

# A Legacy of Service



MESSAGE FROM  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

EVERY NOVEMBER, WE PAY HOMAGE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED our country. Though we honor their bravery and selflessness throughout the year, we especially do so on Veterans Day.

Electric cooperatives hold our current and former service members in particularly high regard, sharing with them a legacy of service and commitment to fulfilling a mission. Nothing can match a veteran's personal sacrifice—lengthy stints spent



away from loved ones and the potential physical and mental wounds inflicted by combat. We know the challenges we face in service to our membership at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative pale in comparison to those endured by members of our armed forces, yet our goals are rooted in a similar sense of duty.

A commitment to the greater good serves as a bedrock tenet of the cooperative business model, espoused in Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community. We satisfy our main objective of providing reliable power safely at a fair price while also taking part in initiatives that benefit our community.

This month, as we reflect on the debt of gratitude we owe to our nation's veterans, take a moment to consider how a legacy of service informs so much of what we do as a cooperative. Though we work to support and strengthen our community in less obvious ways, our motivation is the same: to band together in pursuit of a common goal and bolster the place we call home.



## Home Heating Fire Prevention

**HEATING EQUIPMENT CAUSED AN** estimated 54,030 home fires and 480 deaths between 2011 and 2015, according to the National Fire Protection Association. **Learn how to stay safe with these tips.**

- ▶ Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heat sources.
- ▶ Never use a space heater or any appliance with a damaged cord.
- ▶ Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when leaving a room or sleeping.
- ▶ Never plug a space heater into an extension cord.
- ▶ Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces on the floor.
- ▶ Never use a stove to heat your home or dry clothes.
- ▶ Have a qualified service professional inspect your heating system annually.
- ▶ Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors.

# Official Notice of Capital Credits Allocation

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION RECENTLY ALLOCATED CAPITAL credits to its membership for 2017.**

At the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives determine margins made during the year by deducting the expenses of operating the cooperative from the revenue received from the sale of electricity. These margins are then allocated to each member's account based on his or her electricity use for the year. Allocated margins are referred to as capital credits.

Capital credits remain invested in the cooperative until the cooperative's board of directors determines that a return would not weaken the cooperative financially. To date, Hamilton County ECA has returned \$4,749,064.29 in capital credits obligations for the years 1947–1988.

It is very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses so they can receive capital credits when they are returned.

Capital credits for 2017 were calculated by multiplying the sum of each member's electric service bills for 2017 by 2.32 percent. For example, if the total of your electric bills from the cooperative that year was \$1,000, simply multiply that amount by 0.0232—the result is \$23.20, your capital credits allocation for 2017. In calculating your total bill, do not include any sales tax, miscellaneous charges, membership fees or deposits.

If you have any questions concerning your capital credits account, please feel free to contact Hamilton County ECA.

**This article is intended to serve as the official notice of allocations of capital credits for 2017.**



## Happy Thanksgiving

We wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving. In observance of the holiday, our offices will be closed Thursday–Friday, November 22–23.



## Veterans Day November 11

We salute all veterans who have served to help preserve our freedom.



## Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

420 N. Rice St. • P.O. Box 753  
Hamilton, TX 76531

### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Steve Young

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.M. Gerald Jr., President, *Hamilton*  
Sam Campbell, Vice President, *Goldthwaite*  
Bob Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, *Hamilton*  
Dusty Duncan, *Lometa*  
Melvin Eilers Jr., *Priddy*  
Ervin Koerth, *Gatesville*  
Henry Langford, *Lampasas*

## Contact Us

For general information  
or to report an outage

### CALL US

**(254) 386-3123** local or  
**1-800-595-3401** toll-free

### PAYMENT LOCATIONS

#### Hamilton County EC Office

420 N. Rice St., Hamilton

#### Brown & Wesson Insurance

915 Third St., Goldthwaite

#### Fort Gates Water Corporation

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

#### Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

#### Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

#### Online

hamiltonelectric.coop

#### Telephone

Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bill payments can be set up to be bank drafted or charged to a debit or credit card monthly.



# Maybe It's Cold Outside

*A few simple tips to stave off high winter bills*



CHARLIEAJA | ISTOCK.COM

## Daylight Saving Time

Ends November 4 at 2 a.m.  
Set your clocks back one hour.

