

Co-ops Support Volunteer Firefighters in Shared Mission



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO STEVE YOUNG

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS HERE AT HAMILTON County Electric Cooperative. I'm talking about our lineworkers, who charge into potentially deadly storms to restore power.

We also appreciate another special group of first responders who make our communities better by providing critical emergency services—volunteer firefighters.

Most small communities across the state are served by volunteer fire departments, staffed by civilians who undergo special training so they can fight fires, respond to vehicular collisions and tend to medical emergencies. Some 65% of the more than 1 million firefighters in the United States are volunteers, according to the National Fire

Protection Association. And 95% of volunteer firefighters work in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 people each, which describes many of the communities in Co-op Country.

Needless to say, these firefighters bolster the well-being of our members, and they do so only with the support of the community. Most VFDs are nonprofits with budgets that typically don't benefit from tax dollars, so they rely on grants,

donations and community fundraising. The VFD fish fries, barbecues and raffles you hear about are largely their only means to raise money to purchase new equipment.

October is National Cooperative Month, when we celebrate the many ways co-ops serve our communities in addition to providing safe and reliable electricity. Indeed, electric cooperatives, following the cooperative principle of Concern for Community, often work behind the scenes to help fire departments thrive. Read *Putting Others First* on Page 12 to learn more about the close connection between co-ops and VFDs.

We're proud that we've provided electricity to our part of the state for more than 75 years and of the many ways we have improved quality of life in our communities. Volunteer fire departments in this country go back even further in history.

The first VFD was established by Benjamin Franklin in 1736 in Philadelphia. He also helped prove that lightning—a cause of many fires in colonial America—and electricity were the same phenomenon. Franklin thought the lightning rod, which deflects lightning away from buildings to prevent fires, to be his greatest invention.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, we also salute volunteer firefighters. Their dedication and selflessness make our communities safer. We're gratified to be able to contribute to their success.

Director Election Results

ON AUGUST 2, THE MEMBERSHIP OF Hamilton County Electric Cooperative elected the following members to its board of directors:

Jack Caldwell, District 1
Ervin Koerth, District 3

The cooperative's board of directors met August 29 and elected officers. The following members comprise the board of directors of Hamilton County EC:

Sam Campbell, president, Goldthwaite
Dusty Duncan, vice president, Lometa
Bob Gardner, secretary-treasurer, Hamilton
Jack Caldwell, director, Hamilton
Melvin Eilers Jr., director, Priddy
Ervin Koerth, director, Gatesville
Henry Langford, director, Lampasas



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Power Tip

Copper-bottom pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. When using ceramic or glass, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees—your meal will cook just as quickly.

Members, Employees Celebrated at HCEC Annual Meeting



1. Hamilton County EC members and guests enjoy a delicious meal of barbecue and fried fish.

2. HCEC provided coloring books, crayons, candy and a choice of yellow or pink hard hats to amuse the meeting's youngest attendees.

3. Philip Segrest, attorney with Segrest & Segrest, conducted the business portion of the meeting. Jack Caldwell was elected to represent District 1 and Ervin Koerth reelected to District 3.

MEMBERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WERE treated to good music, great food and fellowship among friends, neighbors and family August 2 at the co-op's 80th annual meeting.

J&M Hill Country Bar-B-Q of Gatesville kicked off the proceedings, held at Hamilton Independent School District's junior high and high schools, by serving members and their guests generous portions of barbecue and fried fish. At 5 p.m., in the Chandler Craig Auditorium, Joe Raibourn, Hamilton County EC director of office services, began drawing names from member registration cards to award premeeting prizes, which included rain gauges, drink tumblers, lightbulbs and gift cards.

The event's musical entertainment, the Morticians, began playing their first set at 6 p.m., performing a mixture of classic rock and pop music from the 1950s to the 1980s. They rocked the auditorium until the business meeting was called to order.

At 7 p.m., board President P.M. "Bubba" Gerald Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked attendees for their presence and support, and called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Philip Segrest, attorney with Segrest & Segrest; the national anthem was sung by Alicia Straley; and Steve Young, CEO and general manager, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Young introduced the board of directors and their spouses. Then he recognized retired directors and retired employees in attendance, and introduced special guests, including Segrest; state Rep. J.D. Sheffield and his wife, Janice; Sheffield's district director, Gary Kafer; and Steve Dyer and Sarah Gouak, representatives of the Lower Colorado River Authority.

