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2731 Milo Terr.
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District
9346 Jewell Rd.
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B
Emporia, KS 66801

4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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FROM THE MANAGER

Material Shortages Yield Supply Challenges



Dennis Svanes

4 Rivers installed a new transformer at our Westphalia substation in late July. This transformer steps down transmission voltage from 69,000 volts to a distribution

voltage of 7,200. The previous substation transformer failed in September 2020 requiring us to install a spare transformer until a new one was built and delivered. We were fortunate in the timing of the order, as material prices and lead times changed dramatically in the last six months.

4 Rivers and other utilities across the nation are in a challenging situation. Material prices are 25% or more higher than normal, and delivery times are longer. Supply chains are strained due to COVID-19 related issues. Raw materials are more difficult to obtain, which makes products more expensive to build and harder to acquire. For example, we were recently informed that a new digger derrick is delayed until late 2022 to early 2023.

To adapt to the shortages, our vendors supply us with the products available when our usual brand/type is unavailable. An example is the transformers we use at service locations which step down power from 7,200

volts to a household voltage of 240 volts. The last transformer shipment we received was built by a different manufacturer at a 20% higher cost.

I know many others are in this same predicament, not just electric utilities. The nation's reliance on imported materials has shown some of the challenges of a global economy.

Circling back to my original topic, I want to acknowledge our linemen who worked very diligently switching out the Westphalia substation transformer. The exchange went as efficiently and effectively as I could have hoped. It happened on one of the hottest days of the year with very high humidity and not even a breeze. The crew worked through the intense heat, and I appreciate the work they did to make our service more reliable for our members.



The 4 Rivers line crew assists with the installation of a new transformer at the Westphalia substation.



QuarterQuest



Making a Difference — One Quarter at a Time

The 2020-2021 school year was anything but normal. Throughout all the changes, the Kansas Food Bank continued to provide weekend food packets to kids who really need a helping hand over the weekend. Every Friday, the Kansas Food Bank delivers packets of nutritional “open and eat” food to more than a dozen elementary and middle schools serving the students in our service area. The packets are distributed to about 700 children each week just in our service area, who have been identified as weekend chronically hungry. For them, the food sent home in their backpack may be the only food they receive over the weekend.

The backpack program allows children to return to school on Monday morning ready to think, listen, and learn — an opportunity all children should have. This program results in a higher graduation rate among our most vulnerable school children, enhancing our social and economic development and ultimately benefiting everyone in our area. These contributions really do make that full circle back to our children in our community. Healthy students learn better, and this is one of the great programs that helps keep our students healthy.



Member donations to Quarter Quest totaled \$2,404.68 in 2020. Thank you so much for supporting our youth.

The Kansas Food Bank is in its 17th year of the backpack program, and 4 Rivers Electric is pleased to partner with them in their endeavor to help kids succeed. For children who participate in the program, marked differences are evident: grades improve, truancy dissolves, behavioral problems diminish, attitude toward school improves and developmental impairments that can affect them intellectually, physically, and emotionally decline. In the long term, these children can reach their full potential and contribute fully to their communities.

To purchase the food, fill the packets and distribute them to schools every Friday, the Kansas Food Bank incurs a cost of roughly \$5 per packet. For the elementary and middle schools in our area, the Kansas Food Bank provides

697 food packets each Friday. If each of our members gave just one quarter per month, we can help the most food-vulnerable children in our area. We encourage all members to support this program and make a difference in the lives of these area children who are at serious risk of present and future problems stemming from childhood hunger.

We have several ways to authorize a donation to Quarter Quest. You can enroll on our SmartHub App, simply check “YES” on your payment and whether you would like to have a monthly recurring donation or a onetime amount. You can also call us at 620-364-2116 and ask to add a donation to your next statement.

Thank you to all who have donated to the program. The most essential school supply is food — and every quarter counts!



YES! Please sign me up for the **QUARTER QUEST PLAN** to add a quarter to my monthly electric bill. You can donate more than a quarter per month by entering that amount here: _____

☐ Monthly Recurring Donation ☐ One Time Donation

Local Destinations Provide Entertainment and Adventure

Looking for fun without venturing too far from home? If you live in 4 Rivers territory, you do not have to go far to have a great time. Check out these ideas for a quick September getaway.



CROSS TIMBERS STATE PARK

SEPT. 4: Friends of Cross Timbers hosts the End of Summer BBQ at Toronto Point. There will be a benefit barbecue meal, games, activities, and a scavenger hunt for the end of summer party in the park. This is an all-day event. For more information, call 620-637-2213.



EMPORIA MAIN STREET

SEPT. 11: The Great American Market is 7 a.m.-4 p.m. in downtown Emporia. This annual downtown treasure market is a community favorite. You can find clothes, antiques, collectibles, food, and many other unique items. Contact Emporia Main Street at 620-340-6430 or visit emporiainmainstreet.com for more information.



CITY OF FALL RIVER

SEPT. 18: The annual Fall River Free Barbecue, a tradition since 1965, will be served at 6 p.m. the third weekend in September in downtown Fall River. Local volunteers cook 1,500 pounds of beef in a pit served along with sides to the community. Other events of the day include a parade at 11 a.m., games and entertainment starting at noon, and fireworks at 9 p.m., with a street dance until midnight. Grab your lawn chair and join in the fun!



OLD IRON CLUB

SEPT. 23-26: Old Iron Days is an annual event like no other. Located at The Rollin 'Red' Vandever Memorial Park in Fredonia, this event hosted by the Wilson County Old Iron Club brings people of all ages for a glimpse of life in simpler times, when ingenuity and hard work helped early settlers thrive. There is a town with a bank, general store and simple country church to explore. Live demonstrations teach young and old about methods used in the past, from making apple butter and ice cream to rock crushing and corn processing. To learn more, visit oldironclub.org.



FOOD-A-PALOOZA FOOD TRUCK RALLY ORGANIZATION

SEPT. 25: The Flinthills Mall Food-A-Palooza Food Truck Rally is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Flinthills Mall in Emporia. Admission is free. Come fill your bellies and cast your vote for the People's Choice Food Truck. Call 620-342-4631 for more information.



CROSS TIMBERS STATE PARK

OCT. 2: The 2nd Annual Friends of Cross Timbers Chili Contest is an all-day event at Toronto Point. For further information, call 620-637-2213.

Visit These Getaways

CROSS TIMBERS STATE PARK

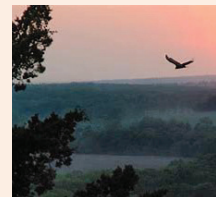
on Toronto Lake is another great opportunity to get the family outside in the fresh air and enjoy nature. The park features boat ramps, showers, restrooms, playgrounds, a group camp area with a park pavilion shelter, and a concession stand serving breakfast and lunch on weekends. On summer weekends, kayaks and canoes are available free of charge to paddle the Blue Water Trail.



CROSS TIMBERS STATE PARK



EISENHOWER STATE PARK



ELK CITY STATE PARK

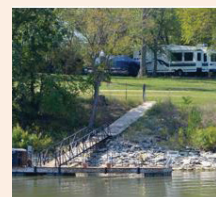
EISENHOWER STATE PARK

features a range of recreational facilities in addition to the 6,930 acres of Melvern Lake, including a playground, basketball court, horse-shoe pits, swimming beach, sand volleyball court, picnic shelters, an 18-hole disc golf course, a 19 target walk-through archery trail, kids fishing pond and a fly-fishing pond.



LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE MUSEUM

ELK CITY STATE PARK offers a quiet, family-oriented getaway with stunning views 5 miles northwest of Independence. With wooded hills and limestone bluffs, the 857-acre park is well-known for its diverse trail systems from easy stroll to advanced hike/bike trails. Boat ramps, a swim beach, camping and playgrounds complement the 4,500-acre Elk City Reservoir.

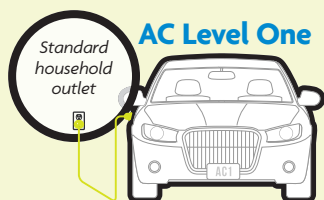


POMONA STATE PARK

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE MUSEUM is a non-profit historical site 13 miles southwest of Independence preserving the homestead of Laura Ingalls Wilder and educating about life on the prairie in the late 1800s to early 1900s. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March 15 to Nov. 1.

POMONA STATE PARK is 30 miles south of Topeka on the shore of 4,000-acre Pomona Reservoir featuring scenic beauty as well as an abundance of wildlife. The park is nestled in an area with historical connections to the Santa Fe Trail, as well as easy access to several metropolitan areas.

Electric Vehicle Charging Levels



AC Level One

VOLTAGE

120V 1-Phase AC

AMPS

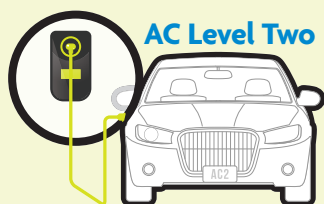
12-16 amps

CHARGING LOADS

1.4 to 1.9 kW

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME

3-5 miles per hour



AC Level Two

VOLTAGE

208V or 240V 1-Phase AC

AMPS

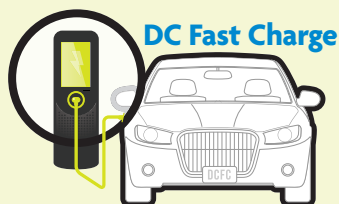
12-80 amps (32 amps typical)

CHARGING LOADS

2.5 to 19.2 kW (6.6kW typical)

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME

10-20 miles per hour



DC Fast Charge

VOLTAGE

208V or 480V 3-Phase AC

AMPS

<100 amps

CHARGING LOADS

50-350 kW

VEHICLE CHARGE TIME

60-80 miles in 20 minutes

SOURCES: ADVANCED ENERGY AND EPA

Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous — even deadly — when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.

- Use a spotter and deploy flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, call 911 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Sept. 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week, but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, follow the above safety tips.

Home Charging Options for Electric Vehicles

Before purchasing your own electric vehicle (EV), be sure you consider the multiple options for charging your vehicle at home. 4 Rivers Electric is a great resource to learn about EVs and how the vehicle charging will affect your energy usage. EVs have three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.

LEVEL ONE is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take longer to charge your EV.

LEVEL TWO is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, which is used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet

must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see Level Two charging stations at shopping malls, office buildings and multi-family community spaces.

DC FAST CHARGE stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV at 80% in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout Kansas.

If you are charging an EV at home, please contact 4 Rivers Electric at 620-364-2116. EV charging creates additional energy demand. The time of day that you charge your EV can have an impact on the grid and monthly energy costs. By letting us know about your EV charging levels, we can help ensure your home is prepared for the additional energy consumption.