

We're in Good Hands



“It’s a great opportunity to be a part of a great organization. The board of directors, the employees and the members are really a pleasure to work for here.”

LAST JUNE, DARRYL SCHRIVER BECAME TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative’s new executive vice president and general manager. Schriver has worked in the electric cooperative industry for 25 years, holding positions at the statewide, generation and transmission, and distribution levels. Before starting at Brazos Electric Power Cooperative in 1993, he worked in the banking industry and for the Texas Legislature.

But as a native of Goldthwaite and a graduate of Tarleton State University, Schriver said he feels at home in Tri-County EC’s territory.

“I have some ties in the area,” he said. “This is just an area I like to live.”

It is one thing to manage an electric cooperative. It’s another to live, work and play in the co-op’s service area. Schriver said he has the privilege to live in Brock, on one side of the Tri-County EC service area, while working in the Azle office in another section of the territory.

And while Schriver has only been at Tri-County EC for a year, he has made important decisions to take the co-op into the future. He moved to address technological and growth-related challenges our co-op and system face and says he continues to learn about the culture, people and services of the co-op. 800726094

“I know Tri-County is yearning to advance itself into the new technologies of serving our members,” he said.

Schriver has not wasted any time addressing these issues by shaping the organization to fit the needs of a growing cooperative.

In the Works

Tri-County EC is focused on adapting to technological advances, and this past year, Schriver ushered in a technological renaissance at the co-op. He said it is time to update the way we deliver and stake jobs and control our system maps.

“We’re working through that month by month to advance our processes and services to where our service recall to our members and our response time is a whole lot quicker than it has been in the past,” Schriver said.

The co-op’s system maps are now electronic, which gives our employees in the field the information they need at their fingertips. Recently implemented GPS staking technology helps our staking engineers track the precise locations of staking jobs, which decreases human error.

Tri-County EC’s delivery of jobs also has improved. Work orders used to be tracked on paper, which meant each job produced about six copies. Moving to electronic work orders has reduced paper use, increased efficiency and allowed all parties to easily track the progress of each job throughout its stages.

Communication efforts at the co-op have expanded in the past few months as well. Schriver has reshaped the communications department to be a better resource for our members and increase transparency. In February, TCEC joined Facebook to notify our members of outage updates, energy efficiency tips and happenings at the co-op and in the community.

“The ability to provide services to our members, not only from the office but from the virtual environment, is an opportunity for us to really focus on the listening more to our members and address their needs.”

Down the Road

Tri-County EC's future is bright and full of technology. The employees constantly evaluate how to better serve our membership. In February, we experienced our largest outage in more than a decade when more than 19,000 members lost power. This event proved the co-op lacked sufficient communication outlets; therefore, Tri-County EC began developing a smartphone app. Schriver said the app will allow members to pay bills, report outages and seek services from the co-op.

Much of the co-op's equipment, including its automatic meter reading system, will reach the end of its life in the next few years. To address the issue, Schriver established an employee focus group last October to evaluate which advanced metering infrastructure would work best for the co-op and determine the value of implementing that AMI system. Tri-County EC is currently the only large co-op in the nation that does not have an AMI system.

Even our energy sources will evolve in the future. Schriver said renewable energy resources are coming to Tri-County EC but do not make economic sense right now.

“Solar is just starting to raise its head as being a cost-effective alternative for power out there on the grid,” he said.

In the future, Tri-County EC will place stronger emphasis on building out the organization to better meet the members' needs. Through improved communications and increased transparency, Schriver said he aims to focus the organization's business model on listening to you, our members, in order to provide service that meets your ever-changing needs.

Involvement and Support

Developments at the co-op don't happen solely because of decisions made by management. Schriver also gathers employee and board input to help make big decisions.

“Focus groups and the involvement of our employees is a primary tenet to change,” he said. “You bring technologies into an organization, but it is important the employee buy-in is there.”

Employee focus groups have been an intricate part in Tri-County EC's decision-making processes on big projects such as implementing AMI, updating map technologies and improving the co-op's outage management system. Those involved in the response to the ice storm actively participated in evaluating outage management improvements, a new phone system and customer information system improvements.

Board support and employee buy-in allows Schriver to launch Tri-County EC into the future. The experience, wisdom and foresight of the board members allow the manager to lead the organization effectively. Schriver said he appreciates the board's patience and time to work with him, as a new manager, to implement processes to advance our co-op. 579001



The efforts of our employees and strong community involvement are key to the success of Tri-County EC.

“Without a good governing board and strong leadership, you would not have the feedback you need as a manager of the co-op to lead the organization,” Schriver said.

The employees at Tri-County EC are excited to have Darryl Schriver lead our co-op and guide its continued success.