**WE NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT FALL WEATHER WILL BRING, BUT YOU USUALLY CAN** count on a few sudden chilly spells that sometimes result in shockingly high electric bills. Observe the following practices to avoid being jolted out of your cozy holiday reverie by an unexpectedly steep bill.

**If you have a wood-burning fireplace, be sure the damper is closed while the fireplace is not in use.** Keep in mind that a wood-burning fireplace is generally an inefficient method for heating your home. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, fireplace drafts pull warm air up the chimney, inadvertently cooling other rooms. So if you use central heat while burning wood in a fireplace, it forces your heater to work harder to maintain a consistent temperature throughout the house. Since it provides lovely ambiance, consider reserving fireplace use for special occasions.

**Keep drapes and blinds open during the day to allow solar heat to warm your home all day for free.** Close them at dusk to seal warmth in.

**Rearrange furnishings to uncover any vents that may be blocked by sofas or rugs.** Remember that the closer you are to an exterior wall, especially one with windows, the colder it is. Freshen up your living space with a new seating arrangement that doubles as an energy saver by moving furniture away from the room's perimeter.

**Run ceiling fans clockwise to create an updraft that pulls cold air up and distributes warm air in the room more evenly,** preventing cold pockets from forming.

**Invest in a smart thermostat for your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to further reduce power costs easily and conveniently.** Lowering your home's temperature 10–15 degrees for eight hours a day can shave an equivalent percentage off your electric bill.

**Lastly, use the popular low-tech solution employed effectively for generations: bundle up!** Wool socks, flannel pajamas, and a warm quilt or throw reduce the need for excessive home heating and go perfectly with a mug of hot cocoa.

Enhance your home's coziness and decrease energy inefficiency with these tips, regardless of any sudden swings in temperature Mother Nature may deal us.



WOOLZIAN | ISTOCK.COM

## Power Tip

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances when not in use.

# Scammers Heat Up During Cold Weather

**DURING COLD WEATHER, SCAMMERS INCREASINGLY POSE AS ELECTRIC COMPANY** employees to try to get your money and other valuables or sensitive information for identity theft. Because we are all so dependent on electricity for heating our homes and much more, we can be particularly vulnerable when someone calls threatening to turn off our power.

In the most common utility scam, customers get phone calls warning that their service is about to be shut off due to unpaid bills. The callers claim to be billing representatives from your utility but are actually crooks looking for a quick payoff. They tell you that to avoid an immediate shut-off, you need to settle an overdue bill by providing them with your credit card number or bank account information right away.

The scammers may use spoofing software that falsely displays the name and phone number of your utility company on your caller ID. But you should know that Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will never call and demand payment. We mail or email notices to you based on your communications preference. If you get a disconnect notice (especially by phone), don't give the caller any information and verify the notice's authenticity by calling us at 1-800-595-3401.

Another common deception is an unscheduled visit from someone offering a free inspection of your furnace or a free home energy audit. But unless you've made an appointment with us or an independent home energy auditor, don't let them in.

Often, these fake inspectors are actually there for a quick burglary—especially if they arrive in pairs. One distracts you while the other scoops up valuables. Or they may be trying to sell you something you don't need or collect your personal information for identity theft. Don't be fooled if they sport official-looking badges or wear uniforms. Unless you have made an appointment, keep your door locked.

If you have any suspicion about the legitimacy of a payment request from Hamilton County EC or a visit from one of our employees, call us at 1-800-595-3401 for verification. A little caution can go a long way in keeping your money in your pocket.



**“There are so many people in the co-ops of Texas who do extraordinary things for other people.”**

—NANCY JOHNSON, whose Little Hats, Big Hearts program builds awareness of congenital heart defects. *Texas Co-op Power*, February 2017

WAT NCS/PHOTO

## POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

**Let us know about your local hero! Nominate a co-op member in your area who improves the community's quality of life.**

Email your nomination to [people@texascooppower.com](mailto:people@texascooppower.com).

Include name, co-op affiliation and a short description of their work in the community.

We'll highlight select nominees in a future issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

### TEXAS CO-OP POWER



# Community Calendar



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Hamilton County EC will be closed**  
November 22–23 for Thanksgiving and  
December 24–25 for Christmas.

