



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

STEVE  
YOUNG

## The Value of Electricity Continues To Shine

**HOW MANY OF US** remember dropping into Hamilton County Electric Cooperative's office with our parents and grandparents to pay the "light" bill? Whether you do that in person, by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences you enjoy in part because of power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your TVs, computers, printers, gaming consoles, music and video players, and other devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Hamilton County EC.

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? In addition to the coffee maker, toaster, microwave

a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Over the past 10 years, the cost of medical care, residential rental rates and education have increased at rates of 3% or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have gone up by more than 2% annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average per year.

Electricity costs have risen a bit too (about 1% a year), but co-ops across the country report a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy. Kilowatt-hour use per household has dropped by 8% over the past 10 years.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why Hamilton

County EC encourages energy efficiency through such items as Energy Star-certified appliances and promotes technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power strips, and appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. These tools also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

That's good for family budgets. And it's going to become even more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies

become even more prevalent in our lives. The average American home has dozens of devices connected to Wi-Fi that depend on stable electricity. That's why your home depends on Hamilton County EC for more than the power that keeps the lights on.

We're always working to provide service that's reliable, affordable and even more valuable to our members—you, your family and your neighbors. ■



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and electric skillet, a lot of us have added several other modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the outlets connecting your household wiring to your electric co-op.

You use electricity to run all these devices, heat the stove, run the air conditioner and get hot water—and we still keep the lights on. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still



## Official Notice of Capital Credits Allocation

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** recently allocated capital credits to its membership for 2019.

At the end of each fiscal year, cooperatives determine margins made during the year by deducting the expenses of operating the cooperative from the revenue received from the sale of electricity. These margins are then allocated to each member's account based on their electricity use for the year. Allocated margins are called capital credits.

Capital credits remain invested in the cooperative until the cooperative's board of directors determines that a return would not weaken the cooperative financially. To date, Hamilton County EC has returned \$4,749,064.29 in capital credits obligations for the years 1947–1988.

It is very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses so they can receive capital credits when they are returned.

Capital credits for 2019 were calculated by multiplying the sum of each member's electric service bills for 2019 by 2.97%. For example, if the total of your electric bills from the cooperative for 2019 was \$1,000, simply multiply that amount by 0.0297—the result is \$29.70, your capital credits allocation for 2019. In calculating your total bill, do not include any sales tax, miscellaneous charges, membership fees or deposits.

If you have any questions concerning your capital credits account, please feel free to contact Hamilton County EC.

This article is intended to serve as the official notice of allocations of capital credits for 2019. ■

## Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

### CONTACT US

420 N. Rice St., Hamilton  
P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531

**Local** (254) 386-3123

**Toll-Free** 1-800-595-3401

**Web** [hamiltonelectric.coop](http://hamiltonelectric.coop)

### General Manager/CEO

Steve Young

### Board of Directors

**Sam Campbell**, President, District 6

**Dusty Duncan**, Vice President, District 5

**Bob Gardner**, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

**Jack Caldwell**, District 1

**Melvin Eilers Jr.**, District 7

**Ervin Koerth**, District 3

**Robert Straley**, District 4

**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](http://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

420 N. Rice St., 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](http://hamiltonelectric.coop)





## Celebrating a Century of Service

By Kymbirlee Jeschke, *Hamilton Herald-News*

ON OCTOBER 15, American Legion Cunningham Post 222 celebrated 100 years of serving the Hamilton community. The post's namesake, Bernard Cunningham, was killed in France on June 12, 1918, while serving his country in World War I.

Cunningham Post 222 is active in Hamilton County. Each Memorial Day, post members host a presentation at the Hamilton County Historical Museum in which they read the names of county service members lost in armed conflict. Members also place flags on the graves of Hamilton County military personnel in observance of Memorial Day.

On Veterans Day, the post carries on its annual tradition of an anvil shoot. This tradition started in 1918 when a blacksmith shot an anvil to alert the community to the end of hostilities in World War I. The event continues as a celebration of that war's end and to honor those who have served and continue to serve our country. The shoot begins at 5 a.m. behind the American Legion hall and continues until everyone who wants to shoot the anvil has done so or until the gunpowder runs out.

