

**RADIANT
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Hi-LITES

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Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

All Gave Some... Some Gave All

As we pause to give thanks to our Veteran's on November 11, we honor one of our members, Alfred Beard.

Beard's military career has been documented by author Sharon Lambert. She, along with her husband, Kenneth, live near Beard in rural Fredonia. All are members of Radiant Electric.

While recuperating from a recent surgery, Beard would walk the several miles to the Lambert's home for exercise. Once there he would tell stories of his life, including his military duties during World War II. Though his stories of the war were sad, Beard always had a way of ending stories on a funny note.

"We began asking him to write down his stories in a notebook," Lambert said. "He had such a story to tell that should be shared with his family and friends."

Lambert assured him that she would edit the notebook and they would work on it together. They began in March 2008 and by August they had Beard's biography, *At Dawn*, in the publisher's hands and ready to be printed.

Beard and Lambert requested that the books be ready for the Annual Fredonia Homecoming held the first Saturday in October. Once delivered, the Wilson County Historical Society asked Beard and Lambert to



Sharon Lambert and Alfred Beard sign books during a book signing held by the Wilson County Historical Society.

sign books during homecoming festivities. Of the 340 books ordered, all but 10 were sold.

Beard's story tells of a carefree boy throwing rocks at copperhead snakes in Kansas and then at the age of 20 entering World War II as a combat infantryman. His story of survival at the "Battle of St. Lo", France, is particularly amazing. During that 48-hour battle, 320 of the 360 men fighting were killed or wounded.

"These stories lift us from the recounts of war," Lambert said. "It's the measure of a man. One who's put the past where it belongs and who looks to the future with courage."

Alfred Beard Facts

Battles and Campaigns

- ▶ Normandy (wounded)
- ▶ Rhineland Campaign
- ▶ Northern France Campaign
- ▶ Central Europe Campaign

Decorations & Citations

- ▶ EAME Theatre Ribbon
- ▶ Four Bronze Service Stars
- ▶ WWII Victory Ribbon
- ▶ American Theater Ribbon
- ▶ Purple Heart
- ▶ Good Conduct Medal



Veteran's Day Festivities

Radiant Electric Cooperative would like to thank all area veterans for your past service to our country.

We thank all of our members who have their spouse, sons, daughters, brothers or sisters serving our county in all areas for the world.

Below is a list of our area events and parades honoring our veterans.

Parades

- ▶ **Chanute**—Veteran's Parade 11 a.m. in downtown Chanute.
- ▶ **Cherryvale**—Parade at 11 a.m.
- ▶ **Fredonia**—VFW Veteran's Program 11 a.m. at Fredonia High School. All Veterans encouraged to attend as special guests.
- ▶ **Neodesha**—Parade at 11 a.m. followed by a celebration at the Civic Center with the VFW Bean Feed and program honoring veterans.

Memorials

- ▶ **Caney**—Wark Memorial Park on Fourth St will have an avenue of flags for men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- ▶ **Coffeyville**—Veterans Memorial Stadium at 1610 Veterans Drive.
- ▶ **Fredonia**—6th and Madison Street.
- ▶ **Independence**—Memorial Auditorium at 410 N. Penn.



QuarterQuest

progress report

We are pleased to report, that our first month of donations from our members supporting the QuarterQuest program totaled over \$158.

The program provides backpacks of food for children at high risk of going hungry on weekends. These funds have been transferred to the Kansas Food Bank where its special status purchasing power will allow it to buy several times the amount of food for every dollar spent that can be bought at retail prices.

The entire amount of Radiant Electric member donations will be used only to buy food for backpacks and only for the most needful children in schools in our Radiant Electric service area.

To do its work, the program simply provides those students identified on a list provided by the school with a backpack of weekend food every Friday to extend critically needed nutritional support from five days to all seven days of the week.



The QuarterQuest program provides backpacks of food for children at high risk of going hungry on weekends.

QuarterQuest is designed to see that even the most vulnerable school kids in our Radiant area have a fair opportunity to do their best in school and later in life.