## Comanche

**Deer Hunter Chili Supper**, November 2, historic downtown.

**Farmers Market**; November 3, December 1; 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

**Tribute to Our Veterans and Honoring Our Veterans Luncheon**, November 11, Comanche Community Center.

**Christmas Open House**, December 1, Comanche County Museum.

**Christmas in Comanche**, December 8, historic downtown and around. Christmas homes tour, Shopper's Day, Jingle and Mingle, and Christmas lighted parade.

**Comanche County Livestock Show**, January 12–13, Livestock Show Barn. Sponsored by the Comanche County Livestock Association.

*For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or email [comanchetxchamber@gmail.com](mailto:comanchetxchamber@gmail.com).*

## Copperas Cove

**Small Business Saturday**, November 24. We at the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce are proud to take part in Small Business Saturday again this year. We understand that small businesses are the heart of our community and want to encourage you to take part in Shop Small, a movement to celebrate small businesses. Kickoff will be at 9 a.m. at the Cove Terrace Shopping Center. Come pick up a map of participating small businesses, take pictures with Santa and enjoy a cup of coffee.

**Krist Kindle Markt**, November 30–December 2, downtown. The markt welcomes shoppers looking for those last-minute Christmas gifts and boasts great food and entertainment for all to enjoy. Free activities for kids and pic-

tures with Santa! Vendor and parade applications are being accepted now. For more information, visit [kristkindlemarkt.com](http://kristkindlemarkt.com).

**Christmas Parade**, December 1, 3 p.m., downtown. We invite all surrounding communities to participate in the parade and are accepting applications now. Join us for a great weekend! Visit [kristkindlemarkt.com](http://kristkindlemarkt.com) for more information.

*For more information about Copperas Cove events, contact the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email [chamber@copperascove.com](mailto:chamber@copperascove.com) or visit [copperascove.com](http://copperascove.com).*

## Evant

**281 Trade Days**; November 3, December 1; 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; 203 W. Brooks Drive. Antiques, plants, vintage finds, food trucks and handmade items. Vendor spots available. Call (254) 404-5487 or (254) 471-3698.

**Third Annual Feed the Hunters**, November 10, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Evant Square.

**Harvest Festival**, November 10, 4 p.m., Evant Independent School District. Coronation at 7:15 p.m. in the old gym.

**Christmas Parade**, November 24, 9 a.m.

**Small Business Saturday**, November 24, shop Evant.

**Christmas Tree Lighting**, December 1, Evant Municipal Park.

*For information about Evant events, contact Mary Ann Davison at [evantchamber@gmail.com](mailto:evantchamber@gmail.com) or (254) 404-5487.*

## Gatesville

**Chamber Market Days**, second Saturday of every month in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Vendors display unique merchandise and farm-fresh foods. Visit [gatesvilletx.info](http://gatesvilletx.info) for more information.

**Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree**, third Friday of each month, 7–8 p.m., City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. A family-friendly event. There is no admission

fee, but donations are accepted for the performers. Visit [gatesvillecountrymusicshalloffame.com](http://gatesvillecountrymusicshalloffame.com) or call Roger Vierser at (254) 547-6834 for more information.

**Ed Leonard Band**, Thursdays, 6:30–9:30 p.m., Junction on Route 36, 1216 Texas Highway 36.

**Run to Remember**, every Saturday, 8–9 a.m., Faunt Le Roy Park.

**Gatesville Annual Shopping Open House**, November 3. Start your Christmas shopping at select retailers. Each year for more than 10 years, about a dozen boutique and unique retailers coordinate a shopping day full of discounts, door prizes and refreshments.

**Gatesville's Christmas in the Park**, December 1–31, nightly, dusk–11 p.m. Drive-thru Christmas lights display. Admission is free to drive through this delightful collection of lighted and animated holiday displays.

**Singer-Songwriter Shelley King**, December 3, 6:30 p.m., Gatesville City Auditorium. King performs a variety of genres, including country, blues and original rock and tours as part of the Texas Commission on the Arts. The concert is presented by the Friends of the Gatesville Public Library. Admission is free with donations accepted.

