



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

STEVE  
YOUNG

## Your Co-op Remains Strong

**FEBRUARY'S POLAR VORTEX** challenged Texas' electrical grids, but Hamilton County Electric Cooperative's mission to deliver safe, affordable and reliable electric service remains unchanged. We're not going anywhere.

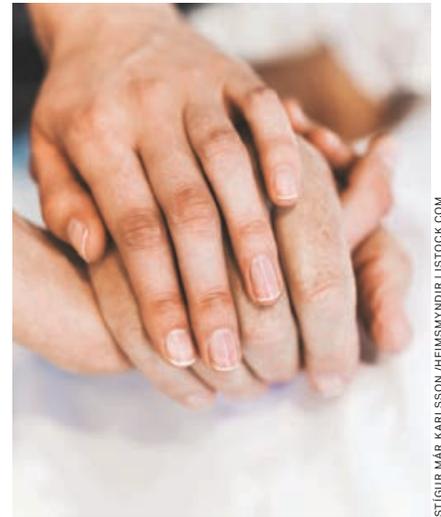
All of us were frustrated by February's grid-mandated outages. Many of us were left in the dark just like you as our employees answered calls and worked as quickly as they safely could to restore power.

Unlike other utilities, Hamilton County EC is a member-owned and member-led cooperative that exists only to serve its members, not to make a profit. In fact, revenues earned beyond the cost of operating the cooperative are returned to members in the form of capital credits. That's one reason that the rate you pay for power will remain stable while our employees remain on the job to keep the lights on.

Your electric bills are tied directly to the amount of electricity you use—usage that may have increased at your home as your heater worked overtime during February's bitterly cold weather. Rest assured, we did not raise our rates in February, and we never charge members for electricity when their power is off.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of working with Texas' leaders to ensure your electricity remains safe and reliable. We don't yet know all the impacts of February's extreme weather, but we remain focused on developments at the Legislature as we work with our statewide association, Texas Electric Cooperatives, to protect our members and employees from any potential effects. Throughout this assessment and learning process, we pledge to keep our members informed every step of the way.

Hamilton County EC's members are our friends, neighbors and family members. We aren't just keeping electricity flowing to homes and business—we're powering our community. That's why we are deeply committed to providing safe and reliable energy solutions to our members at a fair price—a commitment that has guided our business for more than 75 years. ■



STIGUR MAR KARLSSON / HEIMSMYNDIR | ISTOCK.COM

## Plan Ahead for Life Support During Power Outages

**FOR PEOPLE WHO** rely on life support equipment at home, a power outage could be a matter of life or death. If you or someone in your home depends on an electrically operated health aid, take these steps to prepare for power outages.

- ▶ Plug electronic devices into surge suppressors and consider using uninterruptible power supplies on important devices. A UPS acts as a temporary battery backup to some devices.
- ▶ Consider investing in a portable generator that can power vital equipment in the event of an extended outage.
- ▶ Make arrangements to move in temporarily with friends or family during a power failure if a generator is impractical.
- ▶ Keep an adequate supply of prescription drugs and medical equipment on hand.
- ▶ Let your electric cooperative know that someone in your home relies on electrically powered medical equipment so your home will receive priority treatment during a weather emergency.
- ▶ Report all outages quickly.
- ▶ Ask your co-op to notify you about planned outages. ■

# Knowledge Is Power Saved

IF KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, then knowing the average home's top five energy users can help homeowners save power.

**The top five energy users in U.S. homes, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, are:**

- ▶ Space cooling, which accounts for 13% of energy use.
- ▶ Lighting, 11%.
- ▶ Space heating, 9%.
- ▶ Water heating, 9%.
- ▶ Refrigeration, 7%.

Together, these make up almost half the monthly energy bill in a typical home. By adjusting household habits around each energy user, you can start conserving electricity and saving money in your home.

## Adjust the Temperature

During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees. During warm weather, set it to 78 degrees. Clean the filters of your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system. Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors.

## Save on Lighting

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are operating inefficiently. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can amount to noticeable savings on your electric bill.

## Heat Water Efficiently

Wrapping your electric water heater with an insulating blanket is almost as important as insulating your roof and walls. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain 1–2 gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment buildup.

## Chill Out

If considering an appliance update, a new, Energy Star-certified fridge will use at least 15% less energy than noncertified models. Regardless of its age, don't keep your fridge too cold. Recommended settings are 35–38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for freezers. ■



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## 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

# Notice of Director Election

Nominating committee to name board nominees

**THE MEMBERS OF** Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will elect directors by mail-in ballot Friday, August 6.

In accordance with cooperative bylaws, a nominating committee was appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting March 25. The nominating committee will meet May 6 at 2 p.m. at the cooperative's billing office at 112 E. Gentry St. in Hamilton to make nominations for directors to serve in districts 2 and 5. Terms of the incumbents in those districts expire this year.

