

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER

CODY LASATER

Time Is a Meaningful Gift

WITH THE HOLIDAY season upon us and the new year just around the corner, I can't help but reflect on the gratitude I feel for our community. Every year has its share of challenges, but I'm heartened by the ways we've pulled together.

Local food and toy drives are often concentrated around the holidays, but for Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, our concern for community is a year-round endeavor.

This holiday season, consider a new tradition: giving the gift of time. Volunteer for an organization or cause you care about. In addition to the organization and community benefiting from your efforts, you'll receive gifts as well. You may make new connections, strengthen existing skills or learn new ones, and you'll get the welcome satisfaction that comes with helping others.

Volunteerism is the gift that keeps on giving. Even assisting with the smallest tasks can make a big impact in the lives of others. Nonprofits often don't require a big commitment or special skills, just some care and concern.

You can also extend the gift of time to your friends and family. Loved ones who say "I have everything I need" can be hard to shop for. Instead of buying an item, take the opportunity to give them something more meaningful.

Time spent completing an errand or task that may be impractical or difficult for a relative or friend is a way to express affection without resorting to the often-impersonal gesture of purchasing a gift card.

Tasks like changing the filter in an air conditioner or replacing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors can help make someone's home safer or shave a few dollars off an electric bill.

As gifts go, the trinity of time together, a needed home repair or chore accomplished, and a homemade treat or meal is a tough one to top.

Hamilton County EC also appreciates the gift of your time. Whether it's spent in attendance at the annual meeting, where we get valuable feedback on how to improve our processes and operations, or a moment taken to alert us to a problem you notice with a power line or meter, those small yet meaningful measures of your time allow your co-op to thrive.

Your willingness to engage with the co-op and frequent role as our eyes and ears in the field enable us to maintain a level of service that we're proud of.

From all of us at your electric cooperative, merry Christmas and happy holidays to you and yours.

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 Numbers

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

Director Election Results

ON OCTOBER 6, the membership of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative reelected the following members to its board of directors.

Robert Straley, District 4
Sam Campbell, District 6
John Priddy, District 7

All three directors ran unopposed this year and were elected by acclamation at HCEC's annual membership meeting.



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Official Notice of Capital Credits Allocations

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative has officially allocated capital credits to its members for 2025.

At the end of each year, the cooperative determines the margins made during the year by deducting the expense 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 their electric use. Once these margins are allocated, these funds are called capital credits.

Capital credits remain invested in the cooperative until the board of directors determines that a retirement would not weaken the cooperative financially. To date, Hamilton County Electric Cooperative has returned $7,162,872 in capital credits for the years 1947–96.

Your 2025 allocation is determined by multiplying your total 2025 electric bills by 0.009461. For example, if your eligible electric bills for the year totaled $1,000, your 2025 capital credits allocation is $9.46. When calculating your total bill, do not include sales tax, membership fees, deposits or miscellaneous charges.

If you move out of Hamilton County EC's service territory, it is vital that you keep the cooperative informed of your current mailing address so we can mail your return checks when they are issued.

Contact Hamilton County EC if you have any questions regarding your capital credits account.

This article serves as the official notice of capital credits allocations for 2025.



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Susie's Victorian Toffee

1 cup (2 sticks) butter
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon water
4 ounces milk chocolate, broken into pieces
1 cup pecan halves, chopped

1. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and set aside.

2. In a nonstick skillet over medium heat, melt butter, sugar and water together. Stir constantly in figure eights with a rubber spatula until mixture is bubbly and golden, about 10 minutes.

3. Carefully pour mixture onto prepared baking sheet and let cool 3–5 minutes, then scatter chocolate across the top. Using a rubber spatula, gently spread chocolate across the top as it melts, reaching all the edges. Scatter nuts over chocolate.

4. Let cool overnight. If your kitchen is warm, the process can be sped up in the refrigerator or freezer. Once toffee is solid, break into pieces and store in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

MAKES 1 POUND TOFFEE

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.











Hamilton County EC Celebrates 87th Membership Meeting

BY MARIA DONAHOO | PHOTOS BY TRACY COX

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative members and their families and the co-op's employees and directors gathered for an evening of food, fellowship and cooperative business October 6 at the Circle T Arena in Hamilton.

This year, the co-op welcomed 934 attendees to the meeting, including 557 registered members. The annual meeting is a co-op tradition and a chance for members to hear directly from and be involved in the utility they own.

In the board of directors election, incumbent directors Robert Straley, District 4; Sam Campbell, District 6; and John Priddy, District 7, ran unopposed and were reelected by acclamation.

Straley, the board's president, spoke about the changes facing the electric industry, including growing demand, rising costs and large data center developments. While new development can bring opportunities to the area, he emphasized the need to protect existing members from unfairly taking on the costs of serving those new facilities.

Straley also discussed transmission projects and their impact on rural landowners. He said that Hamilton County EC does not build or own transmission lines but that the co-op would continue following these projects and speaking up for members. He stressed the importance of maintaining HCEC's existing system and planning ahead to keep service safe, reliable and affordable.

"An electric cooperative exists because of its members," Straley said. "You are not simply customers. You are owners."

Cody Lasater, general manager, presented service awards to employees and directors in recognition of their years with HCEC.

Employees recognized were Erich Eilers and Logan Snoddy for five years; Keela McDonald for 10 years; Lisa Lively and George Luker for 20 years; Gregg Belcher and Randall Denning for 25 years; and Terri Martin and Mark Nolan for 30 years.

Director service awards were presented to Brandon Haile and John Priddy for five years and Ervin Koerth for 20 years.











Lasater thanked everyone who helped with the meeting, including the Crossfire Steakhouse and Cantina staff and HCEC employees. A special thank-you went to Brian Haile of Haile Realty Group for providing the sound system. Lasater also welcomed special guests Mary Margaret Croft, the co-op's attorney, and Wade Snider, senior economist for Brazos Electric Cooperative.

Before adjourning, Lasater thanked the co-op's board, employees and members. He shared his appreciation for being part of HCEC and the sense of family that comes from working together to serve its members.

In addition to co-op business, the co-op family enjoyed a night of fun. Dinner was catered by Jonathan Salley and Crossfire Steakhouse. Members enjoyed a meal and fellowship before the business meeting began.

Members received a $25 Walmart gift card when turning in their registration cards, which also entered them into the evening's prize drawings. More than 80 prizes were awarded—37 donated and 44 purchased by Hamilton County EC—in addition to special children's prizes. Prizes were donated by Texas Electric Cooperatives, Empact Engineering, Cintas, Cotton Electric Services, Sunbelt Solomon, Emerald Transformer, JM Test Systems and Northeast Tree Service. The grand prize was a $1,000 HCEC bill credit.

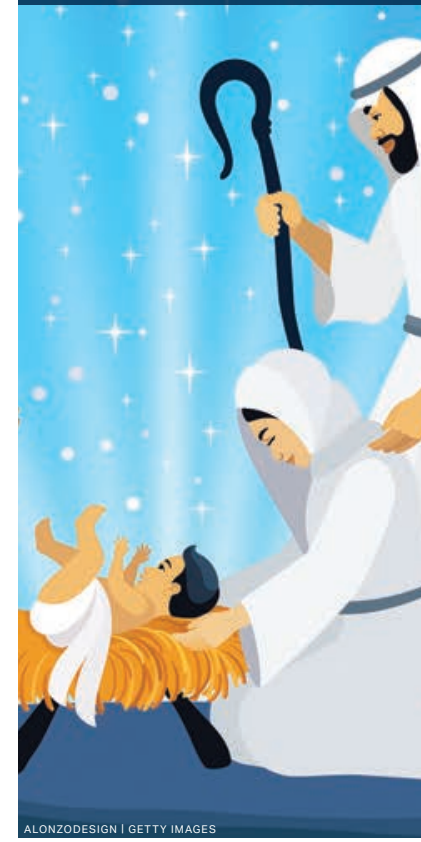
HCEC thanks its members, employees, board of directors, donors and everyone else who helped make the 87th annual meeting a success. The cooperative looks forward to another year of serving its members and the communities they call home. ■



Merry Christmas

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative wishes you and yours a blessed and joyful holiday season.

Our office will be closed Thursday–Friday, December 24–25, and Friday, January 1, for the holidays.



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Community Calendar

The following community event information was gathered in October. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

Christmas Party, December 5, 1–4 p.m., 402 Moorman Road. Snacks, delicious desserts, special guest Tommy Patterson, children's choir singing holiday favorites and more. For more information, call (325) 356-5115 or email comanchecountytx museum@gmail.com.

Explore Comanche Christmas, December 12, 5–7 p.m. around Comanche Square. Parade, Christmas market, tree lighting and more.

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

Copperas Cove

Christmas in the Park, December 3, 6–8 p.m., Copperas Cove City Park, 1206 W. Avenue B. Join us for a magical evening at this free, family-friendly event that includes taking pictures with Santa Claus, strolling around the park and enjoying dazzling Christmas lights.

Krist Kindl Market; December 4–6; Friday 4–10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; downtown Copperas Cove. Includes vendors, food, a tree lighting ceremony and light up parade.

Krist Kindl Parade, December 5, 6 p.m., Avenue D in downtown Copperas Cove. Festive floats, marching groups and sparkling lights bring downtown to life. This year's optional theme is Lone Star Sleigh Ride. For more information, visit copperas cove.com, call (254) 547-7571 or email chamber@copperascove.com.

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

Evant

Christmas Tree Lighting, December 4, 4 p.m., Evant City Square. Join us for our third annual Christmas tree lighting.

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

Gatesville

Christmas at the Ballpark, December 1–31, Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Enjoy a stroll through the park covered in all things Christmas.

Christmas Extravaganza, December 12, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Gatesville Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. Vendors, food and activities. For more information, contact gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.

Hometown Holiday, December 12, parade on Main Street, Hornet Way to Lutterloh Avenue. For more information, contact gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.

Country Music Hall of Fame Show, December 18, 7 p.m. Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. Free concert featuring local country artists.

For more information on 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 their Facebook page, or email gatesvillecoc@gmail.com.

Goldthwaite

Lights & Luminarias, December 1–31, Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center, 1219 Fisher St. For more information, call (325) 451-1075 or visit legacyplaza.org.

Transitioning to Wildlife Management: A Texas Landowner's Guide, December 5, 10–11 a.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St. With TBGNAIC Education Coordinator Nic Hurbough. For more information, call (325) 451-1075 or visit legacyplaza.org.

Sip, Stroll and Shop; December 5, 2–6 p.m.; downtown Goldthwaite. Explore downtown Goldthwaite's unique shops, support local businesses and enjoy tastings at participating locations before the Christmas parade. Tickets are $30 and include 10 tastings and a souvenir cup. Participants must be 21 or older.

Cowboy Christmas Ball, December 5, 7:30–10:30 p.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St.

Native American Cultural Center Pop-Up Beading Workshop, December 12, 10 a.m.–noon, Kawi Kahni (Gathering Place), 1016 Second St. For more information, call (325) 451-1075 or visit legacyplaza.org.

For more information on upcoming events from the Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center, call (325) 451-1075 or visit legacyplaza.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

Main Street Market on the Square, second Saturday of the month, December 12, downtown Hamilton square. Browse handmade goods and local shops. For more information, contact Hamilton Main Street at (254) 386-8116 or mainstreet@city hamiltontx.gov.

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36.

Keys & Countdown, December 31, NYE Dueling Pianos.

Catch rodeos, roping, concerts and more at Circle T Arena. For the latest event schedule, visit circletarena.net/events or call (254) 386-3559.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit allthingshamilton.org or follow All Things Hamilton on Facebook. Contact Hamilton Historic Main Street at (254) 386-8116 or mainstreet@cityhamiltontx.gov. Contact the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com, (254) 386-3216 or hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Hico

Hometown Christmas, December 4, 5 p.m. Come enjoy the annual Christmas tree lighting on Friday night and then join us Saturday for the Christmas market.

Christmas Market, December 5, 11 a.m., downtown. Handmade goods, boutique items, jewelry, knives and so much more.

Historic Hico Tour of Homes, December 12, 10 a.m., Blue Star Trading Co., 112 S. Pecan St.

Hico Hall, 101 W. Avenue B.

Fred Eaglesmith, December 12.

Matt Hillyer in the Coal Room, December 18.

For tickets or for more information, visit hicohall.com.

Girls Night Out Christmas, December 17, 4–7 p.m. downtown. Participating businesses will have terrific treats, door prizes and special discounts.

For more information about Hico events, contact the Hico Chamber of Commerce at (254) 434-1249 or visit hicotxchamber.org or facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce.

Lampasas

Lampasas County Farmers Market and Crafts, Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., downtown courthouse square parking lot. Local crafts, farm-fresh goods, handmade treasures and community fun. For more information, contact (512) 556-5172 or lcfmc76550@gmail.com.

