



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

TRENA  
QUINN

## Our Strength Comes From Working Together

**COOPERATION.** As an electric cooperative, it's right in our name, and for good reason: It's vital to our success.

We know there's power in numbers, and that's exactly why Cooperative Principle No. 6, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is so important. Co-ops serve their members best and strengthen the cooperative movement when we work together.

Navarro County Electric Cooperative does that in numerous ways.

At the most basic level, electric co-ops support one another in times of crisis. When a major storm hits a nearby co-op, we offer help to restore service as quickly as possible. And we know that if we ever need help, our neighbors will be there for us.

The electric co-ops in Texas combine forces through Texas Electric Cooperatives, our statewide association, proving that when small organizations use the power of aggregation, they grow in clout, efficiency and economy.

When we work together, good things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state Capitol when legislators make decisions about utilities. We also share safety and training resources and expertise through the association's Loss Control program.

We save money through our TEC membership on purchases of poles and equipment, and even the printing and production costs of this magazine, because of the economy of scale.

Nationally, we join forces with more than 900 electric cooperatives through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which not only has the ears of Washington, D.C., decision-makers but also helps represent cooperative interests before regulatory bodies.

Through NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, we get information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity and deliver superior service.

Your cooperative does whatever it takes to provide you with the very best service at the lowest price possible. And when we come together with other co-ops, our message is carried far and wide to the benefit of all members. ■



JANICE RICHARD | ISTOCK.COM

## It's a Good Time To Give Your AC a Checkup

**MAINTAINING YOUR** air conditioning equipment can prevent problems and unwanted costs. Keep your cooling and heating system at peak performance by having a contractor do annual checkups.

A typical maintenance checkup should include the following.

**Check thermostat settings** to ensure the system keeps you comfortable when you're home and saves energy while you're away.

**Tighten electrical connections** and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation.

**Lubricate all moving parts.** Friction can consume extra electricity.

**Check the condensate drain.** A clogged drain can cause water damage in your house and affect indoor humidity levels.

**Inspect controls of the system** to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle to be sure the system starts, operates and shuts off properly.

**Inspect and clean or change air filters** regularly. A dirty filter can increase energy costs and damage your equipment, leading to early failure. ■

# Electricity Theft Is Dangerous, Costly for Co-op Members

**THE THEFT OF ELECTRICITY** and related materials is a problem all electric utilities face—and it’s a problem for electricity consumers, too. Because Navarro County Electric Cooperative is member-owned, electricity theft could end up costing you money because it drives up prices for everyone.

Electricity theft also puts your personal safety at risk. Tampering with an electric meter can make it unsafe and unstable. When people steal electricity, they put themselves, their neighbors, family and pets at risk for electric shocks, power surges, sparks and fire from exposed voltage. Stealing electrical equipment also can pose a significant risk to the culprit, resulting in injury or even death from exposure to live electricity.

Electricity theft isn’t isolated to rural areas or big cities. It’s a problem utilities encounter from agricultural operations to housing complexes to offices from coast to coast. Although electricity can easily be acquired through a utility, some people are still willing to risk physical damage or loss of life just for free kilowatts. Others may not realize the serious legal and potential safety problems.

Keeping power safe and affordable is a priority for Navarro County EC. That’s why we routinely inspect our meters and equipment to ensure we’re doing our best to protect you from the risks of electricity theft. We take a proactive approach to this serious problem, reducing theft and its related costs.

You also can play a role in this process by immediately notifying us if you suspect someone is gaining access to our power supply without paying their fair share or by tampering with equipment. If you have information related to electricity or materials theft, please call us at 1-800-771-9095 or (903) 874-7411. Rest assured, we’ll keep your identity confidential.

