

## [MCREA News]

## Safety Above All Else

DAVE HENDERSON || DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small, as well as companies across all industries, are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Morgan County Rural Electric Association, it’s the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, Morgan County REA has created a culture of safety by putting our employees’ safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, MCREA’s mission is to provide safe and reliable electricity to its member-owners. Equally as important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.



Dave Henderson

### FOLLOWING LEADING NATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Morgan County REA’s ongoing focus is keeping employees and the communities we serve safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. We have regular meetings where our employees discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They share “lessons learned” and actively work to improve in the future.

We also encourage our employees to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

### KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

Because we live and work in and around the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. Morgan County REA conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events. We also have an electric safety presentation

available to be delivered to first responders: law enforcement agencies, fire departments, ambulance services, etc.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don’t attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, and don’t allow children to play around substations or padmount transformers. More electrical safety tips and information can be found online on our website ([mcrea.org](http://mcrea.org)) or on the Safe Electricity website at [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org).

If you want us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact MCREA Member Services by calling 970-867-5688 or emailing [memberservices@mcrea.org](mailto:memberservices@mcrea.org).

Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety. Have an enjoyable and safe summer.



MCREA Member Services Representative Bill Annan conducts safety presentations at local schools as part of the cooperative’s safety program.

# Support Local Businesses with Co-op Connections



Morgan County REA's Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections program offers local discounts that members can take advantage of every day. By patronizing these businesses, you're doing your part to support the local economy. Here's a list of local vendors and the discounts offered:

## Ackley Building Center

**Discount Offer:** \$5 off any purchase or \$50 or more, or \$10 off any purchase of \$100 or more

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 1402 Mill Street, Brush | 970-842-4832

## All About U

**Discount Offer:** 10% off any in-store items

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 117 Clayton Street, Brush | 970-842-2042

## Arby's

**Discount Offer:** Buy any full priced combo meal and receive a free regular sandwich (Fort Morgan and Cheyenne, WY, locations only)

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 1218 North Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-6888

## Bank of Colorado

**Discount Offer:** Come to Bank of Colorado and open a free checking account

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 301 Clayton Street, Brush | 970-842-2844

## BrookeLinn Grafix

**Discount Offer:** 5% off all retail sales

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 302 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-0285

## Brown's Shoe Fit

**Discount Offer:** 5% off any purchase

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 315 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-6462

## Brush Hair Co

**Discount Offer:** 15% off retail purchase of \$50 or more

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 303 Edison Street, Brush | 970-842-4663

## Cables Pub & Grill

**Discount Offer:** \$3.50 off regularly priced stromboli or calzone

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 431 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-6144

## Country Steak Out

**Discount Offer:** 10% off total ticket

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 19592 East 8th Avenue, Fort Morgan  
970-867-7887

## Ehrlich Toyota East

**Discount Offer:** 10% off parts and labor

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 1209 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-1400

## Flower Petaler

**Discount Offer:** 10% off purchase (excludes antiques, weddings, funerals and wire service)

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 322 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-0955

## Fort Morgan Auto Body

**Discount Offer:** Take \$25 off your deductible

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 210 Ensign, Fort Morgan | 970-867-9000

## Fort Morgan Times

**Discount Offer:** \$21 off of regular annual subscription rate

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 329 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-5651

## Furniture Mart

**Discount Offer:** 5% off all regularly priced items (in-store items only). Offer valid at Fort Morgan and Sterling locations.

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 505 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-4609

## Great Copier Service

**Discount Offer:** \$1 off shipping fees (UPS or FedEx); 20% off non-discounted copies

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 430 Ensign, Fort Morgan | 970-867-5740

## H&R Block Fort Morgan

**Discount Offer:** 10% off tax preparation services (not valid with other discounts)

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 708 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-5656.

## Holistic Health Center

**Discount Offer:** 5% off any purchase

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 305 Main Street, Fort Morgan  
970-867-6633

## Impressions by Bird

**Discount Offer:** 10% off printing, scrapbooking supplies, and wedding and graduation invitations (excludes sale items)

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 117 West Kiowa Avenue, Fort Morgan  
970-867-8786

## J&J's Hairstyling

**Discount Offer:** \$5 off haircut

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 219 Clayton, Brush | 970-842-4333

**JD'z Auto Body & Paint**

**Discount Offer:** Take 25% off of your deductible on all collision and hail damage repairs up to \$100.

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 115 Colorado Avenue, Brush  
970-842-5361

**Miller's Landscaping Materials & Feed**

**Discount Offer:** 5% off all rock and mulch

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 19645 Road Q, Fort Morgan | 970-542-1616

**Platte Valley Hearing Center**

**Discount Offer:** 10% off all hearing aids (up to \$600 discount)

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 409 E. Platte Ave, Fort Morgan  
970-867-9993

**Rudy's G.T.O.**

**Discount Offer:** 5% off full service. Offer valid at Brush, Prospect Valley and Wiggins locations.

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 113 Central Avenue, Wiggins  
970-483-7878

**The Body Firm Fitness Center**

**Discount Offer:** One month free membership (per person per year)

**Where to Redeem This Offer:** 721 East Platte Avenue, Fort Morgan  
970-542-0180.

As part of the Co-op Connections program, MCREA members can take advantage of discounts on certain prescription medications (discount does not take the place of nor may be added to prescriptions covered by insurance). Be sure to check with your local pharmacist to see if the Co-op Connections discount is available when picking up prescriptions not covered by insurance.

If you're an MCREA member, you are able to take advantage of these benefits now — the program is free to everyone who receives electric service from Morgan County REA. New members are given a Co-op Connections Card and a list of participating local businesses when they begin their membership. [Janice Clem, acct #xxx9800] If you're a current MCREA member and you don't have a Co-op Connections Card, come by MCREA headquarters at 734 Barlow Road in Fort Morgan and pick one up.

More information about the Co-op Connections program can be found online at [www.mcrea.org](http://www.mcrea.org).

## WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations, **Kelly Carmin** (account #xxx2300) and **Leon and Debra Erker** (account #xxx9900), you saw your names and account numbers in the April edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

There are two more MCREA member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970-867-5688 by June 29 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

# MORGAN COUNTY REA PAYMENT OPTIONS

## Online options via [www.mcrea.org](http://www.mcrea.org) utilizing SmartHub

- Pay with e-check (deduction directly from your bank account). Available for all rate classes.
- Pay with credit card (large power and industrial accounts excluded).



## 24 Hour Pay-by-Phone

Call the automated payment line at 877-495-6487 (24 hours a day, 365 days a year). Pay via one of two methods:

- Pay with e-check (deduction directly from your bank account). Available for all rate classes. PIN number required. Call MCREA billing department to receive your PIN at 970-867-5688.
- Pay with credit card. (Large power and industrial accounts excluded.)

## Recurring ACH — Automatic Withdrawal

- Call the MCREA billing department at 970-867-5688 to sign up for this payment option. Provide us with your bank information and every month on the 15th (excluding weekends and holidays) we will automatically draft your bank account.

## Recurring Credit Card Automatic Payments

- Contact MCREA billing at 970-867-5688 and sign up for automatic credit card payments. Provide your credit card information and we will automatically process charges every month on the 15th (excluding weekends and holidays).

## Payment Drop Off Locations

Morgan County REA Office 734 Barlow Rd. Fort Morgan, CO 80701	TBK Bank 550 E. Woodward Ave Keenesburg, CO 80643
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Payment Drop Box 4917 Highway 79 Keenesburg, CO 80643	High Plains Bank 502 W. Central Ave. Wiggins, CO 80654
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Farmers State Bank of Brush 200 Clayton St. Brush, CO 80723	Bank of Colorado 301 Clayton St. Brush, CO 80723
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Roggen Telephone Coop 519 Front St. Roggen, CO 80652	
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Retired MCREA Employee Glenda Powell served as the engineering and operations secretary throughout her career.



Many of Glenda Powell's family are on hand for a retirement reception held in her honor.

## GLENDA POWELL RETIRES FROM MCREA

GEOFF BAUMGARTNER || COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Engineering and operations secretary Glenda Powell began her journey with Morgan County REA in November 1999. That excursion came to a conclusion earlier this year when Powell retired from the electric cooperative after 19 years at her post.

“It’s the relationships you develop with people that I felt was an important part of working at Morgan County REA,” Powell said. “It’s the camaraderie — especially with the office personnel at Morgan County REA. When you work so closely with people day in and day out, you develop relationships and friendships. The fellowship I had with the other employees are times I will always remember.”

Ironically, Powell said that her job functions at MCREA were almost identical to her previous employment for a telecommunications company in Muleshoe, Texas. “It was kind of amazing that I got to do pretty much the same job, and I really liked seeing a job completed — seeing it through to the end,” she

recalled. Powell and her family relocated to this area when her husband, Rick, was transferred from his job in Texas to work at Xcel Energy in Fort Morgan. *[Joe J. Marx, acct #xxx5000]*

Powell particularly enjoyed helping with the outside activities the cooperative participated in throughout her tenure. The events she mentioned included the annual meeting, Dutch oven cook-off, Brush Rodeo and the MCREA golf tournament.

When asked what her plans are in retirement, she said with a smile that she plans to continue to help out with the elderly, performing such tasks as taking them meals and running errands. She also said that she plans on doing some traveling, playing golf, bowling and spending time with friends and family. Powell’s son Ryan lives in Denver, and daughter Leslie lives in Thornton with husband Jim and their three children.

Everyone at Morgan County REA thanks Glenda for her many years of service and wishes her the best in her retirement.

## Save Your Energy for Vacation

It’s that time of year to pack up the car and head out on summer vacation. It takes a ton of energy to get everyone ready for your yearly excursion, so why not save some energy in your home while you are away. There are some big and small changes you can make to have lower bills greet you upon your return home.

One of the biggest energy savers is changing the temperature of your home. “Turning up your thermostat to 85 degrees could lower your bill by 35 percent a week,” says energy expert Sam Adair. If no one will be in your home, another option could be to turn your unit off completely until you return.

Another big cost saver is turning off the breaker to your water heater. If you won’t be home, your water heater does not need to be running. “A water heater can cost about a dollar a day, so you could save a couple bucks just by switching the breaker while you are on vacation,” Adair adds.

A couple of smaller things you can do to lower your bill include shutting your blinds and curtains to keep the sun from heating up your home; turning off all power strips; and unplugging small appliances.

Adair recommends buying a timer if you want to leave some lights on while you are away. The timer will ensure that the lights will be on for a short amount of time during the day versus using energy all day long.



Whether you are going away for just a few days or an extended amount of time, these tips can help put money back in your pocket this summer.