



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

CODY
LASATER

The Cooperative Difference

MOST CONSUMERS would not equate active involvement in their electric company with helping their community. But Hamilton County Electric Cooperative isn't an ordinary utility company.

We're a co-op, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community—not to make a hefty profit for investors five states away. Our customers are more than consumers; they're members and owners of the cooperative. Therein lies the difference.

Our core purpose and mission is to provide our members safe, reliable and affordable power. As a co-op, we're motivated by service to the community rather than profits. After covering our expenses, we invest any extra money back into the co-op. Eventually, that extra money is returned to members in the form of capital credits.

We're governed by a board of directors who are elected by our members. Our board comprises members who live and work in our service area, which means they're in a position to know where community investments are most needed.

As a member, you can actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. This is why we value your participation in our annual meeting and at other co-op events. We depend on the guidance and perspective of our members and board to help set priorities for the co-op and guide our decisions.

In line with our cooperative values, Hamilton County EC has numerous ongoing programs that benefit the community. Every June, for example, we participate in the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, which takes local students to our nation's capital to meet with lawmakers, enabling students to learn firsthand how our democracy works.

We also have a scholarship program and support local community service initiatives. Like all co-op operations, decisions about these programs are led by member guidance and feedback.

We recognize the vital role our cooperative plays in energizing our local economy. To continue to innovate and effectively serve the community, we rely on you, our members, to provide input.

You're an important part of allowing us to operate effectively and help our community thrive, and we value your perspective. ■

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton, TX 76531

P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531

Local (254) 386-3123

Toll-Free 1-800-595-3401

Web hamiltonelectric.coop

General Manager

Cody Lasater

Board of Directors

Robert Straley, President, District 4

Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5

Brandon Haile, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

Jack Caldwell, District 1

Sam Campbell, District 6

Ervin Koerth, District 3

John Priddy, District 7

24/7

Outage Hotline Number

For information and
to report outages,
please call us.

TOLL-FREE
1-855-955-3183

ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 13,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Online at hamiltonelectric.coop

Call 1-855-955-3183 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bank draft can be set up or bill payments can be charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

Hamilton County EC Office

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton

Fort Gates Water Corp.

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Head Insurance

1006 Fourth St., Goldthwaite

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

VISIT US ONLINE

hamiltonelectric.coop



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton

Hamilton County EC Awards Scholarships

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE proudly awards scholarships to local students planning to attend a technical school, college or university. The scholarships, worth \$1,000 each and spread across two semesters, are available to students whose parents are members of Hamilton County EC. Independent committees evaluate the scholarship applications and select the winners.

Local school districts play a vital role in assisting HCEC in identifying the scholarship recipients, and we greatly appreciate their support and generosity.

The board of directors and staff of Hamilton County EC congratulates these students and wishes them success as they continue their education.

The following students received scholarships for the 2025–26 school year:

- Eva Mae Bradley**, Lometa Independent School District
- Kate Clementine Cooper**, Hamilton ISD
- Alexandre Paige Davis**, Goldthwaite ISD
- Amaya Griffin**, Copperas Cove ISD
- Tristian Angel Ojeda**, Priddy ISD
- Gabriel Christian Pollard**, Gatesville ISD
- Harley Faye Weeks**, Evant ISD
- Ruby Ann Wiseman**, Lampasas ISD

HCEC Board Election Set

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will elect directors only by mail ballot this year. To maintain equitable geographical representation of all areas on the board of directors, the cooperative’s bylaws provide for seven districts from which directors are elected. The three-year terms of the directors representing districts 1 and 3 expire this year.

- ▶ District 1 is the area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County served by the cooperative.
- ▶ District 3 is the area of Coryell County served by the cooperative.

One ballot will be mailed to each member in a separate mailing August 26. Any member may vote for one candidate in each district listed on the ballot. You do not have to live in one of these districts to cast your vote.

Please include your name and address on the ballot return envelope so the co-op can use it to confirm voter membership. Voter membership must be confirmed for votes to be counted. Please do not enclose bill payment in the ballot envelope.

The votes will be counted Tuesday, October 7. Members must mail their ballots in time for them to arrive in the Hamilton County EC post office box by noon Tuesday, October 7.

Results of the director elections will be announced later that evening, during the annual membership meeting, and will be posted on the Hamilton County EC website, hamiltonelectric.coop, and Facebook page and published in the December issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Candidate profiles will be included in the September issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. ■



Hamilton County EC 86th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 7
Circle T Arena
4007 Highway 36, Hamilton

- ▶ Dinner 5–6:15 p.m.
- ▶ It’s not necessary to register before dining.

Registration

A registration card will be mailed to each member August 26 along with the ballot for the director elections. Be sure to bring your registration card with you to avoid waiting in line to obtain one. You will present the card to receive an attendance gift and be entered for the prize drawing. Members must be present to win prizes.

Business Meeting

The meeting’s official business will begin at 7 p.m. in the Circle T Arena. Attendees will hear information on the operation of the cooperative, results of the director elections and highlights of co-op accomplishments throughout the past year.

We hope you will come out and help us celebrate 86 years of providing electric service.

Tentative Agenda

- ▶ Call to order
- ▶ Invocation
- ▶ National anthem and Pledge of Allegiance
- ▶ Introduction of directors and guests
- ▶ President’s opening remarks
- ▶ Order of business including director election results
- ▶ Manager’s comments and adjournment
- ▶ Drawing for prizes

OKSANA SAZHNEVA | ISTOCK.COM

Community Calendar

The following community event information was gathered in early- to mid-June. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

Kid's Day at the Museum, August 2, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Storytellers, face painting, arts and crafts, and more!

Quanah Parker Day, September 13, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. The event recognizes Quanah Parker as a leader of the Comanche Nation and includes displays of Native American artifacts and information about the Comanche Native Americans. For more information, call (325) 356-5115, email comanchecountymuseum@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page.

Comanche County Pow Wow, September 27–28, Comanche City Park, 1200 Comanche Trails. Don't miss the two-day celebration, featuring over 30 food vendors and more than 100 craft vendors, a barbecue cook-off, petting zoo, live music, and more!

For more information about Comanche County events, contact Carrie Johnson at the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or carrie@comanchechamber.org.

Copperas Cove

Movie in the Park, August 22, at sunset, Field 5, 1206 W. Avenue B.

For information on Copperas Cove events, call (254) 547-7571 or email chamber@copperascove.com.

Evant

Summer Music Series; August 16, September 20; 6 p.m.–8 p.m.; Evant City Square; 115 E. Brooks Drive.

For more information about Evant events, visit evanttxcoc.org or email evantchamberinfo@gmail.com.

Gatesville

Gatesville Riding Club Rodeo, July 31–August 3, Veteran's Memorial Drive. Gates open at 6 p.m. and rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Market Days; August 9, September 13; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; the Cotton Belt Depot parking lot; 2307 S. Highway 36.

Artifact Show, August 9, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Country Music Hall of Fame concert, August 15, Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St.

Coryell County Youth Fair Reverse Raffle, August 16, 6 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Senior Expo, August 21, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop.

Powerlifting Meet, August 23, 7 a.m.–6 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. For information about Gatesville Civic Center events, contact Morgan Smart at (254) 499-0102 or msmart@gatesvilletx.com.

For information about Gatesville events, call (254) 865-2617, visit gatesvillechamber.com or email gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.

Goldthwaite

Mills County Historical Museum, Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–2 p.m., 1119 Fisher St. Free admission.

Goldthwaite Theater, 1206 Fisher St. For information on upcoming events, call (325) 451-1811 or visit goldthwaitetheatre.org.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit goldthwaiteareachamber.com, call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619 or email gcc@centex.net.

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. State Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circuitarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

Hamilton Band Boosters BBQ Cookoff, August 8–9, Circle T Arena & Resort, 4007 W. State Highway 36. Sanctioned by Lone



Star Barbecue Society with 100% payout! For more information or to register, call Harmony Thompson at (254) 784-2713 or email hamiltonbandbbq@hamiltonisd.org.

Main Street Market on the Square, August 9, 9 a.m.–noon. Vendor spots (homemade and handmade items) are free and are on a first-come, first-served basis. For vendor applications, contact Hamilton Main Street at (254) 784-5610 or mainstreet@hamiltontx.com.

Dove Festival, Labor Day weekend. More info to come. Visit the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for a schedule of events at facebook.com/hamilontexas.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at hamilontexaschamberofcommerce.com or All Things Hamilton Facebook, call (254) 386-3216, or email hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Lampasas

Lampasas County Farmers Market and Crafts, Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Lampasas County Courthouse parking lot.

Second Saturday Sale—Flea Market Style, August 9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Storage Near Me Texas, 1010 E. 4th St.

Classic at the Classic Car Show, September 13, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Storm's Lampasas, 201 N. Key Ave. Registration is free and on-site the morning of the show.

Western Night on Western Street Dance, September 20, doors open at 5:30 p.m., Lampasas County Museum, 303 S. Western Ave. Featuring the Jason Roberts Band. General admission is \$25. Lawn chairs are welcome. Tickets can be purchased at the museum, My Girls and at eventbrite.com. Cash only at the gate. For more information, call (512)-556-2224 or email lampasasmuseum@gmail.com.

For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172, or admin@lampasaschamber.org, or visit lampasaschamber.org.

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 Maria Donahoo. 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 month. 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 maria.donahoo@hamiltonelectric.coop, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

Lometa

Pick Up Party at Fiesta Winery at Bend, September 6, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., 18727 W. FM 580. Details to come. For more information about Fiesta Winery events at Bend, call (325) 628-3433, email info@fiestawinery.com or visit fiestawinery.com.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass; August 2, September 13; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Free admission. Come join others to pick or just to listen. Jam rooms for all levels. Open mic opportunities begin at 10 a.m. Sign up upon arrival. The kitchen opens at 11 a.m., home cooking and desserts, cash only. The proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. For RV spaces, call Connie at (254) 223-0621. For more information, follow us on Facebook at Pearl Community Center Texas or visit pearlbluegrassjam.org.

