



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
CODY
LASATER

Managing Rights-of-Way From Top to Bottom

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE way to look at vegetation management. The work Hamilton County Electric Cooperative and our contractors do to help keep electric lines and other equipment separated from plant overgrowth plays a major role in service reliability.

From mowing and brush work at ground level to tree trimming near and above power lines, we regularly inspect and manage the landscape in and around our equipment to prevent outages, minimize the threat of fire damage, and maintain access and serviceability.

Utility providers, including electric cooperatives, have worked with local, state and federal foresters to develop integrated vegetation management practices aimed at reducing the need for chemicals, costly manual and mechanical control measures, and controlled burning. These techniques establish low-growing vegetation that out-compete taller-growing species.

The Environmental Protection Agency worked with utility industry associations and other federal agencies to develop vegetation management practices that can help create sustainable ecosystems such as meadow transition habitats. The techniques, used for roadside and cross-country rights-of-way, encourage the growth of native species and increase plant diversity. They also create or restore habitat for local and migrating wildlife, including insects, birds and mammals.

While weather can affect seasonal activities related to right-of-way work and vegetation management, electric co-ops and other utilities regularly conduct maintenance to mitigate risks.

Vegetation management that's deferred one year has to be done in the future, and the cost accrues much faster than inflation. As biomass increases and trees encroach on—or even engulf—power lines, they become increasingly difficult to access and less safe to work on.

According to industry research, about 20%–30% of power outages are vegetation related. Removal of tall trees and limbs near power lines also reduces the risk of injuries caused by accidental contacts with energized power lines.

The concept of right tree, right place helps guide our vegetation management plan and doesn't leave room for tall trees to develop under power lines. Planting trees under lines means those trees cannot reach their full potential and will have to be either removed or, if retained, continually pruned to keep them clear of the conductors.

Hamilton County EC appreciates the diversity and beauty of the Texas landscape and is committed to vegetation management practices that provide the right balance of reliable electric service, harmony with nature and safety. ■





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Hamilton County EC Offers Scholarships

WILL YOUR 2023 high school graduate need money for college? Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will award \$1,000 scholarships for the 2023–24 school year (\$500 per fall and spring semester).

To be eligible, students must:

- ▶ Be a senior attending a high school within the Hamilton County EC service area and graduating in May 2023.
- ▶ Be a dependent of an active HCEC member.
- ▶ Reside full time in the home of a parent or guardian who is a full-time resident in HCEC's service area.
- ▶ Have applied for admission as a full-time student to a technical school, college or university.

Winners must use the scholarship within one year of issuance.

Applications are now available and will be accepted until March 31.

Scholarship winners will be chosen by a committee independent of HCEC.

For more information and an application, contact Keela Payne at (254) 386-9428 or keela.payne@hamiltonelectric.coop. ■

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

CONTACT US

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P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531

Local (254) 386-3123

Toll-Free 1-800-595-3401

Web hamiltonelectric.coop

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Cody Lasater

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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 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

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TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton

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Community Calendar

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

Comanche

Comanche Market, March 4, April 1; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; Comanche County Courthouse square; 101 W. Central Ave.

Food Truck Rodeo, March 18, Comanche Rodeo Grounds. Food trucks, vendors, live music all day and children's activities.

Sippin' in the Sunshine, April 1, 1–5 p.m., Comanche County Courthouse square, 101 W. Central Ave.

Shop 'N' Hop, April 8, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Comanche County Courthouse square, 101 W. Central Ave.

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

Copperas Cove

Copperas Cove ISD State of the District Luncheon, March 1, 11:30 a.m., Copperas

Cove Civic Center, 1206 W. Avenue B. Learn how your tax dollars are being utilized in the district to support academics, fine arts, athletics, facilities maintenance and more. The luncheon is free, but an RSVP is required to sanchezm@ccisd.com.

Festival of the Arts, March 24–25, Lea Ledger Auditorium, 400 S. 25th St. The free event includes a juried art show and performing arts. Hosted by the Copperas Cove High School National Art Honor Society.

For information about Copperas Cove events, contact the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email chamber@copperascove.com or visit copperascove.com.

Evant

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

Gatesville

For more information about Gatesville events, call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617, visit gatesvilletx.info or download the Explore Gatesville app.

Goldthwaite

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

Goldthwaite State Championship BBQ and Goat Cook-Off, April 21–22, City Park.

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. Highway 36.

For information on upcoming events, visit circletarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

For more information about Hamilton events, call the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at (254) 386-3216 or visit All Things Hamilton on Facebook.

Hico

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

Kempner

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

Lampasas

Cory Morrow, March 3, 7–11 p.m., Putters & Gutters Family Fun, 2341 U.S. Highway 281. For ticket information, call (512) 564-5224 or visit outhousetickets.com.

Lampasas Trade Days, March 4–5, April 1–2; 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 décor, plants, tools, and food concessions. For more information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

William Beckmann, March 11, 7–11 p.m., Putters & Gutters Family Fun, 2341 U.S. Highway 281. For ticket information, call (512) 564-5224 or visit outhousetickets.com.

William Clark Green, March 24, 7–11 p.m., Putters & Gutters Family Fun, 2341 U.S. Highway 281. For ticket information, call (512) 564-5224 or visit outhousetickets.com.



Shop 'N' Hop
April 8
COMANCHE

Riata Roundup Rodeo and LTX BBQ Fest, April 27–29, 580 Sports Complex, 2351 FM 580 W. Jackpot Open Barrel Race begins at 8 p.m. Thursday. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday with mutton bustin' and rodeo events at 6:30 p.m. Concerts, food trucks, vendors and more. Gates open at 9 a.m. Saturday before the rodeo for the State Championship LTX BBQ Fest. Hosted by the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

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

Lometa

Lometa Diamondback Jubilee and Rodeo, March 24–25, Lometa Regional Park, 15115 U.S. Highway 183. Come play at the carnival and enjoy a chili cook-off, more food, vendors, corn-hole tournament, rodeo and live bands. The Diamondback Jubilee Queen will be crowned, and Elvis will make an appearance. And, of course, snakes! Dance on Friday night to the Ed Leonard & Friends Band and on Saturday night to the Jason Suthern Band. Event sponsored by Lometa Lions Club. For more information, contact Terri Harris at (512) 734-2818 or Candace Pauly at (972) 268-5315.

Fiesta Winery 5K Run/Walk, April 8, Fiesta Winery, 18727 W. FM 580. Two events, at 9 and 11 a.m. Registration \$30. Participants will receive a race T-shirt, race bib, drink ticket for a 5-ounce wine pour, a souvenir wine glass and a finisher medal. The race benefits Lampasas Community Cats.

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

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass; March 4, April 1; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Free live music and open mic picking. Beginners jam at 10 a.m. Kitchen open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Musicians should contact Ronald Medart at (254) 865-6013. For RV parking, contact Connie Long at (254) 223-0621.

Pearl Book Cottage; March 4, April 1; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booth \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 865-9282.

Pidcoke

For more information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

Stan Weik Cancer Stomp 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk, March 25, 9 a.m., San Saba River Golf Course, 723 CR 102.

San Saba Antique Show, first two weeks of April, presented by Bard & Hallow, 404 E. Wallace St.

Four-Person Scramble Golf Tournament, April 22–23, San Saba River Golf Course. For information, call (325) 372-3212 or visit golfsansaba.com.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or the chamber at (325) 372-5141 or visit sansasbachamber.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@hamiltonelectric.coop; write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Texas Independence Day
Thursday, March 2

Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, March 12
Set clocks forward one hour.

St. Patrick's Day
Friday, March 17

National Vietnam War Veterans Day
Wednesday, March 29