

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2019



MAILING ADDRESS

2211 Elk River Road
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SERVICE CENTER

2211 Elk River Road
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



ph 970-879-1160
tf 888-873-9832
fax 970-879-7270
web www.yvea.com



CRAIG SERVICE CENTER

3715 East US Highway 40
Craig, CO 81626



ph 970-879-1160
tf 888-873-9832
fax 970-879-7270



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Yampa Valley Electric

Association is a cooperative that provides value to its consumer-members by delivering safe and reliable electric service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

The Why of YVEA

Part 1: Understanding your monthly bill

BY STEVE JOHNSON GENERAL MANAGER



STEVE JOHNSON

As consumer-members of Yampa Valley Electric Association, it is important to understand various aspects of the power cooperative that serves you. This is the first in a series of articles on YVEA helping to create an understanding of not only how we do things, but also an understanding of why we have to do things to continue to operate effectively.

Understanding Your Monthly Bill

Every member of YVEA utilizes electricity to varying degrees based on your family's needs. We all have the opportunity to make choices on how we utilize our electric services and consume electricity. Our job at YVEA, is to ensure that everyone is receiving safe and reliable electricity and in turn members pay their fair share of the system electricity costs, from energy consumption to system access costs, which is the infrastructure that brings you the electricity.

There are two components that make up your electricity bill, the Energy Charge (Electric) and the System Access Cost. Consumers are charged monthly for the electricity that is consumed. This is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), which is measured by your electric meter and is known as your energy consumption charge. YVEA calculates this cost by multiplying the kWh used by the current price of electricity.

The second component of your monthly bill is the System Access Cost. This is the expense or costs associated with making your electric service available for you to utilize. These are things like the power lines that bring electricity to your home and the transformer, metering equipment or additional equipment required to make your service usable. A total of these two costs is the sum of your monthly electric bill.

Stay tuned for part 2 of this series as we continue to discuss the "Whys" of YVEA.

Improving Quality of Service: Rate Adjustment Notice

With our aging infrastructure and increased exposure and vulnerability to outage events, it is time to invest more time and money into improving our system. Because of this needed increase in system improvements, it is necessary for a rate adjustment to the Small General Service class of our membership.

An adjustment of 1 cent per kilowatt-hour (kWh), and a \$2 /month increase to the system access cost will be implemented and members will see the increase

on their March 2019 billing statement.

This rate adjustment is to the Small General Service class only and is focused on increased system reliability projects serving our consumer-members within this rate class. This also focuses on the alignment of rate equality of all rate classes, so that all rate classes are paying their fair share.

We will continue to evaluate our costs of service and will be completing another study in 2019 ensuring that we are doing our best to remain safe, reliable and affordable.



YVEA Provides Parkinsons Fundraiser Electric Bicycle

Yampa Valley Electric Association is proud to help provide an e-bike (electric bicycle) for the Winter 2019 Ski for Parkinson's fundraiser January 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Haymaker Ski Touring Center in Steamboat Springs. The e-bike is one of the prizes for which people can purchase tickets.

Hundreds of skiers and winter enthusiasts are expected to turn out for the winter fundraiser. Those interested in participating can purchase a ski & lunch for \$75/person; ski or lunch only is \$50/person. Admission includes all-day (cross country ski, skate ski or snowshoe) trail pass, Nordic cross-country ski lesson, a discounted rate for Nordic ski or snowshoe rental equipment, buffet lunch, music and more. Tickets for the prizes can be purchased as follows: \$10 for 1 ticket, \$25 for 3, \$50 for 6, \$75 for 10, or \$100 for 15 tickets.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the Yampa Valley Parkinson's Support Network's activities and education efforts. Those efforts include keeping people with Parkinson's connected, active and educated. Daily classes provide aquatics, boxing, balance and strength, hiking, Nordic skiing, yoga and more.

Parkinson's is a neurological disease that affects 1 million Americans, 17,000 of which live in Colorado. In July 2012 a group of Steamboat Springs residents gathered to share their experience with Parkinson's. From that meeting the Yampa Valley Parkinson Support Network was formed.

To learn more about the fundraiser and YVPSN, visit engage.parkinsonrockies.org.



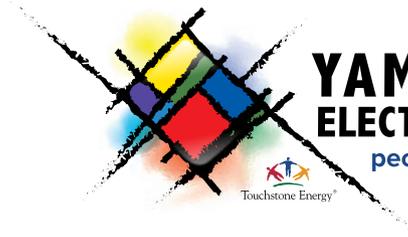
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Share The Warmth For The Holidays

In December, Yampa Valley Electric Association, YVEA employees and the board of directors started a campaign to give back to our members and our communities.