Home Is Where Our Heart Is

THE DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES AT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WANT TO see our community succeed. Why? Because we live here, too. We're local people working for local good. That's the essence of Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community.

First and foremost, we strengthen our community by doing what we do best: providing reliable electricity at a reasonable cost. We are a dynamic part of our community. As the area grows, so does our distribution system.

At Tri-County EC, we pursue policies and projects that are good for the community because what's good for our community is good for our cooperative.



We have strong roots in this community. Tri-County EC has been in business here for more than 75 years. Part of the benefit of this stability is the assurance that we are not going anywhere. Our business began here, and we won't pull up stakes to pursue greener pastures elsewhere.

We pay our employees fair wages, which helps strengthen the economy when they spend that money here. And by providing well-paying jobs, we keep our towns healthy because employees and their families don't have to

move away to make a living. The more people we have here paying taxes and patronizing local businesses, the more vibrant our community will be. Strengthening our local economy makes sound business sense.

But the benefits to the community aren't just financial. In 2019, we hope to open doors for our young people with scholarship programs and the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. We teach children safety through programs in schools and online. We help our members save money and reduce their environmental impact by recommending energy efficiency measures. We enrich the community by supporting local charities. We help our members and neighbors in need by contributing to efforts like food drives and the Susan G. Komen More Than Pink Walk.

The co-op is made up of people who care. Our employees go out of their way to better their communities. They coach youth sports teams, serve on school committees and participate in church activities. They are co-op members like you, and like you, they want to make their hometowns stronger. 800691485

Remember—when it comes to Tri-County EC, our community is where our hearts are.



Keep Dad Safe for Father's Day

YEARS OF POWER TOOL-SHOPPING

For past Father's Day gifts have probably yielded the dad in your life a garage or shed full of handy gadgets. On June 17, give him the tools he needs to use his stockpile safely.

For table saws and other large tools, give your dad a motor safety switch with a large stop paddle or switch. It allows him to use his hip or foot to immediately cut power to a tool without removing a hand from the work piece, helping him to keep his work safe and steady. For about \$30, you can buy a switch that easily mounts to most 120-volt machinery.

If he spends full weekend days near his workbench, pick a pair of supportive steel-toe boots to protect his feet from knocked off or dropped work gear. Good work boots also will reduce fatigue and keep his knees and back comfortable even after a full day on his feet.

Toss in classic safety gear: Sporty safety glasses styled like sunglasses offer a snug fit and wraparound protection in both clear and tinted styles. Choose a snug pair of work gloves with extra gripping strips to help your dad keep a firm hold on his tools and work materials. And don't forget his ears—a simple pair of earplugs will keep that ringing noise at bay after he works around loud machinery.

Electricity Use Rises With Summer Temperatures

Increased demand could test the state's supply

DO YOU REMEMBER THE ELECTRICITY BILL YOU RECEIVED AFTER this winter's cold spell? It gave many of our members a bit of sticker shock. Of course, we all use more kilowatt-hours to stay warm when the cold and ice of January come knocking. The unfortunate result is higher-than-usual bills.

Now, as we look forward to summer, a reverse weather pattern holds the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts, "this summer's temperatures are forecast to be warmer." The EIA expects Americans will use

90 percent of the state's power grid, is predicting record-breaking peak power usage. To keep the system reliable, ERCOT prefers to maintain a small percentage of generation capacity beyond what is needed to meet peak demand. This extra energy capacity is called the "reserve margin," and it measures the system's ability to meet demand for power during the hottest days. The current projections for hotter summer weather and increased demand could test the reserve margin.

With that in mind, we all need to get ready for summer by managing our electricity use.

A few home improvements and simple changes in day-to-day habits can add up to big savings this summer. For example, a few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows will help keep cooler air inside your home and the hot air outside where it belongs. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air-conditioning system's thermostat to 78 degrees and maybe even a little higher if you're planning to be away from the house for a while.

Would you like to make an even greater impact on your bill? Check your home's insulation. According to energystar.gov, the insulation in your home's attic should cover joists and be evenly distributed. It is also important to use insulation with a recom-

mended R-value of 30–60. You will not only feel the difference in your home, you'll help offset peak demand. 9967165000

At energystar.gov, you'll find a variety of tools and tips to help maximize your home's energy efficiency.

Most importantly, Tri-County Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit power provider. That means our mission is to provide you with the electricity you need to improve your quality of life—not turn a profit for investors. An important part of that mission entails providing you with tools to manage your electricity use. We want you to stay comfortable this summer with power bills you can afford.

more electricity this summer than last and pay more for it. The agency forecasts the typical residential electricity bill to increase 3.4 percent over last summer's bill.

In addition to higher temperatures increasing demand, we also face the possibility of higher wholesale electricity prices. That's because three coal-fired power plants that supplied part of Texas have been shut down.

