

# Voice

The Caney Valley

www.caneyvalley.com • cve@caneyvalley.com • For emergency outages please call 1-800-310-8911

December 2008

## Power Cost Adjustment

The PCA for December is \$.01180/kWh. This calculates to an additional \$11.80 per 1,000 kWh used.

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) was implemented in 2002 to help cover only the increase in power costs charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric bills based on the factor for the month.

## From the Manager...

Many times it seems that there is no end to costs increasing for about everything we need. And over the past several years, costs seem to jump at a much higher rate, and more often, than they did 10, 20, 30, or 40 years ago.

Managing and coping with this trend is challenging for individuals and businesses. Maintaining a satisfactory financial status can be quite formidable.

Caney Valley ECA is constantly working at balancing what it has to charge for electricity

compared to what it takes to provide that service.

Keeping the electric rates as reasonable as possible while recognizing the circumstances and characteristics with which it has to operate is a primary concern. The Board of Trustees and staff take this responsibility seriously.

On behalf of the Board, staff of dedicated employees, and myself, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year 2009!

*Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager*

## Caney Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Allen Zadorozny - Manager

### Contact Us

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Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
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www.caneyvalley.com

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Board of Trustees

Dale Clubine, President  
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## Truck for Sale by Sealed Bid

Caney Valley Electric is taking bids on a 1998 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad, 5.2 L., V8, gas engine with electric doors and windows, 4-speed auto transmission, 178,928 miles.

Please submit bids at our office, or by mail to P.O. Box 308, Cedar Vale, KS 67024, by January 2, 2009.



Caney Valley is taking bids on this 1998 Dodge Ram 1500 until January 2, 2009.

If you would like to view the truck in person, the pickup is parked at our office at 401 Lawrence, Cedar Vale, KS.

## Safety Tips for the Winter Heating Season

"As sunlight hours dwindle and give way to chilly winter days, people are turning to auxiliary heat sources," said State of Kansas Climatologist Mary Knapp.

"Whether this heat source is an old-fashioned wood stove or a modern furnace, if it involves combustion, it brings the risk of carbon monoxide," said Knapp.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, toxic gas that results from the incomplete combination of oxygen and carbon during combustion. Some common sources are unvented gas or kerosene space heaters; leaking furnaces or fireplaces; back drafts from gas water heaters, stoves or generators; or exhaust from vehicle engines.

"Make certain that any heat source is properly maintained, operated, and ventilated," Knapp said. "Also, make certain that the chimney is clear and in good shape before lighting that first fire of the season. A bird's nest blocking the flue can result in more than just a headache."

## Outages for October

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. The following is a summary of the larger outages and their causes that occurred during October.

Date	Area	Consumers Affected	Duration	Cause
10/16	Peru area	125	1 hr 15 min	Line OCR out

## Decorate Safely For the Holidays

Colorful, twinkling lights; brightly lit plastic candy canes; and snowmen on the front lawn are all common sights this time of year.

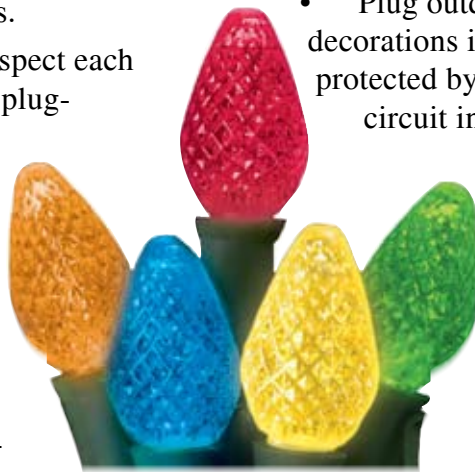
Such decorations help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the United States Fire Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations.

Here are some tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:

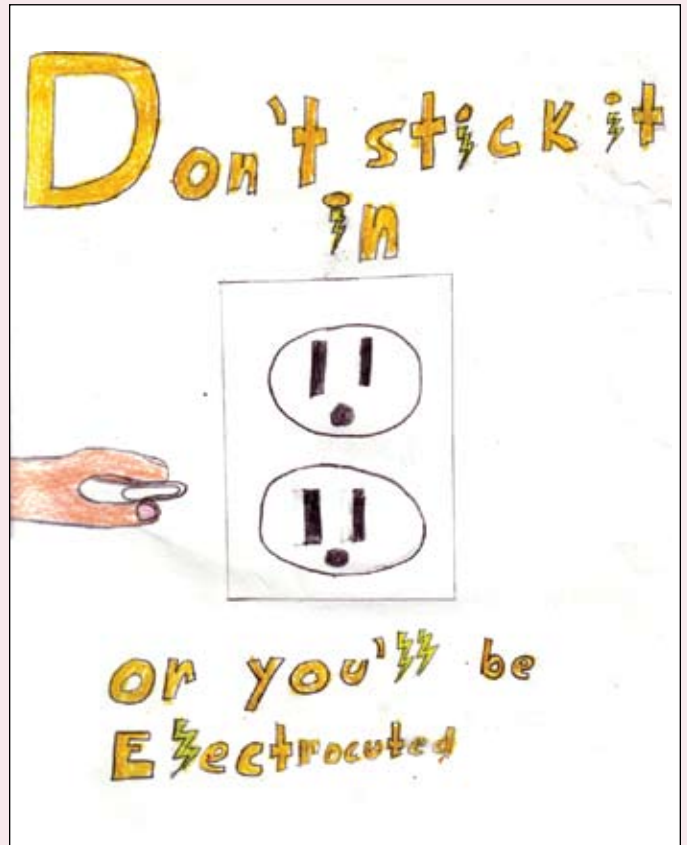
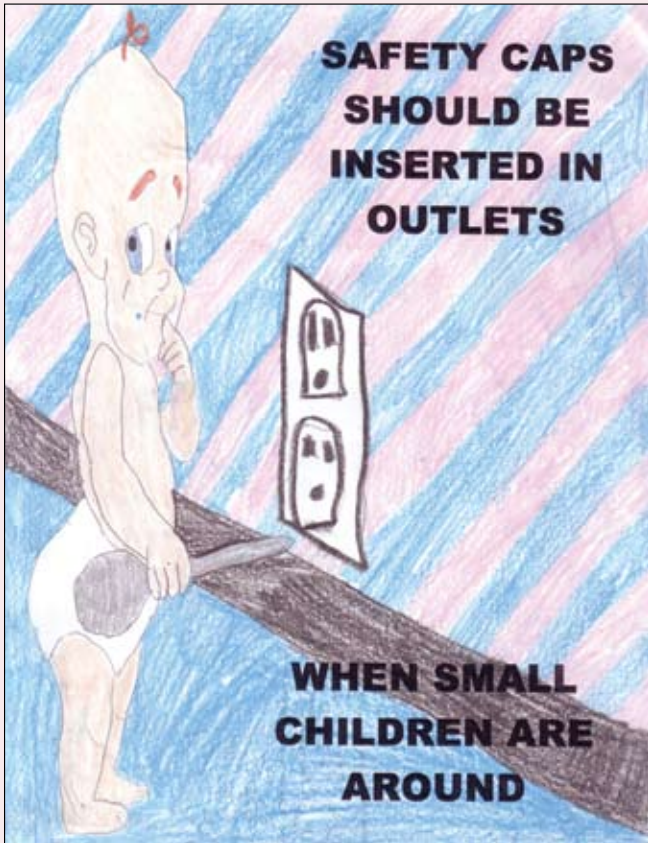
- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firms such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL).
- Use lights certified for outdoor use only for outdoor use. The same goes for indoor lights.
- Carefully inspect each light before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose, or bare wires may cause a seri-

ous electric shock or start a fire.

- Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Use caution when decorating near power lines.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- Always turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs for outdoor use can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.



# Caney Valley's Poster Contest Winners Announced



**Left:** Dakota Corle created one of the winning ads. Dakota is our \$25 prize winner from Elk Valley Elementary in Longton. Congratulations, Dakota! **Right:** This ad, yet another winner of our poster contest, was designed by Jeremy Monday from Sedan Elementary.

In recognition of National Cooperative Month each October, Caney Valley Electric holds a poster drawing contest for all area fifth graders.

Students were asked to submit an original drawing depicting any area of electrical safety. One winner was selected from each school that submitted posters, and each winner received a

\$25 prize to use as they wish.

We had a difficult time picking a winner from each school as several of the posters were very well done.

Caney Valley would like to thank all the students who participated in the contest. Please watch future issues for ads that other students submitted.

