

Line, Pole Work Ongoing

One might believe that once a line is staked, built and energized, the job is complete except for some minor adjustments and repairs. For the most part this is true, but Comanche Electric Cooperative never ceases to make improvements to the lines in an effort to expand on service and reliability. Our engineering firm, Schneider Engineering, performs line studies every four years and determines which areas of our lines are in need of improvements.

Our current work plan project will be north of Zephyr at the intersection of FM 1467 and CR 291, running south along FM 1467 and then cross-country to FM 590. This plan will also include replacing line running east on CR 291, north on FM 1467 to CR 323 and then west on CR 294 from FM 1467. The project will be to respan and change conductors and will include a complete inventory of each section of line, tree trimming, changing the primary wire to a larger size, replacing poles and changing out primary assemblies and transformers—all in an effort to improve the quality of service to our members. Comanche Electric Cooperative (CECA) employees will be doing all the legwork, and Techline, an Austin-based contracting firm, will be doing the actual upgrade and changeouts.

In another project, D'man Quality Inspection Service out of San Angelo will be inspecting poles on U.S. Highway 183 between the Zephyr Substation and Goldthwaite. This will include certain areas of Democrat, Zephyr, Mullin and the Pompey Mountain area. CECA employees will do any pole replacements needed.

All vehicles involved in these projects should have CECA, Techline or D'man signage. Please see the accompanying article to the right concerning utility scams, and if you have ANY questions concerning anyone calling you or coming to your property claiming to represent Comanche Electric Cooperative, call our offices immediately for verification.

DON'T FALL FOR COLLECTION SCAMS

Electric cooperatives across the country are reporting that scam artists are targeting members with phone calls in which the caller purports to be from the co-op, demanding payments, account numbers, Social Security numbers or credit card numbers. Don't fall for it. Comanche Electric Cooperative will NEVER call seeking such information. In fact, you should NEVER give such information out over the telephone to ANYONE who calls.



Electric Co-op Today, a national newsletter published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), reported recently about another scam, in which callers allude to the federal stimulus program for energy efficiency and encourage people to give their information to "apply" for a grant. Those calls are most likely just another attempt to steal personal information.

NRECA Senior Corporate Counsel Tracey Steiner, who tracks consumer protection legal issues, told Electric Co-op Today, "In today's economy, it's not surprising that we are seeing an uptick in identity theft and other fraud schemes."

If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent Comanche Electric, ask for the individual's name and callback number. If the number is not 1-800-915-2533, then you should be highly suspicious. Please call the co-op at this number and report any such calls. You should also report scam attempts to local authorities.

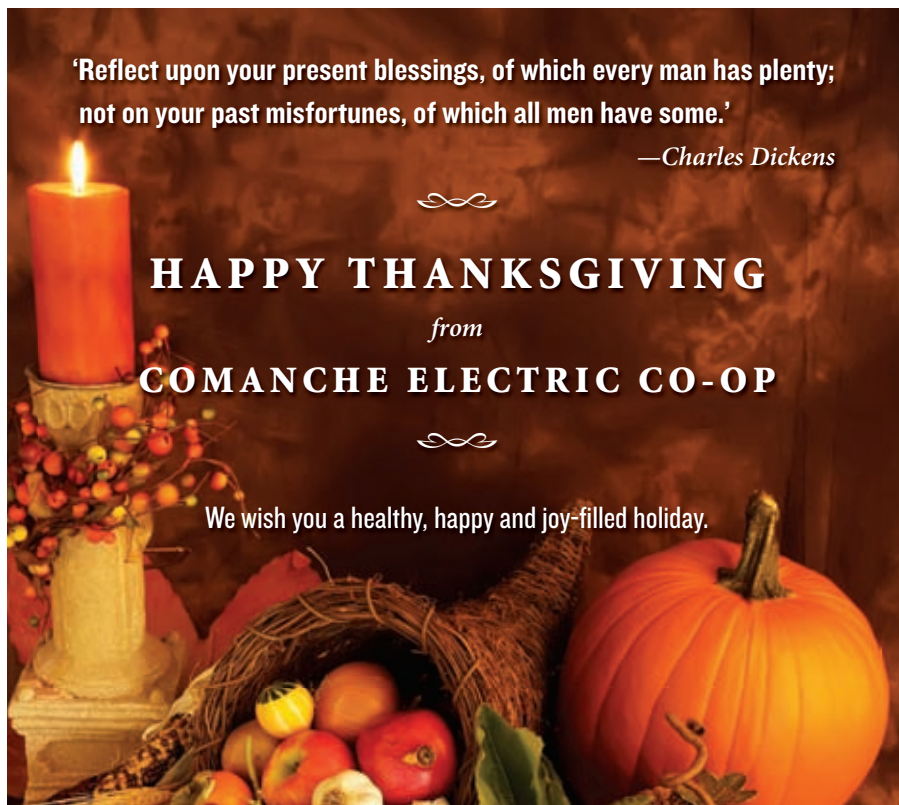
Once scammers have your personal information, they can use it to set up fake accounts in your name or sell it to someone who could use it to defraud you. Don't be a victim.

'Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.'

—Charles Dickens

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
from
COMANCHE ELECTRIC CO-OP

We wish you a healthy, happy and joy-filled holiday.



AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



How To Be Power Savvy

Did you know that all power is not created equal?

When you get your power bill each month, you are assessed an amount based on a single rate for the number of kilowatt-hours you used. That rate is actually an average of the prices Comanche Electric Cooperative pays to the wholesale supplier that generates electricity for us.

The electricity we deliver that allows you to power your coffee maker or blow-dry your hair in the morning did not cost the co-op the same as the electricity you use to light your home in the evening or run the dishwasher after supper.

That's because of the way the electricity distribution system works. Electricity is generated and transmitted "live"—in other words, it is put on the grid as needed. That means when demand goes up, more power plants must be put online to supply that demand.

Overnight and in the wee hours of the morning, when most people are sleeping, demand is generally lowest, and so is the price your co-op pays. A few steadily running baseline power plants can supply the demand. These are known as economy price hours.

When the sun rises and people get up and prepare for their day at work or school, they begin to use

more electricity, causing demand to rise and prompting grid operators to bring more power generation online, increasing costs. These are the normal price hours, when demand can be met fairly well by full operation of baseline plants.

In the afternoons and early evenings, the use of power spikes. In summer, that spike comes during the hottest part of the day, generally between 1 and 6 p.m., when air conditioner use is heaviest. In the winter months, that peak shifts to hours around and after sunset, from 6 to 8 p.m. or so, reflecting use of electric heating and greater indoor activity and lighting.

This peak demand often requires the use of expensive-to-run peaking power plants, which can be brought

online quickly. These are the hours when electricity costs our cooperative the most.

The rate you see on your bill is a "blended" rate, combining the average of the economy, normal and peak rates. In addition to those power costs, there are fixed charges we pass along to cover the costs of system maintenance, materials and other necessary items.

You can help yourself and fellow cooperative members with some adjustments to your power usage habits. If you can, put off energy-intensive tasks such as using a clothes washer or dishwasher until after peak energy pricing has passed. If you can, adjust your thermostat a degree or two to make your heating or cooling unit run less.

Using programmable thermostats and appliance timers or delayed-start options will help make this adjustment easier.

The more our members can conserve, especially during peak hours, the lower the average rate will go, making everyone's power bills a little less expensive.

Remember, we are not here to make a profit—we are here to serve you with the best possible service at the lowest possible price. Through your actions and habits, you can have a real effect on that price.

THE MORE OUR MEMBERS CAN CONSERVE, ESPECIALLY DURING PEAK HOURS, THE LOWER THE AVERAGE RATE WILL GO, MAKING EVERYONE'S POWER BILLS A LITTLE LESS EXPENSIVE.

Co-op Connections Program Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

Can you believe it? A whole year has come and gone since we began our Co-op Connections® program. Since then, Comanche Electric Cooperative has brought over 25 businesses into the program to join other national deals. Cooperatives nationwide have joined to bring value to their members, as well as to help participating businesses.

The Co-op Connections program is an absolutely free service and is a way to look out for and help our members. The Co-op Connections Card is just one of the programs we offer to help our members save money. This card is

an attempt to give you more value for your dollar as a member of CECA. When you present your card at participating businesses, you get a discount! It's that easy. There is no charge, ever, to members at any time, or to businesses that participate.

count pharmacy program will work for your family and you. Comanche Electric Cooperative members alone have already saved almost \$20,000 on prescription medications.

The Co-op Connections program is just one more advantage to being a member of Comanche Electric Cooperative. For more information on the program as a member or a business, contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or at sdukes@ceca.coop.

AIR TEMP REFRIGERATION, 300 Main St., Brownwood, (325) 643-3000, \$20 off any heating, A/C, electrical or plumbing service call (not valid with any other promotion).

C J'S DINER, 135 W. Grand, Comanche, (325) 356-5330, 10 percent off on Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m.

CARSTENS MOTOR CO., 601 W. Walker St., Breckenridge, (254) 559-2266, \$250 additional discount on any new/used vehicle purchase.

G. STEWART CLEVELAND, O.D., 602 Ave. E, Cisco, (254) 442-3161, \$5 off eye exam.

COOL CLEAR WATER, 900 Conrad Hilton Blvd., Cisco, (254) 442-3131, 10 percent discount on any water bottle and/or crock.