District 2 is the area east of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County. District 5 is the area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, including all the area in San Saba and Llano counties.

Prospective candidates must meet the director qualifications as specified in the HCEC bylaws (Article IV, Section 4.02).

Ballots will be mailed to members June 23 and should be returned to the cooperative no later than 1 p.m. Friday, August 6, at which time the ballots will be counted. The results of the election will be announced on the co-op's website, [hamiltonelectric.coop](http://hamiltonelectric.coop); Facebook page; and during Hamilton County EC's annual membership meeting Friday, August 6, unless the meeting is canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following are excerpts from the bylaws of Hamilton County EC, which explain the nomination and election procedures.

## Article IV: Directors

**SECTION 4.01. Number and General Powers.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of seven (7) directors (herein referred to individually as "Director" and collectively as "Directors", "Board of Directors" or "Board") or under the authority of such Board of Directors, and subject to the Board's direction and oversight. The Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the Members and such as the Board may delegate to or authorize to be performed by the Cooperative's management and employees.

**SECTION 4.02. Qualifications.** A Director or Director candidate must comply with the following Bylaw provisions:

(a) **DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS.** To be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative, a person shall:

(i) Be a natural person;

(ii) Be a Member of the Cooperative for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or petition for election;

(iii) Be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and shall not have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing, or have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) a controlling interest in another entity, association, organization, or trust that has one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing;

(iv) As provided in Article I, Section 1.04(f) of the Bylaws, in a Joint Membership, either spouse may serve as a Director, but not simultaneously, and only if both spouses meet the qualifications for Director as stated herein; otherwise, neither spouse may serve as Director;

(v) For at least twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or petition for election and throughout such person's term as Director if elected, maintain a principal place of residence, as required to claim such person's residence homestead exemption pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Texas Tax Code, in the District for which such person seeks election or was elected;

(vi) Receive electric service from the Cooperative at such principal place of residence described in Section 4.02 (a)(v);

(vii) Not be employed by the Cooperative or have been an employee of the Cooperative within twenty (20) years of serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors;

(viii) Not be a close relative of an incumbent Director or of an employee of the Cooperative, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion;

(ix) Not hold office as a Director who is an incumbent or candidate for public office for which a salary or wage is paid;

(x) Not be in any way employed by or financially associated in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or selling products or services to the Cooperative;

(xi) Unless excused by the Board of Directors, which action shall be noted in the minutes of that meeting of the Board of Directors, not miss three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors, or miss three (3) regular meetings of the Board of Directors within the most recent twelve (12) month period; and

(xii) Not have been convicted of a felony in this State, any other State in the United States, or received the equivalence of a felony conviction in any other country.

(b) **DIRECTOR DISQUALIFICATIONS.** After being elected or appointed, if a Director does not comply with all Director Qualifications, the Board shall disqualify the Director and the individual is no longer a Director if:

(i) The Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for the disqualification and provides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding the Board's proposed disqualification; and

(ii) Within twenty (20) days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the Director neither complies with nor meets the Director Qualifications.

**SECTION 4.03. Election.** Election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot in accordance with Section 4.07 of the Bylaws.

**SECTION 4.04. Tenure.** Directors shall serve a term of three (3) years or until Director(s)' successor(s) has been elected or appointed. Upon the Directors' election, Directors shall, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to the removal of Directors, serve until the annual meeting of the Members of the year in which such Directors' terms expire or until such Directors' successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Whether elected or appointed, Directors shall have qualified subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect

to removal or resignation of Directors. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next Member meeting at which a quorum is present.

#### **SECTION 4.05. Directorate Districts.**

(a) The territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided into the following seven (7) Directorate Districts with each District represented by one Director, who has and maintains his or her principal place of residence in that District, as provided in Section 4.02 (a)(v) of this Article:

(1) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County, designated as "District 1";

(2) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County, designated as "District 2";

(3) The area in Coryell County, designated as "District 3";

(4) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, designated as "District 4";

(5) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, including all the area in San Saba and Llano Counties, designated as "District 5";

(6) The area South of U.S. Highway 84 in Mills County and West to the Cooperative boundary line, designated as "District 6"; and

(7) The area North of U.S. Highway 84 bounded on East by Hamilton County line and on West by Cooperative boundary line, designated as "District 7."

(b) The Board of Directors shall annually review and if necessary, re-divide and/or geographically relocate Districts to ensure that Director Districts equitably represent the Members.

(c) Within sixty (60) days following any Director District revision, and at least sixty (60) days before the next Annual Member Meeting, the Cooperative shall notify any Members affected by the Director District revision by mail using direct mail, billing inserts, or the Cooperative's monthly magazine.

(d) No Director District revision may: (i) increase an existing Director's term, or (ii) shorten any existing Director's term unless the affected Director gives written consent.

