

McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • www.mclennanelectric.com • (254) 840-2871

Member Spotlight



Upcoming Community Activities

January 2004

21st Annual Mosheim Chili and Stew Supper, January 31, 2004, at the Mosheim Community, located 8 miles west of Valley Mills on FM 217.



Coryell County Youth Fair January 6-12, 2004

Coryell County Exhibit Center, Gatesville, Texas



Pictured is Michael Cade Brenegar, son of Michael Brenegar. Cade is six months old and is proud of his dad, who is a lineman here at MCEC. We still need photos of those serving in the armed forces, children, grandkids or any other interesting subject. Send photos and information to MCEC or e-mail them to mike@mclennanelectric.com. Photos will be returned if accompanied with a self-addressed stamped envelope.



We answer to Main Street, not Wall Street, and we take ethics seriously. We respond quickly to problems, provide local jobs and give you a vote in co-op decisions. Best of all, we're your neighbors. That's what we call having **The Home Team Advantage**. We would like to wish you and yours a very prosperous New Year.



McLennan County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

101 N. Main St., P.O. Box 357
McGregor, TX 76657
(254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your Rights as a Customer of McLennan County EC

I. RATE AND SERVICE INFORMATION:

You may request copies of any portion of the cooperative's rate and service tariffs as filed with the cooperative. A nominal reproduction charge may be made for each copy and postage may be added if the copies are mailed.

II. METER TESTING:

As provided by the rules of the cooperative, you may request a test of your electric meter if you believe that the meter is not accurately reflecting your actual electric consumption. This test will be made at no charge to you provided that the meter has not been tested during the previous four (4) years. In the event that you request a test more often than every four (4) years and the meter is not defective, you will be required to pay a charge of not more than \$15 for the test.

III. OUTSTANDING BILLS:

Under the tariffs of this cooperative, you will have sixteen (16) days from the date of issuance of the power bill to pay. If not paid in sixteen (16) days, the account will become delinquent and a termination notice will be mailed. If not paid in ten (10) days (a total of twenty-six (26) days from the date of issuance), the account will be disconnected.

IV. TERMINATION OF SERVICE:

Your electric service may be disconnected after proper notice for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to pay an outstanding bill.
- B. Failure to pay a delinquent account or meet the terms of a deferred payment plan.
- C. Violation of the cooperative's rules for the use of service in such a manner that interferes with the service of others or the operation of non-standard equipment; provided that the cooperative will make every reasonable attempt to notify you of the problem and allow you to remedy the situation.
- D. Failure to comply with the cooperative's deposit and guarantee requirements.

The cooperative may also disconnect at once and without notice where a dangerous condition exists and such disconnection shall remain in effect so long as the condition exists. Disconnection without notice may also be made when service is connected without authority by a person who has not made application for service or who has reconnected service without authority following termination of service for nonpayment. In instances of tampering with the cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing meter, or other instances of disservice, service may be terminated immediately.

Where notice is required, the cooperative will either mail or personally deliver a written notice of termination at least ten (10) days prior to the date of disconnection. Disconnection will only occur on those days when cooperative personnel are available to receive payment to prevent disconnection, or are available the following day to receive payment to restore service. If you are seriously ill or will become more seriously ill as a result of termination of service, you may have your physician call or contact the cooperative within sixteen (16) days of the issuance of the bill concerning your condition. The physician must provide a confirmation letter to the cooperative within twenty-six (26) days of the issuance of the bill unless a lesser period is agreed upon. If you make a request to avoid termination under this provision, you must enter into a deferred payment arrangement.

V. SERVICE AND BILLING DISPUTES:

In the event you dispute your billing or any aspect of service, we invite you to request a supervisory review or investigation of the disputed matter. The cooperative will promptly make such investigation as is required by the particular case, and report the findings to you.

If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction,

you may appeal to: Complaint Resolution Committee of the board of directors of this cooperative.

Should the dispute involve billing, you will not be required to pay the disputed portion of your bill which exceeds your average monthly consumption for the previous 12 months. This provision is applicable pending determination of the dispute, but shall not be for more than sixty (60) days.

VI. ALTERNATE PAYMENT PLANS:

As a member of the cooperative, you have a right to request alternate payment plans:

- a) **PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS.** An arrangement may be made between you and the co-op in which you agree to pay your electric bill in full after the due date of the outstanding bill, but before the due date of the next bill. If you do not fulfill the terms of your payment arrangement your electric service may be disconnected under standard termination procedures.
- b) **LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN.** If you are on a fixed income or have a unique financial need you may qualify for a level payment plan. This plan allows you to pay a monthly amount equal to an average of the current month's bill plus the previous eleven (11) months electric bill, or an estimated amount if you are a new customer. Your level payment amount will be adjusted semiannually. If you do not fulfill the terms of your level payment plan your electric service may be disconnected under standard termination procedures.
- c) **DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN.** If you have not been delinquent in paying your bill more than two (2) times in the last twelve (12) months and are unable to pay all of your bill, you are qualified for a deferred payment plan. Such plan requires that you keep all subsequent bills current and pay monthly an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the outstanding amount. You may, but are not required to, sign this agreement and if you do not fulfill the terms of the agreement your service may be terminated under standard termination procedures. Such breach of the agreement voids your right to a deferred payment plan or renegotiation to avoid termination. The cooperative is not required to offer this arrangement if you have had service for less than three (3) months.

VII. SERVICE RECONNECTION:

If your service is interrupted for any of the reasons listed under Section IV of the Bill of Rights, you may re-establish service when all outstanding and delinquent bills are paid and when a deposit or other evidence of payment guarantee is provided to the cooperative.

VIII. COOPERATIVE OFFICE AND BUSINESS HOURS:

Address: 101 North Main, McGregor, Texas 76657. Office business hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Phone: (254) 840-2871 or if long distance, 1-800-840-2957. After business hours: Call (254) 840-2871 to reach a service representative. Website: www.mclennanelectric.com

IX. METER READING:

If you would like information regarding the proper method for reading your electric meter, the cooperative will provide, on request, full instructions.

X. DEPOSIT POLICY:

You may be required to establish credit satisfactorily by making a deposit but you will not be required to pay a deposit for residential service if you have been a customer of any other electric utility within the last two years and you have not been delinquent in paying your bill for electric service on more than one occasion in the last 12 months or unless your service was terminated for nonpayment. The deposit is limited to one-sixth of your estimated annual electric bill. Deposits accrue interest at the rate of not less than 6.0% per annum and will either be paid to you when

the deposit is returned or credited to your account.

In lieu of a cash deposit, you may demonstrate a satisfactory credit rating with acceptable credit cards or letters of credit if easily verified or you may furnish a guarantee. After 12 consecutive residential billings, provided your account is current and you have not been disconnected for nonpayment or delinquent more than two (2) times, your guarantee will be voided and returned or your cash deposit plus interest will be applied or refunded.

XI. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Governmental or social service agencies may be able to assist you if you are having trouble making your payment for electric service to the cooperative. The following governmental social service or state agencies may be able to assist you if you are having trouble making your payment for electric service to MCEC. Please look for the government or social service agency which serves the county in which you receive service.

McLennan County: EOAC 756-0954; EOAC 840-3383; Caritas 753-4593; Salvation Army 756-7271.
Falls County: EOAC 803-3751 (Leroy Thomas).
Bell County: HelpCenter 770-6842.
Coryell County: Senior Citizen Center 865-8234; or Over 60 1-800-252-9240.
Bosque County: EOAC 694-2261

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Human Resources and Texas Community Affairs.

XII. NONDISCRIMINATION:

Your cooperative provides electric service without discrimination as to a member's race, nationality, color, religion, sex, disability, or marital status. Credit history shall be applied equally for a reasonable period of time to a spouse or former spouse who shared the service.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

McLennan County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Deirdre Lauterbach, Administrative Services Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

The Texas Courthouse: Local

Coryell County Courthouse

The Coryell County Courthouse is located in downtown Gatesville. The current courthouse was constructed in 1897 and named for James Coryell, a member of the Texas Rangers. The courthouse is constructed of limestone and red sandstone. Architect W.C. Dodson was commissioned to draw up the plans and specifications at a contract price of 3.5 percent of the total building cost. The stipulations of the contract included: the design must include a cupola with a Seth Thomas clock; a bell of not less than 800 pounds; metal roofing, with the dome of the cupola clad in copper;

and dual statues of Liberty and Justice at the north and south entrances.

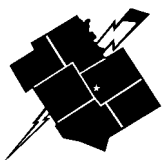
A complete restoration of the courthouse



was finished in 1988, including a replica of the original bronze eagle facing over Leon Street. Rumors abound about the early days when cowboys would come to town on the weekend, get drunk and shoot at the eagle. They later removed the glass from the clock just below the eagle after replacing it many times. The limestone and red sandstone were pre-cut at the quarry and then delivered to the site by horse-drawn wagons. Each entrance boasts Roman Corinthian columns, and over the east entrances, a builder's mark of an owl. Entering into the foyer, the Victorian style of construction is evident in the stained glass dome and extensive use of hardwood and iron work.



Keeping an eye on the future,
McLennan County Electric Cooperative,
Your Home Team Advantage



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cal Government at Its Best

Bosque County Courthouse

Bosque County was established in 1854. By fall of that year, a one-room log courthouse was erected and Lowry Scrutchfield was elected county judge. Scrutchfield served for four years, although much of his time was spent warding off Indian attacks.

A second courthouse was erected in 1860 but was destroyed by fire in 1871. Then for about five years, court was held off and on in a tent until a two-story stone courthouse was erected in 1875. That seat of justice lasted for a decade. Then, in 1886, a fight broke out over the possibility of building a new courthouse.

It became a fight between the New Courthouse party and the Old Courthouse party. The New Courthouse advocates cited the deteriorating building and insufficient space. The Old Courthouse defenders contended that a new \$60,000 courthouse would break the county and raise taxes. These rumblings culminated the day the old courthouse was to be demolished.

Commissioner Tom Poole feared for his life as he rode into town that day, having heard he'd be ambushed for voting for the new courthouse. He found an angry mob gathered around the Courthouse Square, armed with pistols and fury. Yet a shot was not fired, and the courthouse was demolished as planned.

Old Courthouse party commissioners A.J. Walton and E.J.W. Odgen refused to allow their names to be placed on the cornerstone of the building, so only the names of New Courthouse party County Judge R.G. Childress and commissioners Poole and John Goodman appear there. These three men were subsequently voted out of office in the



election of 1886 before the courthouse was completed.

The building is made from limestone quarried nearby. Roman arches and heavy rusticated pilasters reflect the Renaissance Revival style. Fancy carved stone rosettes adorn the pilasters. The hipped roofs over the corner pavilions, connected with mansard roofs, were originally covered with metallic shingles in a diamond pattern. The Gothic tower and these roofs were replaced with walls in 1935, as a result of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (WPA). That renovation also resulted in an addition to the west side of the courthouse.

*Photos and article courtesy of Lou Ann Herda, Ed.D.
Texasescapes.com*