Gerald informed the members that over the past 10 years,

the cooperative has invested \$30 million in upgrades, making its system one of the best in the state. He quantified the difference the upgrades had made. "The cooperative's pole replacement program now finds less than 2% bad poles a year, where in the past it had found as high as 25% bad poles," he said. "We have a very well-maintained and up-to-date system."

Gerald apprised the members of the co-op's operating margins, which decreased in 2019 due to changes in the weather. "The cooperative's operating margins in 2018 were \$838,601—much better than 2017," he said. "Unfortunately so far, 2019's operating margins are about zero, due to mild temperatures and an unusually large number of ferocious storms in Hamilton County Electric's service area." Gerald gave details of eight storms that came through between May 2018 and July 2019 and together caused a significant number of electrical outages and extensive line and pole damage.

Gerald praised Hamilton County EC employees' dedication and tenacity in the wake of the destructive weather. "During those storms, all the cooperative's employees answered the call, going the extra mile to get our lights back on," he said. "From the people answering the phones to the people directing the recovery to the linemen in the field working all night in wet, muddy conditions, not willing to go home until all residential customers were back on, they went far beyond what was expected of them to get the power restored."

Gerald announced that on behalf of the members, the board of directors had passed a resolution of appreciation honoring the co-op's linemen. He called upon Young to read the resolution. Young introduced each of the 24 employees named in the document while Gerald presented each of them with an



engraved knife. Each of the honored employees will receive a framed copy of the signed resolution. Following a standing ovation from the audience, the meeting was turned over to Segrest, who conducted the election—an important part of every annual meeting.

According to Hamilton County EC's bylaws, 5% of the co-op's 12,112 members—or 606 members, including those present and those voting by mail—constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members. Ballots reflected 776 members voting by mail, so a quorum was reached.

Ballot return envelopes must include a member's name and address for the cooperative to confirm the voter's membership and for the member's vote to be counted by the vote-counting committee. Ninety-seven ballot envelopes were received with no name or address; therefore, they were not allowed to be opened.

Up for election this year were Gerald, who represents District 1, and Ervin Koerth, District 3. Gerald chose not to seek reelection. Segrest reported that the nominating committee, appointed by the board of directors, met June 6 and nominated Sam Hall and Jack Caldwell for District 1 and Ervin Koerth and Matt Dossey for District 3.

Segrest reported that as attorney for Hamilton County EC, he observed the counting of the ballots and tabulation of votes, which began at 1 p.m. August 2 at the co-op's main office, and that Caldwell had been elected to represent District 1 and Koerth reelected as District 3 director.

Segrest then stated that there was no unfinished business

and no new business that required the action of the members. He concluded the business portion and turned the meeting back over to Young.

Young thanked Straley for singing the national anthem, Segrest for giving the invocation, J&M Hill Country Bar-B-Q for catering the meal, Billy Lawson with Lawson Implement for providing John Deere gators to shuttle members from the parking area, and Hamilton ISD and its employees for assistance with audio and sound technology and food service. He extended his appreciation to the co-op's employees for their work in putting the meeting together. Young concluded by thanking the members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting as well as their support throughout the year. He then announced that there was one more thank-you that needed to be extended and called upon board Vice President Sam Campbell to do the honors.

Campbell asked Gerald to return to the stage. He informed the members that the board of directors of Hamilton County EC had passed a resolution of appreciation to express their gratitude and appreciation to Gerald for his many years of service. Campbell read the resolution and presented Gerald with a framed, signed copy of it and an engraved knife. Gerald thanked everyone and spoke of his respect for the cooperative's management, assuring members that the co-op was in competent hands.

Young adjourned the annual meeting at 7:28 p.m. and welcomed the band back to the stage. Waco-based band the Morticians consists of Alan Smith, co-lead vocals; Lorna Willhelm, co-lead vocals; Jerry Echols, drums; Buddy Edwards, keyboard and guitar; Clark Nauert, lead guitar; and Mark McKethan, bass

1. General Manager Steve Young read resolutions of appreciation to the co-op's linemen and board President P.M. "Bubba" Gerald Jr. and presented each with an engraved knife.

2. Board Vice President Sam Campbell presented a framed resolution of appreciation to P.M. "Bubba" Gerald Jr. expressing the board of directors' and management's gratitude and appreciation for Gerald's 33 years of service. Gerald served as secretary-treasurer August 1989–August 2009 and president August 2009–August 2019.

3. The Morticians entertained the crowd with a mixture of classic rock and pop music, including covers of *When Will I Be Loved*; *Unchained Melody*; *Oh, Pretty Woman*; and *I Love Rock 'n' Roll*.

4. Brenda Lucas of Hamilton won the grand prize, a 65-inch Samsung smart TV.

and vocals. Their performance included covers of songs by the Beatles, Roy Orbison, Elvis Presley, the Eagles, Linda Ronstadt, the Righteous Brothers, Buddy Holly and many more. The audience showed their enthusiasm for the Morticians' renditions of their favorite tunes with a standing ovation and request for an encore.

After the evening's entertainment, the drawing for attendance prizes was conducted by Raibourn. The kids' prizes included a book by Michelle Larson called *Lineman, The Unsung Hero*, two miniature linemen's bucket trucks, \$20 cash and \$50 cash. Seventy-five prizes were awarded to Hamilton County EC members. Thirty-three prizes were donated by Hamilton County EC vendors. Brenda Lucas of Hamilton won the grand prize, a 65-inch Samsung smart TV.

Hamilton County EC appreciates your attendance at the 80th annual meeting. It is always a great opportunity for us to see and meet our members. We hope you had a good time, and we look forward to seeing you at next year's annual meeting August 7, 2020.



HCEC's linemen were honored with a resolution of appreciation and each was presented with an engraved knife.

Resolution of Appreciation to the Cooperative's Linemen

WHEREAS, Hamilton County Electric Cooperative has experienced an unusual number of power outages the past twelve months, requiring the Cooperative's linemen to work extended hours. This presents an ideal opportunity to recognize these hardworking men who construct and maintain the electrical infrastructure in the Cooperative's service territory located in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills, and San Saba counties.

WHEREAS, All year long, (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) at all times of the day and night, and in all types of weather, you are ready and willing to answer the call to service, often working tirelessly for long hours; and

WHEREAS, You must leave your loving family to travel into unknown dangers and willingly face the most extreme conditions to keep the lights on, and

WHEREAS, You are skilled and courageous professionals who work under dangerous conditions each day, with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines to keep electricity flowing, putting your lives at risk to ensure the safety and reliability of the Cooperative's electric service; and

WHEREAS, You attend safety training courses, and apply the knowledge and safety procedures learned, to assure the conditions you are working in remain safe.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors on behalf of the Members of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association, thank you for your hard work and dedication to your profession, and express our gratitude and utmost appreciation to the following linemen:

Albert Pafford
Mike Armstrong
Truman Baize
Dane Barron
Gregg Belcher
Waylon Belcher
Jackie Carter
Henry DeLeon

Randall Denning
Tommy "Butch" Hatley
Jason Hitchcock
Jimmy Horton
Brad Howard
Rhett Keith
Paul Knight
Eric Lackey

George Luker, CLCP
Jacklee Melton
Robert Moore
TJ Pearson
Allen Reed
Jorge Salinas
Justin Tubbs
Shea Wilson

Unanimously passed on this 27th day of June 2019.

Community Calendar



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hamilton County ECA will be closed November 28–29 for Thanksgiving and December 24–25 for Christmas.

Comanche

Farmers Market; October 5, November 2, December 7; 9 a.m.–noon.

Circus, October 7, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Halloween Costume Party, October 28, 7–10 p.m., Brennan Vineyards, 802 S. Austin St. Various finger foods and wine will be available, along with space for dancing and awards for the best costumes.

Historic Downtown and Around Trick or Treat, October 31, historic downtown.

Deer Hunter Chili Supper, November 1, historic downtown.

Fall Fete Market, November 2, noon–5 p.m., Brennan Vineyards, 802 S. Austin St. Various vendors will be set up on the grounds. Visitors are encouraged to sip wine and shop.

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

Copperas Cove

10th Annual Eco Harvest, October 12, 9 a.m.–noon. Free pancake breakfast (while supplies last), face painting, educational presentations with animals and lots of interactive booths. For more information, contact Roxanne at (254) 547-4242.

Fall-O-Ween Festival, October 19, 5–9 p.m., City Park. Activities will include safe trick-or-treating, bounce houses, games, a pop-up farmers market, food trucks and much more. The festival is family-oriented and suitable for all ages. There will be a \$5 fee for entry per carload.

Small Business Saturday, November 23. We at the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce are proud to take part in Small Business Saturday again this year. We understand that small businesses are the heart of our community and encourage you to take part in Shop Small, a movement to celebrate small business. Contact activities@copperascove.com or call (254) 547-7571 for information.

Krist Kindle Markt, December 6–8, downtown. The markt welcomes shoppers looking for Christmas gifts and boasts great food and entertainment for all to enjoy.

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

Evant School Homecoming, October 4.

Evant Rodeo, October 5, 7 p.m., Evant Rodeo Arena, 1255 S. U.S. Highway 281.

Fall Open House, October 11, 5–7:30 p.m., at stores on the Evant Square. Refreshments served.

Halloween Trunk or Treat, October 31, 6 p.m., Evant Park.

Feed the Hunters, November 9, noon, Evant Square.

Market Day, November 16, 9 a.m., Evant

Square. No fee for vendors. For information, email knw@centex.net or cben1115@hotmail.com.

Small Business Shopping Day, November 23, 3 p.m., downtown.

Christmas Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting, December 7, City Park. The parade will start prior to the tree lighting, which will be done at dark.

For information about Evant events, contact Charlotte Looney at evantchamber@gmail.com or (512) 750-9870.

Gatesville

Gatesville Spursquicentennial (150th Birthday) volunteer recognition program; June 1, 2019–December 1, 2020. We want to recognize the people who make Gatesville a great place to live. Log 150 volunteer hours to be recognized. Volunteer logs are available at city hall, the chamber of commerce and the Gatesville Public Library, or download one at gatesville150.com/volunteer. For more information, visit gatesville150.com or facebook.com/spursquicentennial.

Chamber Market Days, second Saturday of each month in the parking lot of the historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36. Vendors display unique merchandise and farm-fresh foods. Visit gatesvilletx.info for more information.

Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame Show/Jamboree, third Friday of each month, 7–8 p.m., Gatesville City Auditorium, 110 N. Eighth St. A family-friendly event. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted for the performers. For more information, visit gatesvillecountrymusicshalloffame.com or call Roger Viersse at (254) 547-6834.

Junk & Disorderly, October 5, 8 a.m.–4 p.m., citywide garage sale and vintage market.

The Royce Montgomery Show; October 12; 7–10 p.m.; Gatesville City Auditorium; 110 N. Eighth St. Motown, country, rock and soul. Tickets \$10 or two for \$15. VIP tickets \$15 and include preferred seating and preshow reception with hors d'oeuvres.

Boozaar, October 26, 6–8 p.m., on the square. Businesses and organizations provide free treats, fun games and activities for everyone to enjoy. Food, game and other vendors can register at ci.gatesville.tx.us or by calling the library at (254) 865-5367.

Christmas Market, December 14, 6–9 p.m., the Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36.

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

Third Saturday Flea/Craft Market; October 19; 8 a.m.; the Artisan Guild; south side of the square and Highway 183. Flea market and craft items, farmers market and fresh baked goods. Vendors welcome. For more information, call (325) 948-3214.

Prairie Experience X, October 5, Legacy Plaza Pavilion. Come support our botanical gardens at the 10th annual event! Alchemy Catering will provide a memorable meal. Silent and live auctions: Bid on a once-in-a-lifetime hunt at King Ranch. For table sponsorships and tickets, contact Susan at (325) 648-2447 or Savannah at (325) 648-2750.

Hunters Appreciation Chili Lunch, November 2, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Goldthwaite Pavilion, 1219 Fisher St. Silent auction, vendors, gun raffle ticket drawing and so much more. You can buy raffle tickets at millscountychamber.com.

Prohibition, a musical comedy, October 19, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Family Life Center, 1011 Hutchings St. Presented by the



HALLOWEEN AND FALL FESTIVITIES

October 4–5, Hamilton
October 12, San Saba
October 19, Copperas Cove
October 25, Hamilton
October 26, Gatesville and Lampasas
October 28, Comanche
October 31, Evant and Hico

Mills County Theater Group. For more information, email lkhouse@yahoo.com.

Haunted Gardens at Halloween, botanical gardens. Don't be a scaredy-cat! Go trick-or-treating at the botanical gardens—if you dare!

Holiday Lights, November–December, botanical gardens. Enjoy the lights in the gardens and get into the holiday spirit.

25th Annual Parade of Lights, December 7, downtown. Parade begins as soon as it is dark enough outside (usually a little after 6 p.m.) The chamber will offer photos with Santa before the parade and hot chocolate after the parade at the welcome center.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit millscountychamber.com or call Mills County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619.

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circlearena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

Harvest Festival, October 4–5, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 215 W. Main St. Garage sale Friday and Saturday. Saturday: silent auction, barbecue lunch, kids festival, knife sale and country store with baked goods. Entertainment will be provided by the Wallace Family Band from 10–11:30 a.m. Dueling Hearts will perform 1–3 p.m.

Trick or Treat Around the Square, October 25, businesses around the downtown courthouse square.

Holiday Market, November 9, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Fair Park pavilions, 1007 Park Road at Alamo. Friends of the Library book sale, vendors galore, food, Kids Korner and door prizes. Sponsored by Pottsville Extension Education Club. For booth reservations and other information, contact Kelly Kuhl at (254) 386-3855 or kelly.kuhl@edwardjones.com or Melva Curry at (231) 301-1044 or melva.curry@gmail.com.

John Hall Horseshoes Tournament, November 30, registration 9–11 a.m., tournament noon, Jayson Harris Pavilion. Concessions, silent and live auctions. \$100 entry fee per two-person team. Entry fee includes two wristbands and two meal tickets for the Jennifer Hall Scholarship Fund Dance. For more information, contact Roseann Hall at (254) 372-4408 or Misty Clepper at (254) 485-3658.

The Jennifer Hall Scholarship Fund Dance, November 30, 7 p.m., Jayson Harris Pavilion. \$15 per person. Lineup: Katy Parrish and Nathan and Mason Hall, the national anthem; Memphis Wells; Dillon Poe; Mike Stanley; the Clint Allen Janisch Band; and Cottonwood Crows. Concessions and silent and live auctions. For more information, contact Roseann Hall at (254) 372-4408 or Misty Clepper at (254) 485-3658.

WE WELCOME YOUR EVENT SUBMISSIONS

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, write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531, or call 1-800-595-3401.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit [Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center on Facebook](#) or [hamiltontexas-chamberofcommerce.com](#), call (254) 386-3216 or email [hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com](#).

Hico

Choctoberfest, all of October. Wiseman House Chocolates is a proud supporter of Kids Across Cultures, an organization that helps families in need throughout the world. KAC helps families get clean water and provides assistance with educational, medical and community needs. A portion of Choctoberfest proceeds will help KAC continue their work.

Downtown Trick or Treat, October 31, 3–5 p.m., downtown.

Billy the Kid Film Festival, November 1–2, downtown. Visit [billythekidfilmfestival.com](#) for information.

Choices 5K, November 9.

Hico Open House, November 16.

Christmas Market and Parade, December 7.

For more information about Hico events, visit [hico-tx.com](#) or call Hico City Hall at (254) 796-4620.

Lampasas

Lampasas County Museum, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., 303 S. Western Ave., between Second and Third streets. Learn about the history of Lampasas County through permanent displays and special exhibitions. Free of charge.