CURVES, 1102 W. Central Ave., Comanche, (325) 356-5809, 50 percent off sign-up fee (new members only).

DURHAM PECAN, 308 S. Houston St., Comanche, (325) 356-5291, 10 percent discount on all retail purchases.

EASTLAND CO. NEWSPAPERS, 215 S. Seaman St., Eastland, (254) 629-1707, half price on new local (in-county) subscriptions to any Eastland County Newspapers publications.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS WINDOW CLEANING, 1102 E. Milton Ave., Comanche, (325) 356-3480, 10 percent discount on residential window cleaning or power washing.

FRAMES AND THINGS, 408 Center Ave., Brownwood, (325) 646-8811, 10 percent discount on custom framing. Not valid with any other discount offer.

FRANKLIN INC., 2050 E. FM 583, May, (254) 259-3911, 5 percent discount on hay.

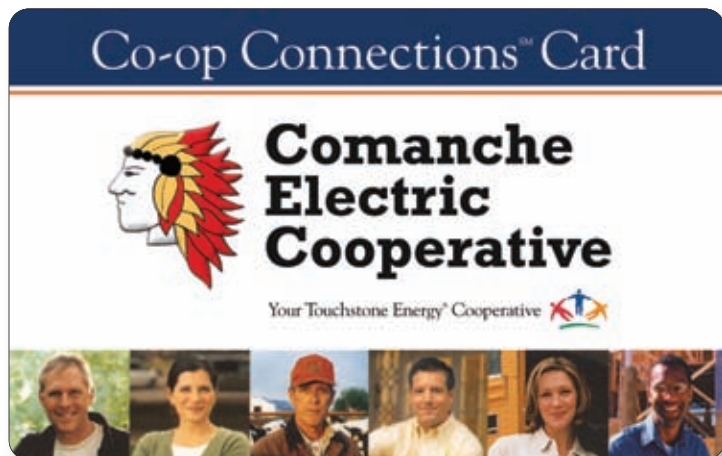
FURNITURE DEPOT, 114 S. Patrick St., Dublin, (254) 445-2134, Barnwood bedroom suite: bed (headboard, footboard, rails) dresser & mirror, chest, two nightstands, \$799.99.

H&H HANDCRAFTS, 407 E. Duncan Ave., Comanche, (325) 356-3616, 20 percent discount on all furniture; 15 percent discount on all yard art and custom orders.

HARDIN'S BAR-B-Q, 3300 E. I-20, Eastland, (254) 629-1227, buy any plate, get 50 percent discount on second.

HENDRICK MEDICAL SUPPLY, 969 E. Main St., Eastland, (254) 629-8338, 15 percent discount on all retail purchases.

LEMONS' BAR-B-Q, 3202 Coggin Ave., Brownwood, (325) 646-9655, 10 percent discount on any dine-in ticket. Not valid with any other specials.



One of the most exciting benefits of the card is the pharmacy discount. The Co-op Connections program benefits cooperative members by offering 10 to 60 percent savings on most prescriptions at over 48,000 independent pharmacies and national chains including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target, Brookshires and more. With soaring prescription prices, this dis-

LINDA BINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHY, 1102 E. Milton Ave., Comanche, (325) 330-1218, free portrait session and one 8x10" portrait (\$127 value).

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE LIAISONS, P.O. Box 1285, Blanket, 1-866-388-0464, \$5 off yearly program fee and a free, confidential consultation.

SEAL TITE INSULATION, 1551 CR 416, Comanche, (254) 879-3300, 5 percent discount off gross amount of job.

SILVER SENSATIONS BY BEVERLY, Heartland Mall, Early, (325) 647-2468, 10 percent discount on purchase.

SPECIAL SPIRITUAL DESIGNS, 1051 CR 240, Rising Star, (254) 725-7235, 10 percent discount on all pieces.

SPRING CREST CARPET AND DRAPERY, 609 S. Main St., Brownwood, (325) 646-6793, free installation on 5 or more blinds, or 10 percent off whole house of carpet installed. (Card must be presented at time of purchase.)

SWEET STUFF AND COFFEE, 100 E. Williams St., Breckenridge, (254) 559-7050, 10 percent discount on all purchases over \$25.

THE TURTLE RESTAURANT, 514 Center Ave., Brownwood, (325) 646-8200, 10 percent discount on lunch Tuesday-Friday; 10 percent discount on dinner entrée Tuesday-Thursday, with the exception of holidays.

THOMAS-CO MEDIA, 1809 Indian Creek Road, Brownwood, (325) 642-0214, 15 percent discount on website design, 10 percent discount on marketing.