Each year the American Legion Cunningham Post sends a girl and boy from Hamilton to the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Boys State programs. The post also sponsors the Girl Scout troop that meets monthly at the American Legion hall.

Any honorably discharged Hamilton County veteran can become a member of American Legion Cunningham Post 222.



The post meets on the second Monday of the month at the American Legion hall north of Hamilton on Highway 281.

Need a flag? The American Legion sells 3-by-5-foot American flags that are made in the USA. Texas, service, blue star and thin blue line flags are also available. ■

# Home Safety for Older Adults

**EVERY 11 SECONDS** an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall or other home accident. Use this checklist to spot safety hazards in your home and immediately address potential problems.

**Remove fall hazards.** Falls are the leading cause of injury among older people.

- Remove throw rugs. These may look nice but are easy to trip on.
- Clean up clutter to create a more open environment.
- Don't stretch extension cords across the floor.

**Keep emergency numbers handy.** Some aging brains can't always remember emergency information. Make it easy to call for help by posting a prominent note with important numbers.

**Protect against fire.** Home safety also includes addressing fire hazards.

- Change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly.
- Check the electric cords of all appliances and lamps. Replace frayed or damaged cords and limit the number of cords plugged into power strips.
- Remove candles, which can easily start a fire.
- Minimize use of space heaters. If you must use one, place it at least 3 feet away from curtains, bedding and furniture and turn it off before going to bed or leaving the house.

**Ensure a safe bathroom.** The bathroom can be the riskiest room in an older adult's home.

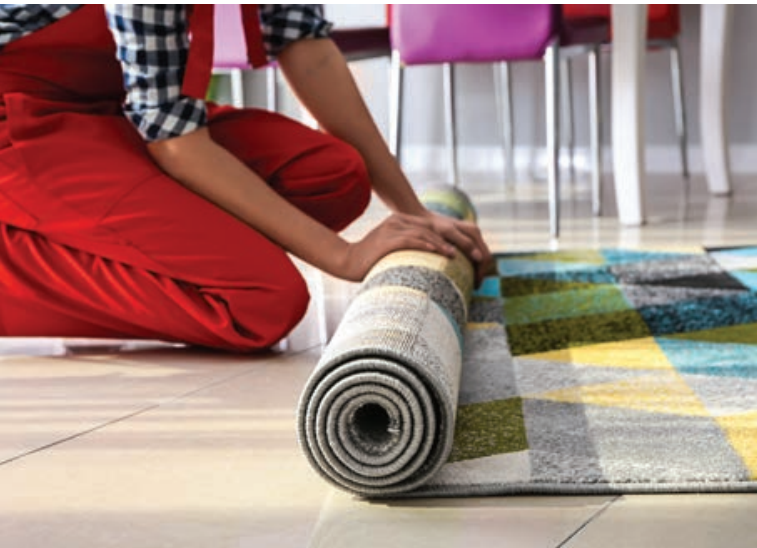
- Install grab bars in the shower and beside the toilet.
- Set the thermostat on the water heater to no higher than 120 degrees.
- Put rubber mats in the bathtub or shower to prevent slipping.
- Consider using a special bathing chair and a hand-held showerhead.
- Install a nightlight in the bathroom and on the route to the bathroom.

**Assess lighting.** Aging eyes don't always work as they once did.

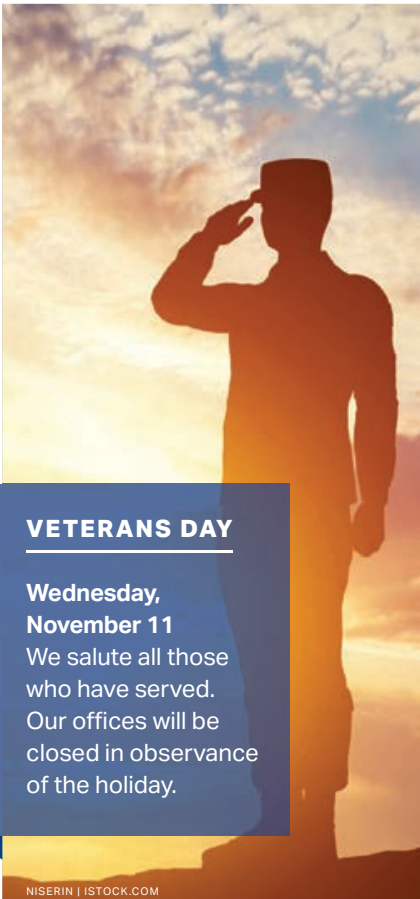
- Replace any burned-out lightbulbs.
- Install motion-detection lighting inside and outside the home.