**Christmas Parade**, December 8, 10 a.m. Themed "The Grinch." Sponsored by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

**Coryell 4H Christmas Classic and Holiday Market**, December 8–9, Gatesville Civic Center.

**Hayride**, December 8, 6:30 p.m., historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Hayride will go through town and the park. Hot chocolate, cake and pictures with Santa. Sponsored by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

**Coryell County Youth Fair**, January 9–12, Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Dr.

*For more information about Gatesville events, go to [visitgatesvilletx.com](http://visitgatesvilletx.com) or call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (254) 865-8951.*

## Goldthwaite

**Jennie Trent Dew Library Story Time, Fridays at 10 a.m.** Join Ms. Susan and Ms. Elizabeth for stories, crafts, songs and snacks. Advice on Your Device offered to library patrons by appointment. Please call (325) 648-2447 to set up an appointment. After-school programming is in the works! Coding classes, teen programs and more coming soon.

**Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 3, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St.** \$5 donation per lunch plate. Silent auction, vendors, gun raffle ticket drawing and biggest buck contest. For more information, call (325) 648-3619.

**Goldthwaite Mills County Artisan Guild Annual Holiday Bazaar, November 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Civic Center, 1903 Cline St.** 10x10 booths are \$35. Electricity \$10 extra (limited supply). Set up Friday, November 16, 5-7:30 p.m., and Saturday, November 17, 7:30-9:30 a.m.; must be ready by 10 a.m. Cutoff date for booths is November 13. Contact Mills County Artisan Guild at [millscountyartisanguild@centex.net](mailto:millscountyartisanguild@centex.net) or Jody Previtia at (325) 948-3214.

**Holiday Lights, November-December, botanical gardens.** Enjoy the lights in Goldthwaite City Park and Legacy Plaza Gardens and get into the holiday spirit.

**Parade of Lights, December 1, dusk, downtown.**

**Mills County Livestock Youth Fair & Stock Show, third weekend in January.**

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit [millscountychamber.com](http://millscountychamber.com) or call Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 451-4334.

## Hamilton

**Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36.** For information on upcoming events, visit [circlearena.net/calendar](http://circlearena.net/calendar) or call (254) 386-3559.

**Holiday Market, November 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Fair Park Pavilions, 1007 Park Road at Alamo.** Friends of the Library book sale, vendors galore, food, Kids Korner, wine tasting and door prizes. Sponsored by Pottsville Extension Education Club. For booth reservations and other information, contact Bonnie Chism at (254) 372-3120 or [bonniechism@gmail.com](mailto:bonniechism@gmail.com).

**Hamilton County Stock Show, January 2-5, Fair Park.** Wednesday: home economics show and ag mech. Wednesday evening: poultry

pictures after the parade.

For information about Hico events, visit [hicochamber.com](http://hicochamber.com).

## Kempner

**City of Kempner Veterans Day Ceremony, November 10, 11 a.m., Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park, 12641 E. U.S. Highway 190.**



**HOLIDAY MARKETS**  
Copperas Cove  
November 30-December 2  
Hamilton  
November 10

and rabbit show. Thursday-Saturday: livestock. Saturday evening: sale.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216 or email [hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com).

## Hico

**Holiday Open House, November 10, downtown.** A historic Hico event that features treats, door prizes and special discounts at participating shops.

**Christmas Market and Parade, December 1, 6 p.m., downtown.** Santa will be available for

## Lampasas

**Free Guided Tours of the historic Lampasas County Courthouse, Saturdays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., historic downtown courthouse square.** The 30-minute tours visit each floor of the courthouse, including the stately second-floor courtroom as well as the third floor, which houses the tower clockworks. The Lampasas County Courthouse is the third-oldest courthouse in continuous use in Texas. For more information, contact Jim Rutland at (512) 556-5302 during regular business hours.

**Lampasas County Museum, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 303 S. Western Ave., between Second and Third streets.** Learn about the history of Lampasas County through permanent displays and special exhibitions. Free of charge.

**Lampasas Trade Days; November 3, December 1, January 5; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; 2646 E. Highway 190.** For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

**Hunters' Welcome, November 2, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., H-E-B parking lot.** Barbecue lunch \$8, includes a Texas-size sandwich with all the fixings, chips, cookie and drink.

**Fall Courtyard Square Garage Sale, November 3, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., courtyard square.** For more

### WE WELCOME YOUR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative welcomes your local event submissions. If you have any events that you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar will be published monthly, and it will contain events scheduled in the month of publication and the following two months. HCEC reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email [donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop](mailto:donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop), write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.



information, contact Andy Berry at (512) 556-5434.

