

[Learn about Adopt-A-School and Rural Fire Department Grants p. 3](#)

Orange Means Go!

Completing the Orange Card Left on Your Door Gives Us Permission to Trim Your Trees

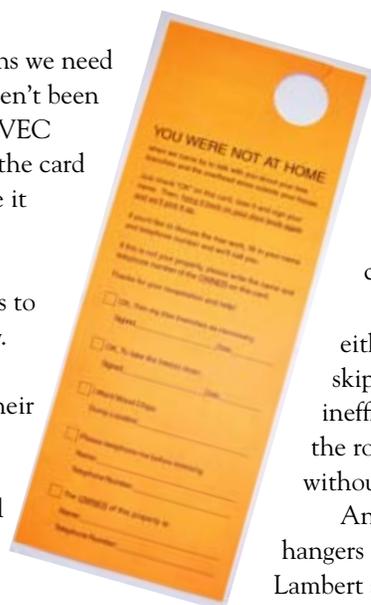
“An orange card hanging on your front door means we need your permission to remove brush in your area, but haven’t been able to make contact with you,” says Lon Lambert, VVEC right-of-way coordinator. “We ask that members read the card and complete the information on the back, then leave it hanging on their front door so we can pick it up.”

Lambert says a representative of the right-of-way contractor usually goes into an area ahead of the crews to get permission from members to clear the right-of-way.

“But sometimes it’s difficult to catch members at home,” he says. “So we leave the orange hangers on their door.

“The front of the card gives a description of what we would like to do. The back is for the member to fill out, giving us permission or contact information if they need more information or want to meet us,” he says.

Lambert says clearing right-of-way goes on throughout the year, but the nicer weather and longer days of spring and summer



allow the crews to clear more miles of line.

“So we are gearing up in March to begin our busy season,” he says.

Lambert encourages members to complete the information on the back of the card and return it to their front doors.

“If we don’t get permission, we have to either take more time to make the contacts or skip the area and come back later making it very inefficient, and could cause power problems down the road,” he explains. “We don’t trim anything without the member’s permission.”

Anyone with questions about the orange hangers or right-of-way clearing is encouraged to call Lambert at 371-2584, ext. 6208, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Look Up!

When planting trees, think about where branches and limbs will be as they grow

Spring arrives in March and most of us are ready to get out in the yard and start making improvements, such as planting trees.

Trees can help with your home’s energy efficiency. They can keep your home cool

by blocking the sun beating down on your home in the summer, and then let the sun shine through in the winter to help heat your home.

But they can also be a problem in the winter when ice and snow arrive, and in the spring when Oklahoma winds blow full-force across the state.

So, paying attention to where you are planting those young trees now can keep you from having problems as they grow

and branch out.

VVEC Right-of-Way Coordinator Lon Lambert says to ‘look up’ when planting trees.

He says to never plant trees near existing power lines, and to remember to allow room for growth when deciding where to plant them.

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Monday through Friday

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Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$20.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0731/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0671/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

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

2010's First Storm Hits State Hard

VVEC Crews Help Co-ops in Southwestern Oklahoma

"We feel like we dodged a bullet," says VVEC Director of Operations Services, Engineering and Purchasing Mike Hall when talking about the storm that hit Oklahoma January 27.

Parts of the co-op's service territory received as much as seven inches of snow on top of a layer of sleet. But outages were minimal, especially compared to those experienced by co-ops in the southwestern and south-central parts of state.

Hall says VVEC's first outage occurred about 5 a.m. Friday, January 29, when a feeder out of the Owasso substation went down, leaving about 750 members without electric service. Co-op crews had power restored by mid-morning.

About 10:45 that night AEP lost a transmission line which caused an outage in our Rice Creek sub on Bartlesville's southside. Over 1,680 members were affected, and power was restored at 12:30 a.m. Saturday.

At about 11:30 p.m. Friday a feeder line in the Vera substation went down affecting over 560 members. VVEC crews restored power by 12:45 a.m. Saturday.

"Now it's our turn to help those co-ops who have been hit hardest by this storm," says Hall. "Personnel in our statewide office have been coordinating assistance efforts to repair the damage and restore power. Because we wanted to help, we sent three two-man bucket crews to Cotton Electric Co-op, which is headquartered in Walters."

According to information released by Sid Sperry, director of public relations, communications and research at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, Cotton Electric had 9,635 members without power when VVEC crews went to help. That is down from the 16,500 Cotton members who were without electric service at the height of the winter storm. 

Photo courtesy of Mark Daugherty/WFEC

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. 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.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. 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, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Lending a Helping Hand

Lending a hand is a part of being a good neighbor. That is why we created the Adopt-A-School and Rural Fire Department grant programs.

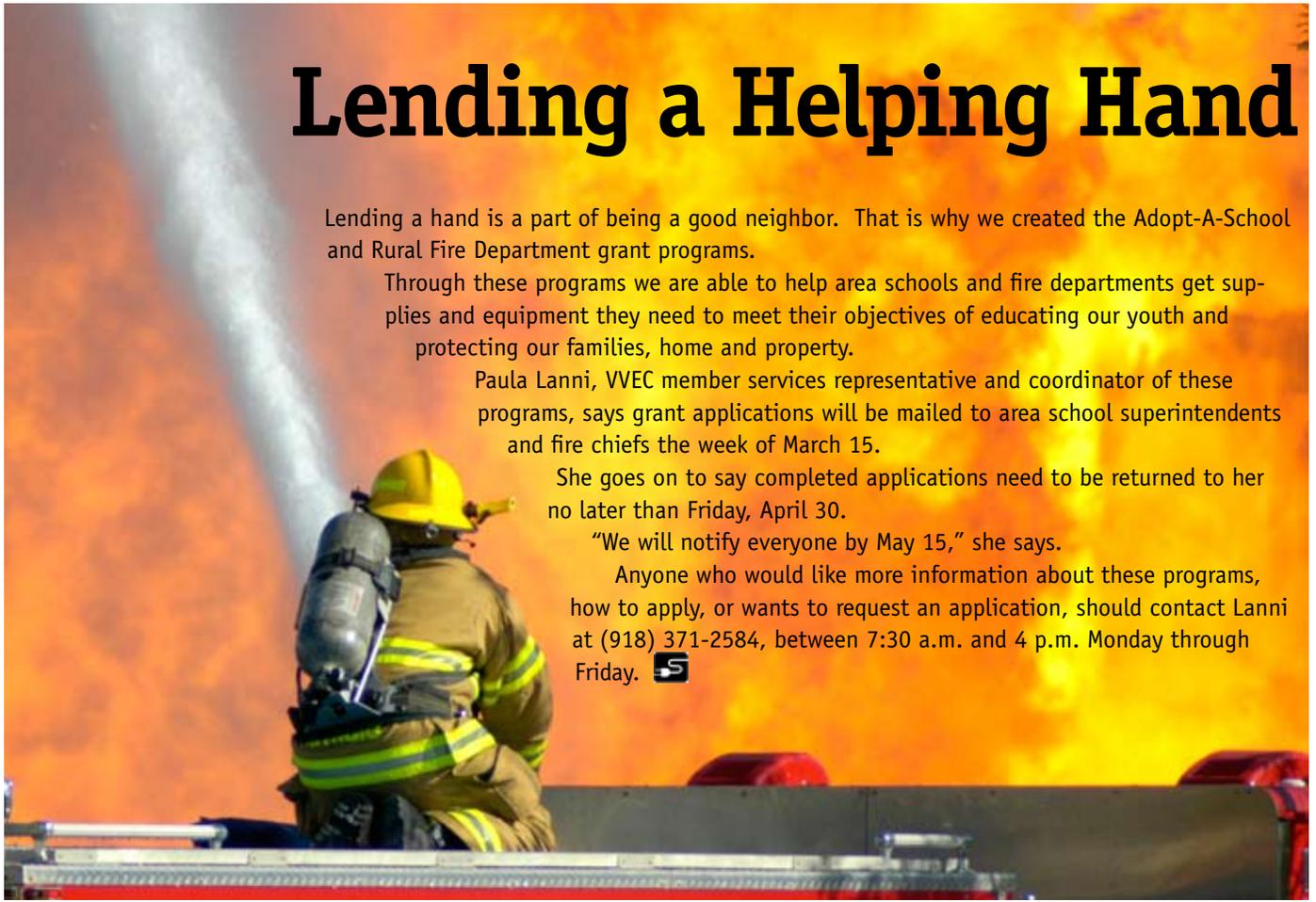
Through these programs we are able to help area schools and fire departments get supplies and equipment they need to meet their objectives of educating our youth and protecting our families, home and property.

Paula Lanni, VVEC member services representative and coordinator of these programs, says grant applications will be mailed to area school superintendents and fire chiefs the week of March 15.

She goes on to say completed applications need to be returned to her no later than Friday, April 30.

"We will notify everyone by May 15," she says.

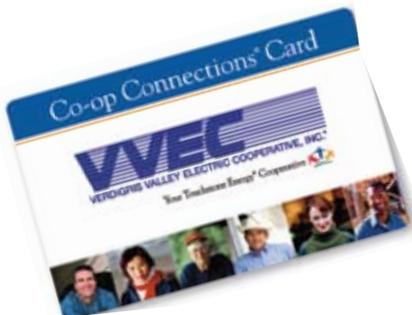
Anyone who would like more information about these programs, how to apply, or wants to request an application, should contact Lanni at (918) 371-2584, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. 



Businesses Join Co-op Connections® Card Program

Our Co-op Connections® Card program is picking up momentum with the addition of three new participating businesses.

VVEC members can now use their cards at:



ANZ Signs & Shirts - Collinsville
Superstar Trophies, T-Shirts & More - Dewey

Any Occasion Limousine Co. - Bartlesville

We will continue to list new participating businesses each month in Power

Circuit. But don't forget you can visit our Web site –

www.vvec.com – or **www.connections.coop** for a list of local and national businesses participating in the Co-op Connections® Card program.

And remember the Co-op Connections Card is a discount card for all types of businesses, not just for pharmacy discounts on prescriptions. 

Events to Remember

Youth Tour and Energy Camp essays are due no later than **4 p.m., Friday, March 12.**

Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 14.**

VVEC Good Friday office closing **Friday, April 2.**

Myth or Fact? Be Sure for Power Line Safety

If birds can touch electrical wires, are they safe for people, too? If you're not on a metal ladder, are you clear of danger from power line electrocution?

Know for sure before you take a chance with your life.

First the facts: Electricity is always looking for the shortest and easiest path to the ground – including people and objects that touch or come too close to power lines. Electricity is fast, and it can cause severe burns or death if it flows through the human body. Take power line safety seriously. Read on to find the facts on the following myths:

Myth: Wires must be safe to touch if birds can land on them. **Fact:** Birds don't represent a direct path to the ground,

giving electricity nowhere to go but back to the wire. It's easier for the current to simply stay in the wire. So touching a power line is not safe for humans.

Myth: Power lines are safe to touch because they're insulated. **Fact:** Most lines are insulated only to protect against slight tree contact, but not enough to prevent human injury. Don't touch them!

Myth: Non-metal ladders are safe to rest on a power line. **Fact:** Anything that can get wet can conduct electricity, and many non-metal ladders still contain metal parts. Keep your ladder away from power lines, no matter what it's made from.

Myth: Ladders are safe near power

lines as long as they don't touch. **Fact:** Electricity can "jump," especially when a good conductor like a metal ladder comes close. Keep a safe distance of at least 10 feet.

Myth: Trimming trees around power lines is safe if I don't use a ladder. **Fact:** Electricity doesn't need metal to conduct. The moisture in the tree is enough. If a tree comes into contact with the line while you're trimming, it has a direct path to the ground through the tree, your pruning tool and you. If you feel there are tree branches dangerously close to electric lines, please call us and let us work with our right-of-way contractors to safely trim the trees. 



RECIPE

Sweet Chicken Wings

- 5 lb. chicken wings
- 1 C. brown sugar
- 1/2 C. honey
- 1/4 C. Teriyaki sauce

Place wings in a 13x9-inch glass pan. Mix sugar, honey and Teriyaki sauce in a bowl. Pour over wings, coating well. Place in a preheated 350-degree oven. Bake for 90 minutes.

Turn Green in Just 24 Hours

St. Patrick's Day is the one day every year when everything from decorations to clothes to food seems to turn green.

This year, make March 17 the day you start making "greener" choices around your home to save energy, the environment and money.

A few quick-starters:

- Install a programmable thermostat that will moderate the heat and air conditioning when your family is sleeping or away for the day.

- Replace traditional light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use. TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use electricity.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot

water heater to 120 degrees.

- Take quick showers instead of baths.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline. 