



Successful Completion of Stuart Creek

The Stuart Creek project was originally a line extension request from Alyeska to connect commercial power to several existing facilities located between Mile 45 of the Richardson Highway and Thompson Pass. A new substation was built and connected to CVEA's existing 138kV transmission line to reduce voltage down to the 25kV distribution voltage, then 21 miles of underground distribution cable was run from the substation to serve these facilities.

The project was scheduled to take two seasons to complete. The first year consisted of engineering design, permitting, and construction of the substation and distribution facilities, including trenching and boring of the 21 miles. Over 95 percent of this work was completed in the first construction season, leaving only a couple difficult bores remaining.

The remaining bores, pulling the remaining conductor, and installing the primary and secondary services for the community

of Serendipity were completed in the second season. At the writing of this article, the project is on target to be completed by the end of October of this year.

By far, the biggest difficulty was boring under multiple rivers and Alyeska block points (extremely steep slopes along the pipeline corridor).

At any given time, between 10-20 people worked on the construction of the project to include electrical and telecom linemen, equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, project managers, utility cable and pipeline locators, boring contractors and support staff. A majority of the work was completed by CVEA employees or local contractors.

During the design and scoping of this project, construction concerns, ease of year-round access, and ongoing maintenance were considered. Serendipity Subdivision, located at 46 mile of the Richardson Highway, was determined to be the location best

suited for the substation. The substation at this location provides the added benefit of commercial power service to the Serendipity community and Tsaina Lodge. Additionally, Copper Valley Telecom installed fiberoptics into the same trench CVEA was placing the distribution cable, further expanding the benefits of the project.

There were four partners for the Alyeska extension portion of the project: Alyeska, Tsaina Lodge, CVT, and CVEA. The partnership of these entities contributed to the overall success of this project. Ultimately, Alyeska can now utilize commercial power and no longer has to operate and maintain generation facilities at numerous locations along the pipeline corridor. Tsaina Lodge, after many years, can use commercial power and eliminate the cost of expensive diesel generation. The cost of doing this was not feasible without the partnership of Alyeska. Similarly, the community members of Serendipity had been trying to figure out a way to get commercial power to their community. With the location of the new substation, this is now possible.

Most of the community members in Serendipity worked together to come up with the needed funding to install the primary distribution in the area. In true cooperative spirit, all future CVEA members in the community will pay the same price for a primary service drop on their property, regardless of their distance from the substation.

This project not only benefits those directly involved, it provides benefit to all CVEA members. As a cooperative all members share costs for operating and maintaining the utility. Having more members on the system, helps spread out those costs. It may not show up as large savings on your power bill, but every little bit helps.

Additionally, although this project was not originally designed to improve reliability for the Membership, through diligence and careful considerate design of the substation, it will now allow CVEA to isolate smaller sections of the transmission line. This keeps more members connected during maintenance projects and outage events.

If you have additional questions regarding this or any CVEA project, please contact Sharon Scheidt at 935-7005, or email sscheidt@cvea.org. ■





Fall Into Fun Activity Program List

- Collect Fall leaves
- Paint, carve, or decorate a pumpkin
- Enjoy a Fall walk or hike
- Make a Kleenex or tissue ghost
- Pose in your Halloween costume
- Bob for apples
- Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider
- Help get someone's yard winter-ready
- Make Halloween cookies or an orange colored treat
- Complete a Fall or Halloween craft
- Play a board game
- Bundle up and go for a bike ride
- Make or eat caramel apples
- It's getting cold out there; find and try on your winter hat and gloves
- Make, eat, or drink a food or beverage using pumpkin spice
- Enjoy a bonfire or warm your toes by the fireplace/woodstove at home
- Plant bulbs for Spring flowers
- Make a handprint turkey and write what you're thankful for

CVEA Co-op Month 'Fall Into Fun' Kids Activity Program



Deadline - November 1, 2020

How to participate:

- Review the list of activities above or at cvea.org
- Select which activities you want to complete
- Complete selected activity, have fun, and make sure to take a picture
- Complete any 5 activities on the list and receive a \$10 gift card
- Complete any 10 activities on the list and receive another \$10 gift card and a chance to win \$250
- Email your pictures with youth name, age, name of activity completed, date completed, and mailing address to fallintofun@cvea.org by 6 p.m., Sunday, November 1, 2020

Additional Details:

- Age categories: 2-6, 7-12, 13-18 (two \$250 winners for each age category)
- Activities must be from the official list above and found at cvea.org
- Activities must be completed during Co-op Month, October 1-31
- Deadline to email submissions is Sunday, November 1, 2020
- \$250 drawings will be Thursday, November 5, 2020
- Only complete submissions will be included



Help CVEA Power a Small Business Comeback With Co-op Connections

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on our communities. CVEA believes it is time to work together to help small businesses in our communities thrive again. As part of National Co-op Month in October, the cooperative is relaunching Co-op Connections, a free member savings program. This program will help members save on every day items, while supporting local businesses.

CVEA staff has been working hard recruiting businesses to participate in the program by offering special deals to Cooperative members. For their partnership, CVEA supports them through local and nationwide marketing and promotion of their discount.

Remember, when you shop and dine locally, you invest in your community. Help your Co-op make a difference by supporting the local businesses that support you through the Co-op Connections program.

As this is written, we've already secured deals from over 30 (districts combined) local retail, convenience foods, lodging, dining, and automotive merchant categories. We'll continue to add more businesses and discounts as we head into Co-op Month, so visit the website or your mobile app often to see what you can save on the things you're looking for in our communities. Businesses will also be featured on cvea.org and the Co-op's Facebook page, so 'like' or 'follow' us to stay up to date.