If you have not participated in this worthwhile way to take care of our own, please do so if you can. We sincerely appreciate all of your support.

If you are interested in the Quarter Quest Program and you are an e-bill payee, send an e-mail to kerry@radiantec.coop. You can also indicate your contribution in the space provided on your monthly billing statement. Please call Kerry at 620-378-261 ext. 100 if you have any further questions.



Holiday Office Closing

Radiant Electric will be closed November 26–27 for the Thanksgiving holidays. If during this time you experience an electrical outage, please call 620-378-2163. Dispatchers will contact the on call crews immediately.

Welcome New Members

Heather Weicht—Altoona
Cedar Creek LLC—Andover
Dana Barton—Buffalo

Ariel Scott—Caney
Andy Beshear—Cherryvale
William Matney—Elk City

Lori Cooper—Fredonia
Kirk Slavik—Toronto

Substations: Stepping Up to Provide Power

BY MEGAN MCKOY AND KAREN NEJTEK

Electricity enhances your life, from lights and entertainment to the comfort level of your home. Since power plants usually aren't next door to homes, electricity must travel long distances to reach your doorstep. The complicated process needed to accomplish the feat of delivering power from a power plant to your home combines several key components, including substations.

Energy cannot be stored, so moving electricity requires packing power as heavily as possible onto transmission lines. By increasing electricity's voltage—an electromotive force that acts like water pressure—it moves more efficiently.

Substations serve as essential “transit” points in this system, with the ability to raise, or “step up,” and lower, or “step down,” voltage. High voltage is great for moving power along transmission highways, but if

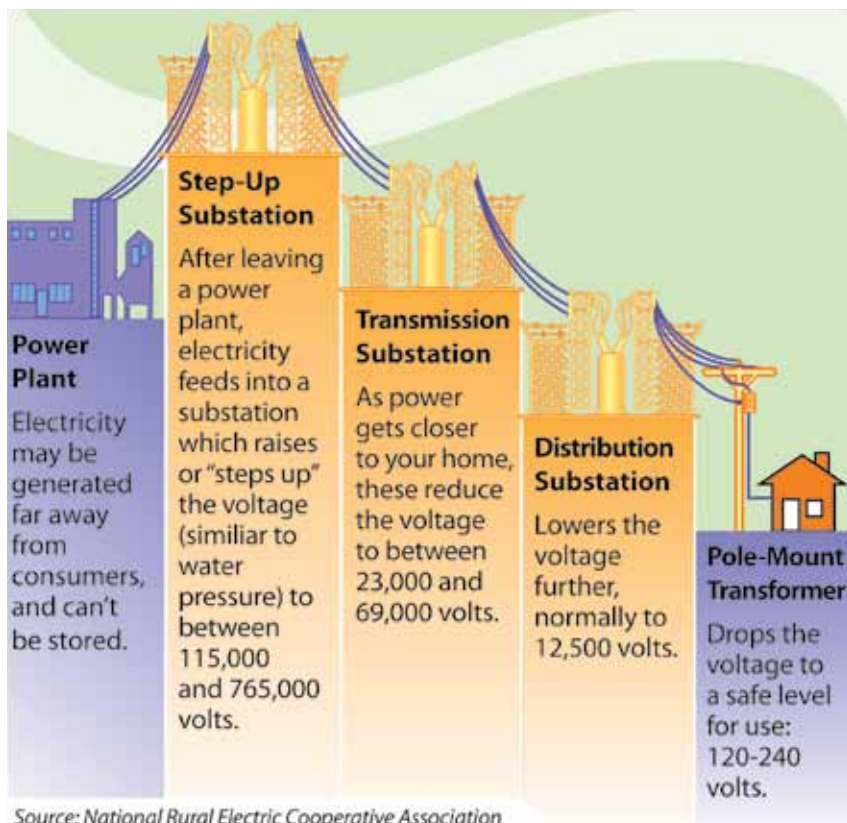
electricity enters your home at a high voltage your electronics could be damaged. Similar to when lightning strikes and causes damage.