Lampasas Trade Days, October 5–6, November 2–3, December 7–8; 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; 2646 E. Highway 190. For information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Artober Fest, October 12, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden at Campbell Park, 501 E. North Ave. Arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, grapes 'n' grains wine and beer garden, free art activities for children of all ages, dog costume contest. Performance by Austin Shakespeare. Live music featuring the Elderly Brothers and Jukebox Vandals.

Squared Silly, October 26, 5–7:30 p.m., downtown courtyard square. Costume contests with prizes. Activities include a hayride, bounce houses, a not-so-scary haunted house, family-friendly games, food and more! For more information or for a vendor application, contact the Vision Lampasas committee chair at (512) 525-1871 or [info@visionlampasas.org](#). Like us on Facebook.

Hunters' Welcome, November 1, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.,

H-E-B parking lot. Join the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center in welcoming hunters to Lampasas and enjoy some great barbecue.

Fall Courtyard Square Garage Sale, November 2, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., downtown historic courtyard square. For more information, contact Andy Berry at (512) 556-5434. For vendor booth registration forms, visit [lampasasdowntown.com](#) or email [cysacwgarage@yahoo.com](#).

Christmas on the Creek, November 23–January 1, 5–8 p.m. Come see Santa's village, giant 12 Days of Christmas cards, a larger-than-life lighted nativity and beautiful light display along the banks of Sulphur Creek between Highway 190 (Key Avenue) and Highway 281. On the second Saturday in December, join us for Christmas activities at W.M. Brook Park, including sleigh rides, live music, playing in the "snow" and hot cocoa with warm snacks with your family.

Lighting of W.M. Brook Park, November 23, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Carol of Lights, December 7, 10 a.m.–8 p.m., courthouse square. An all-day Christmas event with all the charm a small town can offer. The county courthouse will host boutique vendors. Admission of \$1 funds a Town and Country Study Club scholarship fund. Santa will be on hand to see good boys and girls, and Mrs. Claus will read stories and provide crafts for youngsters. Grown-ups will find plenty to do in the mom and pop shops and cafes on the square. The lighted Christmas parade will start at 6:30 p.m. with lots of fun floats and Santa, Mrs. Claus and an elf in the grand finale.

Tour of Homes, December 8, 1–5 p.m., Lampasas County Museum, 303 S. Western St. Tour tickets will be available for \$10 at the museum and at My Girls at 415 E. Third St. For more information, contact the museum at (512) 556-2224.

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

Lometa

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

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass First Saturday Jam and Stage Show, October 5, November 2, December 7; Pearl Community Center. Free stage shows 12:30–5 p.m. Open jamming all day and evening Thursday–Saturday. RV hookups

\$15/\$20 night. Bluegrass café Saturday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Family-friendly event that bluegrass and old-time music lovers of all ages will enjoy. Visit [pearlbluegrass.com](#) for more information.

Pearl Book Cottage, October 5, November 2, December 7; 10 a.m.–6 p.m. All kinds of books and resale items. Payment by donation with all proceeds going to charity. For information, call (254) 865-9282 or (254) 865-5864.

Community Meal, third Thursday of each month, 11:30 a.m., Pearl Baptist Church, Highway 183. Contact Connie at (254) 223-0621.

Pidcoke

Lord's Acre Auction and Potluck Dinner, October 5, 5:30 p.m., Pidcoke United Methodist Church, 11230 FM 116 N. (halfway between Gatesville and Copperas Cove). Communitywide event. New and homemade goods for auction. Proceeds support community outreach. Bring a dish to share. To donate items, contact Margaret Martin at (254) 518-2257. Past auction items have included handmade quilts, tea towels, birdhouses and other handcrafted items.

Community Revival, October 6–10, Pidcoke Baptist Church, FM 116, halfway between Gatesville and Copperas Cove. The revival will begin with a worship service Sunday, October 6, at 11 a.m. There will be a celebration of the church's 135-year anniversary with dinner on the grounds following the morning service. The revival will continue nightly October 7–10 at 6:30 p.m.

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

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days, October 5, November 2, December 7; 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; San Saba County Courthouse; 500 Wallace St. For information, contact JoAnne Van Gorp at (325) 372-4029.

St. Mary's Fall Festival, October 12, noon–7 p.m., 504 W. Wallace St. Entertainment, silent auction, raffle, games, prizes and food.

Golf Tournament, Individual Stroke, October 19–20, San Saba River Golf Course, CR 102. For information, visit [golfsansaba.com](#) or contact Chuck Jennings at (325) 372-3212.

San Saba County Friends of Animals Spaghetti Supper, October 12, 5–7:30 p.m., San Saba Civic Center, Mill Pond Park. Adults \$10, children \$5. Fundraiser in support of SSCFOA's spay, neuter, rescue and adoption programs. Enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner

prepared again this year by chefs Don and Gaby Lindquist.

Fright Nights; October 12, October 19–20; 6:30–10:30 p.m.; Mill Pond Park. Come see some horror classics in a fun, spooky setting.

Fall Sweep Cleanup Party, October 14, 9 a.m.–noon. A citywide cleanup day. For more information, contact Keep San Saba Beautiful at (325) 372-5200.

San Saba County/Baylor Scott & White Blood Drive, October 29, 2–6 p.m., San Saba First Baptist Church, 208 W. Wallace St. For information, contact San Saba First Baptist Church at (325) 372-5761.

Hunters' Welcome Weekend, November 1, G&R Grocery and Lowe's grocery store. Hunters will receive goody bags compliments of the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce while supplies last.

SSVFD Steak Supper and Raffle, November 1, 4:40–7:30 p.m., San Saba Volunteer Fire Department, 104 S. Water St. \$15 per plate, additional donations welcome.

Veterans Program, November 8, 11 a.m., Second & Wallace Church of Christ, 201 W. Wallace St.

Mill Pond Lighted Holiday Park Christmas Extravaganza, November 28–January 5, 6–10 p.m., Mill Pond Park, 1007 E. Wallace St. Set your radio to 88.7 FM to enjoy music synced to more than 30 acres of dancing lights. Admission is free.

Sip 'N' Stroll Wine Tasting Event, December 14, 2–6 p.m., San Saba Visitor Center, 113 S. High St. Tickets \$30. Come take a leisurely stroll through historic downtown, where several wineries will offer wines to sample and purchase in our beautifully decorated businesses.

Lighted Christmas Parade, December 14, 6:30–7:30 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 or sansabachamber.org.

Star

Star Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fish Fry, November 19, 5:30 p.m., Star Volunteer Fire Department, Hwy. 84. Everyone is invited and all donations are appreciated.

Stop Unwelcome Cold Air

Mind the gaps and small money-zapping cracks to save cash

AIR THAT LEAKS INTO AND OUT OF HOMES THROUGH CRACKS, CREVICES AND HOLES can increase unnecessary energy consumption. Sealing air leaks in your home can produce significant savings, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Here are a few improvements and tips that can help make your home more energy efficient.

Adjust door thresholds. If you can see daylight under your front door, then you're losing the indoor air you've paid to heat. Some thresholds have screws that let you adjust the height to eliminate the gap. Turn the screws counterclockwise to lift the threshold. You also can add an inexpensive door sweep to prevent air leakage.

Seal around exterior electrical boxes and pipes coming through walls. Exterior pipes and electrical outlets are notoriously drafty because insulation is not placed behind and around them. For small gaps, use caulk. For large gaps, use foam sealant.

Close the fireplace flue. When your fireplace is not operating, its damper should be closed tightly, with a sign hanging from the damper handle warning that it is closed.

Ensure that doors and windows are closed tightly and locked. Even when doors and windows are closed, they might not be pressed tight against the weatherstripping if they're not locked. Be sure weatherstripping around doors and windows is tight and doesn't have any cracks or deterioration.

Insulate the attic access door. Even in well-insulated attics, the access door may not be properly insulated, letting air escape through the attic hatch. To ensure that the door blocks airflow, use adhesive to attach fiberglass batt insulation to the attic side of the door. And if the door won't lie flat, use a latch bolt system to close it tight.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

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*For general information
or to report an outage*

CALL US

(254) 386-3123 local or
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PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Hamilton County EC Office

420 N. Rice St., Hamilton

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915 Third St., Goldthwaite

Fort Gates Water Corporation

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

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Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bill payments can be set up to be bank drafted or charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

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