Now add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings of higher electric bills.

No one knows how much extra your co-op might have to pay, but the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which oversees



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Take the Sizzle Out of Summer With a Slow Cooker

AS THE SUMMER HEAT RAMPS UP, COOKING DINNER with an oven or on a stovetop becomes less and less appealing. Sure, most of us enjoy a home-cooked meal, but introducing heat from a range into your home while trying to keep from lowering the thermostat excessively can be counterproductive. Plus, there's the general unpleasantness of standing over a hot stove when it's 100—or more—degrees outside.

Salads are a favorite alternative during summer's swelter, but it's nice to have the option of a more substantial meal without sacrificing comfort or pushing utility bills sky-high.

A slow cooker presents an elegantly simple solution to this dilemma. It takes a bit of planning, but once you've mastered that small step, the rewards are plentiful. 9551700002

What slow-cooked meals lack in quickness, they make up for in affordability and convenience. After a modest bit of prep and before heading out to work in the morning, you can throw a few basic ingredients into a slow cooker, turn it on, and, voilà, dinner will be waiting when you get home. Or choose a recipe with a shorter cook time for a lazy weekend supper.

Speaking of relaxed weekend meals, in honor of Father's Day, here are a couple of savory, hearty recipes to celebrate the dad in your life.

Easy Cheesy Barbecue Chicken

FROM *CROCK-POT: THE ORIGINAL SLOW COOKER RECIPE COLLECTION*

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 bottle (26 ounces) barbecue sauce
- 6 slices bacon
- 6 slices Swiss cheese

1. Place chicken in a 4½-quart slow cooker. Cover with barbecue sauce. Cover and cook on low 8–9 hours. (If sauce becomes too thick during cooking, add a little water.)
2. Before serving, cut bacon slices in half. Cook bacon in microwave or on stovetop, keeping bacon flat. Place 2 pieces cooked bacon on each chicken breast in slow cooker. Top with cheese. Cover and cook on high until cheese melts. ▶ Serves 6.

COOK'S TIP To make cleanup easier, coat the inside of the slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray before adding ingredients. To remove any sticky barbecue sauce residue, soak the stoneware in hot, sudsy water, then scrub it with a plastic or nylon scrubber—don't use steel wool. Or use a slow cooker liner for easy cleanup.



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Cheesy Buffalo Chicken Soup

NINA MARTIN | CENTRAL TEXAS EC

- 1 rotisserie chicken or whole roasted chicken
- 8 ounces cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 red onion, diced
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
- 32 ounces chicken broth
- ½ cup hot wing sauce
- Garlic powder to taste
- Optional garnish:
 - Avocado
 - Cilantro
 - Cheddar cheese
 - Green onion

1. Remove meat from chicken and shred.
2. Put meat, cheeses, onions, cilantro, chicken broth and wing sauce in a 6-quart or larger slow cooker. Stir in garlic powder.
3. Set on low 4–6 hours. Then garnish as desired. ▶ Serves 8.

Celebrating Old Glory

FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14. THIS LESSER-KNOWN AND LESSER-CELEBRATED HOLIDAY, established by Congress in 1949, pays tribute to a great and meaningful symbol.

Most of us know that the 13 red and white stripes and the field of 50 stars represent the original 13 colonies and the current 50 states. But there's much more to learn about Old Glory. 47868003

The Beginning Recognizing that a new nation needed a new flag, Congress passed the country's first flag law June 14, 1777: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

A Proclamation In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson paved the way for the observance with a proclamation addressing his concerns about "forces within and forces without that seemed likely to draw us away from the happy traditions of united purpose and action of which we have been so proud." The proclamation urged Americans to "give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America."

The Symbolism The red on the flag represents valor and bravery; white symbolizes innocence and purity; and vigilance, justice and perseverance are represented by blue. The stripes are symbolic of rays of sunlight, and the stars reference the heavens.

The First Flag The oft-told story of President George Washington asking Betsy Ross to create the first flag unfortunately can't be substantiated. The Betsy Ross House, a museum in her honor, promotes her story but encourages visitors to decide whether it's historical fact or well-loved fiction.

The Pledge As originally written in 1892, it read: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Congress added the phrase "under God" to the pledge in 1954.

While only Pennsylvania recognizes Flag Day as a state holiday, we wish you a happy Flag Day and encourage you to take time to acknowledge the significance of the day.



