



Our Strength Comes From Working Together

MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

STEVE YOUNG

COOPERATION—IT'S THE LIFE BLOOD of electric cooperatives and a concept vital to the success of our form of business.

If you've heard the old saying that there is power in numbers, then you understand why Cooperative Principle No. 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is key for us. Cooperatives serve their members best when they work together.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative embraces and relies on Cooperation Among Cooperatives in

the power of cooperation. When small organizations wield the strength of a unified movement, they grow in clout, efficiency and economy. When we work together, great things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state Capitol, so that when legislators make decisions about energy, our members are well-represented. Our culture of safety spreads most effectively when we share safety training resources and expertise through the association's Loss Control program.

We also save money through our TEC membership. The economies of scale created when co-ops combine their buying power lower costs for poles and equipment and even the printing and production costs of this magazine.

Nationally, we join forces with more than 900 electric co-ops through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This group not only has the ears of Washington decision-makers but also represents cooperative interests before regulatory bodies. NRECA also provides us with critical information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity and deliver superior service.



SHAUNL | ISTOCK.COM

a number of ways. At the most basic level, electric co-ops support one another in times of crisis. When a storm or other disaster strikes one of our fellow electric co-ops, we're prepared to offer whatever help we can to restore service as quickly as possible. And if we need help, our neighbors will be there for us.

We also collaborate with other co-ops to better serve our members and communities through programs such as Youth Tour, safety education outreach and employee training.

Electric co-ops in Texas combine forces through Texas Electric Cooperatives, our statewide association, and the results of our efforts are a testament to

Cooperatives work best when they work together, combining forces to leverage better services and lower prices for their members. When we add our voice to a grand chorus of our fellows, our message gets heard. ■



Hamilton County EC Director Retires

AFTER 18 YEARS of service, Bob Gardner has retired from the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

Gardner was elected to represent District 2 (the area east of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County) in April 2003. He won reelection each three-year term until his retirement February 25.

Gardner served as board secretary-treasurer from August 2009 until his departure. To express its gratitude, the HCEC Board of Directors presented Gardner with a framed resolution of appreciation, a meter lamp and an engraved knife at the March board meeting.

The co-op's board of directors and employees will miss Gardner's congeniality, wise counsel and pleasant demeanor and extend to him their sincere best wishes. ■



Haile Named New District 2 Director

The Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors appointed Brandon Haile to fill the unexpired term of Bob Gardner, who retired from the board February 25. Haile, a Hamilton County EC member from Hamilton, began serving on the board March 5, and his term will be up for election August 6.

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/CEO

Steve Young

Board of Directors

Sam Campbell, President, District 6
Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5
Robert Straley, Secretary-Treasurer, District 4
Jack Caldwell, District 1
Melvin Eilers Jr., District 7
Brandon Haile, District 2
Ervin Koerth, District 3

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



MARTIN-DM | ISTOCK.COM



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cinco de Mayo
Wednesday, May 5

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 9

Armed Forces Day
Saturday, May 15

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31
Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

KONDOROS EVA KATALIN | ISTOCK.COM

Springtime Electrical To-Do List

IT'S TIME TO THROW OPEN the windows and welcome warm weather. It's also time to invest in a few upgrades that will keep your house more comfortable and help you do your part to use energy wisely.

Check off the following chores before it gets too hot outside:

Inspect and maintain. Have a licensed heating, ventilating and air conditioning technician come to your home to inspect and maintain your air conditioning system. Paying a little bit now could prevent a big expense this summer if your AC breaks down on a hot day and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry.

Clear and trim. While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all of the bushes and pull all of the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it and brush off leaves that have collected on or around it. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform less efficiently.

Plant and shade. While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sun's rays that can beat on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder.

Replace and upgrade. Speaking of windows, if your house has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive up your AC bills. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating costs every year if you replace your drafty old windows.

Clean and shine. Clean your windows, inside and out. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights. ■



Be sure to follow safety precautions for all the electric appliances in today's kitchens.

BLACKGAT | ISTOCK.COM

Remember Electrical Safety This Month

MAY'S DESIGNATION AS National Electrical Safety Month makes it a good time to review electrical hazards and think about how to keep common household dangers at bay.

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for 35,000 home fires causing more than 1,130 injuries, 500 deaths and \$1.4 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International. Because the average American home was built in 1977, many can't keep up with the demands of today's appliances and devices.

To help prevent adding to the sobering statistics about electrical dangers, watch for the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system, which include:

- ▶ Frequent circuit breaker trips or blown fuses.
- ▶ Lights dimming when other devices are turned on.
- ▶ Buzzing sounds from switches.

- ▶ Discolored outlets.
- ▶ Appliances that seem underpowered.

To maintain an electrically safe home, be sure that the following safety devices are installed according to updated codes:

- ▶ Arc-fault circuit interrupters protect against electrical fires caused by malfunctions.
- ▶ Surge protective devices safeguard against surges that can damage or reduce the life spans of electrical systems and devices.
- ▶ Ground-fault circuit interrupters protect against electric shock.
- ▶ Tamper-resistant receptacles have an internal shutter system to prevent foreign objects from being inserted into an outlet.

About 3,300 home fires are started by extension cords every year, so it's important to follow these safety tips:

- ▶ Don't substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.

- ▶ Don't run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If a cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which is a fire hazard.
- ▶ Don't use an extension cord for more than one appliance.
- ▶ Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip you use is rated for the products it powers and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- ▶ Don't use a cord that has a lower power rating than the appliance or tool you are plugging in.
- ▶ Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- ▶ Ensure your extension cord has a polarized or three-prong plug, which should only be used with a three-slot outlet. ■



Don't Go Out on a Limb

Safety for you and your children is a top priority at your electric co-op. Kids don't always know—or remember—what can be dangerous, so it's up to all of us to watch out for them. Safety rules for power lines:

Don't plant trees or install tall playground equipment under or near power lines.

Don't build treehouses in trees near electric lines.

Don't allow children to climb trees near power lines.

Teach your children to always look up to check for power lines before climbing trees or any tall objects.

Keep children away from ladders and equipment that may be near power lines.

And the No. 1 safety rule for everyone to remember: Never touch a power line or anything that's touching a power line. Look up and live!

Hamilton County EC encourages you to always practice safety.



NASTASIC | ISTOCK.COM

Use Generators Safely When RV Camping

FAMILY VACATIONS THIS YEAR might mean camping to avoid crowds and public spaces. RV camping provides a home away from home where you can feel cozy and safe from coronavirus exposure. But if you use a portable generator for lights, TV or heat in your RV, it's important that you remember to take safety precautions against carbon monoxide poisoning, including these recommendations:

Take a carbon monoxide detector. Mount it inside the vehicle and make sure it works.

Inspect your RV's chassis and generator exhaust system regularly, at least before each outing and after incidents that could cause damage.

Inspect the RV for openings in the floor or sidewalls. If you find a hole, seal it with a silicone adhesive or have it repaired before using your generator again.

Inspect windows, door seals and weatherstripping to ensure that they seal properly.

Do not operate your generator if the exhaust system is damaged or if it makes strange sounds.

Park your RV so that exhaust can easily dissipate away from the vehicle. Do not park next to tall grass or weeds, buildings, or other obstructions that might prevent exhaust gases from wafting away.

When stopping at rest stops, be aware of other vehicles around you, such as semitrucks, which may have their engines and generators running.

Do not sleep with the generator operating.

Leave a roof vent open when the generator is running, even during cooler weather.

If you do not feel well, do not be fooled into thinking that it's because you have been driving too long, you ate too much or you are suffering from motion sickness. Shut off the generator and step outside for some fresh air, just to be sure.

If you fear that you're experiencing carbon monoxide poisoning, stop driving, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. ■

How To Clean Small Kitchen Appliances

IT'S NOT ENOUGH to wipe off your small kitchen appliances after each use. They need frequent, thorough cleaning to keep them operating efficiently—and for a long time.

Here are five tips for keeping your countertop appliances sparkling and working like new.

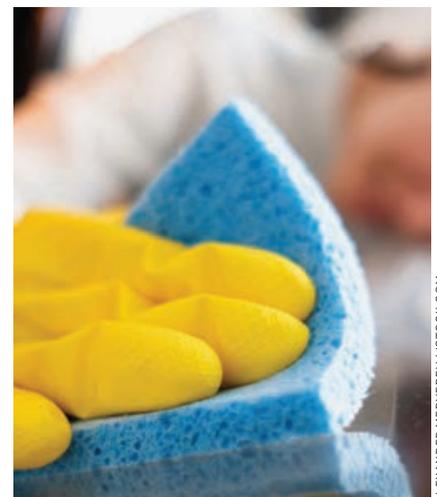
1. To clean most electrical kitchen gadgets, all you need is a bowl of warm, soapy water—liquid dish soap will do—and a sponge or rag. Unplug the appliance, then wipe off all outer surfaces, including motor casings and cords.

2. For dried or stuck-on grease and gunk, mix nonabrasive baking soda with a few drops of water into a paste and use that as a scrubbing solution.

3. Dry your appliances right away so water doesn't trickle into the electronic parts and so the outer shell of the appliance doesn't show watermarks—which can appear if you air-dry.

4. Never immerse cords, plugs or motors into water, and never load those parts into the dishwasher.

5. Use the top rack of the dishwasher to clean nonelectrical parts like coffee pots, blender jars, and other plastic or glass bowls that come with appliances. ■



ALEXANDER MEDVEDEV | ISTOCK.COM

Community Calendar

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

Comanche

Second Saturday Shenanigans Sip, Snack and Shop; May 8, June 12; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; historic downtown square.

Comanche Evening Market; May 15, June 19; 5–8 p.m.; downtown.

Calves, Cans and Corrientes, May 21–23, Comanche Roping Club Arena, 9101 Highway 377.

Red Dirt Dinner and Dancing, June 12, 6:30 p.m., Comanche Roping Club Arena, 9101 Highway 377.

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

Copperas Cove

Free COVID-19 testing, every Tuesday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., the Cove House Free Clinic,

108 E. Halstead Ave. Appointment required. Call (254) 289-9865.

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.

Jackrabbit Run, May 8, 8 a.m., Ogletree Gap Preserve, 1878 Post Office Road. Participants are invited to wear their best rabbit-themed gear.

Rabbit Fest, May 13–16, Copperas Cove City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. Presented by the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce, this annual festival offers food and craft vendors, carnival rides, live entertainment, and much more. Don't forget the Rabbit Fest parade on Saturday morning. Treat your family to a weekend of food, fun and entertainment.

Annual Food Truck Festival, June 12, Copperas Cove City Park. The festival includes various food trucks, beer and wine tents, live music, and bounce houses. For more information, contact the city of Copperas Cove Parks and Recreation Special Events at (254) 542-2719 or email awilson@copperascovetx.gov.

H-E-B Plus Summer Run to Fun Virtual 5K, June 19.

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

Evant

Market Days; third Saturdays, March–June; 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Evant square. Free for vendors. For more information, contact P-Cay Burkhalter at (254) 791-5441.

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

Gatesville

For more information about Gatesville events, go to visitgatesvilletx.com or gatesvilletx.info or call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617 or Gatesville Convention and Visitors Bureau at (254) 865-8951.

Goldthwaite

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

Hamilton County Museum Cemetery Walk, May 1, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Hamilton Cemetery, on U.S. Highway 281 next to Ranglers convenience store. We will be



Farmers Market
Every Thursday
COPPERAS COVE

honoring six or more Hamilton County pioneers who helped build and organize area businesses, schools and churches. Come join us for a day of fun and activity! Adults \$10, children under 6 free. You can visit the gravesite of Billy the Kid at Oakwood Cemetery and tour the Hamilton County Museum from 1–4 p.m.

Ladies' Night Out at the Rustic Lantern Taphouse, May 27, 5–7 p.m., 117 N. Rice St. For more information call (254) 688-9648.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce on Facebook or at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com, email hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com, or call (254) 386-3216.

Hico

Girls' Night Out, May 13, 5–9 p.m. Participating merchants will have refreshments, discounts and door prizes.

Hico Art and Wine Festival, May 15.

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

Kempner

Kempner Fest, June 19, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sylvia Tucker Memorial Park, 12641 U.S. Highway 190. Live concerts, barbecue cook-off, vendors, games, inflatables, dance party, dunk tank and more.

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

Lampasas

Trade Days; May 1–2, June 5–6; 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.

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

Lometa

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

Pearl

Junk-in-Your-Trunk Sale; May 1, June 5; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; Pearl Community Center parking lot on FM 183. The Pearl Book Cottage will be open, and there will be free vendor spaces. For more information call (254) 865-5864 or (254) 865-9282.

Pidcoke

For more information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, call (254) 300-6342 or visit pidcoke-umc.org.

San Saba

Trade Day, May 1, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., courthouse square, 500 E. Wallace St. Featuring food vendors, crafters and much more. For vendor information call (325) 372-4029 or email sansabaedc@gmail.com.

Cowcamp Cook-Off, June 11–12, Risien Park.

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 or sansabachamber.org.



GORCHITTA2012 | ISTOCK.COM

Crab-Zucchini Frittata

8 ounces fresh or frozen crabmeat
2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
1 clove garlic
⅔ cup chopped green onion
1 cup zucchini, sliced paper thin
½ cup sliced fresh mushrooms
1 teaspoon salt
Pepper, to taste
3 eggs
½ cup milk
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon fresh oregano or
1 teaspoon dried

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees, drain crabmeat, and pick out shells and cartilage; set aside.
2. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat and gradually add garlic, onion, zucchini and mushrooms, cooking only until hot. Add salt and pepper.
3. Beat eggs, milk and cheese together and add oregano, sautéed vegetables and crab. Pour into a buttered, shallow 1½-quart casserole dish.
4. Bake 20–25 minutes or until firm. Serve immediately or at room temperature. Will also reheat nicely in a microwave.

Serves 8 as an appetizer or 4 as a main dish.

 Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.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 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 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; write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.