



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JEFF LANE

Co-ops Keep It Local

I LOVE THE FEELING of being able to walk into my favorite locally owned shops, restaurants and stores knowing that their profits, products and staffs make positive impacts here in the community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these businesses, just as it is in Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community-centered as a business can be. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities, electric co-ops have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural Texas and beyond for decades.

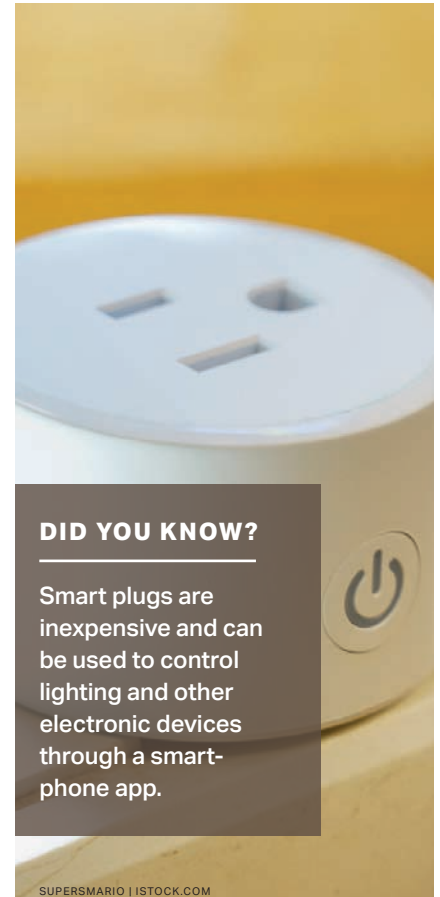
That feeling I get when I visit small businesses in our community is the same feeling I get when I walk into work at the co-op every day. It's a feeling of pride. I'm proud to be part of an organization that serves my community instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

TVEC is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return it to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. This means that after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our community, instead of into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

And because we're owned by you, our members, we have a vested interest in making sure our community prospers. We do this by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs.

I hope that you view TVEC not just as your electric utility provider but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our part of Texas. We love being a part of this community, and we hope you feel the same way. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart-phone app.

SUPERSMARIO | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

If you play with high-power water guns, keep them away from power lines. If water contacts a power line, electricity can travel down the stream of water and right back to you.

TODOR ISVETKOV | ISTOCK.COM



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Upcoming Software Conversion To Improve Service and Enhance Member Experience

BY THE END OF 2023, Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative members will see a lot of changes as the company converts to a different business and communications software platform.

We expect to ask for your patience as we get up to speed on the new system from National Information Systems Cooperative, but we are excited about the new tools and communication enhancements to improve almost every area of how we serve you.

On the member interaction side, everything you see will be new and improved, including an informative bill redesign, SmartHub mobile app and online portal, and new digital communications options.

Within the company, our workflow and communication improvements between department should lead to better information sharing and efficiency between departments.

In addition to that, and, there is expected to be a significant overall cost savings to the co-op.

Here are a few things to be mindful of as we work through this conversion:

- Please keep up with TVEC member communications through email, print and social media for important updates about the transition.
- The conversion is expected to be complete by the end of October, with members converting to the new system by November 1.
- All members will be assigned a new member account number.
- TVEC member account systems will be unavailable for one week in August and one week in October. During those weeks we will not be able to process payments. We will work with members to address any concerns with due dates.

Employee training has already begun, and we are looking forward to providing even better service through this technology update. Please pay close attention to TVEC communications over the coming months and we will make this change as painless as possible. ■

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT US

1800 E. Highway 243
Kaufman, Texas
Local (972) 932-2214
Toll-Free 1-800-766-9576
Web tvec.net

Board of Directors

Howard Tillison, Chairman, District 6
Carolyn Minor, Vice Chairwoman, District 1
Jo Ann Hanstrom, Secretary, District 4
Jeff Priest, District 2
Paul Weatherford, District 3
Edward Reeve, District 5
Jack Endres, District 7

General Manager/CEO
Jeff Lane

24/7 Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

TOLL-FREE
1-800-967-9324

AUTOMATED ASSISTANCE
1-800-720-3584

ABOUT TRINITY VALLEY EC

TVEC operates in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

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
8:15 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

VISIT US ONLINE
tvec.net



Prepare Now for Severe Storms

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE stays at the ready for severe storms that might impact our area, this summer and year-round.

During a weather emergency, TVEC's representatives are available 24/7, and members are encouraged to report any power outages by phone at 1-800-967-9324, online at or through our outage texting service. Please do not report power outages through social media.

If we experience power outages or damage to the system, crews will be ready to make repairs as soon as conditions are safe.

We encourage all members to have a storm emergency kit on hand and recommend including the following items:

- ▶ Water (1 gallon per person per day, for several days).
- ▶ Food (three-day supply of nonperish-ables).
- ▶ Flashlights.
- ▶ A first-aid kit and prescriptions.
- ▶ Extra batteries and power banks.
- ▶ A manual can opener.
- ▶ Moist towelettes.
- ▶ Extra pet food.

For updates on power outages and restoration efforts, visit the outage center at tvec.net website or follow us on Facebook. ■

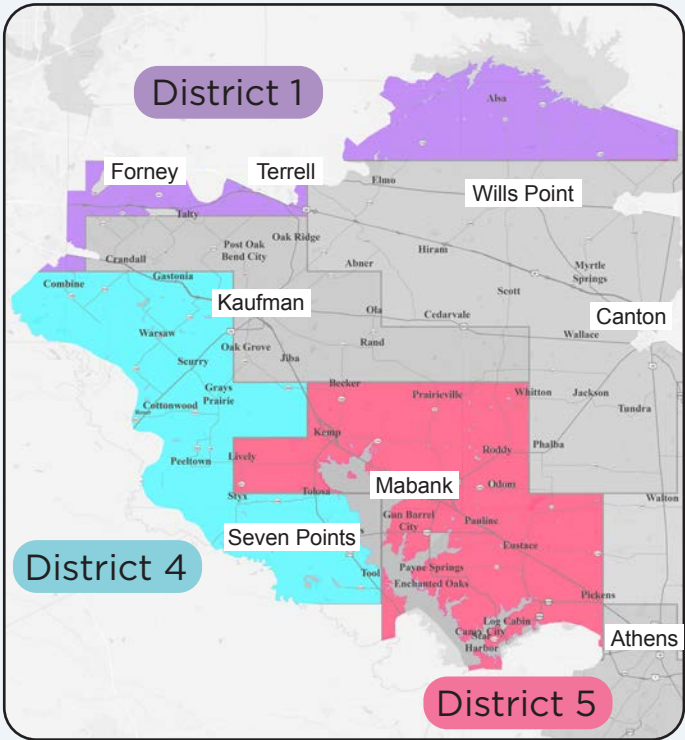


TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Notice of Board Election

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative will hold an election for the board members representing District 1 (incumbent: Carolyn Minor) District 4 (incumbent: Jo Ann Hanstrom) and District 5 (incumbent: Ed Reeve) in conjunction with the annual meeting to be held in October.

As a member, if you are interested in having your name placed before the nominating committee to represent your district, you must complete a nomination form. Qualifications are included on the form. Contact Leah Bass at (469) 376-2297 to obtain a nomination form. Forms must be received at the TVEC headquarters office in Kaufman by 4:45 p.m. on July 3, 2023.



Find more detailed district maps on tvec.net. Check your billing statement or call TVEC member services at 1-800-766-9576 to verify your board district.



PAUL HART | ISTOCK.COM

Energy Efficiency Can Be Raised in a Barn

PLANNING TO BUILD a new barn or outbuilding on your property? **You can make it more energy efficient by following these tips.**

Location matters. If possible, carefully assess the area where you plan to build. Consider drainage, wind direction and sun exposure. An advantageous site can mean dry floors and access to good natural light and cross ventilation by opening windows.

Start with a sustainable design plan. If you haven't shopped for building supplies in a while, you may be surprised at some newer products that are both environmentally friendly and cost effective.

If you hire a contractor to help build your structure, consider companies that specialize in green buildings and energy-efficient practices.

Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns, for example, offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

If you're upgrading instead of building from the ground up, follow these tips to make energy efficiency improvements to an existing structure:

- ▶ Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- ▶ Ensure that your existing structure has adequate insulation.
- ▶ Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- ▶ Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. Trees act as a windbreak in colder climates and create a natural cooling effect in warmer climates that can reduce temperatures 3–6 degrees in a metal building.
- ▶ Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Inside a metal building, there's typically a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it also will help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, and that can keep harmful bacteria and insects at bay. ■



Payment Options Savings Opportunities

As a nonprofit, member-owned cooperative, saving money together means we all win. By choosing the lowest cost payment option that makes sense for you, all members win by keeping the co-op's cost as low as possible.

Why Choose Bank Draft or E-Check?

- Provides the lowest transaction costs.
- Automated bank draft is the easiest way to pay - setup online or by contacting TVEC Member Services.
- Use the myTVEC app or online member portal for easy E-Check payments.

Want to help more? Sign up for electronic billing to reduce mailing costs.



JAMES ANDREWS | ISTOCK.COM



TVEC ENERGY
MANAGEMENT ADVISER
CHRIS WALKER, BAP

Less Expensive Home Cooling Options

IF YOU LIVE IN a home with no air conditioning and are dreading the high temperatures that summer is sure to bring, it may be time to invest in a little comfort.

There are a few low- and no-cost cooling strategies, like using fans to keep air moving, turning off unused electrical devices and appliances, and blocking direct sunlight with window coverings. 60238610001

When the summer heat sets in and that's not enough, you need budget options for air conditioning. Choosing your cooling strategy carefully can result in lower upfront costs and also maintain some energy efficiency to keep energy costs down. **Here are three common options for home cooling.**

Window and Portable Units

Window or portable air conditioning units are the lowest-cost approaches. Portable units can be moved from room to room and come equipped with a length of duct to exhaust hot air out a nearby window. Window units are mounted in a window opening and cool one room. The efficiency of portable and window units has improved over the years, but none of them are as efficient as most central AC units or a mini-split heat pump system.

You might also consider an evaporative cooler (sometimes referred to as a swamp cooler). Evaporative cooling units can be less expensive than traditional AC, but don't buy one until you do the research to determine how well evaporative cooling works in your area. Whatever you choose, make sure it's rated for the size of the space you're cooling.

Central Cooling

If central AC wasn't installed in your home when it was built, adding it can be expensive and challenging. Fortunately, there are solutions to installing central air in a house without ducts: ductless mini-split systems and high-velocity systems.

A high-velocity air conditioning system can be an ideal air conditioning solution to retrofit your home. These systems deliver cool air through 2-inch flexible ducts designed to fit your existing framework. The compact air handler can be easily installed in attics, crawl spaces or even closets.

Mini-Split Heat Pumps

A ductless mini-split heat pump has a compressor outside the home that's connected to air handler units in as many as four rooms inside. Each room's temperature can be controlled separately.

Ductless mini-splits are an especially good choice for homes without forced air ducting systems or with leaky or undersized ductwork, and they're much smaller, cheaper and easier to install than central AC systems. Heat pumps can also be a

Win \$100 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on pages 16–23, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the member services department by June 30 to receive a \$100 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be our winner.



TVEC

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Energy Quiz



Who coined the term electricity as we know it?

- A • William Gilbert, 1600**
- B • Ben Franklin, 1752**
- C • Michael Faraday, 1821**
- D • Alessandro Volta, 1800**

Win **\$100!**

Send your answer and contact information to contest@tvec.coop or contact TVEC Member Services by June 30. One \$100 bill credit winner will be chosen from all correct replies. Look for the correct answer in a future **Texas Co-op Power**.

May Energy Quiz: Texas Natural Gas

TEXAS IS RIGHTFULLY KNOWN for its oil wells, but our state is also home to the highest natural gas production in the country.

In 2021, Texas produced about 25% of the nation's marketed natural gas, followed by Pennsylvania's 22% and Louisiana's 10%.

Congratulations to the April Energy Quiz winner, Christy Lewis of Palestine.

Look for the winner of this month's contest in the August edition of **Texas Co-op Power**. ■



AKCHAMCZUK | ISTOCK.COM

Don't Try To Hide Transformer Boxes

BEAUTIFYING OUR HOMES is important to many of us. If your home is served by an underground electric cable, you may be tempted to hide the accompanying transformer cabinet from sight by planting shrubs or flowers around it. Please refrain from doing so.

Obstacles around a transformer could pose safety risks and inhibit power restoration should an electric cooperative employee need to access it for maintenance and repairs.

Padmount transformers serve the purpose of stepping down electricity from the 8,000 volts carried by transmission lines to the 120 or 240 volts that your home needs. Contact with electricity from the transformer could cause shock or electrocution.

Shrubs and other structures must be at least 10 feet away from the door opening and 5 feet away from all sides of transformers.

Never paint a transformer. They are a uniform color so that electric cooperative employees can easily identify them.

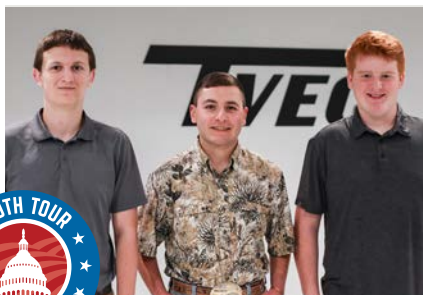
Digging close to the unit can be dangerous and life-threatening. Wires from a transformer could extend out in any direction. Always call 811 before digging in your yard.

Emphasize the dangers of these units to your children and other family members, and keep them away.

Transformers might look like a bench or a jungle-gym obstacle, but children should not sit on or play on or around transformers. Prevent kids from inserting objects into cracks in the transformer case, as tempting as it might be to deposit sticks or rocks inside.

For the safety of your family and ours, give transformer cabinets a wide berth and keep them free from debris and coverings.

If you notice any signs of disrepair to a transformer, such as a faulty lock, oil leaking or damaged welds, contact Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative immediately. Stay away from the transformer until repairs can be made by professionals. ■



Safe Travels, Youth Tour Delegation

THIS IS THE MONTH that 152 Texas teens have been waiting for. Excitement is rising for this year's Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., June 11–19, sponsored by electric cooperatives all over the state—and country.

What is Youth Tour? Ask one of the high school students who are representing 57 Texas electric cooperatives this year during a week of sightseeing and new experiences in our nation's capital. Or ask any of the 1,800 co-op participants from other states.

Every year in June, electric co-ops across the country send outstanding high school students from their service areas to D.C. Participants and chaperones visit the city's monuments and historical sites, meet with elected officials to witness their government in action, and learn about the cooperative business model.

Youth Tour was established to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since the 1960s, about 75,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperatives.

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, along with the Rayburn Electric Cooperative, is sending three students from the TVEC service area this year. The winners are Caleb Huddleston of Palestine High School, Ethan Gonzales of Cayuga High School and Dylan Stinson of Kaufman High School.

Join us in wishing our bright students a safe and fruitful trip! ■

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

Preparedness Checklist

- ▶ **Make an evacuation plan.** Find activated evacuation routes at drivetexas.org or by dialing 1-800-452-9292. Call 211 to find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- ▶ **Sign up for emergency alerts.** Make sure your mobile device is enabled to receive wireless emergency alerts.
- ▶ **Prepare an emergency supply kit.** Learn how to build an emergency kit at ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- ▶ **Review your home insurance policy.**
- ▶ **Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry** at stear.tdem.texas.gov or by dialing 211 if you live in an evacuation zone and:
 - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have a car or other vehicle to use in an evacuation.
 - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation.

Information collected for STEAR is confidential.

Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources

Texas Division of Emergency Management: tdem.texas.gov
Texas Department of State Health Services: texasready.gov
American Red Cross: redcross.org
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: ready.gov
Office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Preparación para huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de junio al 30 de noviembre

Lista de verificación de preparación:

- ▶ **Haga un plan de evacuación.** Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas en drivetexas.org o marcando 1-800-452-9292. Llame 211 para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- ▶ **Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia.** Asegúrese de que su dispositivo móvil esté habilitado para recibir alertas de emergencia inalámbricas.
- ▶ **Prepare un kit de emergencia.** Aprenda como construir un kit de emergencia en ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- ▶ **Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.**
- ▶ **Regístrese con el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas** en stear.tdem.texas.gov o marcando el 211 si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
 - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un auto u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación.
 - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación.

La información recolectada para STEAR es confidencial.

Recursos en línea para la preparación para huracanes

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: tdem.texas.gov
Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: texasready.gov
Cruz Roja Americana: redcross.org
Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: ready.gov
Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov

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Your Generosity in Action

Operation Round Up Spotlight: Henderson County Community Partners Rainbow Room

WHEN KIDS IN HENDERSON COUNTY are faced with the trauma of family separation through the criminal justice system, one group works to make the experience a bit less daunting.

The Henderson County Community Partners Rainbow Room serves the physical needs of children as they find themselves moving to another living situation on short notice.

“When kids come into family and protective services, they may have nothing, or just a bag of clothes,” said Johnna Williams, who serves as the office manager. “The Rainbow Room is a chance for them to come in, pick out some things that they need. It is an opportunity for them to have a bit of what we would seem as normal when everything else in turmoil.”

Housed with other Texas Department of Family and Pro-



Henderson County Community Partners Rainbow Room representatives Johnna Williams, Jana Rigsby, Amy Killian and Jane Shaw receive a TVEC Operation Round Up grant from Kari Wilment, TVEC public relations representative.

ductive Services offices, the Rainbow Room is convenient for caseworkers to access at any time, with supplies and toiletry items for all ages.

“We have clothing of all sizes, including adult sizes because a lot of teenagers wear those, school supplies, books, hygiene items and bedding,” said Jane Shaw, Rainbow Room board vice president. “And they try to keep kids with family members, so we also have items like beds, car seats and cleaning supplies to help prepare living spaces on short notice.”

TVEC Members who want to help the Rainbow Room can donate new items or make direct monetary donations. There is also the annual Rainbow Room duck race, held at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, which is expected to resume in 2024. Visit rainbowroomhendersoncounty.org, call (903) 676-2416 or email hccprainbowrm@embarqmail.com for more information and ways to get involved. ■

April 2023 Operation Round Up Awards

Grants:

Henderson County 4-H Council -
\$3,000

Henderson County Rainbow Room -
\$2,000

Kaufman High School NOW Backpack
Program - \$2,000

Bill Assistance:

Henderson County Help Center -
\$3,000