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

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IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18-25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

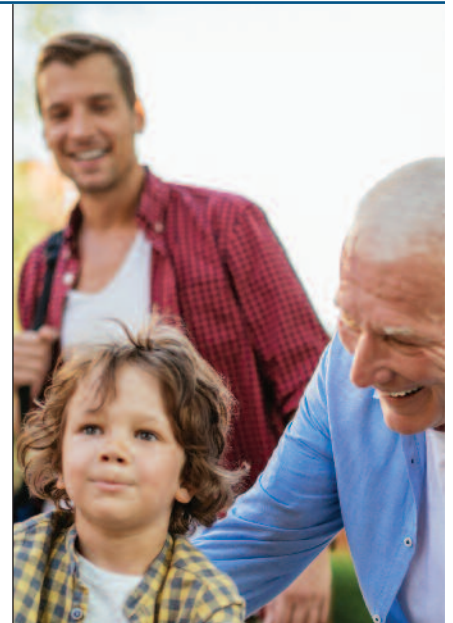


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Give Your Home an Electrical Safety Checkup

JUST AS REGULAR WELLNESS CHECKUPS ARE CRITICAL FOR MAINTAINING YOUR health, routine safety checkups are critical for the safety of your home. Use this checklist to ensure that you can identify and correct potential electrical hazards around your home.

Switches and Outlets

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

Do any switches or outlets make cracking, buzzing or sizzling sounds? Unusual noises from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring setup such as a loose electrical connection.

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

Cords

Is any cord cracked, frayed or otherwise damaged, or attached with staples? Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard.

Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis? Extension cords are designed to be used only temporarily. Extended use may damage the cord, creating a fire and shock hazard.

Are cords kept wrapped up while being used? Wrapped cords trap heat, which can lead to melting or weakening of the insulation. 8001879001

Are all appliance cords placed so they will not come in contact with hot surfaces? Cords can melt or burn from excessive heat. This can expose wires and lead to a fire or electric shock.

Electric Panel

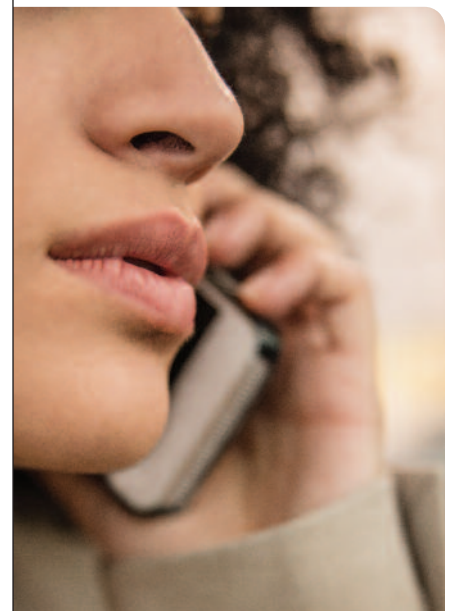
Do you have recurring tripped breakers or blown fuses? Fuses and circuit breakers are safety devices that help prevent fires caused by overloading of your home's electrical system. They stop the electrical current if it exceeds the safe level for some portion of your home's system.

Do you have arc-fault circuit interrupters, and do you test them?

AFCIs are advanced circuit breakers that provide greater protection from electrical fires. You should have them and test them monthly as they can stop working without showing signs of failure.

Happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 17



DENIA FERNANDEZ | ISTOCK.COM

Scam Alert!

Tri-County Electric Cooperative will never call you and request payment. If you receive this type of call, please hang up and call us at (817) 444-3201.

Meatball-in-Every-Bite Lasagna

SUBMITTED BY DAVID LIEBER | KELLER

1 pound extra-lean ground beef
Worcestershire sauce
Soy sauce
Pepper
Seasoned salt
Garlic
Olive oil
3 cans tomato sauce
Italian seasonings
1 pound lasagna
Ricotta cheese
Mozzarella cheese
Parmesan cheese

1. Season ground beef with Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, pepper, seasoned salt and garlic to taste. Mix thoroughly. Roll into marble-sized meatballs.
2. Brown in olive oil. Add tomato sauce and Italian seasonings to taste. Stir until it simmers, then remove from stove and strain.
3. Boil pasta in salted water with some olive oil to prevent sticking. Cover bottom of pan with tomato sauce and line bottom with three strips of lasagna. Dot with spoonfuls of ricotta, slivers of mozzarella and a little Parmesan.
4. Spread half the sauce and add all meatballs evenly. Repeat with another layer of lasagna, sauce and cheese.
5. Bake 45 minutes at 325 degrees.
6. Enjoy!



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Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form



THE RECIPE SUBMISSION IS A FREE AND voluntary service provided by Tri-County Electric Cooperative. As we have more than 100,000 members, we may receive a high volume of submissions. Recipes must be submitted before the 20th of each month to be considered for the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power* (i.e., June 20 for the August issue). We reserve the right to refuse any recipe. Please submit recipes through the U.S. Postal Service or email and not on the back of your payment stub. Those stubs are processed automatically because we receive hundreds daily. 180600001

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com.

Mail: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
600 NW Parkway
Azle, TX 76020.