Carol of Lights, December 5, 9 a.m.–7:30 p.m., downtown courthouse square. A celebration of Christmas with music, activities, shopping and "holidazzle" parade. For more information, contact the Lampasas County Chamber at (512) 556-5172.

Tour of Homes, December 6, 1–5 p.m., Lampasas County Museum and around town. Start at the museum and then head off on your self-guided tour of five privately owned historic and modern homes. For more information, contact the Lampasas County Museum at (512) 556-2224.

TriCounty Run, December 6, 1–3 p.m., Temple to Lampasas. Holiday cycle toy run and ride. For more information, contact (315) 681-5549 or visit tctrcentex.org.

Christmas on the Creek, December 12, 5–8 p.m., W.M. Brook Park. Join in on a fun evening for snow, sleigh rides, s'mores and Santa. Enjoy the lights and displays along Sulphur Creek from Thanksgiving to New Years. For more information, contact the Lampasas County Chamber at (512) 556-5172.

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.

Lometa

Fiesta Winery at Bend, 18727 W. FM 580.

Winter Market, December 5, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Wine Club Party, December 5, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Live Music by Monte Rose, December 5, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Live Music by Buffaloe & the Heard, December 5, 2–5 p.m.

Steeped in Stories Tea Time, December 6, 1–4 p.m.

Yoga & Mimosas, December 12, 10–11 a.m.

Live Music by Keelan Donovan, December 12, 1–4 p.m.

Cake & Sip, December 13, 2–4 p.m.

Live Music by James Hearne, Decmber 19, 1–4 p.m.

Sunday Create & Gather—Ornament Decorating, December 20, 2–4 p.m.

For more information about Fiesta Winery events, call (325) 628-3433, email info@fiestawinery.com or visit fiestawinery.com.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass Jam, December 5, Pearl Community Center, 6301 FM 183. Jam rooms open at 10 a.m., kitchen at 11 a.m., stage show at 1 p.m. Free admission for musicians and spectators; all levels of musicians welcome to come and jam. If you would like to book your band for the stage, call or text Jeffrey King at (832) 514-1909. Serving great home cooking and homemade desserts. We now accept credit cards and cash. All proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. There are 32 RV spaces available; for rental, contact Connie Long at (254) 223-0621. Follow us on Facebook at Pearl Bluegrass Jam for more information.

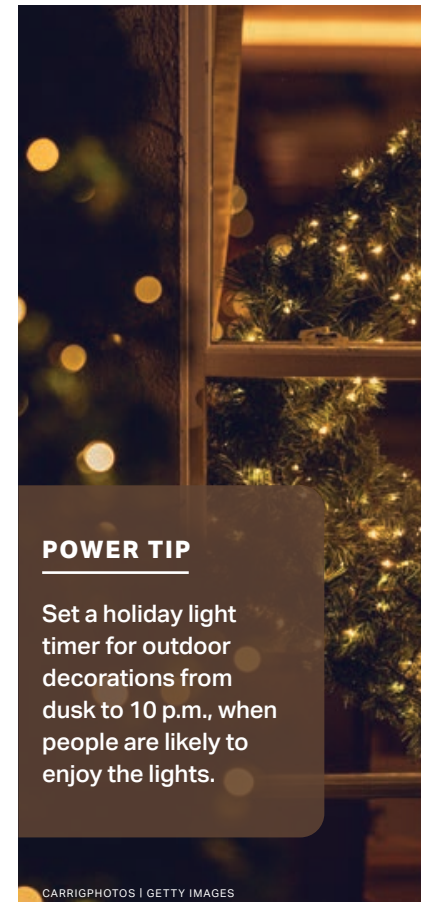
Pearl Book Cottage and Resale Shop, December 5, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Books and resale items. All proceeds go to local charities. For information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 206-1999.

San Saba

Sip 'n' Stroll & Lighted Christmas Parade, December 12, 2–6 p.m., downtown. Enjoy local shopping, holiday activities and wine tastings followed by the lighted Christmas parade along Wallace Street. For more information, visit sansabachamber.com.

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

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.



POWER TIP

Set a holiday light timer for outdoor decorations from dusk to 10 p.m., when people are likely to enjoy the lights.

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DID YOU KNOW?

English politician Sir Henry Cole sent the first Christmas card in 1843. He had 1,000 cards engraved and hand colored.

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