

VVEC LINE LIFE

FEBRUARY 2026 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM



ADOPT-A-SCHOOL & RURAL FIRE GRANTS

Grant applications are being accepted until MARCH 20TH, 2026 AT 4:00 PM.

For over twenty years, Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative has invited school and rural fire departments to apply for grants to aid in offsetting the costs of needed equipment, supplies and gear.

School representatives and fire department personnel may apply to receive funds from these grants and explain how the funds will be used. Once all applications have been reviewed, program personnel will decide how many requests the program can grant.

Applications and additional information may be found by visiting the Community Programs page on our website at www.vvec.com.



Additional information may be found by scanning the QR codes, going on our website at www.vvec.com or by contacting Misti Frazier at 918-371-2584 / mfrazier@vvec.com.



ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

VVEC encourages the safe, efficient use of electricity and actively supports community initiatives that benefit our members and the public.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

- First, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
- Then, call the co-op at 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, leave your information; every message will be answered.
- Download the SmartHub app at www.smarthubapp.com to report outages from your smartphone.

WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage;
November through April billing

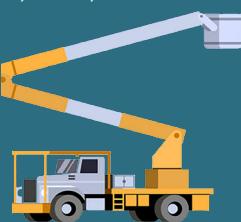
Customer Charge	\$40.00
Energy Charge	\$.08279/kwh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 62.088 mills per kwh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes, if applicable.

Tree crews are working to clear right-of-way on the Elm Creek, Vera, and Ramona substations.

Brush Coordinator:
Chub Brewer
918-586-6208



Winter can bring a variety of weather patterns ranging from mild snows to severe blizzards.

To prepare yourself for winter storms, make sure to pay attention to weather forecasts and understand the difference between the warnings provided by the National Weather Service:

Winter Storm Warning – issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet is coming or occurring. The warnings are issued 12 to 24 hours prior to the storm.

Winter Storm Watch – alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet. Watches are issued 12 to 48 hours before the storm.

Winter Storm Outlook – this is given when winter storm conditions are possible and are issued three to five days in advance of a winter storm.

Blizzard Warning – issued for gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow that creates visibilities of a fourth of a mile or less. These conditions usually last at least three hours.

For more information, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

STORMS CAN CAUSE ICE ON POWER LINES

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch, resulting in a power outage.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



KIM FORD



After more than two decades of dedicated service, Kim Ford will retire in February 2026, leaving behind a legacy that reaches far beyond job titles and years of service.

Kim began her career with the cooperative in 2003, working her way through several important roles including Data Entry, Billing Supervisor, and Office Services Representative. While her responsibilities evolved over the years, one thing remained constant: her commitment to doing the job well and doing it with care.

If you ask Kim what she enjoyed most about her time here, she'll tell you it was the people. Whether working behind the scenes in data entry or interacting directly with members, Kim valued the relationships she built along the way. She's often said that being in a role where she could talk with members, develop relationships, and have meaningful conversations was one of the most rewarding parts of her career.

True to her nature, Kim doesn't like to talk about herself much. Instead, she prefers to talk about the people she worked alongside - the members and employees who made coming to work meaningful each

day. That humility and people-first mindset is something her coworkers know well and deeply appreciate - along with her incredible humor!

Outside of work, Kim is a proud mom to her son, Blake, and she's looking forward to a well-earned retirement filled with things she loves. Her plans include taking it easy, traveling (with a special trip to Japan to visit family in the service high on the list), sewing and quilting, bike riding, and spending quality time with family and friends.

As Kim prepares for this next chapter, we celebrate not only her years of service, but the kindness, dedication, and quiet impact she's had on so many. Kim, thank you for everything you've given to this cooperative and to the people who make it what it is. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you nothing but joy in retirement.

Congratulations on a job very well done!



SMART TIPS FOR USING SPACE HEATERS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS

When cold weather sets in, covert battles over thermostat settings take place at many homes and businesses. Some people just can't seem to get warm, while others feel that they're suffocating from the heat. Not everyone experiences the same level of comfort at the same temperature. As a result, many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth.

Safe Electricity reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to keep safety considerations in mind and use these devices with caution. While space heaters and electric blankets can provide needed warmth and comfort, they can also be deadly if they are not used with care.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify that the product has been tested for safety. Look for space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

To help you and your family stay safe, also be sure to check smoke detectors every month, and replace batteries twice a year.

KEEP SAFE AND WARM THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity offers these tips to prevent a fire in your home:**

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.



Have your furnace inspected annually.



Inspect electric blankets for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.

For more **tips on fire prevention**, visit  SafeElectricity.org

Also, develop and practice an escape plan. A good plan is known by all household members and includes an outside meeting location away from danger of the fire.

When it comes time to get rid of an old or damaged space heater or electric blanket, do not dispose of your electrical appliances with your general waste. Check with your local recycling facility to see if they accept space heaters and electric blankets.

Stay Safe on Winter Roads

Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, creating hazards for drivers. It is important to be prepared in case there is an accident.