Employees contributed money for members struggling to pay their electric bills. The funds were distributed to the Community Budget Center in Craig, LOVE, Inc. in Craig, and Lift up of Routt County.

Employees also asked members to join them in a food drive December 10-17 to be distributed between all of YVEA's territory food banks.

This was a successful campaign with YVEA employees and board contributing \$4,400. The food donations filled two YVEA truck beds and will help all those in need.



▲ Portion of the food donated by YVEA members, employees, and the board of directors.

YVEA crews work on an LED light install on Yampa Street.



A Friendly Safety Reminder

With winter conditions it becomes more important than ever to be aware of road hazards. Please move over for emergency vehicles and YVEA crews.

If you see police firefighters, YVEA crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible. Together, we can keep our crews safe.

When Winter Winds Howl, Power Lines Can Gallop

Severe weather with strong winds can cause damage to trees, buildings and electrical equipment. Power lines can sway in high winds but add freezing rain or icy conditions and the result can be galloping power lines.

Galloping is the bouncing or bucking movement of overhead lines and can cause several problems, such as temporary power interruptions, equipment damage, the collapse of power poles and downed lines.

Galloping lines often result from ice buildup on one side of the power line due to strong winds. The buildup of ice creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the line, causing bouncing wires, or galloping power lines.

There isn't much YVEA crews can do until the wind dies down. That's why many power lines have objects like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These help reduce galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

- If you see galloping power lines:
- Keep your distance – ice can break off or power lines break loose.
- Contact Yampa Valley Electric Association to make us aware of the potential damage as soon as possible.

If you see a downed line:

- Stay far away and warn others to stay away too.
- Remember, a downed line can remain energized even if it is not sparking or arcing.

- Always report the location of a downed power line and damaged electrical equipment.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries and toiletries.



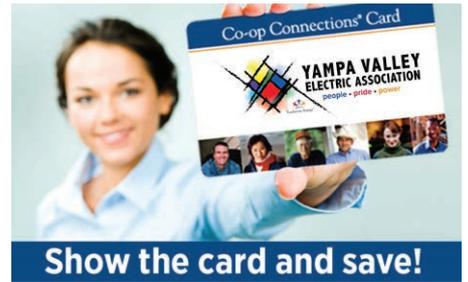
BEWARE
GALLOPING LINES

The December edition of *Colorado Country Life* omitted a photo credit for Janean Barva of Barva Photography for some of the photos taken of the Halloween Strolls.

Cen\$ible Energy Rebate Program Open To Yampa Valley Electric Association Members for 2019

The fourth year of the popular and beneficial Cen\$ible Energy rebate program, available for Yampa Valley Electric Association residential and small-business members, opened January 1, 2019, to help electricity consumers save on usage and costs through practical steps and sensible energy efficiency measures.

YVEA consumer-members can submit receipts for energy saving measures such as four types of Energy Star appliances, LED bulbs, programmable thermostats or energy audits. A rebate will be offered for hard-wired, electrician-installed heat tape timers. Full program information is available at www.CensibleEnergy.org.



Coming Soon: Cooperative Connections Program Cards

YVEA is proud to announce that in the spring of 2019 it will roll out the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Co-op Connections Program to members.

The free program will provide you with a simple card you can present to participating businesses to help you save money and live healthier, while also promoting local and national business discounts, and other discounts on prescriptions, dental, vision and other medical services, hotels, car rentals, cash back shopping, event tickets and more. Local businesses will have the opportunity to join the program for free and have their businesses and discounts promoted, while members will be able to achieve significant savings year-round.

January Work Projects

Pole inspectors are done for 2018, but they will return in July 2019. GPS crews are also done in the area until spring 2019. Contract line crews are in Hayden and RCR 15 south of Phippsburg. If you have any questions, please call Larry Ball at 970-879-1160.

Bill Payment by Credit Card Limited to \$5,000

Due to the increased financial impact of credit card fees, beginning with the January billing period, Yampa Valley Electric Association will limit payment by credit card to a maximum of \$5,000. Payments over that amount will need to be paid by check, bank draft, wire transfer or other payment options approved by YVEA.

YVEA Employees, Ginny Latham, Jeri Ballard, and John Cromer were the judges for the 2018 Tour of Lights in Craig.

