

Bringing Big-City Art to a Small Town Near You

Since its inception in 1981, the Bosque Conservatory has been housed in the only remaining building of the historic Clifton Lutheran College. The Conservatory serves the citizens of Bosque County and surrounding counties. It is a center for performing and visual arts as well as for recreation and educational programs.

The Bosque Conservatory is a non-profit community entity dedicated to the promotion and support of the performing and visual arts in Bosque County. Annual membership dues provide support for the general maintenance and operation of the historic facility. Additional support comes from individual and corporate gifts, an endowment fund, and profits from the annual Big Event fundraiser held in the spring.

Educational enrichment classes, workshops and membership in joint organizations are available to the community through the Conservatory. Each educational program and member organization is responsible for its own program funding. Currently there are five active member organizations or branches under the Conservatory umbrella: Tin Building Theatre, Conservatory Art Patrons (Art Council), Photography Guild, Art Club and the Auxiliary. Each of these branches assesses fees for membership, sells tickets to functions, and solicits underwriting, as approved by the Conservatory board of directors, to meet their goals.

During the mid-1990s, Clifton community leaders began to solidify their plans for the renovation and restoration of the Bosque Conservatory by engaging consultants and specialists to conduct feasibility studies. These studies proved it could be done, but also revealed the economic and educational advantages the center would bring to the rural Central Texas region.

The Conservatory's current physical address is 1701 W. 9th Street in Clifton; the new one will be 215 College

Hill Drive in Clifton. They hope to move back into the renovated facility by September 1, 2006, with a grand opening and celebration of the Conservatory's 25th anniversary planned for the weekend of October 20-22. Moving back into the building will bring a host of changes. The Conservatory has a star-studded lineup of workshops, productions and events for the remainder of the year.

Event information is available on the website, BosqueConservatory.com. For membership information, contact Sheila Welch, Conservatory Managing



Bosque Conservatory Building

Director, Bosque Conservatory, P.O. Box 373, 215 College Hill Dr., Clifton, TX 76634, (254) 675-3724.



Roland Jones Memorial Art Gallery



Art After School



Operation Round Up® News

A voluntary, member-funded program supporting local, nonprofit organizations in MCEC's service area

MCEC MEMBERS HELPING OTHERS IN CO-OP COMMUNITIES

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

In its second quarter meeting, the Operation Round Up Trust Board voted to disburse an additional \$11,100 in funds to local organizations in McLennan County Electric Cooperative's service area. Since the program began in May 2004, MCEC members have put a total of \$65,959.10 back into the local economy by helping 66 community organizations help others.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which residential electric bills are rounded upward. Every month, the additional pennies, nickels and dimes are added to a special fund. The Operation Round Up Trust

Board, composed of MCEC members, meets once every quarter to review applications and to decide how the funds are to be allocated. Members may have their names added or removed from the program by calling our main office at (254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957.

The next deadline for Operation Round Up applications is October 31. Organizations interested in applying for funds may contact Robin Ciscell for information, (254) 840-2871. Applications are also available online at mclennanelectric.coop, or at the MCEC office at 1111 S. Johnson Dr. in McGregor.

Second Quarter 2006 Fund Recipients

Valley Mills Baseball	.....\$2,500
Prairie Chapel School	.....\$50
PTSA - Robinson	.....\$50
Flat VFD	.....\$1,500
Goodall-Witcher	.....\$1,000
Waco Civic Theatre	.....\$1,000
Turnersville VFD	.....\$1,500
Gatesville Senior Center	.....\$2,500
China Spring Boy Scouts	.....\$1,000
Total	.....\$11,100



Troop 444 China Spring



Goodall-Witcher Healthcare



Gatesville Senior Center



Turnersville VFD



Flat VFD



Valley Mills Youth Baseball

Nearly 70 Years Later, You Still Have the Power



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
RICK
HAILE**

It's been almost 70 years since the rural electrification program began. To survive—and even prosper!—over that length of time takes considerable strength. The fact that electric co-ops are alive and well today speaks volumes about the many people who were willing to do battle on their behalf and in the interest of their members in Austin as well as Washington, D.C.