Because you share in the ownership of your co-op, when people steal from the cooperative, they’re stealing from you too. ■



## Navarro County Electric Cooperative

### CONTACT US

3800 W. Highway 22, Corsicana, TX 75110  
P.O. Box 616, Corsicana, TX 75151  
**Local** (903) 874-7411  
**Toll-Free** 1-800-771-9095  
**Email** [msdept@navarroec.com](mailto:msdept@navarroec.com)  
**Web** [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)

**General Manager/CEO**  
Trena Quinn

**Board of Directors**  
Ron L. Buckley, President, District 2  
Kent Sheffield, Vice President, District 1  
George Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, District 6  
Benny Melton, District 5  
Julie Mraz, District 7  
Gary Murphy, District 3  
Bill Southard, District 4

## 24/7 Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.  
**LOCAL**  
(903) 874-7411  
**TOLL-FREE**  
1-800-771-9095

**ABOUT NAVARRO COUNTY EC**  
NCEC owns and maintains more than 3,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 14,000 members in Ellis, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties.

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

**BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS**  
• Online at [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)  
• Through the SmartHub app  
• By phone at 1-855-939-3698  
(Phone payments are not accepted on the NCEC office line.)

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER**  
NCEC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

**VISIT US ONLINE**  
[navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/navarro](http://TexasCoopPower.com/navarro)



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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Grandparents Day**  
Sunday, September 7

**Patriot Day**  
Thursday, September 11

**National Voter  
Registration Day**  
Tuesday, September 16

**Rosh Hashanah begins**  
Monday, September 22

**Pancake Day**  
Friday, September 26

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## Fall Safety Tips

**WHILE FALL CAN FEEL** pretty short in Texas, the temperatures will soon start dropping. When it's cooler, you depend more on your electrical devices to keep you warm and comfortable. Here are some safety tips to keep you and your family safe.

**Test your smoke alarms.** You should test your alarms every month. If they're not working, change the batteries or replace them. Your smoke alarms warn of dangerous situations—especially important when you're asleep. Make sure your family is protected.

**Check devices before using them outside.** Moisture and rain don't mix with electricity, so make sure you're taking the proper precautions when using your devices outside. Investing in ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets is one way to stay safe.

**Inspect your cords.** Extension cords can become frayed or damaged. If they are, then they're no longer safe to use. Whether it's Halloween decorations or Christmas lights, make sure there's no damage before putting out your festive decorations.

**Clear away debris.** Dry leaves can be a hazard. If they're met with a spark, a fire can start. Sweep them away from outlets, fixtures, cords or any other electrical components.

**Inspect electrical devices.** Check for any wear and tear, and ensure power cords aren't damaged. Replace or repair before a disaster happens.

**Use weatherproof outlet covers** to prevent rain and dust infiltration, and inspect them for cracks, chips or overheating.

**Don't overload your power strips, extension cords or outlets.** Follow the manufacturer's recommendations, and keep the load on any given circuit within its designed limit. ■



# End-of-Summer Cleanup Makes Next Year Easier and Safer

**IT'S TIME TO** dust off fall lawn tools and think about getting your central heating system checked. Before you start, however, take an afternoon to clean and store electrical equipment you won't be using again until next spring.

**Clean your lawn mower.** Unplug your electric model, prop it up on its side and wipe down the top, sides and bottom. If your lawn mower is gas-powered, drain the gas from it and let it dry before storing it.

**Remove window air conditioners.** Gently vacuum the coils with a brush attachment and clean the filter before storing the unit.

**When the weather cools off, turn off the power to your central AC;** leaving it on a low setting could cause it to kick on when it's not really needed. Clear debris away from the outside part of the unit and cover it up to protect it from falling leaves and winter weather.

**Clean AC registers by vacuuming and wiping with a damp cloth.**

**If you recharge any summer-only power tools or lawn tools,** unplug and store the battery chargers. Leaving unused chargers plugged in wastes electricity.

**As the leaves drop, sweep them away from outdoor light fixtures,** outlets and power cords.

**If you pack up your summer clothes to make room in your closets for your cold-weather outfits,** avoid stacking the clothes or boxes so high that they touch the light fixture on the ceiling. A light bulb that comes into contact with paper or fabric can start a fire. ■



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## For Efficiency, Think Long Term

**WHEN IT COMES TO COOLING** your home while still reducing electricity consumption, investing in energy-efficient appliances pays off in the long run. Whether it's your air conditioner, refrigerator or washer, energy-efficient models use less electricity, leading to lower utility bills.

Energy-efficient appliances can cost more upfront, but in the long run, you'll save enough for them to be a worthwhile investment. Here are some tips for making sure your appliances are energy-efficient.

- ▶ Look for Energy Star-rated products. These are rigorously tested to ensure they meet high efficiency standards.
- ▶ If your AC unit is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a newer, more efficient model. Newer systems can reduce energy use by up to 50%.
- ▶ Upgrade your refrigerator to one that uses less energy. Modern refrigerators are much more efficient than older models, and choosing a smaller unit also can save power.
- ▶ Replace your old washer and dryer with Energy Star models. These can reduce water and electricity use. ■



## STRAIGHT SHOOTING ON SAFETY

### Be sure to follow the "10 commandments" of shooting safety:

Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.

Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.

Be sure of your target.

Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.

Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.

Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.

Control your emotions when using weapons.

Wear hearing and eye protection.

Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.

Never use electrical insulators or transformers as targets.

**Navarro County EC encourages you to always practice safety.**

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## Vidalia Onion Dip

**2 large Vidalia or 1015 sweet onions, finely chopped**  
**1½ cups grated Parmesan cheese, divided use**  
**1 cup mayonnaise**  
**1 cup sour cream**  
**¼ cup fresh dill, lightly chopped (or 2½ teaspoons dried dill), divided use**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley**  
**1 tablespoon prepared horseradish**  
**Pinch red pepper flakes**  
**Kosher salt and ground black pepper, to taste**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Place onions, 1 cup Parmesan, mayonnaise, sour cream, 3 tablespoons dill (or 2 teaspoons dried), parsley, horseradish and red pepper in a mixing bowl and use a spatula to combine. Season to taste with salt and black pepper, then transfer the mixture to a deep-dish 10-inch pie dish. Sprinkle the top evenly with the remaining ½ cup of Parmesan and remaining dill.
3. Bake 40–45 minutes, until lightly browned. Serve with chips or crackers.

**SERVES 4–6**

**TCP** Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).

BACKGROUND: MARCIN JUCHA | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM.  
DIP: IRINA ROSTOKINA | SHUTTERSTOCK.COM







HAZAL AK | ISTOCK.COM

## Back-to-School Can Mean More Energy Use

**WITH ALL THE NEW** smartphones, computers, printers and desk lamps, back-to-school equipment uses more energy than it used to. Follow these tips to conserve more energy—and even save a few dollars along the way—as your kids head back to school.

Teach your children how to put the computer into sleep mode when they're finished using it, even if they plan on returning later. Electronics in sleep mode use about 80% less electricity.

In the market for new computer equipment this year? Computers with an Energy Star rating use up to 65% less electricity overall.

Desk lamps and other concentrated task lighting create a productive work environment without wasting excess light. Replace halogen or incandescent desk lamps with LED bulbs, which now fit a variety of fixtures. They produce less heat and use 90% less power.

If you live close, bicycling or walking to school can save gas and give kids much-needed exercise now that summer days of play are over. If the commute is too far, organize a carpool with parents in your area to earn yourself a couple mornings off.

Reduce waste by taking a thorough inventory of school supplies before heading to the store. Supplies often come in bulk packages that can't be used in just one school year.

Buy reusable sandwich bags and use lunch boxes instead of brown bags to save money and reduce everyday packaging waste. ■

## Electrical Safety Checklist

**NEARLY HALF OF** all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home this winter.

Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch? Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.

Are any outlets or switches discolored? Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.



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Do plugs fit snugly into outlets? Loose-fitting plugs can cause fires.

Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged? Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazards.

Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails? Damaging the insulation can cause shock or fire hazards.

Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis? Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses? This could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current. ■