As power gets closer to its destination, substations decrease it to a safe level. Substations also keep voltages constant, preventing harmful fluctuations.

Several types of substations are found between power plants and homes. Each contains a wide array of equipment, including transformers, lightning arrestors, circuit breakers, insulators, and more. A transformer performs the heavy work, altering voltage as needed.

Initially, step-up substations at power plants increase electricity's voltage to various levels between (115,000 volts and 765,000 volts) so it can be shipped through high-voltage transmission lines. Once electricity

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Energy Efficiency— Proper Insulation

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs—and



improve comfort—involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.



Christmas MEMORIES

What makes Christmas special in southeast Kansas? Maybe a memory of a special gift you received, a family tradition, or maybe a special relative that made a journey home for the holidays.

If you would like to share your memory with our members please jot it down and mail your Christmas memory to: Radiant Electric Cooperative, Attn: Ann Fitzmorris, P.O. Box 390, Fredonia, KS 66736 or e-mail it to ann@radiantec.coop by **November 10**.

Please limit your story to 250 words. Submissions may be edited at the discretion of the co-op.

Parades

November 22

- ▶ **Independence**—5 p.m., downtown.

December 3

- ▶ **Caney**—7 p.m.
- ▶ **Chanute**—Annual Christmas Parade of Lights at 7 p.m., downtown.
- ▶ **Cherryvale**

December 4

- ▶ **Coffeyville**—6 p.m. At 8th and Walnut.

December 5

- ▶ **Fredonia**—Fredonia Square.

December 12

- ▶ **Neodesha**—Downtown.

Holiday Open Houses

November 13-14

- ▶ **Fredonia**—Holiday Open House

November 15

- ▶ Coffeyville

November 22

- ▶ **Independence**—Merchants Open House

December 5

- ▶ **Independence**—Winter Arts and Crafts Show at the Independence Historical Museum

December 6

- ▶ **Fredonia**—Holiday Home Tour, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Substations: Stepping Up to Provide Power

BY MEGAN MCKOY AND KAREN NEJTEK

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gets closer to its destination, transmission substations typically reduce the voltage to between 23,000 volts and 69,000 volts.

From there, the power moves over smaller transmission facilities to electric co-op distribution systems. Distribution substation transformers then slash the voltage even lower, normally to 12,500 volts.

At this point, the distribution lines you see running up and down rural roads and across fields bring power to you. To make that energy safe for household use, a pole-mount transformer (the round object resembling

a small gray cylinder located near the top of a utility pole outside your home) or a pad-mount transformer (the gray boxes dotting your housing development) cuts the voltage once more, to between 120 and 240 volts.

Substations remain an important part of your electric cooperative's system. Remember, the voltage entering and exiting substations far exceeds anything you'll find at home. Substation fences protect you and the equipment housed within and help ensure that your co-op can continue providing you with a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power.

When Heating This Winter, Remember—Safety First

Summer has quickly turned to Fall and Winter is on its way. With the cooler weather, heating equipment will get put to work. Ensure the safety of everyone in your home by considering the following safety tips for heating equipment.

Space Heaters

- ▶ Ensure space heaters are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- ▶ Do not use an extension cord to power a space heater. Plug it directly into the electrical outlet.
- ▶ Space heaters should have an automatic shut off in the event they tip over.
- ▶ Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials such as curtains,

draperies, loose paper and upholstery.

- ▶ Keep space heaters out of reach from small children and pets.
- ▶ Never use heaters as drying racks.
- ▶ If the heater is running on fuel (gas, kerosene, wood), follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- ▶ Keep chimneys and flues free from corrosion or blockages.

Electric Blankets

- ▶ Ensure electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab like UL.
- ▶ Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress.
- ▶ Do not put anything on top of the blanket.
- ▶ Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 are properly insulated. You can increase the comfort of your home while reducing heating and cooling needs up to 10 percent by investing in proper insulation and sealing air leaks.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy