

# Appreciating Electricity, One Penny at a Time



MESSAGE FROM  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JERRY BOZE

*I recently ran across a column written by Curtis Condon, editor of Ruralite magazine in Hillsboro, Oregon. His points were so enlightening, I thought I'd share them with you this month.*

**SOME OF US ARE OLD ENOUGH** to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny *for* a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value that you can still get for a penny is electricity. I'm not kidding.

Let's pretend the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That's 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

The value is just as evident when powering things besides lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, one penny's worth of electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge



Electricity is not expensive. The expense is due to our using it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and might complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we receive for the money.

In 1940, when many co-ops were built, a penny had as much buying power as 17 cents today. This means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940. And it won't rot your teeth.



ZENTILIA | ISTOCK.COM

## Don't Forget To Vote!

**YES, THE BIG, NATIONAL** election was last November. But you'll have another chance to vote this year and next—and every year, when your electric cooperative elects members to its board of directors.

In the cooperative business model, consumers own their electric utility. That means you're more than just a customer; you're a member and an owner.

Because you're an owner, you have the right—and duty—to vote for the utility's directors. Those directors are member-owners, just like you. They're the folks you see at the feed store, festivals and football games. They're your neighbors, friends, co-workers and acquaintances.

Customers of big, city-based electric companies don't get to vote for their board of directors. Those utilities are owned by investors who buy stock in the companies. That means they are controlled from afar, unlike your electric cooperative, which is governed by local consumer-members like you.

Being locally controlled means that your co-op considers local voices in everything it does. So make your voice heard: Don't forget to vote!

**Look for TVEC Ballots in the September issue of Texas Co-op Power, which will be mailed Sept. 13.**

NIKOLA BILIC | ISTOCK.COM

# Feel a Shock?

*Swim away from the dock*

**BOATING, FISHING AND SWIMMING** can be fun ways to enjoy the great outdoors, but they can present dangers, too. Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative wants to help keep water enthusiasts safe from the little-known hazard of electric shock drowning.

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment and routine maintenance on docks and boats can cause situations

where electricity “leaks” into the water. Between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the power drawn by a 60-watt lightbulb, can cause drowning, according to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association.

If electric current is present in fresh water and someone swims into that energized water, the result can be electric shock drowning. If the electrical current is strong enough, the shock can cause muscle paralysis, which leaves the affected individual unable to swim to safety. This is a particularly dangerous hazard because it’s impossible to tell by sight if the water is energized. 60131774002

People should not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If a person is in the water and feels an electric current, that individual should shout to alert others, try to stay upright, and tuck up the legs to become smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. They should not head toward boat or dock ladders to get out. Instead, they should swim to the shore, if possible.

If you see someone whom you suspect is being shocked, you should not immediately jump in to save them. Instead, throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection at the meter base, and/or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible, then call for help.



When swimming, keep clear of docks that have electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**TVEC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**OCTOBER 12, 2017 • REGISTRATION AT 6 P.M.**

**CANTON CIVIC CENTER • CANTON, TEXAS**

**Watch for the official notice and ballot for director elections in the September issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.**

# Oven-Free Summer Cooking

**WE ARE IN THE MIDST** of the season of high air-conditioning bills, and nobody wants to stand over a hot stove or oven to produce a good meal.



CAROLJULIA | ISTOCK.COM

Consider steaming your vegetables instead of turning on the oven.

With some creative use of your smaller countertop appliances—toaster oven, microwave, pressure cooker and slow cooker—you still can easily make the dishes you want

### Electric Pressure Cooker

Something of a phenomenon in the kitchen, these are bringing back time-saving pressure cooking. New electric ones have more safety measures in place than the stovetop sort, and most of them can take the place of slow and rice cookers.

Pressure cookers can hard-boil eggs in about 5 minutes, and are good for quick-steaming a surprising number of foods. Some models even cut out stovetop steps, like browning meat, with a sauté function.

### Slow Cooker

With the right recipes, slow cookers can perform a marvelous range of culinary feats, like making bread, yogurt and gooey brownie desserts. Of course, pork and pot roasts cook while you're at work, and black-eyed peas are done overnight. But did you know that a slow cooker also can cook potatoes to perfection in about 8–10 hours?

### Rice Cooker

Besides making rice effortless, rice cookers are also good for cooking other grains, such as quinoa, and for steaming. Many home chefs appreciate not having to turn on a stove or dedicate a burner to rice when the stove is already busy.

But many might not know of the rice cooker's ability to make one-pot meals.

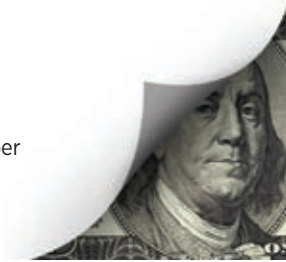
A steaming tray or basket is essential in many pressure and rice cooker recipes. Some rice cookers even come with steaming baskets, or you can buy one separately.

### Toaster Oven

Besides making toast, a good toaster oven can save you the heat of turning on a full-sized oven. Although you might not trust one to heat evenly enough for baking a cake, it can roast veggies or fish in a snap. Some are also big enough to hold a 2.75-quart baking dish, the perfect size for casseroles and cobblers.

## Win \$25 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on Pages 18-21, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the Member Services Department by August 31 to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner.



TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Howard Tillison, Chairman, District 6
- Carolyn Minor, Vice Chairwoman, District 1
- Jo Ann Hanstrom, Secretary, District 4
- Jerry Priest, District 2
- Paul Weatherford, District 3
- Edward Reeve, District 5
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#### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Jerry B. Boze

#### Kaufman District Headquarters

1800 E. Highway 243, Kaufman

#### Athens District Office

909 W. Larkin St., Athens

#### Cedar Creek District Office

1012 W. Main St., Ste. 102  
Gun Barrel City

#### Wills Point District Office

582 N. Fourth St., Wills Point

#### Lobby Hours

Monday-Friday-8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.



## Contact Us

For information during office hours and outages after hours

#### CALL US

(972) 932-2214 local or  
1-800-766-9576 toll-free

#### 24-HOUR AUTOMATED ASSISTANCE

1-800-720-3584

#### 24-HOUR OUTAGE REPORTING

1-800-967-9324

FIND US ON THE WEB AT  
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# Students Take Center Stage at HCPAC

**We entertain. We educate. We change lives.**

That may sound like a big promise, but for the 27-year history of the Henderson County Performing Arts Center, it has proven true.

With HCPAC alums in roles from Hollywood to Broadway, it is easy to see that the theater tucked away on the south side of Athens is making a long-term impact that has spread beyond East Texas.

“Some people in our area never go to Dallas or New York to see a major production,” said HCPAC Board Secretary Sue Oates. “But we put a lot of effort into it here, and that comes through to audiences. We really want to promote that.”

With about eight productions per year, the theater stays busy. Children are featured in two special events each year—a summer musical and a Christmas production.

“The Little Mermaid Jr.” will feature a cast of more than 50 area youngsters with performances August 3-12.

Along with the theater productions, HCPAC also supports arts education through summer acting camps and after-school programs during the school year.

“Children learn respect, honesty, responsibility and just a lot of things,” Oates said. “When a production has gone all the way through and you come to opening night and they are just on cue and saying their lines with confidence ... you know you have really got somewhere.”

For more information or tickets, visit [hcpac.org](http://hcpac.org)



**Henderson County Performing Arts Center**  
**\$4,000**

**THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** recently awarded three grants totaling \$5,500. Recipients of the grants include the above and:

**Kaufman County Storm**  
**\$500**

Kaufman County Storm uses social media to keep residents up to date on weather threats and news. They are also planning a disaster response effort for utilities and other workers.

**Wills Point Ladies Club**  
**\$1,000**

The Wills Point Ladies Club supports many charitable causes including a back-to-school fair for underprivileged students, scholarships and an Angel Tree program, among others.

Founded in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. The foundation was created to serve the community and help improve the quality of life for residents in our service area. **The foundation is funded entirely by donations from TVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up.** For more information, please call 1-800-766-9576 or visit [tvec.net](http://tvec.net).

**Texas Division of Emergency Management**

**Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines**  
**Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1- Nov. 30**



Residents of Texas Gulf Coast **EVACUATION ZONES** should **BEGIN NOW** by making an evacuation plan, preparing an emergency kit and learning evacuation routes well in advance.

**If you have a disability or medical needs, register in the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or by dialing 2-1-1.** Gulf coast residents with additional needs (including those who are disabled or medically fragile) who live in evacuation zones and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation should register in advance online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or by dialing 2-1-1. Registration should be completed in advance of an emergency event. **DO NOT WAIT, REGISTER NOW!** Information collected is confidential.

**If you need transportation, register in the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online at <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov> or by dialing 2-1-1.** If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register **IN ADVANCE** for assisted transportation by dialing **2-1-1**.

**Evacuation zone information:** If you are interested in registering and you want to find out whether you are living in an evacuation zone, dial **2-1-1** for information.

**Hurricane Preparedness tips online:**

Texas Division of Emergency Management Website: [www.dps.texas.gov/dem](http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem)

FEMA Website: [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)

American Red Cross Website: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



*Give the*  
*Best of Texas.*

The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook features more than 700 best-loved recipes (with more than 300 desserts) from two of our most popular cookbooks.

Available at TVEC locations.