



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CODY LASATER

## Co-op Month Is Cause for Celebration

**EVERY OCTOBER** for most of the past century, non-profit cooperatives of all types have recognized National Cooperative Month—and we continue that tradition this year at Hamilton County Electric Cooperative.

Although Co-op Month was celebrated for years before a national proclamation, the U.S. officially lauded co-ops in 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman proclaimed October as National Cooperative Month.

This year, members from more than 29,000 cooperatives nationwide proclaim the advantages of cooperative membership and the benefits and value that co-ops deliver.

not customers. Co-ops exist to serve their members, and we strive to keep our level of service high even during the toughest times.

From attending an annual meeting to serving on the board, members are encouraged to be actively involved in the business of their cooperative. Members maintain democratic control of their co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors.

The cooperative business model also gives members economic control. Because cooperatives are owned and controlled by the people who use their services, decisions are made with the best interests of co-op members in mind—not to financially benefit corporate stockholders.

Instead of issuing stock or paying dividends to outside shareholders, co-ops return margins (“profits”) to their members in the form of capital credits at the end of the year when they’re able.

Another principle that sets co-ops apart from other businesses is their concern for community. Cooperatives have a special responsibility and desire to participate in and support the areas in which their members live and work.

Co-ops are more personal and accessible than other types of businesses because their employees work and live alongside those they serve. Co-ops are dedicated to powering communities and empowering members.

Here at Hamilton County EC, we think the cooperative difference is worth celebrating this year and every year. ■



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Co-ops—including Hamilton County EC—are nonprofit, democratically controlled, member-owned businesses. Co-ops provide value to their members through highly personal customer service; economic development, conservation and service programs; the retirement of capital credits; and democratic representation in business decisions.

Electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That’s why those who receive electric service from America’s electric cooperatives are called members,

# HCEC Director Election Results

ON AUGUST 6, Hamilton County Electric Cooperative members elected Brandon Haile, District 2, and Dusty Duncan, District 5, to the co-op's board of directors. The board met September 2 and elected officers. The following members comprise the board of directors of Hamilton County EC:

- Robert Straley**, President, Lampasas, District 4
- Dusty Duncan**, Vice President, Lometa, District 5
- Brandon Haile**, Secretary-Treasurer, Hamilton, District 2
- Jack Caldwell**, Evant, District 1
- Sam Campbell**, Goldthwaite, District 6
- Ervin Koerth**, Gatesville, District 3
- John Priddy**, Mullin, District 7



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- National Do Something Nice Day**  
Tuesday, October 5
- International Day of Rural Women**  
Friday, October 15
- Halloween**  
Sunday, October 31

SWISHER EC

## Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

### CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton  
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.

**LOCAL**  
(254) 386-3123

**TOLL-FREE**  
1-800-595-3401

### ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

**Online** at hamiltonelectric.coop

**Call** 1-877-833-4031 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, 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

### VISIT US ONLINE

hamiltonelectric.coop



## Steve Young Was Committed to HCEC

**STEPHEN RAY YOUNG**, Hamilton County Electric Cooperative's general manager and a 45-year employee of the co-op, died August 23 at his home in Shive, surrounded by his wife and children. He was 69.

Young was born in Hico on November 24, 1951, to Ruth and Woody Young of Hamilton. He spent most of his childhood in the Hamilton County jailhouse, where his dad was the sheriff and his mother cooked for the people who were imprisoned there and made a home for her family.

Young graduated from Hamilton High School in 1970 and went on to attend Texas A&M University. He married his high school sweetheart, Bobbie Young, on July 18, 1971. Upon completion of his degree in finance, Young accepted a position at Shell Oil in Houston. A year and a half later, the couple moved back to their hometown of Hamilton to grow and raise their family. Steve Young began working for Hamilton County EC, where he worked for the next 45 years.

Steve and Bobbie Young had three children, Clinton, Brandon and Jessica. They also welcomed six grandchildren. Steve and Bobbie Young were blessed to celebrate 50 years of marriage in July.

Young had a love for farming and ran cattle, sheep and goats most of his life. His greatest joy was spending time on the farm fishing with his grandchildren. Young's life was marked by kindness, generosity and faithfulness. From serving in the Hamilton Booster Club to quietly helping someone in need, he was known to have a servant's heart.