#### **SECTION 4.06. Nominations.**

##### **(a) NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE.**

(1) COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date on which Directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of:

(i) Not less than five (5) and no more than eleven (11) Members of the Cooperative;

(ii) Members who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, Directors or known candidates for Director;

(iii) Members who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or Members of the same household of such existing employees, agents, officers, Directors or known candidates for Director; and

(iv) Members who are selected from different geographical sections so as to ensure equitable representation, including at least one (1) Member from each of the Directorate Districts to be filled at the election.

##### **(2) COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCESS.**

(i) The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election of Directors a list of nominations for Directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which a Director must, pursuant to this Section, be elected.

(ii) The Committee may include as many nominees for any Director to be elected from or with respect to any Directorate District as it deems desirable.

(b) NOMINATION BY PETITION. Any one hundred fifty (150) or more Members of the Cooperative, acting together, may submit to the Secretary of the Cooperative additional nominations in writing over such Members' signatures, listing the Members' nominee(s) in like manner, not less than one hundred (100) days prior to the date the votes are to be counted, and the Nominating Committee shall post such nominations at the same time and place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

(c) NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS. The Secretary shall mail to the Members with the notice of the meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting, a statement of

the names of all nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which one or more Directors must be elected, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any. Notice of nominations shall be in accordance Section 4.06 of the Bylaws, Subsection (a)(2)(i) for nominations by Committee on Nominations and Subsection (b) for nominations by petition.

Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

#### **SECTION 4.07. Campaigning for Election; Voting for Directors; Validity of Board Action.**

Any and all candidate(s) for election or re-election as Director shall: (i) comply with the Bylaws and policies of the Cooperative, as adopted by the Board of Directors; and (ii) notify the Cooperative CEO/Manager in writing, no more than fourteen (14) days after the date the nominee is notified by the Cooperative that his or her name has been certified by the nominating committee, of the candidate(s)' intention to campaign for Director, including, but not limited to, the manner and means of campaign. The election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot. Each Member shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each Directorate District for which a Director is to be elected. Ballots marked in violation of the foregoing restriction with respect to one or more Directorate Districts shall be invalid and shall not be counted with respect to such District or Districts. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

#### **SECTION 4.13. "Close Relative" Defined.**

As used in the Bylaws, "close relative" means a person who, by blood or marriage, including half, foster, step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister of the principal.



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## Filter for Efficiency

**CHECKING, CHANGING OR CLEANING** your air filter once a month saves money and extends the life of your home's heating, ventilating and air conditioning system.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system, but dirt still builds up in ducts and filters over time. If left unchecked, a dirty filter chokes airflow, forcing the system to work harder to push conditioned air through tight spaces. This results in higher energy bills and increased wear and tear—and could even result in system failure.

### Filter Facts

Air filters protect HVAC systems and collect loose dirt from the air. They go into duct system slots or in return grilles of central air conditioners, furnaces and heat pumps.

The better a filter catches dirt, the faster it gets clogged and must be cleaned or replaced. Leaving a dirty air filter in place cuts a home's air quality and reduces airflow.

Although removing a clogged filter altogether relieves pressure on the system, the system can't perform well without one. Unfiltered dust and grime accumulate on critical parts such as the evaporator coil, causing unnecessary wear.

### Monthly Checkup

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends checking an air filter once a month and replacing it at least every three months. It's critical to inspect and replace filters before heavy use in

summer and winter.

If you have pets or smokers in the home, filters clog more quickly. Remodeling projects add more dirt than normal, so a filter working under these conditions may need to be changed more than every three months.

### How To

Turn your heating and cooling system off before checking your filter. Slide the filter out of your ductwork and look for layers of hair and dirt. Run a finger across the filter. If your finger comes away dirty or there's a line left on the filter, it's time for a change.

When replacing the filter, make sure the arrow on the filter—which indicates the direction of the airflow—points toward the blower motor.

To help schedule monthly checkups, write the date on the side of the filter so you know when it needs to be checked again. Once you've made the change, turn your system back on.

### Filtering Choices

Shopping for a new filter? Before you leave home, write down the size printed on the side of your current filter or snap a photo with your phone. Once you find a filter that works well in your home, it's a good idea to keep a spare or two on hand. ■

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



**One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.**

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

**Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.  
Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation



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TRAVELERS

Common Ground Alliance

## Safety and Service for All

**IMAGINE YOU'RE A** Hamilton County Electric Cooperative lineworker and your crew has been called out to a member's property to restore service after an outage. There are a million things going through your mind about the job at hand. Probably the last thing you're thinking about is having to defend yourself.

However, some electric co-op workers have been threatened by members who want to keep strangers off their property at all costs. Using measures like locked gates, guard dogs and guns, some residents resist strangers on their property—even if they're co-op workers trying to restore power.