Pearl Book Cottage; August 2, September 13; 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booths are \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For information, call Kay Pruetz at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 865-9282.

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days; August 9, September 13; 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; County Courthouse Square. For setup, details and more information, contact Joan or Don VanGorp at (325) 372-1937.

San Saba Pro Rodeo Days, August 15–16, 6–8 p.m., San Saba County Rodeo Grounds, 1951 State Highway 16. A dance on Saturday immediately follows the rodeo.

For more information about San Saba events contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141 or visit sansabatexas.com.



POWER TIP

Run the dishwasher before you go to bed to avoid adding to the heat of the day and to reduce power load during peak times.



DID YOU KNOW?

A periodic inspection of your dryer vent to make sure it's clear will save energy and could prevent a fire.



PIXELCATCHERS | ISTOCK.COM

ant leak. Many refrigerants, especially those used in older systems, are harmful to the environment.

Fix leaks before adding more refrigerant. Special certifications are required for handling refrigerants, so hire a professional to ensure the work is done properly.

Low airflow. If you aren't getting good airflow, it could be an easy fix, such as filter replacement or opening closed dampers. If you've made these fixes and airflow is still below normal levels, contact a professional. There could be a bigger problem with a motor, fan or something else.

Bad odors. Heating and cooling systems sometimes smell when you first start them up for the season. Those smells should be minor and dissipate quickly. Any serious smells—such as burning metal, melting plastic or noxious odors—are a sign that your system is in trouble. If you smell those odors, turn your system off immediately and contact a professional.

Strange noises. There is typically noise associated with the fans and motors in heating and cooling systems.

Take note of any excessive or new noises. If your system is making any clunking, clanging or whistling noises, turn it off and check the filter. If that doesn't solve it, reach out to a pro.

Running frequently. Your system needs to run more to keep up on extreme weather days, but there might be an issue if it runs too often. Short cycling is when a system cycles on and off before completing the heating or cooling process. Contact a professional to diagnose this issue.

Several factors come into play when deciding to fix existing equipment or invest in new equipment. Consider the severity of the issue, repair costs, the likelihood of additional repairs, equipment lifespan and your budget.

The efficiency of your existing system is also a consideration. Heating and cooling technology improvements have come a long way in the past 20 years. Lower operation costs can offset the cost of a new system over time.

Consider your options before you're in desperate need. Get estimates from at least three contractors. Ask the contractor, "If this was your home, what type of system would you install and why?" The best solution for your home might be a different type of equipment. ■

Signs Your HVAC Is in Trouble

YOUR HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR conditioning system is one of your home's most important and expensive systems. Detecting issues early can help you plan for repairs or equipment replacement.

Equipment functionality issues can affect electricity use, which may result in higher energy bills. The age of your equipment can be a major factor in how it functions. The lifespan of a heating and cooling system is typically 15–20 years.

Proper maintenance and lower use can increase the life of the equipment. To find out the age of your system, look for the manufacture date printed on the nameplate. If you can't find it, search online using the model number or call the manufacturer.

Being thrifty by nature, many of us subscribe to the notion of, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That said, we need to be prepared for the inevitable. If your system is approaching or past the 20-year mark, start saving for a new system and get replacement estimates.

There are a few warning signs to watch out for if your heating and cooling system needs to be repaired or replaced.

Air conditioning is not cooling as usual. If the air from your AC is warm or not as cool as it usually feels, there's an issue. It could be a problem with the compressor or a refriger-

Look Up for Power Lines

THINGS WE SEE every day can almost fade from view. But failure to notice high-voltage power lines can be a deadly oversight. Hamilton County Electric Cooperative wants to raise awareness about the dangers of overhead power lines and the precautions to take around them.

Often when we go outside, we don't even think about power lines. Taking a few moments to become aware of your surroundings is critical to keeping yourself and your loved ones safe.

Follow these guidelines as you work outdoors.

Look up and around. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools, like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower your long equipment when moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally.

Be careful when working on or around your roof, installing or removing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, doing roof repair work, or cleaning gutters. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.

Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house.

Never trim trees near power lines yourself—leave that work to trained professionals.

Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.

Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to a branch.

If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call 811 before you begin. Never assume you know the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. ■



KNAPE | ISTOCK.COM



LIFESTYLE/ISTOCKS | ISTOCK.COM

When Disaster Strikes, Your Co-op Is Ready

HAMILTON COUNTY Electric Cooperative is always ready to respond when the lights go out, but emergency situations—and extended outages such as those related to weather events—can be particularly challenging.

Our lines serve several critical needs facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes and water systems, making longer outages a potentially life-threatening situation. We do everything we can to restore power in situations where an outage affects life-support systems or poses other immediate dangers.

When a major storm moves through our area, fellow co-ops' line crews are standing by, ready to help us restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time possible.

The best preparation for emergency situations is having a plan. If someone in your household depends on power for critical medical equipment or life support, make an emergency plan such as a generator, and please inform Hamilton County EC so we can be your partners in preparation. ■