**Carol of Lights, December 1, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., downtown.** All the traditions of Christmas and more: ornament decorating and storytelling from Mrs. Santa at My Girls (415 E. Third St., on the square), visits with Santa in the Ajinomoto Foods lobby, the Snow Queen pageant, carolers, classic cars, children’s activities, a Christmas tree display, gingerbread house contest and homes tour tickets available at the Lampasas County Museum (303 S. Western Ave., two blocks from the square). We end the day by lighting up the night with the Ajinomoto Foods lighted Christmas parade. \$1 for

welcome on space-available basis. Concession stand and playground. For more information, contact Lometa City Hall at (512) 752-3331 or Ronnie at (325) 200-3030.

*For information about Lometa events, contact the city of Lometa at (512) 752-3331.*

## Pearl

**Bluegrass Festival; November 3, December 1, January 5; 11 a.m.** Stage show, jam rooms, home-cooked food and bookstore. For more information, visit [pearlbluegrass.com](http://pearlbluegrass.com).

**San Saba County Historical Museum, every Saturday and Sunday in November, 1:30–4:30 p.m.** Tour this unique museum for a look at life when San Saba began. An original wood stable is enclosed within the museum walls along with many nostalgic items.

**Hunters Welcome Weekend, November 2, all day, Lowe’s Market and G&R Grocery.** Hunters will receive goody bags, compliments of the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce.

**San Saba Volunteer Fire Department Steak Supper, November 2, 4:30–7:30 p.m., SSVFD, 702 E. Storey St.** Cost is \$15 per plate. Great steaks, raffles, door prizes and fellowship. Additional donations welcome!

**Pecan Capital Trade Days; November 3, December 8; 7 a.m.–1 p.m.;** San Saba County Courthouse; 500 E. Wallace St. For information, contact JoAnne Van Gorp at (325) 372-4029.

**Spiral Horn Beekeeping Workshop, November 3, all day, Spiral Horn Apiary, 3890 CR 226.** For information, contact Mark Hedley at (325) 305-2100.

**Dove Project Dance and Fundraiser, November 3, 6:30–11:45 p.m., Civic Center, 1190 S. Thomas Stewart Drive.** Featuring Mark Scott. Includes barbecue, silent auction and much more. \$10, or \$15 at door. For information, contact Kelly Timmons at (325) 372-5039.

**San Saba County Health Fair, November 6, all day, San Saba Civic Center Mill Pond Park, S. Thomas Stewart Drive.** For information, contact Candi Willis or Melanie Potter at (325) 372-5416. Sponsored by AgriLife County Extension Service. All proceeds benefit the club’s civic projects, including city beautification and scholarships.

**Veterans Day Program, November 9, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., San Saba Visitor Center, 113 S. High St.** All veterans and their families and friends are invited to attend so that they may be honored for their service to our nation. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

**Hunter’s Stew, November 10, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., San Saba Garden Club House, 110 Thomas Stewart Drive.** Sponsored by the San Saba Garden Club. All proceeds benefit the club’s civic projects, including city beautification and scholarships.

**J.C. Campbell & Co. Bunco Night, November 13, 7–9 p.m., J.C. Campbell & Co. Mercantile, 318 E. Wallace St.** A \$5 entry fee includes light snacks and drinks, or you can bring your own. Come early and shop vendor specials for bunco participants. For information, contact J.C. Campbell & Co. Mercantile at (325) 372-5865.



### SHOPPING OPEN HOUSES

- Gatesville  
November 3
- Hico  
November 10

entry to the Town and Country Christmas Bazaar in the Lampasas County Courthouse with entry fee going to their scholarship fund. Other events are free. For information, call Dianna Hodges at (512) 525-1871 or visit [visionlampasas.com](http://visionlampasas.com) or [lampasasdowntown.com](http://lampasasdowntown.com).

**Lighted Christmas Parade, December 1, 6:30 p.m.**

**Holiday Tour of Homes, December 2, 1–5 p.m.** Tickets available at My Girls (415 E. Third St.) and Lampasas County Museum (303 S. Western Ave.). For more information, contact the museum at (512) 556-2224.