This month's issue pays tribute to our rich history, which will also be honored with a special exhibit at the LBJ Library in Austin that highlights the rural electrification efforts of Texas native son Lyndon Baines Johnson. It's a major chapter in a success story of people helping themselves and their neighbors by creating and governing their own locally owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives have been offering consumers a real choice from the day our doors were opened. In an electric cooperative, the consumers get to decide how the business is run and what services are offered. Under the watchful eye of locally elected boards of directors, electric cooperatives focus on delivering high-quality, reliable and affordable service every day to the people and businesses they serve. Your cooperative is still committed to making a difference.

One of the ways we do that at McLennan County Electric Cooperative is to let you know what's going on. For example, for nearly a year now we've been telling you how fuels used

to generate electricity are getting more expensive, driving our electricity prices up. Of course, it's no secret that fuel costs have been rising; you've seen that yourself at the gas pump. When you combine higher fossil fuel costs with rising demand for electric power, an aging transmission grid and increasing regulations, you can see that your cooperative's board and management have their work cut out for them trying to hold costs down.

While your cooperative works to keep electricity affordable and reliable by improving the efficiency of its electric system and operations, considering new resources, and staying politically active, one way you can do your part is by using energy efficiently at home and



STUDIO TEN

work. Here are a few relatively easy ways to trim your energy use:

- CAULK OR WEATHER-STRIP** windows and doors. A typical home can lose as much as one-third of its conditioned air through leaks.
- INSTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT.** About half of your electric bill is spent heating and cooling your home.
- TURN YOUR THERMOSTAT DOWN** at night and when you're away.
- ADD MORE INSULATION** to your attic. Your home can lose energy through a poorly insulated roof or walls.
- Life may be dramatically different than it was 70 years ago. But in nearly 70 years, one thing hasn't changed: As a cooperative member, you still have the power to make a difference.

WAYS TO SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Consumers can fight back when utility costs rise by making their houses as energy efficient as possible. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates most homeowners could save 20 to 30 percent on energy bills by making energy-efficient improvements around the house. Here are some tips to help make your next utility bills easier to swallow.

Incandescent lighting wastes energy. Replace your old-fashioned incandescent bulbs and overhead lights with **COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS**. They cost a bit more initially, but you will quickly recover the price through lowered energy use. Plus, compact fluorescent bulbs last much longer than incandescents and emit less heat, so your house stays cooler.

USE SHIELDS ON OUTDOOR LIGHTING to prevent light from getting lost in space and to concentrate the brightness where you want it. You may find you don't need as many lights.

Almost 85 percent of the energy used to wash clothes goes to heating the water. **WASHING WITH COLD WATER** will get your clothes just as clean in most cases.

TAKE SHOWERS, not baths, as they use less hot water. Replace your showerhead with a low-flow showerhead, which uses less water but concentrates it so you don't notice the difference.

If your major appliances—including air conditioners, refrigerators and washers—aren't **ENERGY STAR-CERTIFIED**, it's time to replace them. Energy Star estimates consumers could save \$400 by switching to qualified products.

UPDATE YOUR ATTIC INSULATION. It may seem like a winter task, but it can help keep the cool air in your home. Caulk leaks and weather-strip doors and windows, too.

When possible, **USE YOUR MICROWAVE** instead of your regular oven. It uses less energy, and doesn't heat up the kitchen.

Community Spotlight

SPRING VALLEY, TEXAS (McLennan County). Spring Valley, once known as Lusk, is at the intersection of FM 2416 and FM 2113, 14 miles southwest of Waco in southwestern McLennan County. A post office, called Lusk after an early settler, opened in May 1890 with Tilman H. Knight as postmaster; it closed in January 1891. The community then took the name of the nearby school, which had been called

Leroy when it was established in 1878. However, when the Leroy community was founded in northeastern McLennan County in 1903, the school district name was changed to Spring Valley. In the 1940s, the community reported 50 residents and had a church, two businesses and several scattered houses. Only a few houses were shown at the site on a 1975 topographic map of the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Dayton Kelley, ed., *The Handbook of Waco and McLennan County, Texas* (Waco: Texian, 1972). William Robert Poage, *McLennan County Before 1980* (Waco: Texian, 1981).

TEXAS WiFi SERVICES



WILDBLUE
Satellite Speed InternetSM



For high-speed Internet, contact Randi at Texas WiFi Services. Her phone number is (254) 495-8961.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Your Calendar!

The MCEC annual meeting will be held on October 17, 2006, at McGregor High School.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with many door prizes and lots of fun.

