the next four years? There are so many questions that we don't have answers to. But, your vote counts regardless of who wins or loses. You will have done your job as a registered voter.

Following are important dates in which you as a member and a U.S. citizen can exercise your right in the democratic process of electing offi-

cials. All of us want to elect officials who will listen and be our voice, the voice of their constituents.

- ▶ **OCT. 18 – Voter registration ends**
Last day to register to vote in General Election
- ▶ **OCT. 19 – Early voting/ in person absentee voting starts**
First day for early voting (advance voting)
- ▶ **NOV. 4 – Absentee ballot request deadline**
Last day to request absentee ballot by mail
- ▶ **NOV. 7 – Early voting/ in person absentee voting starts**
Last day for early voting (advance voting) in person
- ▶ **NOV. 8 – Absentee ballot return deadline**
Last day for absentee voting ballots (advance voting) to be received (by close of polls)

State law requires that all voters show photo identification each time they vote. Acceptable forms of identification include a driver's license or non-driver's ID card, a concealed carry handgun license, U.S. passport, government employee ID, military ID, student ID, public assistance ID or Indian tribe ID (see www.gotVoterID.com for details and exceptions).

For more information, visit <http://elections.mytimetovote.com>.



Flint Hills Named '5-Star Co-op'

Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative has been named a "5-Star Co-op" by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The 5-star designation recognizes Flint Hills RECA's high level of participation in Co-ops Vote, a national get-out-to-vote campaign. The non-partisan campaign seeks to boost voter turnout in areas served by electric co-ops all across the country.

"Electric cooperatives play a unique and special role as a voice in their communities," said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. "That level of strong engagement is evident in the conversation Flint Hills RECA has created around the opportunity to vote. Elections are important, especially in rural areas, and Flint Hills has used the Co-ops Vote program to increase awareness of our civic duty on every Election Day. I'm pleased to congratulate them on this accomplishment as they make a real difference in the communities they serve."

Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in Co-ops Vote and is achieved when a participating

PROUD 5-STAR ELECTRIC CO-OP



co-op completes at least five activities under the program. Flint Hills RECA earned this distinction by achieving more than five activities that were required in the program.

The Co-ops Vote campaign was launched by America's electric co-ops in response to continued voter apathy, particularly in rural America. Just nine percent of America selected Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as the presidential nominees.

Most of the nation chose not to vote. And in the 2012 elections, rural voter turnout dropped 18 percent. Since its launch in February, more than 560 electric co-ops have joined forces through Co-ops Vote to increase voter turnout in areas served by co-ops, which include much of rural America.

Read "Tackling the Decline in Rural Voting" on page 8 in *Kansas Country Living* for more information on Kansas' 5-Star Co-ops. Visit www.vote.coop to pledge to vote in this year's elections and find a variety of voter resources, including information on the candidates, registering to vote, voting locations and brief descriptions of key cooperative issues.

Manage Your Bill with SmartHub

Flint Hills RECA offers the latest technology to help you manage your electric account 24/7 by computer or smart phone with a free online application called SmartHub.

With SmartHub you can:

- ▶ Make a payment
- ▶ Check your electric usage
- ▶ Review your usage profile by the month, day or hour
- ▶ Notify member service of account issues
- ▶ Receive emails or text alerts
- ▶ Communicate directly with the cooperative

SmartHub is easy to navigate. It's simple and quick to make a payment or view your hourly energy usage data. You can compare bills and find out what day of the week or hour of the day you typically use the most electricity.

You can also choose to receive an email or text when a payment is due or other account activity occurs, so you know before your bill arrives that you are using more power than usual.

Go to the Flint Hills website at www.flinthillsrec.com and to start managing your account today.

Cold Weather Season Policy

Flint Hills RECA will not disconnect a qualified, non-Pre Pay member's residential service when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees in the 24-hour period following the time of disconnection unless it is:

- ▶ at the member's request;
- ▶ the service appears abandoned;
- ▶ a dangerous condition exists on the member's premise;
- ▶ the customer violates any rule of the co-op which adversely affects the safety of the customer, or other persons or the physical integrity of the co-op's delivery system; or
- ▶ the member causes or permits unauthorized interference of electric service situated or delivered on or about the customer's premises.

The member can avoid disconnection by bringing his/her electric bill current to the scheduled disconnect time.

The Cold Weather Season Policy is to insure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months. For more information concerning assistance with your bill, please contact Flint Hills RECA at 620-767-5144.

Daylight Saving Ends Nov. 6

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before 2 a.m. on Nov. 6 and check the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Happy Halloween

Flint Hills RECA wishes you a safe and happy Halloween on Monday, Oct. 31.