*For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or visit [lampasaschamber.org](http://lampasaschamber.org).*

## Lometa

**Best Day, November 10, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Lometa Regional Park, Highway 190/183.** Barter, exchange, sell or trade furniture, home goods, military uniforms and gear, collectibles and antiques, vintage and rustic items, etc. Vendors: 10’x15’ booth, \$15, walk-up vendors

**Pearl Book Cottage; November 3, December 1, January 5; 10 a.m.–6 p.m.** All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

**Pearl Community Thanksgiving Lunch and Special Music Program, November 4, Pearl Community Center.** A performance by the Sowell Family Pickers from Tennessee will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium. The Pearl Community Thanksgiving lunch with turkey, dressing, ham, vegetables and desserts will begin at noon. Bring a side dish or dessert and join us. Everyone is invited!

**Community Meal, third Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Pearl Baptist Church, Highway 183.** Contact Connie at (254) 223-0621.

## San Saba

**Enjoy the Fall.** Visit San Saba and enjoy fall decorations adorning businesses and storefronts. Last year’s display featured an impressive 52 participants on the main thoroughfares of San Saba. Decorations will be up through Thanksgiving. Visit San Saba—it’s more than you imagined.

**Mill Pond Lighted Holiday Park Christmas Extravaganza**, nightly, November 23–January 5, 6–10 p.m., Mill Pond Park, 1007 E. Wallace St. Thanksgiving evening kicks off the Christmas lights display. Set your radio to 88.7 FM and enjoy music synced to millions of lights dancing over 30 acres.

**63rd Annual Pecan Show**, November 26–27, all day, Arrowhead Bank extension office, 301 E. Wallace St. For information, contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (325) 372-5416.

**61st Annual Pecan Food Show and Bake Sale**, November 30, all day, Arrowhead Bank extension office, 301 E. Wallace St. For information, contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (325) 372-5416.

**Santa's Holiday Workshop**, December 8, 2–4 p.m., Estep-Burleson Plaza, 116 S. Cherokee St. Photos with Santa and fun activities for kids.

**Sip 'N' Stroll Wine Tasting Event**, December 8, 2–6 p.m., Check in at the Visitor Center, 113 S. High St. Tickets are \$30. For tickets and additional information, contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141. Tickets also can be purchased early through Eventbrite.

**River City Band Holiday Concert**, December 8, 5–6:30 p.m., San Saba County Courthouse Square, 500 E. Wallace St. Following the Sip 'N' Stroll and prior to the lighted Christmas parade, the River City Community Band will present a free holiday concert.

**Lighted Christmas Parade**, December 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m., downtown. Enter your business, organization, sports team, wagon, tractor or unique vehicle as a lighted float entry.

**San Saba County Livestock Show & Youth Fair**, January 10–12. For information, contact Texas AgriLife Extension at (325) 372-5416.

*For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or visit [sansabatexas.com/calendar](http://sansabatexas.com/calendar) or [sansabachamber.com](http://sansabachamber.com).*

## Star

**Star Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fish Fry**, November 10, 5:30 p.m., Star VFD, Highway 84. There will be no charge, and all donations are appreciated.



STEVIE DEENPORT | ISTOCK.COM

# Be Prepared To Vote Every Election Day

**WHILE THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ISN'T UNTIL 2020, THERE ARE COUNTLESS** state and local elections between now and then that can have a major impact on life in our local communities. That's why Hamilton County Electric Cooperative remains engaged in a national get-out-the-vote campaign called Co-ops Vote. We invite you to join us.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan project of America's electric cooperatives designed to encourage co-op members to vote and support their co-ops and their community when they go to the polls. As a nonpartisan effort, the program does not endorse or recommend candidates for election.

Co-ops Vote was launched in 2016 to reverse a troubling trend: In the 2012 elections, voter turnout in rural areas declined 18 percent—twice the voter drop-off seen nationally. More than 700 electric co-ops in 47 states responded by joining the Co-ops Vote program to increase voter engagement in the communities they serve, and it was a tremendous success. Rural voter turnout in 2016 increased by more than a half-million Americans. Together, we grew our political influence and encouraged lawmakers to pay more attention to the issues affecting rural Americans.

We must harness this momentum and ensure that Co-ops Vote continues to thrive.

More than 1,000 local and state elections will be held this year. Unfortunately, these critical elections often are ignored by the majority of voters. Many people see these “smaller” elections as less important than national elections. In reality, state and local elections have an even greater impact on local communities because the candidates are running on local issues—issues that are closer to voters' everyday lives than many national issues.

Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) to join and learn more. And by all means, make sure you cast your ballot November 6—and every election day.