Safe Electricity.org®

Before a winter storm

Perform seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- Batteries are charged.
- Tires have sufficient tread.
- Spare tire is inflated.
- Jumper cables are in good condition.
- A winterized car emergency kit.
- Windshield wipers work.
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- At least a half-full tank of gas.

Prevent frostbite and hypothermia

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, observe the following precautions:

- Do not stay in one position for too long.
- Stay awake.
- Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

Winter storms and power lines

Always treat sagging and downed power lines as energized and dangerous. Keep at least 50 feet away from the area.

- If your vehicle hits a power pole, stay inside.
- Contact 9-1-1 and wait for the power to be shut off by utility workers.
- If your vehicle is on fire, jump clear with feet together, avoiding contact with both the vehicle and ground simultaneously.
- Shuffle or "bunny hop" away from the vehicle, keeping feet together to prevent different electric currents through your body.
- Never drive over a downed power line, which can cause additional hazards.





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LOOK!
A NEW WAY
TO PAY!

MEMBERS CAN NOW CALL:

(855) 941-3586

- TO MAKE A PAYMENT, WITHOUT FEES.
NO MORE THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS!
- TO CHECK YOUR BALANCE
- TO SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY
...AND SO MUCH MORE!



WAYS TO PAY

IN OFFICE | BY MAIL | AT KIOSK
AUTO-PAY | SMARTHUB
BY CALLING 855-941-3586
ONLINE AT WWW.VVEC.COM



Scan the QR code to the left
on a mobile device to
download the SmartHub App.



AGENCIES PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITY BILLS

There are a number of government agencies and charitable and religious organizations that offer assistance with utility bills; some of them are listed here.

If you realize you may have difficulty paying your electric bill, please contact our consumer service representatives as soon as possible. We will make every effort to work with you to make payment arrangements and hopefully avoid interruption to your electric service.

ORGANIZATION	SERVES	PHONE NUMBER
SEAC	Avant, Sperry, Skiatook	396-1137
Community Action	Nowata County	273-2868
DHS	Nowata County	273-2327
DHS	Osage County	287-5800
DHS	Rogers County	283-8300
Community Action	Rogers County	341-5000
DHS	Tulsa County	581-2689, 581-2401
Helping Hand	Tulsa County	584-6923
Salvation Army	Tulsa County	582-7201
Owasso Comm. Res.	Tulsa/Rogers Counties	272-4969
Community Action	Washington County	333-8115
Concern	Washington County	336-4693
DHS	Washington County	338-5700

SUMMER CAMP FOR 2025-2026 7TH GRADERS!

MAY 26-28, 2026



SPONSORED BY:



OKLAHOMA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES



Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.[®]



A fun and interactive leadership camp where students build lasting friendships while diving into the core values and operations of electric cooperatives. Campers will grow their confidence and communication skills while discovering the power of working together.

Eighth-grade students can take their first step toward this experience by entering the Electric Cooperative Essay Contest, where selected winners earn the opportunity to attend camp and begin their leadership journey.



Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.[®]

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

QUESTIONS?
Contact Misti at 918-371-2584,
mfrazier@vvec.com or scan the QR
code to learn more!

SCAN ME



SPONSORED BY OKLAHOMA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Line Life is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties.

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FEBRUARY 2026
VOLUME 85 | NUMBER 2

CLASSIFIEDS

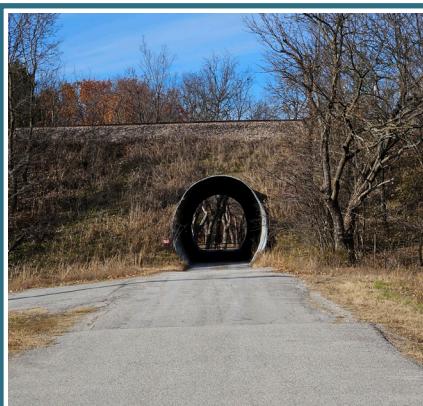
SUBMIT ADS to classified@vvec.com or send to ATTN: Classified, P.O. Box 219 Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads. The deadline for all ads is the 1st of the month. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter. *Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.*

• Professional, personalized dog grooming at your home. Small dogs only. Most dogs only \$40.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170

• Handyman service to repair and remodel; affordable plumbing and electric. Call or text for free estimate; references available. 918-231-6385

• Cemetery spaces adjoining #5 and #8, Block 2 Lot 18, NE Corner of Ridgelawn Cemetery in Collinsville. Requires payment of a transfer fee to the City of Collinsville. \$500 for both. 918-852-1455

• 1 industrial sewing machine w/table; 1 industrial serger w/table; 1 XL twin hospital bed. Text for pictures. 918-344-2151



FEBRUARY MYSTERY PICTURE

Think you recognize the location? Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 **starting FEB. 1** to submit your guess. The first correct answer wins a \$50 bill credit!

Contest runs through the end of February.

Jan. Mystery Location:
The Elk statue on Road 406 in Oologah