Young is preceded in death by his mother and father, Ruth and Woody Young, and by his son, Clinton Young. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie; his brother, John David Young; his children, Brandon and Kylie Young and Jessica and Jeremy Purvis; and his grandchildren, William, Grant, Benjamin, Braxton, Brylie and Bristol. ■

## Fall Safety Tips

**KEEP ELECTRICAL SAFETY** in mind as cooler fall weather moves many activities back indoors. The following safety tips from Electrical Safety Foundation International will help you stay safe during the change of seasons:

Safely store warm weather tools like lawn mowers and trimmers. Check cold weather tools, such as leaf and snowblowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools and parts right away.

Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be used again until spring.

Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture.

Keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.

Make sure electric blankets are in good condition and certified by an approved independent testing lab such as UL, CSA or ETL. Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut.

Do not tuck your electric blanket under mattresses, children or pets, and do not put anything, such as comforters or bedspreads, on top of the blanket while it's in use. ■



JENNY MATTHEWS | ISTOCK.COM



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## Take Extra Care With Space Heaters

**THEY'RE CONVENIENT** and come with all kinds of built-in safety features, but space heaters still contribute to more than 40% of house fires and 81% of house fire-related deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

If you rely on space heaters to keep rooms warm, follow a few common-sense precautions.

- ▶ Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions.
- ▶ Only use space heaters on flat surfaces—preferably the floor but never a carpet or rug.
- ▶ Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from flammable fabrics, including furniture and draperies.
- ▶ Likewise, place the heater at least 3 feet away from the wall where it's plugged in. If it's too close, it could overheat the wall and start a fire.
- ▶ Choose a model that lets you tilt the heating element upward so you can direct the heat away from the floor.
- ▶ Never disable a tip-over switch. Most modern space heaters come with them built in.
- ▶ Don't use a space heater in a bathroom, laundry room or any other space where water could touch the appliance. Water and electricity do not mix.
- ▶ Turn off the heater when you leave the room. If it does tip over, you need to know immediately so you can pick it up before it starts a fire.
- ▶ Keep a close eye on a space heater when kids and pets are in the room with it. Or better yet, don't use a space heater around children and animals.
- ▶ Plug space heaters into wall outlets, not extension cords, power strips or surge protectors. Using those kinds of cords increases the risk of an overloaded circuit, which can start a fire.
- ▶ Make sure your space heater has a label indicating that it has been tested by a laboratory recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. ■

## Butterfingers Crunch Dessert

- 1½ cups milk
- 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2 cartons (8 ounces each) nondairy whipped topping, thawed; divided use
- 1 large angel food cake, cubed
- 4 Butterfinger candy bars (2.1 ounces each), crushed

1. Apply cooking spray to a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix 2 minutes. Let stand 2 minutes until soft set. Stir in 2 cups whipped topping until well mixed, then fold in remaining whipped topping.
3. Layer half of the cake cubes in baking dish, then top with pudding mixture and crushed candy bars. Repeat layers.
4. Cover and chill at least 2 hours before serving.

**SERVES 12**

**TCP** Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).

LYNNE MITCHELL | ISTOCK.COM



# Community Calendar

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative is actively monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. The following community event information was gathered in late August with sincere hopes that these events will be held. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

## Comanche

**Sippin' in the Sunshine, October 2, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.**, courthouse square. Come join us in sippin' wine, snacking on samples and shopping around town. Wine from Texas vineyards will be available to sip while you shop, and there will be vendors, food trucks and live music.

**Halloween Event, October 30, historic downtown square.**

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

## Copperas Cove

**Farmers Market, each Thursday through October, 4–7 p.m.**, at the corner of Avenue D and Second Street. Offering locally grown produce and handcrafted items.

Sponsored by the city of Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation. For more information, contact Ashley Wilson at (254) 542-2719 or [awilson@copperascovetx.gov](mailto:awilson@copperascovetx.gov).

**Howl-O-Ween Puppy Pawloozza, October 30, 8 a.m.–noon, city park pool, 1204 W. Ave. B.** Bring your four-legged friends and join us for a doggone good time with pet swimming, an obstacle course, animal adoptions, a 1-mile walk, pet parade, costume contest, howling contest and more. Entry to the event is free with a cash donation or product donation to the Copperas Cove Animal Shelter. Prizes in all contests include top individual collection and top team collection. First 100 dogs to try the obstacle course receive a doggie bandana.