**Check out stairs.** Declines in balance and strength can make stairs treacherous for older people.

- Test stair railings. Grab the railing and try to shake it back and forth. If the railing wiggles (even just a little bit), get it fixed.
- Look into stairlifts. Call a qualified provider to see what's feasible for your home. ■



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## VETERANS DAY

**Wednesday,  
November 11**

We salute all those who have served. Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

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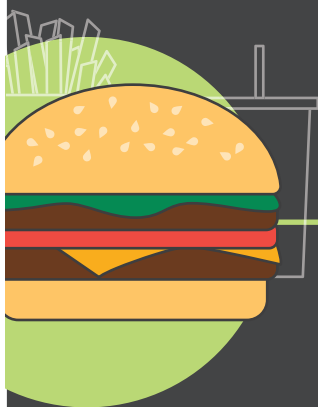
## POWER TIP

Close your fire-place damper unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter.

CAROL ANDERSEN HUDSON | ISTOCK.COM



# THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

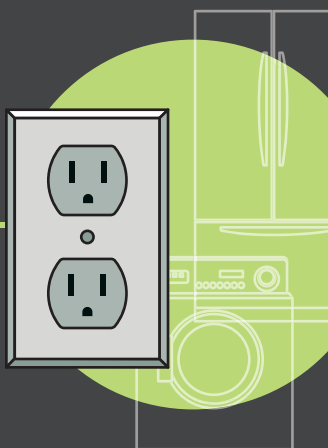


## \$5.30

average cost  
of a Big Mac®  
value meal

## \$3.87

average daily  
cost of power



*Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2018 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.*

**Sources:** Economist.com and EIA, 2018 data.

**HAMILTON COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## PACs Represent Electric Co-ops to Lawmakers

**RURAL FRIENDS OF** Electric Cooperatives and the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, or ACRE, are nonpartisan political action committees for directors, employees, consumer-members and others associated with the electric co-ops serving Texas. Counting more than 4,600 members, Rural Friends stands united to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives.

Founded in 1976, Rural Friends supports candidates for statewide office, the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate who will speak for and protect the interests of electric co-ops and our members. It operates under the guidelines and policies of a board of directors composed of electric cooperative leaders from around the state. ACRE operates under a similar structure and contributes to candidates for U.S. Congress.

Rural Friends contributions to candidates come from thousands of members from across our state who personally contribute to the PAC. Rural Friends is subject to all state and federal campaign finance laws and reporting requirements.

The membership ranges from directors and employees of the cooperatives to consumer-members—a genuinely grass-roots effort. ■



LORRAINE BOOGICH | ISTOCK.COM

# Happy Thanksgiving

May the good things of life be yours  
in abundance not only at Thanksgiving  
but throughout the coming year.

Our offices will be closed **Thursday–Friday,  
November 26–27**, in observance of the holiday.





# Community Calendar

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

## Comanche

**Comanche 4D Jackpot & Youth Barrel Race;** November 1, 8, 15, 29; December 6, 13, 20, 27; 8–10 p.m.; 9101 Highway 377/67.

**Steve Clemons Annual Deer Hunter Chili Supper,** November 6, historic downtown square.

**Veterans Luncheon,** November 8, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Comanche County Historical Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Donations only.

**Second Saturday Shenanigans Sip, Snack and Shop;** November 14, December 12; historic downtown square.

**Christmas Lighting,** November 28, historic downtown square.

**Christmas Party and Open House,** December 5, 1–4 p.m., Comanche County Historical Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Class of '57 band, snacks and delicious desserts.

**Explore Comanche Christmas Parade, 5K and Santa Pictures,** December 12, historic downtown square.

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. Contact (254) 289-9865.

**Krist Kindl Markt,** December 4–6, City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. Arts and crafts vendors. Friday, 4–10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–10 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

**Krist Kindle Charity Pageant,** December 5, 10 a.m., Civic Center, 1206 W. Ave B.

**Lighted Christmas Parade,** December 5, 6 p.m.

**Christmas Tree Lighting,** December 5, 6–7 p.m., City Park, 1206 W. Ave. B. Fun for all ages: Santa will be there to celebrate the tree lighting along with holiday entertainment, free family activities and giveaways. While you're at the park, tour the beautiful light displays and enjoy ice skating and Christmas tree decorating contest displays in the Civic Center. Free parking and free admission to the tree lighting. Ice skating is in the Civic Center 6–9 p.m. Weekend skate pass is \$5–\$10 with skates included. Food will be available for purchase.

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

For information about Ewant events, contact Charlotte Looney at [cben1115@hotmail.com](mailto:cben1115@hotmail.com) or (512) 750-9870.

## Gatesville

**Chamber Market Day,** November 14, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Vendors display unique merchandise

and farm-fresh foods. For more information, visit [gatesvilletx.info](http://gatesvilletx.info).

**Corks & Kegs,** November 21. Sample sips from area wineries and brewpubs, shop with local vendors, and enjoy food and music in the shadows of the beautiful Coryell County Courthouse.

**Christmas Parade,** December 12, 10 a.m. Junk the halls-themed Christmas decorations on festive floats, with marching units, music and great family fun. Sponsored by the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce.

For 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

**Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch,** November 7, Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St. Lunch at 11 a.m., gun drawing at 2 p.m., and raffles and live music 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

**Parade of Lights,** December 5, dusk, downtown. Photos with Santa before the parade and hot chocolate afterward at the welcome center.

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

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

**Anvil Shoot,** 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 sausage with biscuits and gravy. There will also be a drawing for an over/under 12-gauge shotgun. Tickets are \$10 and available from any post member. For more information, call Jerry Jones at (254) 784-9141 or Bob Self at (254) 386-3992.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center on Facebook or at [hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com](http://hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com), call (254) 386-3216, or email [hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchambertx@gmail.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 will be published monthly, and it will contain 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.

## Hico

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

## Kempner

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

## Lampasas

**Hunters' Welcome**, November 6, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., H-E-B parking lot.

**Courtyard Square Garage Sale**, November 7, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., downtown courtyard square. For more information contact Andy Berry at (512) 556-5434.

**Lampasas Trade Days**; November 7, December 5; 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, great food, and concessions. For information contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

**Holiday Tour of Homes**, December 6, 1–5 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For information contact Keystone Square Museum at (512) 556-2224.

For more information about Lampasas County 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**; November 7, December 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 information about Pidcoke United Methodist Church events, call (254) 300-6342 or visit [pidcoke-umc.org](http://pidcoke-umc.org).

## San Saba

**Hunters' Welcome**, November 6, Estep-Burleson Plaza, 116 S. Cherokee. Hunters will receive goody bags while supplies last.



Anvil Shoot  
November 11  
HAMILTON

**San Saba Volunteer Fire Department Steak Supper**, November 6, 4:30–7:30 p.m., 104 S. Water St. \$15 per plate, additional donations welcome.

**Pecan Capital Trade Days**; November 7, December 5; 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; San Saba County Courthouse; 500 E. 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).

**Veterans Day Program**, November 11, 11 a.m., Second & Wallace Church of Christ, 201 W. Wallace St.

**Mill Pond Lighted Holiday Park Christmas Extravaganza**, November 26–January 5, 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.

**Sip 'N' Stroll Wine Tasting Event**, December 12, 2–6 p.m., 113 S. High St.

**Lighted Christmas Parade**, December 12, 6:30 p.m., downtown.

For more 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](http://sansabatexas.com/calendar) or [sansabachamber.org](http://sansabachamber.org).

## Star

**Star Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fish Fry** has been postponed to a later date.