

Making Life Better



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

What would make life better in our service territory? I'm not talking about winning the lottery—that only makes life better for one person or a small group. But more jobs? Better health care? Improved parks? Those are areas that benefit everyone in the CECA territory.

Comanche Electric Cooperative exists to power communities and empower you, our members, to improve your quality of life. The cooperative business model offers the perfect tool for tackling tasks too big for one person to handle alone. But we need a common purpose to effectively wield the power of cooperation.

Think about the effect that electricity made in rural areas 75 years ago. Women lived longer because they no longer had to work from dusk to dawn at backbreaking chores. Farm production jumped. Things like running water, lights and stored food were possible—and with those leaps, our ancestors' lives were given new opportunities.

A few of you may remember our beginnings from your younger days—you know full well the power of neighbors uniting behind a common purpose. But the vast majority doesn't remember when this area rolled up its sleeves and worked together to get the lights on. This was a time when life was hard—before cooperation changed the landscape of the communities we serve.

Does that mean we don't need a cooperative anymore? Is our job done? Are there no challenges, no roadblocks to a brighter future for our children? What's next for us?

To be honest, that's up to you.

CECA is more than a power provider. We're proof that when folks unite with a single focus, we can bring dreams to reality. Our purpose—powering this community and empowering you, our members—can make life better here in Central Texas.

You, our members, have the power to enact change—all with a little cooperation. So think about it—what's important to you? What would make life better?

Please tell us what you're working on to improve the quality of life. We're here to support your efforts, and we want to know how we can help bring people with common needs and interests together. Remember, electric co-ops can be a mechanism you use to make life better. Send your ideas to sdukes@ceca.coop or call our Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533, or you may attend one of our three district meetings in August. And while we are on the subject, be sure to mark your calendar for our annual meeting October 12.

We exist today because 75 years ago, co-op members like yourself believed they could turn darkness into daylight. Thanks for sharing your ideas with us—we can't wait to work cooperatively with you!



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Crime Fighter.
Roadside Mechanic.
Traffic Director.
Tourism Promoter.

Oh, and Electric
Co-op Lineworker.



You'd think our line crews would have enough to do. With storms and lightning strikes. Downed power lines. Equipment repair. And delivering service to new customers.

But line crews have never been the kind of people who let their job description define all of what they do. That's why they've been known to report crimes in progress. Repair tires for senior citizens. Direct traffic around accidents. Render aid in emergency situations. Even guide visitors to hotels and local attractions.

You see, our line crews are committed to bringing you the best electric service possible. But they're also committed to this community. And doing whatever it takes to make life here just a little better.

Thank a lineman today.



Conservation **MATTERS**

Small Measures, Real Savings

Simple steps for do-it-yourself energy auditing

BY MAGEN HOWARD

No matter the age of your home, it could benefit from an energy audit. An audit conducted by a certified professional can be helpful, but you can get started on your own in finding low-cost solutions that could save money on your monthly electric bill.

First, ask yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If yes, then it probably experiences air leakage.

To track down where those spots are, start with the usual suspects—like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weatherstripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget spots you might not immediately identify, such as recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix up your canister lights with some caulk around the edges.

Also look where walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

Next, peek into the attic and inspect the crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation. Keep in mind that insulation won't do its job well if you don't have a proper air barrier working in tandem. That means all joints and cracks must be sealed between your living space and insulation.

Finally, look to your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design and affordability. You can purchase CFLs in a variety of shapes and hues. They cost more up front, but you could make your money back in less than nine months. After that, they start saving money. Make sure to purchase a CFL that's rated by Energy Star, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program that denotes products meeting specific energy-efficiency criteria. Energy Star-rated CFLs will typically last 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb producing the same amount of light.

LEDs—light-emitting diodes—are the next wave of residential lighting. An Energy Star-rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last for 25 years. As with many new technologies, the upfront cost for an LED bulb is still much more than even a CFL, but prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

To learn more about ways to reduce your electric bill, call CECA at 1-800-915-2533 or visit EnergySavers.gov.

Magen Howard writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Swapping out old-school incandescent bulbs for high-efficiency compact fluorescents will lower energy use for lighting and reduce heat gain in your home.

CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Eastland closed from noon to 1:15 p.m.
Early closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

ceca.coop

Six Scholarships Awarded

CECA is pleased to announce the winners of six \$1,000 scholarships awarded to area students. Congratulations go to Aubrey Lawrence and Libby Lowrance for receiving Operation Round Up scholarships, and to Emily Cullers, Lucchese Gordon, Cally Karl and Allison Knight for winning CECA's Scholarship for Excellence. CECA wishes these students the best as they pursue their educational goals.

OPERATION ROUND UP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



AUBREY LAWRENCE is a 2013 graduate of Rising Star High School. He is the son of Howard and Caryl Lawrence. Aubrey will be attending Tarleton State University to obtain a degree in agricultural economics.



LIBBY LOWRANCE is currently attending Baylor University. Her goal is to receive a degree in accounting. Libby is the daughter of Kim Lowrance Howell of Ranger and the late Randy Lowrance.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE WINNERS



EMILY CULLERS is the daughter of Carlton and Jana Cullers of Comanche. Emily will be attending Hardin-Simmons University to study physical therapy.



LUCCHESE GORDON is the daughter of Jerry and Kay Lynn Gordon of Zephyr. Lucchese will be attending Texas A&M University, where she will pursue a degree in history.



CALLY KARL is a 2013 graduate of Albany High School and is the daughter of Cody and Lisa Karl. Cally will be attending Texas Tech University, where she will prepare for a nursing career.



ALLISON KNIGHT is a 2013 graduate of Goldthwaite High School and is the daughter of Lynn and Betty Knight of Goldthwaite. She will be attending Texas Tech University in pursuit of a psychology/business administration degree.



Youth Tour

Each year, CECA sends up to two students from within its service territory on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. This trip is an all-expense-paid tour of our nation's capital. This year, CECA was honored to be represented by two outstanding young people: Cheyenne Gordon and Luke Broussard.

Cheyenne, the daughter of Jerry and Kay Lynn Gordon of Zephyr, is a home-schooled junior.

"Youth Tour was an amazing experience for me," Cheyenne said. "Walking through these memorials, museums and monuments, I realized the price that is being paid for our freedom every day. From the names on those stones at Arlington, to the men and women that sit in those congressional chairs at the Capitol, they pay the price. This trip has made me more grateful for our country and especially for those who sacrifice themselves to its preservation."

Luke, a senior at Early High School, is the son of Lance and Joey Broussard of Early. "Youth Tour was definitely the trip of a lifetime for me," Luke said. "I met some new people that could possibly be lifelong friends. My favorite part of the trip was getting to see Mount Vernon and experiencing firsthand the home of our first president."

'WE PROMISE'

CECA HAS A PURPOSE: To power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. We do this by providing you with quality electric service and exceptional commitment to our members through the service we provide. In an effort to prove to you our dedication to this purpose, our employees make a promise to you to always be there for you.



'We make sure every member has an equal voice in running the cooperative.'

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT CECA is made up of an elected representative from each of the seven CECA districts. They are, from left: **PHIL TAYLOR**, District 7; **PETE MCDUGAL**, District 2; **LOREN STROEBEL**, District 6; **RUBY SOLOMON**, District 3; **MONTY CARLISLE**, District 4; attorney **ROBERT REICH**; **RANDY DENNING**, District 1; and **TROY STEWART**, District 5.



'CECA helps us use energy more efficiently.'

CARE NURSING AND REHABILITATION in Early is a skilled nursing facility that also provides short-term rehab, home care and hospice respite rooms and is the only VA-qualified facility in the area. Independent retirement apartments are nestled in a beautiful country setting. Care Nursing and Rehabilitation accepts most managed care plans, including Medicare replacement policies. Join them for lunch and meet the families! Call (325) 646-5521.



Veterans Memorial Park

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

They lived in trench fortifications that would sometimes stretch for miles. Random artillery shells would rain down, forcing them to dig deeper into the muck and mire, causing often-fatal diseases. Much of the time, there was no relief from the debilitating weather conditions. These were the warriors of World War I.

Extreme heat and bitterly harsh winters could cause either frostbite or dehydration. An astounding array of weapons, including long-range artillery and planes equipped with bombs and machine guns were additional hazards facing soldiers on the battlefield. These were the fighters of World War II.

Ambushes and booby traps, a complex network of underground tunnels through the jungle; Agent Orange and napalm bombs. These were the soldiers of the Vietnam War. Each war has its own struggles, and no war in history has ever been pretty.

As a nation, we embrace our men and women in uniform and stand up for the freedom for which they fought, that we may remain a free and independent country.

My father fought in World War II. I have cousins who fought in Vietnam and Desert Storm; neighbors who fought in Afghanistan. I tear up at The Star-Spangled Banner and the Pledge of Allegiance. And I have an unbelievable respect for communities that cherish and honor our war heroes.

Tamarack Mountain is one of those communities. What started as a spark of an idea became a reality when a group of

men and women from the neighborhood put their minds together and formulated a plan for the Veterans Memorial Park at Tamarack Mountain. Six lots were available for sale at the Tamarack Community entrance. Too small to build on, the community felt these lots would be the perfect location for their Veterans Memorial Park. The lots were purchased and donated to a private group by a Purple Heart-awarded veteran.

The memorial consists of nine flags: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, American Legion, U.S., Texas and POW/MIA. The POW/MIA flag sits off to the side by itself, symbolic of a POW or MIA being separated from their family and unit. In front of the flags sits a pedestal, the focus of which is an 18-foot three-dimensional cross, with two silhouettes of soldiers bowing in prayer. The backdrop for the memorial is a tree-studded area, with a gully that runs during the rainy season. At night, the cross and each flag is illuminated by an LED lighting system.

While there is still much work to be done, the park already is a beautiful sight to behold. Located at Tamarack Mountain, 2318 Brook Valley in May, it's worth the time to stop by and check it out.

Once the finishing touches have been completed, hopefully late August or early September, the private group of owners will host a grand opening. I encourage you to keep up with the progress online at txtmoa.com. Donations may be sent to Veterans Memorial Park, 2110 Misty Glen Drive, May, TX 76857.

Welcome, New Employees



CECA is proud to welcome our newest group of employees, who are all apprentice linemen. They are, from left, Robert Atchley, Michael Tieman, Ricky Diaz, Jake Schwartz and Matthew Gurbisz.

Robert Atchley is a 2009 graduate of Early High School and a 2012 graduate of Northwest Lineman College. He now resides in Blanket, where he enjoys hunting, fishing and sports, as well as spending time with his family. Atchley works out of the Early office.

Ricky Diaz is a 2011 honors graduate of Ranger High School. He also attended Tarleton State University. He has many hobbies, including coaching and music, as well as electronics modification and repair. He resides in Ranger and works out of the Eastland office.

Matthew Gurbisz works out of the Eastland office. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Ranger with their two children. He is a song leader at Merriman Baptist Church and enjoys lake time and spending time with his family.

Jake Schwartz is a 2010 graduate of Comanche High School. He attended TSTC, where he obtained an associate's degree in construction management technology. He lives in Comanche and works out of the Comanche office. He enjoys fishing, hunting and going to the lake.

Michael Tieman is a 2011 graduate of Early High School. He works out of the Early office and lives in Early, where he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Co-op Connections® Card



Featured Businesses

Dye Water Conditioning

Dye Water Conditioning is your local sales, service and rental provider for drinking water systems and water-filtration equipment. Give them a call for all your water needs!

LOCATED: Cisco

PHONE: (254) 559-1164

EMAIL: dyewater@gmail.com

OFFER: 50 percent off basic installation of under-sink reverse osmosis drinking water system (rental or purchase)

Linda Bingham ARTique Studio

A new style emerges from Linda Bingham ARTique Studio with an artful blend of photography with a boutique twist. The studio is open to the public one Saturday a month, and the date is advertised in local media and on Facebook. Visit etsy.com and search theupcyclingsoph. Call for a custom item or quote.

LOCATION: 1102 E. Milton, Comanche

PHONE: (325) 330-1218

HOURS: Studio open one Saturday per month (date posted on Facebook); open 24/7 at etsy.com/theupcyclingsoph.

EMAIL:

lindabinghamphotography@gmail.com

WEBSITE: lindabinghamphotography.com

OFFER: 25 percent discount on any one item

Scammers Continue To Target Utility Customers

If you receive a call saying your power will be cut off if you don't immediately pay your bill over the phone, take caution. That's one of several scams utility customers across Texas and the nation are reporting.

Sometimes the scammers are asking the customer to make a payment through a third-party pay system or by obtaining a prepaid debit card.

Unfortunately, scare-tactic scams such as this one are fairly common. In addition to threatening to disconnect utility service, scammers may tell you that you have an unpaid credit card or traffic ticket, and threaten legal action if you don't immediately pay.

If you get a call like that, hang up then call back the company in question using the phone number from your bill (not the one the scammer may have provided).

In almost every case like this, fraud experts say you should always be the one to initiate a call where you need to give out personal information. Remember it's your money, it's your identity—ask questions and stay alert.

Never give your credit card number or other personal information over the phone without verifying the call.

Members should also contact their local utility to report the incident. By calling the co-op directly, you can talk to a service representative who will confirm your bill and let you know of any problems with your account.

Co-ops will not call or email you for your account number or password, so keep your account information to yourself. Also, don't assume that you can trust caller ID to let you know where a caller is located. Because scammers may use Internet calling technology, the area code you see may not reflect where they really are.

The number of telephone scams trying to obtain money and personal information from unsuspecting victims is increasing, according to the Better Business Bureau. Callers pose as representatives of utilities, Medicare, law offices, charities and even the BBB. In some reported cases, scammers have even shown up at homes, demanding payments.

Some BBB tips:

- ▶ Confirm that you are speaking to a legitimate company representative. If you have any concerns, hang up and independently find the phone number for the company and call them back.
- ▶ Be wary of anyone demanding immediate payment or payment in forms that are difficult to trace, such as Western Union or MoneyGram.
- ▶ Never give your credit card, debit card, Social Security, ATM, checking or savings account numbers to anyone who comes to your home, calls or sends an email requesting information. You should always be the one to initiate such transactions.
- ▶ Never allow anyone claiming to be a utility service person into your home unless you have scheduled an appointment and the person has proper identification. Contact police if you become concerned about your safety.

If you have any concerns about calls or visits from representatives of CECA, please call us at 1-800-915-2533 immediately.

Thousands of unsuspecting Texans fall victim to phone scammers every year. A few simple steps can help protect you and your money.



Vehicle Up for Bids

CECA has a "retired" vehicle that will be auctioned to members through a closed-bid process. This vehicle has a few battle scars, some chipped paint, and is well broken-in, as you would expect from a work vehicle. You may come by the office at 201 W. Wrights Ave., in Comanche for an in-person view.

Sealed bids can be mailed to: CECA, Attn: Sealed Vehicle Bid, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, or dropped off in person at 201 W. Wrights Ave., in Comanche. In all correspondence, please include the vehicle number and a phone number where you can be reached. Questions can be directed to Monty Cunningham at 1-800-915-2533 or (325) 356-2533. The deadline for bids is noon August 19. The bid winner will be notified on August 20.

CECA reserves the right to reject any or all bids at the discretion of the board.

Vehicle No. 23: 1995 F-900 Ford. Tandem-axle truck chassis, Eaton transmission, Cummins engine. Mileage: 134,196+. Minimum bid: \$4,700.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