UNDERWOOD'S BAR-B-Q, 404 W. Commerce St., Brownwood, (325) 646-1776, \$2 off any purchase of \$15 or more. Dine-in only.

WISHES, 203 W. Walker St., Breckenridge, (254) 559-9700, free gift with purchase.

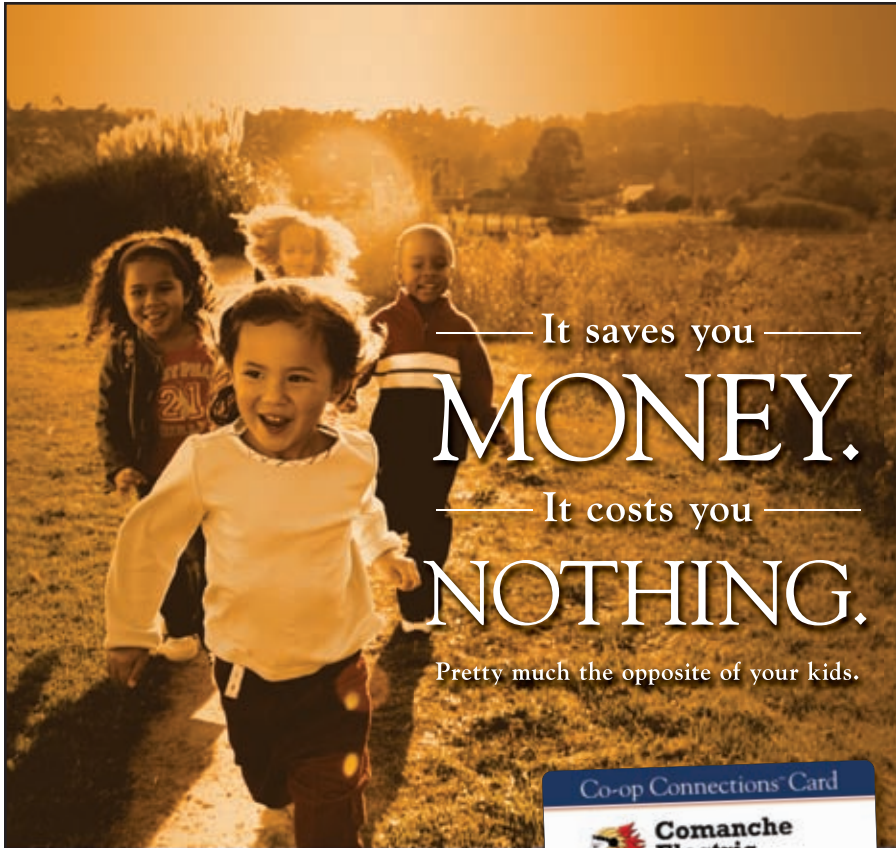
STAY CLEAR!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS FROM COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO STAY SAFE:

- Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous. Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.
- Never touch a downed power line! And never touch a person or object that is touching a power line.
- If someone is injured as a result of contact with electric current, do not try to assist him or her. You could be injured or killed. Call 911.
- If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives.
- Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line. Then call Comanche Electric Cooperative at 1-800-915-2533.



— It saves you —
MONEY.
— It costs you —
NOTHING.

Pretty much the opposite of your kids.



To help out with the increasing cost of your growing tots, and a whole lot more, Comanche EC participates in the Co-op Connections program.

Take your Co-op Connections Card with you wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say hello to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative. And we're always looking out for you.

To learn more, visit www.ceca.coop.

**Comanche
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ENERGY-SAVING FAQs

What uses the most energy in my home?

Heating and cooling systems typically consume the most energy in your home, followed closely by refrigerators and clothes dryers. But don't underestimate the power of the small electronics in your home. Televisions, computers, cordless phones and video game systems will still draw electricity even if they are turned off or on standby mode. According to Energy Star, every year idle electronics consume the same amount of energy as the output of 17 power plants in the United States.

If I turn my heat down during the day when I'm not home, won't I use more energy heating the house back up when I come back?

Turning your heat down a few degrees during the day will cut down the number of heating cycles your system runs while you are at work. The money and energy you will save during those eight hours will be more than you will use when you turn the thermostat back up.

Can landscaping my yard improve my energy efficiency?

Believe it or not a well landscaped yard not only adds to the curb appeal of your home but to its overall efficiency. Trees can help shade your home from the hot sun and cut down on cooling costs; shrubs can act as windbreaks helping you reduce your heating costs during the winter months.



WHO KNEW A FRESH LAYER OF INSULATION WOULD HELP ME WEATHER THE ECONOMY?

There was money hiding in my attic. Not anymore. I'm saving \$240 a year just by adding insulation. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

**COMANCHE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM