

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

JUNE 2022



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facebook.com/HighlineElectric

**Our mission** is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.

**SUMMER HOURS:**  
**HEA's Sterling and Holyoke**  
**offices will be open**  
**Monday–Thursday**  
**7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

## NEW WAYS TO USE ELECTRICITY

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power, coupled with decreasing costs, are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that the use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction cooktop, both are significantly more efficient than a gas appliance. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy. Gas cooktops are only 32% efficient. Resistance heating cooktops are 75% efficient. Electric induction stoves, which cook food without a flame, reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove.

More tools and equipment with small, gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer than in the past and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products, including drills, saws, sanders and other tools. In addition to standard offerings, companies offer a wider array of specialty tools that plug in, such as power inverters, air inflaters and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League, notes “A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited: electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles.”

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

“There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes — even airplanes and boats,” Dennis says. “With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market.”

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emission lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance; often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter, so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can, which is something that isn't possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increased renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact. Quite a hat trick: improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment.



**IT'S TIME TO TAKE  
A TEST DRIVE**

**AMERICA'S ONLY  
PLUG-IN HYBRID  
MINIVAN**

**CHRYSLER PACIFICA**

**Available for the month of June!**

Please call 970-854-2236 or email [info@hea.coop](mailto:info@hea.coop) to reserve your 30 minute EV Experience test drive.

For our members near the Sterling and Ovid offices, we will schedule a date in the area once interest is expressed.

The Chrysler Pacifica is located at our Holyoke office. Reservations are suggested, but walk-ins are welcome!

*\* Must be 21 years or older to drive and have a driver's license and insurance.*

**SCHEDULE YOUR TEST  
DRIVE TODAY!**



**Do we have your  
most up-to-date  
contact information?**

Did you switch cellphone providers and had to get a new phone number or decided to disconnect your landline? Maybe your mail isn't delivered to your house anymore and you have to pick it up at the post office. Whatever it may be, make sure we have your most up-to-date phone numbers, mailing addresses and anything else that can help us contact you if we need to.



**LOCAL COLOR RUN SUPPORTS  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO**

BY BRITTANY WILLISON TRI-STATE GENERATION & TRANSMISSION

**CO-OP STRIDES TO SUPPORT  
COLORADO RESIDENT**

For Jeff Sittner, community is everything. It's been that way since the day he was born into the close-knit town of Ovid, where he's chosen to spend most of his life. Home to roughly 200 people, Ovid sits just minutes from the Colorado-Nebraska border and is the type of place where there are no strangers. When Jeff was born with several heart defects the entire community stepped in to support his family as they navigated trips to and from Children's Hospital Colorado in Denver. Now more than three decades later, the support hasn't wavered.

When Jeff was born, there were no signs of heart issues. It wasn't until weeks later that he started to turn blue and was rushed to the hospital. "They didn't have the technology then that they do now," Jeff explained, "Now they would know about the heart defect before a child is born."

At six weeks old, he underwent his first of many heart surgeries. Five years later, doctors performed the most serious surgery yet, telling Jeff's parents he had a 30% chance of making it off the operating table. He was at the hospital for three months.

Over the years, Jeff has undergone more than a dozen heart surgeries to reform his heart and restructure his arteries. He's overcome more health battles in 37 years than most experience in a lifetime, yet his outlook is one of gratefulness and a desire to give back.

**PAYING IT FORWARD:  
THE OVID DAYS COLOR RUN**

After spending months of his life at Children's Hospital Colorado, Jeff has nothing but positive things to say. While some may dread returning to a place where multiple hardships ensued, he loves the doctors and nurses who treated him during his visits.

"The atmosphere is different; they really know how to connect with their patients," Jeff said. "I still see the same surgeon who operated on me as a child; no one knows me better."

It was for this reason that the Sittner family felt the need to give back. They all had been positively impacted by the hospital's care and wanted to return the favor. They were sitting around chatting one day, as they often do, when they had the idea to start a Color Run. The Sittners quickly started planning their first-ever fundraiser and, between requesting road closures with the local police department and gathering



**Congratulations to the following  
employees who observe an  
employment anniversary in June:**

Rance Ferguson	29
Joni Kinney	10
Alex Astley	8
Elliot Jones	1



donations, to securing t-shirt orders and volunteers, no need was left unmet.

“The community embraced it really well,” Jeff said. “They’ve let us do whatever we need to do. Local organizations volunteer; the store donates water; we close off the highway for runners. Someone even drives around on a four-wheeler to bring the participants water.”

The Ovid Days Color Run takes place every July in what the town knows as “The Section” and is a 5K run or walk. Along the way, volunteers douse participants from head-to-toe in different-colored powder. After the race, participants and volunteers enjoy homemade breakfast burritos with ingredients donated from the local grocery store and prepared by the Sittner family. As the day goes on, residents and visitors enjoy live music, food trucks, a softball tournament and waterslides as a part of the town’s annual Ovid Days.



▲ Jeff and his brother, Luke, enjoy time outside the hospital. Getting fresh air with family is sometimes the best medicine.

At the end of it all, Jeff and his wife, Anne, hand deliver a check to Children’s in Denver. Since the event began in 2015, they’ve donated \$27,000 to The Heart Institute at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

In addition to coordinating the race, Jeff donates his time and testimony to the hospital. He visits children with heart conditions like his own and shares his experience. “It’s nice to reassure their parents that their child, while they’ll go through struggles, can live a full life,” Jeff shared. “I’ve had parents tell me that they thought their child’s life was over, but seeing me gave them hope.”

Looking at Jeff, you would never know what he’s been through. Although he still has frequent visits to the hospital, he’s been able to live a normal life. He grew up playing baseball, went to college and is now married with two children of his own. He loves to socialize and help around the community. He volunteers on the school, town and cemetery boards, drives the school bus, substitute teaches and coaches the high school baseball team.

**HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION STEPS INTO TO LEND A HELPING HAND**

Everyone in Ovid knows Jeff’s health story, including the many Highline Electric Association employees who live in the community. It’s no surprise they’ve been involved in The Ovid Days Color Run since the very beginning. “Highline has always helped out a lot,” Jeff said. “There are many Highline employees in Ovid who sign up to run or walk; they always donate their time and resources.”

Jessie Heath works in member services for Highline and participates in the walk/run every year. “I love the very start of it. It’s fun to see all the participants together. People of all ages — the runners, walkers, people with kids in wagons and strollers — it’s just a great feeling,” she said. Jessie said it’s always easy to recruit Highline employees to take part in the event. “It’s an event that brings our community together to support a great cause for a family we all know and love.”

The admiration goes both ways. Jeff knows he likely wouldn’t get the same support in a big city. In his own words, there’s nowhere else he’d rather be.

It’s Jeff’s story and so many others that inspire Tri-State Generation and Transmission to volunteer each year in February for the Alice Cares for Kids Radiothon, which is celebrating over 20 Years of Miracles made possible by our generous community. Consider donating to Children’s Hospital Colorado to give hope to past, present and future patients like Jeff Sittner.

**Participate in this year’s Ovid Days Color Run.**

**JULY 9**

**OVID PARK**

**For more information and to register, visit**

**<https://fb.me/e/1vsw5JHx3>**

**or call or text 970-580-5448.**

**HEA WALK/BIKE TO WORK DAY TO BENEFIT ALS ASSOCIATION**



Concern for community is a cooperative principle Highline Electric Association puts into action. On June 22, HEA will host a walk/bike to work day for its employees. For each employee that participates, HEA will donate \$50 to the ALS Association – Rocky Mountain Chapter.

We encourage our communities and fellow businesses to do the same. Live too far from work to walk or bike? Pick a safe location 1-2 miles from your work and walk or bike the rest of the way. Choose an organization important to you, donate and make a difference in your community.

# LOGAN COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY

There is no greater gift for a child than the gift of learning from their own books. That's why Highline Electric Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is proud to partner with the Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick counties to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Logan County and to our youngest co-op members. Through matching funds from Basin Electric Cooperative and CoBank, Highline was able to secure \$3,000 to assist with start-up costs of the program. This amount is an estimation based on the number of children projected to enroll.

The Imagination Library, a book-gifting program administered by the Dollywood Foundation, mails one book each month to children from birth to age 5 at no cost to the families who register.

We at Highline Electric Association believe every child should have the opportunity to succeed and can think of no better start than ensuring the children in our communities grow up in homes filled with books that inspire a passion for reading and lifelong learning.

Parents can register online at [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com) or contact Beth or Lisa at 308-882-4754 for a registration form.

Logan County is the third county in Highline's plan to help communities throughout its territory start Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



▲ Dennis Herman, Highline Electric Association general manager (center) presents a \$3,000 check to Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick counties' staff and board members for the launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Logan County. From left: Aileen Miranda, ECCLPS program assistant; Chris Archuleta; Donna Brady-Lawler; Vicki Folkerts; Yvonne Draxler; Georgia Sanders; Kyah Buchholz; Michelle Sharp, ECCLPS executive director; Stacy Zink, program coordinator; Stephanie Mari-Edwards, early childhood coach; and Jenn Sims, outreach coordinator. (Photo credit: Callie Jones/Sterling Journal-Advocate)

## HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BYLAW AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

### Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws read: Notice of Member's Meetings

Section 3. Public notice of the time and place of holding each annual meeting and also of all general or special meetings of the members shall be published at least once, not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for said meeting, in a newspaper printed in the county where the principal office of the Cooperative is located, as specified in the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws, and if there be no such newspaper, then in a newspaper printed in an adjoining county, and by delivering personally to each member or depositing in a post office not less than **seven (7) nor more than fourteen (14) ten (10)** days prior to said meeting, a copy of said notice, addressed to each member, signed by the President or Secretary, or having the name of the President or Secretary printed thereon stating the time, and in case of special meetings, the objects, of said meeting, and no business shall be transacted

at any special meeting except such as shall be mentioned in said notice. If, however, any members shall fail to furnish the Secretary with his correct post office address he shall not be entitled to such separate notice. The printed notice and the mailed notice need not be identical in form or content. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members, shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting. Whenever any notice is required to be given by the provisions of any statute, or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws of the Cooperative, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to said notice, whether before, at or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to such notice.

**OFFICES CLOSED FOR  
Fourth of July**

