



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CODY LASATER

## Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. The simplicity of a few seeds, some fertilizer and water turning into a bounty is amazing.

Similarly, when I think about energy efficiency, I think about how a few simple actions can help you use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year due to heavy air conditioning use. Here are a few ways to help you save—not only during the dog days of summer but throughout the year.

**Check your AC system.** Your air conditioner requires regular maintenance to function efficiently, and neglecting it can lead to poor performance and



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higher energy use. Have the system serviced annually by a certified technician. Clear leaves and any other debris away from outside components. Vacuum air vents regularly to remove any dust buildup and ensure nothing is hampering air flow through the vents. Most importantly, replace the air filter regularly—monthly during seasons of heavy AC use.

**Use your thermostat wisely.** Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer, ideally 78 degrees or higher—and higher still when the house is empty. Every degree will decrease energy usage 6%–8%. A smart thermostat can automate thermostat settings to accommodate your family's schedule.

**Use fans.** Running a fan is much cheaper than running your AC. In fact, running a fan 24/7 for an entire month would only cost about \$5 in electricity. Fans don't actually produce cold air—they just move the air around. But that air flow creates a wind chill effect that helps people feel more comfortable. If you use a ceiling fan with your air conditioning, you can set your thermostat about 4 degrees higher with no reduction in comfort.

**Close your blinds.** Closing blinds or drapes in the daytime keeps out sunlight and its heat. Southern- and western-facing walls take the brunt of the sun's heat, so invest in good drapes or shades for the windows on these walls and keep them closed.

**Avoid the oven.** Cooking with a conventional oven adds heat to your house, forcing your AC to work harder. Instead, use a microwave or slow cooker to keep the kitchen cool. Better yet, use the summer heat as an excuse to fire up the old backyard barbecue.

**Wash strategically.** Washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers all generate a ton of heat. Cut back on this added heat by only using cold water to do your washing. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes to avoid running the appliances too much. Avoid using your clothes dryer entirely by hanging up wet clothes to air dry.

**If you aren't using it, unplug it.** From your computer to your toaster, all electronics generate heat. Even if it's switched off, just being plugged in generates a small amount of heat—and uses electricity. Unplug any electronics you're not using. It's not much per device, but add up all the gizmos in your home, and it can make a few degrees—and kilowatts—of difference.

One of the great things about being part of Hamilton County Electric Cooperative is that we're locally owned by you, our members. So instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we're always looking for ways to help you keep your money in your wallet. ■



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## Common Culprits of Electrical Fires

**OUTDATED WIRING AND OVERLOADED** circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.

**Electrical outlets:** Faulty outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.

**Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripping breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave the fix to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.

**Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords aren't a permanent solution. If your TV and other electronics are plugged into an extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.

**Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

**Flammable material near electric heat sources:** Placing cloth, like a curtain, or furniture near a heat-producing light or electric heaters can cause the material to heat up and ignite, causing a fire.

**Ungrounded plugs:** Electronics often have a third prong—a grounding prong—on their plugs to serve as an emergency path in case of a short circuit or fault. Never remove a grounding prong. ■

## Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

### CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton, TX 76531

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

Cody Lasater

### Board of Directors

Robert Straley, President, District 4

Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5

Brandon Haile, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

Jack Caldwell, District 1

Sam Campbell, District 6

Ervin Koerth, District 3

John Priddy, District 7

## 24/7

## Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

**LOCAL**

(254) 386-3123

**TOLL-FREE**

1-800-595-3401

### ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 13,000 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

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton

#### Fort Gates Water Corp.

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

#### Head Insurance

1006 Fourth St., Goldthwaite

#### Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

#### Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

### VISIT US ONLINE

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



Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton](http://TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton)

# Notice of Director Election

## Nominating committee to name board nominees

**THE MEMBERS OF** Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will elect directors by mail-in ballot October 1.

In accordance with cooperative bylaws, a nominating committee will be appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting May 30. The nominating committee will meet at 10 a.m. July 1 at the cooperative's main 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 served by the cooperative.

District 5 is the area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, including all the area in San Saba and Llano counties served by the cooperative.

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

Ballots will be mailed to members August 20 and should be returned to the cooperative no later than 1 p.m. October 1, at which time the ballots will be counted. The results of the election will be announced on the cooperative's website, [hamiltonelectric.coop](http://hamiltonelectric.coop); on its Facebook page; and at the annual membership meeting October 1.

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 deter-

mined 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.

# Community Calendar

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

## Comanche

**Granny Reads to Children at the Museum,** June 6, 3 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road.

**Jams in June;** June 6, 13, 20, 27; 6–8 p.m.; Comanche Square.

**Comanche Rodeo,** June 14–15, Roping Arena, 9101 Highway 377. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; performances at 8 p.m.

**Rodeo Day Parade,** June 15, 5 p.m., Courthouse Square.

**Old-Fashioned Game Day at the Museum,** June 20, 3 p.m., Comanche County Museum, 402 Moorman Road. Board games and card games.

**Salt, Lime and Finish Lines,** July 27, 8 a.m., Comanche square. Early morning 5K race, finish line margaritas and cornhole tournament.

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

## Copperas Cove

*For information on Copperas Cove events, call (254) 547-7571 or email [chamber@copperascove.com](mailto:chamber@copperascove.com).*

## Gatesville

**Market Days,** second Saturday of each month, in the parking lot of the Historic Cotton Belt Depot, 2307 S. Highway 36.

**Shivaree,** May 31–June 1, Courthouse Square. For information, contact Latana at (254) 865-2617 or email [gatesvillecoc@gmail.com](mailto:gatesvillecoc@gmail.com).

**Fire Ant 100K Bicycle Tour,** June 8, Civic Center, 301 Veterans Memorial Drive.

**City Fireworks,** July 4, 9 p.m.

*For information about Gatesville events, see [visitgatesvilletx.com](http://visitgatesvilletx.com) or email [gatesvillecoc@gmail.com](mailto:gatesvillecoc@gmail.com).*

## Goldthwaite

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

**Goldthwaite Theatre,** 1206 Fisher St. For information on upcoming events, call (325) 451-1811 or visit [goldthwaitetheatre.org](http://goldthwaitetheatre.org).

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

**Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament,** June 8, Perry Country Club, 2190 FM 218.

**July 4th Celebration and Fireworks Show,** Pecan Creek Park.

*For more information about Hamilton events, visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at [hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com](http://hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com) or All Things Hamilton on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216, or email [hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com).*

## Hico

**Bingo Night,** June 21, 6–8 p.m. A \$10 ticket includes one card with two games and a dabber. Each extra card is \$1. Drinks and food can be purchased at the concession stand. At least 20 games with prizes will be played.

**Old Settlers Reunion,** July 16–20. Rodeo, pageant, dance and family night.



For more information about Hico events, contact the Hico Chamber of Commerce at (254) 434-1249 or [chamberhicoctx@gmail.com](mailto:chamberhicoctx@gmail.com).

## Lampasas

**Lampasas County Farmers Market and Crafts**, Saturdays, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Courthouse Square.

**Florian Christl and the Artisan Quartet**, June 1, 7 p.m., Keystone Star Hotel, 404 E. Second St.

**Sulphur Creek Market**, June 9, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., 301 S. U.S. Highway 281.

**Sulphur Creek Car Cruise**, June 22, 9 a.m. registration, W.M. Brook Park.

**Spring Ho Festival**, July 8–14, various locations around town.

**Toughest 19K, 5K and 1 mile**; July 13; Lampasas Middle School, 902 S. Broad St. Register online at [runsignup.com/toughest10k](http://runsignup.com/toughest10k).

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

## Lometa

**Fiesta Winery at Bend**, 18727 W. FM 580. For more information, call (325) 628-3433 or email [info@fiestawinery.com](mailto:info@fiestawinery.com).

**Yoga and Mimosas**, June 1, July 6; 10–11 a.m.

**Live Music by Justin Cole**, June 1, 1–4 p.m.

**Release Party**, June 8, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Live Music by Bryan Groce**, June 29, 1–5 p.m.

**Live Music by Luke Ballet**, July 6, 1–5 p.m.

## Pearl

**Pearl Bluegrass**; June 1, July 6; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Free admission. Come join others to pick or just to listen. Jam rooms for all levels. Open mic opportunities begin at 10 a.m. Contact Ron at (254) 865-6013 to sign up or sign up upon arrival. The kitchen opens at 11 a.m., home cooking and desserts, cash only. The proceeds benefit the Pearl Community Center. For RV spaces,

call Connie at (254) 223-0621. For more information, follow us on Facebook at Pearl Community Center Texas or visit [pearlbluegrassjam.org](http://pearlbluegrassjam.org).

**Pearl Book Cottage**; June 1, July 6; 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booths are \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For information call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864 or Linda Ray at (254) 865-9282.

## San Saba

**Guys and Dolls Golf Tournament**, June 8–9, San Saba River Golf Course, 723 CR 102. For registration details and tee times, visit [golfsan.saba.com](http://golfsan.saba.com) or call the pro shop at (325) 372-3212.

**Fireworks Show**, July 4.

**Two Person Scramble Golf Tournament**, July 20–21, San Saba River Golf Course, 723 CR 102. For registration details and tee times, visit [golfsansaba.com](http://golfsansaba.com) or call the pro shop at (325) 372-3212.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba County Chamber of Commerce at (325) 372-5141 or visit [sansabachamber.org](http://sansabachamber.org) or [sansabatexas.com](http://sansabatexas.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 month. HCEC reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email [donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop](mailto:donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop); write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.



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## Have a Safe Father's Day

**KEEP FATHER'S DAY** happy by keeping Dad safe, even as he tries out his new electric gifts.

Home repairs can be a dangerous undertaking when electricity gets involved, so it's important to use care with electrical equipment and steer clear of power lines.

A bit of common sense and caution while working outside this spring and summer can keep everyone safe. Some tips:

- ▶ A ladder—even a wooden one—can cause a fatal shock if it touches a power line.
- ▶ Inspect power tools and cords for frayed or broken wires and cracked cases before plugging them in.
- ▶ Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when you're not using them. Store them out of reach of children.
- ▶ Wait for things to dry off before working outdoors after it rains. Water and electricity are never a good mix.
- ▶ When carrying ladders, aluminum siding, poles and other long objects, look up! More than 20% of people who die in electricity-related home repair accidents have touched a power line with a ladder or building material. Keep every component of your projects at least 10 feet away from power lines. ■