Not only are these incidents distressing, but they're also illegal. Cooperative personnel have a legal right—and responsibility—to enter a member's property on official co-op business. Texas laws protect electric cooperative employees from criminal trespassing charges, and they impose a stiff penalty on those who threaten a utility worker.

To verify the legitimacy of a co-op employee or contractor on your property, call the co-op immediately at (254) 386-3123.

Working together, we can keep the electricity flowing and everyone safe. ■



DEAF SMITH EC

# Community Calendar

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

## Bend

**Fiesta Winery 5K Run/Walk**, April 3, 9 a.m.–noon, Fiesta Winery, 18727 W. FM 580. For more information call (325) 628-3433, email [events@winerun5k.com](mailto:events@winerun5k.com) or visit [fiestawinery.com](http://fiestawinery.com).

## Comanche

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

**Comanche Evening Market**; April 17, May 15; 5–8 p.m.; downtown.

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or email [comanchetxchamber@gmail.com](mailto:comanchetxchamber@gmail.com) or [comancheevents@gmail.com](mailto: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, May 6 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).

**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. 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.

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

## Evant

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

**Junior Rodeo**, April 23–24, 1255 U.S. Highway 281. Sponsored by the Evant Rodeo Association. For more information

contact Lauren Goin at (254) 206-0662.

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

## Gatesville

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

## Goldthwaite

**State Championship BBQ & Goat Cook-Off**, April 23–24, Goldthwaite City Park. Lions Club fish fry Friday afternoon and kids pork chop contest and dance in the park Friday night. 5K Color Me Krazy run and 1K kids color run Saturday morning and washer tournament Saturday night. Area Go Texan will emcee and serve goat meat, and there will be a dunking booth and beer tent.

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

## Hamilton

**John Deere Days**, April 3, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Lawson Implement, 1130 S. Highway 281.

**Central Texas Barrel Racing Association at Circle T Arena**, April 10, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit [circuitarena.net/calendar](http://circuitarena.net/calendar) or call (254) 386-3559.



State Championship  
BBQ & Goat Cook-off  
April 23–24  
GOLDTHWAITE

### **Will Banister at the Grain**

**Drafthouse & Eatery**, April 10, 8–11 p.m., 110 S. Bell St. For more information call (254) 784-5122.

### **Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Banquet**, April 29, 6–9 p.m.

### **Ultimate Calf Roping Finals at Circle T Arena**, April 29, 4007 W. Highway 36.

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

### **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 and Visitors Center on Facebook or at [hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com](http://hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com), email [hamiltonchamber@tx@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchamber@tx@gmail.com), or call (254) 386-3216.

## Hico

### **Downtown Hico Spring Market**, April 17, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Downtown streets will be closed off for vendors and games.

### **Girls' Night Out**, May 13, 4–7 p.m. Participating merchants will have refreshments, discounts and door prizes.

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

## Kempner

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

## Lampasas

### **Trade Days**, April 3–4, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., 2646 E. Highway 190. For more information contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

### **Casino Night**, April 24, 5:30 p.m.–midnight, Lampasas County Show Barn, 283 N. Highway 183. Steak dinner, BYOB. \$50 admission per person includes gambling chips and a chance to win a travel voucher for an exciting trip to a destination of your choice.

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](http://lampasaschamber.org).

## Lometa

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

## Pearl

### **Junk-in-Your-Trunk Sale and Plant Sale**; April 3, May 1; 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.

### **Pearl Flea Market**, May 1, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Pearl Community Center grounds. Secure a spot with a \$10 donation—first come, first park. For more information call Linda at (254) 865-9282 or Kay at (254) 865-5864.

## Pidcoke

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

## San Saba

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 [sansasabatexas.com/calendar](http://sansasabatexas.com/calendar) or [sansasabachamber.org](http://sansasabachamber.org).



RYAN JLANE | ISTOCK.COM

## Save Energy on Earth Day

**EARTH DAY, APRIL 22**, is a good time to consider ways to reduce your energy consumption. These simple but effective steps suggested by the Alliance To Save Energy are a great place to start.

Seal air leaks and insulate to save up to 20% on heating and cooling bills.

Turn off all lights, appliances and electronics when not in use to prevent unnecessary electricity consumption.

Use window shades, opening them in winter and closing them in summer.

Look for the Energy Star label on consumer products that save electricity.

Invest in a programmable thermostat and program it correctly to save up to 10% on heating and cooling bills.

Upgrade lightbulbs to energy-efficient LEDs to save money on lighting costs.

Change heating, ventilating and air conditioning filters regularly so that your system doesn't have to work as hard to operate properly.

Wash clothes in cold water and line dry them outdoors.

Use low-flow faucets and showerheads.

Reduce your water heater temperature to 120 degrees and wrap the tank in an insulating blanket. ■

### **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](mailto:donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop); write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.