In addition to local savings, members can take advantage of national partner deals, hotel and travel discounts, deals on event tickets, low cost insurance products, and a host of healthy savings discounts, to include the successful prescription discount program. Healthy savings discounts vary by location, but the Co-op Connections app has a tool to help you find a location to suit your needs.

In addition, the program offers digital coupons, roadside assistance through the mobile app, and a cash back program where members can earn up to 27 percent cash back when shopping online at over 1,300 stores. CVEA definitely advocates for shopping at local merchants, but we know people in our remote communities shop online, so why not get money back? If you're already buying, it's time to get paid!

The best part of Co-op Connections is that as a CVEA member, you get all of these great benefits absolutely FREE, and right from your mobile device. You can now go beyond the card and access your digital discount card right from the mobile app or by printing it directly from the website. No plastic necessary. Just visit cvea.org or download the free Co-op Connections app on your mobile device to 'get connected' and see where you can save.

If you are visiting neighboring towns, remember that your digital discount card is good wherever a Co-op Connections program exists. This program goes way beyond Alaska. There is a network of more than 23,500 discounts throughout the country. Just type the zip code where you're heading into the mobile app to find local deals in that location, or access GPS tracking or look for the window sticker as you walk about town. Show your digital discount card from the app or present your physical card at the point of sale to get discounts on dining, services and at retail locations. And don't forget, the national discounts will work for you wherever you may be headed.

CVEA is part of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand, a nationwide alliance of more than 725 consumer-owned electric cooperatives dedicated to serving their members and communities with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. These money saving benefits are part of our commitment to helping CVEA members during challenging economic times.

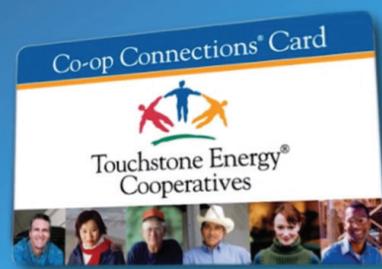
Get Connected During Co-op Month This October

- October 1, Co-op Connections program relaunches
- October 1, CVEA members can now sign up for the Co-op Connections program FREE using the mobile app or by visiting connections.coop
 - New members will be randomly drawn each week for prizes so make sure to get signed up
- Oct. 12-23, shop and SAVE on local deals and enter the 'Are You Connected?' shopping contest
 - Find local Co-op Connections deals, use your digital discount or printed paper card to shop and save, and email a picture of you at checkout to co-opconnections@cvea.org
 - All submissions will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$250 energy credits per district
- October 19, the connections.coop website and mobile app will update to provide even easier access to savings
- October 20-30, 'Get Connected' Scavenger Hunt
 - Get connected to all the Co-op Connections program has to offer and find your way around the new website and mobile app
 - Complete the scavenger hunt and enter to win one of two \$150 CVEA energy credits per district
 - Find complete details and instructions at cvea.org
- October 1-31, local business discounts featured daily on the CVEA and community Facebook pages, please like or follow our page

All Co-op Connections Co-op Month relaunch details and instructions can be found at cvea.org. For additional information, if you'd like a plastic discount card, or if you are a business who would like to sign up, please contact Cindy Unger, CVEA Cooperative Assistant, at 835-4301 or email cunger@cvea.org. ■



Co-op Connections®
is the free member
discount program that
supports local businesses
and saves you money.





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Important Dates

October

Ruralite Cover Photo Contest: Submit photos October 1 - October 29, 2020

Cooperative Food Drive: Food accepted at CV Telecom October 1 - October 30, 2020

Kids Fall Into Fun Activity Contest: Submit activity photos and information to fallintofun@cvea.org October 1 - November 1, 2020

Get Connected Co-op Connections Program Launch: Drawings, Scavenger Hunt, and Shopping Contest - visit cvea.org for details

CVEA Board Meeting: The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, October 15, 2020, in Glennallen

November

CVEA Board Meeting: The November meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, November 19, 2020, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: CVEA will be closed Thursday, November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday

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Help CVEA Celebrate Co-op Month!

visit cvea.org for complete details

'Get Connected' with Co-op Connections

- Sign up for Co-op Connections using the mobile app or at connections.coop
- 'Get Connected Scavenger Hunt'; complete and enter to win one of two \$150 energy credits
- Shop and SAVE on local deals and enter the 'Are You Connected' Shopping Contest



October 1-31 Kids 'Fall into Fun' Activity Contest (ages 2-18)

- Complete activities from the list at cvea.org, take a picture, and email to fallintofun@cvea.org
- Include: youth name, age, activity, date completed, and mailing address
- Complete 5 list activities for a \$10 gift card
- Complete 10 list activities for a chance at \$250 (two \$250 winners per each age group)

Deadline November 1 @ 6 pm

October 1-29 Ruralite Cover Photo Contest

- Winners will receive \$100 per winning photo, be announced to the local media, and be featured on the cover of Ruralite for one month in 2021
- Submit your photos by October 29 @ 6 p.m.
- Visit cvea.org/ruralitecoverphotocontest for details, rules, and application instructions

October 1-30 CVEA/CVTC Cooperative Food Drive

- Bring nonperishable food items to CV Telecom (only) during normal business hours and be entered to win a \$150 CVEA Energy Credit or a \$150 CV Telecom Service Credit
- The drawing will be held Friday, October 30
- Sorry, we cannot accept expired food