

## McLennan, Belfalls Consolidation Approaching

**B**eginning July 1, 2007, McLennan County Electric Cooperative and Belfalls Electric Cooperative will officially consolidate to form Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative. The website address is [www.hotec.coop](http://www.hotec.coop).

Like BEC and MCEC, Heart of Texas Electric Co-op will continue to be a member-owned cooperative, governed by a member-elected board of directors. The co-op's only purpose for existence is to provide the membership with reliable electricity and quality service at the lowest cost.

The telephone numbers will stay the same. The offices will continue functioning with the same employees. You will still receive prompt, courteous service for billing questions, outages and any other concerns. The name may be changing, but the face of your co-op and our commitment to providing quality service to our members will not change.

Continued updates and information are available on our website at [www.hotec.coop](http://www.hotec.coop).

## MCEC HAS NEW PAYMENT LOCATIONS

MCEC is now taking payments at the following locations through Fidelity Express:



- Smart Stop #23—4 N. Main St., Troy, (254) 938-2427
  - Wiethorn Food Store—303 Fourth St., Valley Mills, (254) 932-5349
  - S&A Express—1579 St. Hwy. 22, Whitney, (469) 939-2210
  - Fidelity Bank of Texas—410 S. Robinson Dr., Waco, (254) 662-3931
  - Fidelity Bank of Texas—1901 W. Lakeshore Dr., Waco, (254) 755-6555
- A \$1 pay center fee applies to payments made at the above locations.

## NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF CO-OP POWER PLUS VISA

**N**otice to members who have a Co-op Power Plus Visa card through Chase Bank: Chase Bank will not be renewing Co-op Power Plus reward credit cards.

The existing agreement is set to expire December 31, 2007. Chase has informed us that it does not intend to renew the program. Chase will mail letters to inform cardholders of the cancellation before the cards become invalid.

Chase offered the reward program in conjunction with Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), which provides financial services to rural utilities cooperatives across the nation. CFC is currently seeking new bank partners to offer a similar program.

We will keep you informed of any new offers as they become available.

## KEEPING 'HOME SWEET HOME' SAFE

**F**or most people, the home is a place where friends and family can come together, rest and relax. However, if electrical appliances are not maintained or used properly, this safe haven can become dangerous in a matter of seconds.

Electrical appliances within the home are part of our everyday life—the toaster, heater, blow dryer, microwave,



television and computer. If these appliances are not maintained, stored or used properly, they can pose a serious safety hazard. Here are some safety precautions for electrical appliances in the home:

Electrical appliances should not be used around water.

When carrying appliances, they should be held by the handle, not the cord.

Light bulbs and appliances that get hot, such as heaters and toasters, should be kept away from materials that can ignite and burn.

Small appliances should be turned off or unplugged when not in use.

If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you a shock, unplug it and have the appliance repaired or replaced.

# MCEC Taking Bids on These Vehicles



Unit #2310 is a 1997 Ford F-800 Cab and Chassis with a 5.9-liter diesel, 32,340-lb. GVWR, 190 wheel base, 120-inch cab to axle. The vehicle has an Eaton 6-speed direct manual transmission, power steering, AM/FM radio and air conditioning. About 161,740 miles.



Unit #6 is an F-350 Ford Super Duty with a 6.8-liter EFI V-10 gasoline engine. The unit is equipped with a trailer towing package, tool bed, 4-speed automatic transmission, 3.73 regular axle and air conditioning. Approximately 217,781 miles.

Sealed bids must be received before 10 a.m. April 16, 2007. Envelopes must be marked "Sealed Bid" and delivered by mail or in person to the MCEC office. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Poston at (254) 840-2871. McLennan County Electric Cooperative reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Vehicles are "as is" with no warranty.

Vehicles may be seen at the MCEC office Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

# Reduce Hot Water Use for Energy Savings

**Y**ou can lower your water heating costs by using and wasting less hot water in your home. Two of the best ways to conserve hot water are to fix leaks and install low-flow fixtures.

### Fix Leaks

You can significantly reduce hot water use by simply repairing leaks in faucets and showerheads or pipes. A hot water leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month in electricity to heat the water.

If your water heater's tank leaks, you need a new water heater.

### Install Low-Flow Fixtures

Federal regulations mandate that new showerhead flow rates can't exceed more than 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) at a water pressure of 80 pounds per square inch (psi). You can purchase quality, low-flow fixtures for about \$10 to \$20 apiece and achieve water savings of 25 to 60 percent.

**SHOWERHEADS:** For maximum



water efficiency, select a showerhead with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gpm. There are two basic types of low-flow showerheads: aerating and laminar-flow. Aerating showerheads mix air with water, forming a misty spray. Laminar-flow showerheads form individual streams of water. If you live in a humid climate, you might want to use a laminar-flow showerhead

because it won't create as much steam and moisture as an aerating one.

Here's a quick test to determine whether you should replace an older showerhead with a more efficient one:

Place a bucket—marked in gallon increments—under your showerhead.

Turn on the shower at the normal water pressure you use.

Time how many seconds it takes to fill the bucket to the 1-gallon mark.

If it takes less than 20 seconds to reach the 1-gallon mark, you could benefit from a low-flow showerhead.

**FAUCETS:** The aerator—the screw-on tip of the faucet—ultimately determines the maximum flow rate of a faucet. Aerators are inexpensive to replace, and they can be one of the most cost-effective water conservation measures. For maximum water efficiency, purchase aerators that have flow rates of no more than 1.0 gpm. When replacing an aerator, bring the one you're replacing to the store with you to ensure a proper fit.

# From Family Reunions to Corporate Retreats: Moon River Magic, Texas-Style



*Where Dreams Begin and Memories are Made*



**M**oon River Ranch, a member of MCEC since 1992 and just 15 miles from Waco, offers breathtaking views, cascading waterfalls, shimmering pools, swaying palms and the tranquil Brazos River—the perfect setting for weddings, executive retreats, business seminars, receptions, weekend getaways or family reunions.

This secluded, private, 550-acre ranch resort specializes in creating timeless moments. Moon River Ranch's pure and natural environment, complete with a natural rock-lined pool and rolling pastures painted with pecan trees and grazing cattle, makes it an ideal destination for as many as 200 people, or as few as two.

Legendary country-western performer Randy Travis describes Moon River Ranch as a special place that has touched his life. He says, "For me, the ranch brings home my love of the outdoors, adventure and seclusion. I can hike, ride horses, fish, canoe or just sit on the banks of the peaceful flowing

Brazos River listening to the songs of cicadas in the trees."

Sunrises and sunsets—that's how time is measured at Moon River Ranch. Guests seek out this serene country setting to savor warm, down-home hospitality, luxury accommoda-

tions, refreshing swims, adventure, relaxation and, believe it or not, the nation's first cosmetic dental spa.

Ranch owner and cosmetic dentist Dr. Ritchie Beougher and his Willow Bend Dental staff meet Smilelift patients in a Tommy Bahamas-like dental spa overlooking the natural rock pool and waterfalls with tropical palm trees (inside and out) to create the smile of their dreams.

"Instead of scheduling numerous office visits with their local dentist, my guests can receive a smile makeover in as little as four hours, leaving ample time to enjoy all of the other amenities at Moon River Ranch," Dr. Beougher said.

At this one-of-a-kind resort, you find rustic boutique lodging, a charming country chapel, an authentic old farmhouse updated with all of the modern conveniences, a renovated boathouse and an upscale party barn with over 6,000 square feet of space and state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, perfect