## Operating Statistics September 2008

For Month Ending	September 2007	September 2008
Customers Billed	5,407	5,459
Kilowatt Hours Sold	6,161,319	5,342,026
Total Revenue	\$ 801,603	\$ 752,913
Purchased Power	\$ 317,122	\$ 302,127
Operating Expenses	\$ 165,739	\$ 188,302
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 46,680	\$ 53,426
Interest Expenses	\$ 36,399	\$ 25,061
Other Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 50
Operating Margins	\$ 235,563	\$ 183,947
Non-operating Margins	\$ 23,148	\$ (331)
Total Margins	\$ 258,711	\$ 183,616
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ 136,442	\$ 107,331

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!  
Our offices will be  
closed on  
December 25 and  
January 1.**

# Saving Money? Think Again!

*A few things to keep in mind when selecting a space heater*

There appears to be no end in sight for high fuel prices that will continue to make heating our homes this winter a real challenge. At Caney Valley Electric, we are always looking out for you, our members.

Even though our job is to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, we only want to sell you the electricity you need. To do that, we have this constant drive to help you make the most efficient choices when using electric energy. Although we can't control gas prices, we can offer suggestions to help you stay warm this winter.

Even though the cost of electricity here in the Midwest is more reasonable than residents in other parts of our nation experience, we will continue to answer the question, "Why is my electric bill so high?" During the winter months, our answer to your question often starts with our own question, "How do you heat your home?"

In an effort to save on gas costs, many of us are more than willing to turn our thermostats down a little, wear an extra sweater, or use another blanket. But

Heat Setting (watts)	Cost per week	Cost per month
600	\$10.14	\$43.46
750	\$12.68	\$54.32
900	\$15.21	\$65.19
1000	\$16.90	\$72.43
1250	\$21.13	\$90.54
1350	\$22.82	\$97.78
1500	\$25.35	\$108.65

Electric Space Heater Consumption Chart								
Heat Setting (watts)	Daily Hours of Operation							
	Cost based on Caney Valleys rate of \$0.1006/kWh							
	The monthly Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) will add to these costs							
	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	24
600	\$0.060	\$0.121	\$0.241	\$0.362	\$0.483	\$0.604	\$0.724	\$1.449
750	\$0.075	\$0.151	\$0.302	\$0.453	\$0.604	\$0.755	\$0.905	\$1.811
900	\$0.091	\$0.181	\$0.362	\$0.543	\$0.724	\$0.905	\$1.086	\$2.173
1000	\$0.101	\$0.201	\$0.402	\$0.604	\$0.805	\$1.006	\$1.207	\$2.414
1250	\$0.126	\$0.252	\$0.503	\$0.755	\$1.006	\$1.258	\$1.509	\$3.018
1350	\$0.136	\$0.272	\$0.543	\$0.815	\$1.086	\$1.358	\$1.630	\$3.259
1500	\$0.151	\$0.302	\$0.604	\$0.905	\$1.207	\$1.509	\$1.811	\$3.622

Note: If the heater also has a fan, the actual cost may increase over the amounts shown.

there is also an urge to plug in an electric heater. Electric heaters are 100 percent efficient and can be a means of saving on your gas costs as long as you understand how to best use it and how it might affect your energy bill.

A space heater is a space heater, generally putting out 1,500 watts. An infrared heater is a space heater with a different design. Advertising will show differences in safety or construction quality, but two completely different 1,500 watt space heaters will cost the same to operate if used for the same periods of time.

Space heaters are designed for temporary use, not long-term. If your space heater runs 24/7 for an entire month, your gas bill may be somewhat lower. However, you should then expect your electric bill to raise, as much as \$108.

For example, at an electric rate of \$0.10 per kilowatt-hour, a 1,500 watt heater will cost \$0.15 to run for one continuous hour. If the heater runs for 24 hours it will add \$3.60 to your bill. If it runs for 24 hours for 30 days, it will add \$108! You can imagine how this will increase with each heater

that is running in lieu of a lower thermostat setting. Will you save the equivalent amount of money on your gas bill? Are you just as comfortable with one or two space heaters as you are with heating your whole house?

There are lots of space heaters on the market today. Some as low as \$50 and others as high as \$500. They are available locally as well as through unknown sources including the Internet or door-to-door sales. The buyer should always beware. Know what you are buying, know from whom you are buying, how you are going to use it and what your payback will be.

Home improvements may be a better solution, spending \$50 on caulk may go further toward saving money than a new \$50 heater. Spending \$500 to replace two ancient windows or improve your attic insulation may have greater payback than a \$500 space heater with additional monthly costs.

We are here to help you utilize the benefits of being a member of a cooperative. Replace band-aid savings with long-term savings so you can be comfortable in every room of your home.