*For 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

*For information about Evant events, contact P-Cay Burkhalter at (254) 791-5441 or [pcay@buenavistawildlifefafari.com](mailto:pcay@buenavistawildlifefafari.com).*

## Gatesville

**Chamber Market Days, second Saturday,**

8 a.m.–noon, in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Browse vendors offering fresh fruits and veggies, metal decor, honey, salsa, jellies, baked goods, plants, homemade crafts, furniture, clothing, and much more.

**Corks & Kegs, November 20, downtown.** Sample wine and beer from area wineries and brewpubs, shop with local vendors, and enjoy food and music in the shadows of the beautiful Coryell County Courthouse. Admission is \$20 until November 1 and \$30 until the day of the event and includes a souvenir beer mug or wineglass and tastings from each winery or brewery. Additional glasses, bottles, and cases of wine or beer can be purchased directly from vendors.

**Food for Families, November 22, Gatesville Volunteer Fire Department, Highway 84 and Highway 36.** This one-day food drive collects nonperishable food to help stock the shelves of area food banks and pantries beyond the holiday season.

**Book Signing, November 27, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Coryell Museum and Historical Center, 718 E. Main St.** Book signing for *The Rifleman*, a memoir by Cotton Davidson, a quarterback who played at Baylor and in the NFL and AFL, coached football, and ranches in Coryell County. For more information, contact co-author Wayland Corgill at (254) 216-0792 or [ewcorgill@yahoo.com](mailto:ewcorgill@yahoo.com).

*For more information about Gatesville events,*



Sippin' in the Sunshine  
October 2  
COMANCHE

**Food for Families**  
November 22  
GATESVILLE



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call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or visit [gatesvilletx.info](http://gatesvilletx.info).

## Goldthwaite

**Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 6, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.** \$5 donation for a single bowl, \$10 for all you can eat. Both include cornbread and tea or water. Gun drawings start at noon. We will sell gun raffle tickets up to the day of the event.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit [goldthwaiteareachamber.com](http://goldthwaiteareachamber.com) or call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619.

## Hamilton

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

**Veterans Memorial, October 1, 2021–May 30, 2022.** American Legion Cunningham Post 222 is planning a new permanent memorial to honor Hamilton County veterans. Designed by Riley-Gardner Monument Company, the memorial includes three large black granite tablets engraved with the names of the 151 Hamilton County veterans who died in battle during various conflicts involving the U.S. The centerpiece of the memorial is a large, hand-carved eagle resting on a hexagonal base. This base will

be laser-engraved with the POW/MIA emblem and the emblems of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Donations to assist with the cost of the memorial are welcome, and inquiries can be directed to Darryl Moore at (337) 654-2235, Glenn Jones at (254) 784-9141 or Bob Self at (254) 386-3992.

### Hay for Heroes—Veterans Memorial Monument Fundraiser, October 1–31.

Community businesses, organizations, churches and individuals can take part in this fundraiser and contest organized by American Legion Cunningham Post 222 to develop and construct a permanent veterans memorial by sponsoring a hay bale (or multiple bales) to decorate and display. Judges will designate the top three hay bale displays with appropriate ribbons October 21. Decorated hay bales will be on display all month. For more information, contact Bob Self at (254) 386-3992.

### Veterans Memorial Commemorative Brick Pavers, October 1–November 30.

Commemorative brick pavers are available to honor current and former members of the military, regardless of when or where they served and lived. These engraved brick pavers will line the sidewalk and outer edges of the planned veterans memorial at the Hamilton County Historical Museum grounds. Each brick paver is 4-by-8 inches with the honoree's name, rank, military branch, length of service and conflict

served or any combination of significant items. Cost is \$50 for one brick, \$40 each for two to five bricks ordered at one time, and \$35 each for more than five bricks ordered at one time. Contact Darryl Moore at (337) 654-2235, Ira Kerby at (325) 812-4630 or Glenn Jones at (254) 784-9141 for more information.

### Trick or Treat Around the Square, October 29, 3:30–5 p.m.

**Anvil Shoot and Free Breakfast, November 11, American Legion Cunningham Post 222, 412 N. U.S. Highway 281.** The shoot begins at 5 a.m. and continues until everyone who wants to shoot the anvil has done so or until the gunpowder runs out. After the shoot everyone is invited to a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, biscuits and coffee. There will also be a drawing for a crossbow valued at more than \$300. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased by contacting Glenn Jones at (254) 784-9141 or [jerryglennjones@gmail.com](mailto:jerryglennjones@gmail.com).

For more information about Hamilton events, visit the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce on Facebook or at [hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com](http://hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com), email [hamiltonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com), or call (254) 386-3216.

## Hico

**Downtown Trick or Treat, October 29, 3:30–5:30 p.m.**

**Choctoberfest, events all month.** For information visit [facebook.com/chocotoberfesthico](https://facebook.com/chocotoberfesthico) or [visithicotexas.com/events](https://visithicotexas.com/events).

For information about Hico events, visit [hicochamber.com](https://hicochamber.com) or [facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce](https://facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce), call (254) 434-1249, or email [chamberhico@gmail.com](mailto:chamberhico@gmail.com) or [bluestarhico@gmail.com](mailto:bluestarhico@gmail.com).

## Kempner

For information about Kempner events, call Kempner City Hall at (512) 932-2180.

## Lampasas

**Lampasas Trade Days; October 2–3, November 6–7; 9 a.m.–4 p.m.;** 2646 E. Highway 190. Merchandise includes antiques, collectibles, quilts, crafts, folk and fine art, new home furnishings, shabby chic furniture, new clothing, jewelry, candles, handbags, electronics, iron works, outdoor decor, plants, tools and food. For more information contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

**Lampasas Farmers Market, each Saturday through December 18, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.,** courthouse square on Fourth Street. For information contact Bob Davis (214) 970-7556.

**Lampasas Association for the Arts Boots and Blazers Ball, October 16, 5:30–9:30 p.m.,** Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden, 501 E. North Ave. A unique, ball-style fundraising event celebrating 15 years of art. Dress in your best evening gown and bring your date dressed in their best blazer. Enjoy a performance by the talented Gary P. Nunn and dance the night away. There will be silent and live auctions to support LAFTA's continued efforts to bring fun and one-of-a-kind pieces of art to Lampasas. Tickets are \$100 and include a catered meal.

**Lampasas County Livestock Association Reverse Raffle, October 23, 5:30–9 p.m.,** Lampasas County Show Barn, 283 N. Highway 183. Steak dinner, games, live and silent auctions, and music. \$100 ticket admits two. Funds raised will be donated to Lampasas Independent School District to

help construct a school barn. Please contact Jeff Rutland at (512) 734-0614, Reese Vann or the Lampasas County Farm Bureau for ticket and sponsorship opportunities.

**Squared Silly, October 30, 5–7:30 p.m., downtown square.** Come enjoy a hayride, haunted house, bounce houses and other fun activities. Kids costume contest in several age divisions as well as a family category. For more information contact Dianna Hodges (512) 525-1871. This event is hosted by Vision Lampasas. Small fees charged for activities, with most proceeds supporting local nonprofits.

**Hunters Welcome, November 5, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.,** H-E-B parking lot, 705 S. Key. Chamber-hosted event.

For more information about Lampasas events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or [lampasasinfo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lampasasinfo@sbcglobal.net), or visit [lampasaschamber.org](https://lampasaschamber.org).

## Lometa

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

## Pearl

**Pearl Bluegrass; October 2, November 6; doors open at 7 a.m.;** Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Jams and stage shows throughout the day. Acoustic bands (no electric instruments) and musicians are invited. No fee to play onstage or watch the shows. For information on how to sign up to perform, contact Anji Pearl Day at (325) 665-7996. Kitchen open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. RV parking with full hook-ups available on a first-come, first-park basis. Thirty amps are \$20; 50 amps are \$25. For more information visit [pearltxcommunitycenter.com](https://pearltxcommunitycenter.com) or find the Pearl Community Center Facebook page.

**Pearl Book Cottage; October 2, November 6; 10 a.m.–5 p.m.** All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For more information call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

**Pearl Community Garage Sale and Flea Market, October 9, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.,** Pearl Community Center parking lot and outside awning. The Pearl Book Cottage will be open and there will be free vendor spaces. Sales will also be at individual homes in the Pearl community, with maps available at the Pearl Book Cottage on sale day. Books, furniture, plants, yard decor, tools, fall decorations, bedding, clothing, pictures and more. For more information call (254) 865-5864 or (254) 865-9282 or email [kdhp ruett@gmail.com](mailto:kdhp ruett@gmail.com).

## San Saba

**Pecan Capital Trade Days; October 2, November 6; 9 a.m.–2 p.m.;** Courthouse square at 500 W. Wallace St. Handcrafted bowls, beautiful crafts, baked goods, jellies, tamales and more each month. For vendor information, call (325) 372-4029 or email [sansabaedc@gmail.com](mailto:sansabaedc@gmail.com).

**Never Surrender Casino Night, October 30, 8:30 p.m.,** civic center. Fundraiser for the Never Surrender Cancer Foundation of San Saba County. A night filled with casino games, prizes and much more.

**San Saba Volunteer Fire Department Steak Supper, November 5, 4:30 p.m.,** firehouse, 104 S. Water St. The annual SSVFD fundraiser provides a steak dinner for donations and includes games and prizes.

**Hunters Welcome Weekend, November 5, Estep-Burleson Plaza, 116 S. Cherokee.** Hunters will receive goody bags compliments of the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce while supplies last.

**Mill Pond Lighted Holiday Park Christmas Extravaganza, November 26–January 4, 6–10 p.m.,** Mill Pond Park, 110 Thomas Stewart Drive. Set your radio to 88.7 FM and enjoy music synced to more than 30 acres of dancing lights. Admission is free.

For information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or the chamber of commerce at (325) 372-5141, or visit [sansabatexas.com/calendar](https://sansabatexas.com/calendar) or [sansabachamber.org](https://sansabachamber.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 Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar is published monthly and contains 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 [donna.harris@hamiltononelectric.coop](mailto:donna.harris@hamiltononelectric.coop); write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.



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## Tips for a Safe and Fa-BOO-lous Halloween

**NO HOLIDAY** can match the fun of trick-or-treating and costume parties on Halloween. But the holiday brings with it potential hazards, including food-related illnesses, allergic reactions to costumes and makeup, and tragedies such as child pedestrian fatalities.

To make sure treats are safe for children, follow these simple steps for food safety from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

**Snacking.** Children shouldn't snack on treats from their goody bags while they're out trick-or-treating. Give them a light meal or snack before they head out; don't send them out on an empty stomach. Urge kids to wait until they get home and to let you inspect their treats before they eat any of them.

**Safe treats.** Tell children not to accept—and especially not to eat—anything that isn't commercially wrapped. Inspect all treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

**Food allergies.** If your child has a food allergy, check the label of each treat to ensure the allergen isn't present. Don't allow children to eat any home-baked goods they receive.

**Choking hazards.** If you have very young children, be sure to remove any choking hazards such as gum, nuts, hard candies and small toys.

**If your idea of Halloween fun is a party at home, don't forget these additional tips from the FDA:**

- ▶ Beware of cider! Unpasteurized juice or cider can contain harmful bacteria such as salmonella. To stay safe, always serve pasteurized products.

- ▶ No matter how tempting, don't taste raw cookie dough or cake batter that contains uncooked eggs.

- ▶ "Scare" bacteria away by keeping all perishable foods chilled until serving time. Bacteria will creep up on you if you let foods sit out too long. Don't leave perishable goodies out of the fridge for more than two hours.

**When trick-or-treating, remember to use extra caution as you go door to door. Halloween and New Year's Day are the two deadliest days of the year for child pedestrians, according to the Children's Safety Network. For safe trick-or-treating, remember to:**

- ▶ Wear costumes that are fireproof and include reflectors and bright colors.

- ▶ Take flashlights or glow sticks to increase visibility.

- ▶ Have an adult accompany kids, especially those under 12.

- ▶ Always cross streets at intersections using traffic signals, where possible, and crosswalks.

- ▶ Look left, right, then left again when crossing the street, and make eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you.

- ▶ Beware of cars backing out of driveways.

- ▶ Only visit well-lit homes. A home with the lights off is an indication that the resident does not want trick-or-treaters.

**Dressing up is part of the Halloween fun, but when choosing clothes, accessories and makeup, take these precautions:**

- ▶ Avoid trips and falls by making sure costumes and shoes fit well and that accessories like swords and knives are soft and won't drag the ground.

- ▶ Opt for makeup over masks, which can obscure vision. But test makeup in a small area first to monitor the skin's reaction, and be sure to remove makeup before bed to prevent irritation from developing overnight. ■