Let Your Voice Be Heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline—with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! According to the Kansas Secretary of State, Kansas had a voter turnout percentage of 23.5 in the primary elections, and in our service territory voter turnout was 38.5 in Clark county, 53 percent in Comanche, 33.4 percent in Meade and 17.3 percent in Seward.

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. And who can blame us really? Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we can change this.

Here at CMS Electric, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

CMS Electric has been named a "5-Star Co-op" by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The 5-star designation recognizes CMS Electric high level of participa-

PROUD 5-STAR ELECTRIC CO-OP



tion in Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in Co-ops Vote.

Read "Tackling the Decline in Rural Voting" on page 8 in *Kansas Country Living* for more information on Kansas' 5-Star Co-ops. Visit www.vote.coop to pledge to vote in this year's elections and find a variety of voter resources, including information on the candidates, registering to vote, voting locations and brief descriptions of key co-op issues.

The future of rural economies depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make major health decisions. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit www.vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 6

Daylight Saving is a perfect time to check fire, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and to change out batteries. Make sure smoke detectors work properly by using the alarm test option. Use a vacuum to make sure there are no cobwebs, spiders or other little insects taking up residence which would hinder the effects of the smoke alarm.

Detectors play a larger role in survival than one might think. A recent study showed that inoperable smoke alarms caused two-thirds of fire related deaths due to damage, defects and missing batteries. It is recommended writing the date on the new battery in the detector so there will be no question as to when it was last replaced.

Daylight Saving time is also a great time to review home safety with family members including escape routes and checking all electrical outlets. Practice a home safety review and test procedures on getting out safely in an emergency situation. Look through the house for any hazards, such as overloaded or improperly placed extension cords. It is recommended to make sure areas around the furnace, water heater and stove are clear of debris that can cause fire.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6.

Happy Halloween

CMS Electric wishes you a safe and happy Halloween on Monday, Oct. 31.



Co-ops Candidate Tour

Sedgwick County Electric Meet and Greet

Join us for a chance to meet your state and federal candidates! On Monday, June 27, Sedgwick County Electric Co-op will host a Co-op Candidate Tour “meet and greet” at 6:30 p.m. at Sedgwick’s office, 1355 S. 383rd St. W., Cheney.

The Co-op Candidate Tour is sponsored by Kansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.’s Government Relations department as part of National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association’s Co-ops Vote initiative.

Co-ops Vote is a national non-partisan campaign to encourage co-op members to register to vote, educate voters on key issues, and encourage members to vote for candidates that support electric co-ops. Read more about KEC’s Co-ops Candidate Tour on page 22 of this month’s issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

Linemen Lend a Hand to Fellow Co-op

Spring storms are nothing new to Kansas. A beautiful spring afternoon can quickly turn into a cloudy, windy rainstorm at any moment. The first significant spring storm to our service

area was April 26. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative experienced a few outages due to high winds, but Twin Valley Electric, in Altamont, wasn’t as lucky.

Twin Valley Electric Co-op requested assistance from Sedgwick County Electric Co-op on April 27. Scott Ayres, Trey Matchett, Jacob Ortega and Tommy Hill were dispatched to Twin Valley to help restore power.



After strong storms and high winds on April 26, Linemen (left to right) Trey Matchett, Tommy Hill, Jacob Ortega and Scott Ayres were dispatched to help Twin Valley restore power..

Notice: New Peck Metering Point

As mentioned in the November 2015 issue of *Kansas Country Living*, we are working to complete our new Peck metering point early June 2016.

Members located south east of Clearwater will now receive electricity from our Peck metering point. Your monthly statements will reflect the substation information change from “1-Clearwater” to “2-Peck.”

If you have any questions regarding the new Peck metering point, please call 316-542-3131.



The area outlined in red represents the territory that will receive electricity from Sedgwick County Electric Co-op’s Peck metering point, beginning this month.

Summer Line Crew Hours

May 1 to Sept. 30

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative’s line crew began working summer hours on May 1 and will continue through Sept. 30.

Each year during this period, the Line Department works from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in an effort to complete most of the day’s work before the major heat of the day arrives. The office will remain on our normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday schedule.

If you have questions or would like to report an outage during regular business hours, please contact us at 316-542-3131 or toll free 866-542-4732. To report an after hour’s outage, please call 316-542-3131.

Tip of the Month

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Happy Father’s Day

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op would like to wish all dads a happy Father’s Day on Sunday, June 19.

Holiday Office Closing

In observance of Independence Day, Sedgwick County Electric Co-op will be closed Monday, July 4. If you experience an outage, please call 316-542-3131.