

McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • www.mclennanelectric.com • (254) 840-2871

Womack Sausage Supper



The Zion United Church of Womack held their annual Sausage Supper on November 30. Located on FM 219 five miles northeast of Clifton, the church members worked together many hours preparing the mouth watering feast for folks from all over the area.



The Womack Sausage Supper, sponsored by the Brotherhood, began as a celebration of the completion of the new church building in 1954. In 1961, the men decided to host the supper as a fundraising event, and it became a tradition—held the Saturday after Thanksgiving each year.

A limited number of tickets go on sale the first of November and are usually sold out within a week. This tradition is a big production, and such an integral part of the church that all available members spend many hours preparing and serving the meal of homemade smoked German sausage, potato salad, beans and all the trimmings, along with homemade desserts made by the members. Most of the members have been involved in this annual ritual their entire life—even the young help make it a success.



McLennan County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

101 North Main Street, P.O. Box 357
McGregor, TX 76657
(254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957

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Cycle Billing Begins January 1

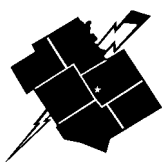
Listed here are the new reading and billing dates. Look for any questions, please call the office at (254) 840-2871. your zip code to determine your new date. If you have

Billing Cycle	Zip Codes Included	Approximate Meter Reading Date	Approximate Billing Date	Approximate Due Date
Cycle 10	76501 - 76507 76513, 76524 76557, 76579	29th of the month	3rd of the month	20th of the month
Cycle 20	76621 - 76624 76634, 76638 76644 - 76692	5th of the month	10th of the month	27th of the month
Cycle 30	10000 - 76470 76522, 76526 76528 - 76554 76558 - 76577 76802 - 94533	12th of the month	17th of the month	3rd of the month
Cycle 40	76630 - 76633 76640, 76643 76701 - 76798	19th of the month	24th of the month	10th of the month

There will be some exceptions, so please check your bill. Your cycle number is printed on your bill. If you have any questions about which cycle you are in or would like to change cycles, please contact the office.



Docia, Burton and Denver Lawless



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**Our members
have many
occupations;
some are famous
Cowboys.**



Your Rights as a Customer of McLennan County EC

I. RATE AND SERVICE INFORMATION:

You may request copies of any portion of the cooperative's rate and service tariffs as filed with the cooperative. A nominal reproduction charge may be made for each copy and postage may be added if the copies are mailed.

II. METER TESTING:

As provided by the rules of the cooperative, you may request a test of your electric meter if you believe that the meter is not accurately reflecting your actual electric consumption. This test will be made at no charge to you provided that the meter has not been tested during the previous four (4) years. In the event that you request a test more often than every four (4) years and the meter is not defective, you will be required to pay a charge of not more than \$15 for the test.

III. OUTSTANDING BILLS:

Under the tariffs of this cooperative, you will have sixteen (16) days from the date of issuance of the power bill to pay. If not paid in sixteen (16) days, the account will become delinquent and a termination notice will be mailed. If not paid in ten (10) days (a total of twenty-six (26) days from the date of issuance), the account will be disconnected.

IV. TERMINATION OF SERVICE:

Your electric service may be disconnected after proper notice for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to pay an outstanding bill.
- B. Failure to pay a delinquent account or meet the terms of a deferred payment plan.
- C. Violation of the cooperative's rules for the use of service in such a manner that interferes with the service of others or the operation of non-standard equipment; provided that the cooperative will make every reasonable attempt to notify you of the problem and allow you to remedy the situation.
- D. Failure to comply with the cooperative's deposit and guarantee requirements.

The cooperative may also disconnect at once and without notice where a dangerous condition exists and such disconnection shall remain in effect so long as the condition exists. Disconnection without notice may also be made when service is connected without authority by a person who has not made application for service or who has reconnected service without authority following termination of service for non-payment. In instances of tampering with the cooperative's meter or equipment, bypassing meter, or other instances of diversion, service may be terminated immediately.

Where notice is required, the cooperative will either mail or personally deliver a written notice of termination at least ten (10) days prior to the date of disconnection. Disconnection will only occur on those days when cooperative personnel are available to receive payment to prevent disconnection, or are available the following day to receive payment to restore service. If you are seriously ill or will become more seriously ill as a result of termination of service, you may have your physician call or contact the cooperative within sixteen (16) days of the issuance of the bill concerning your condition. The physician must provide a confirmation letter to the cooperative within twenty-six (26) days of the issuance of the bill unless a lesser period is agreed upon. If you make a request to avoid termination under this provision, you must enter into a deferred payment arrangement.

V. SERVICE AND BILLING DISPUTES:

In the event you dispute your billing or any aspect of service, we invite you to request a supervisory review or investigation of the disputed matter. The cooperative will promptly make such investigation as is required by the particular case, and report the findings to you.

If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction,

you may appeal to: Complaint Resolution Committee of the board of directors of this cooperative.

Should the dispute involve billing, you will not be required to pay the disputed portion of your bill which exceeds your average monthly consumption for the previous 12 months. This provision is applicable pending determination of the dispute, but shall not be for more than sixty (60) days.

VI. ALTERNATE PAYMENT PLANS:

As a member of the cooperative, you have a right to request alternate payment plans:

- a) **PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS.** An arrangement may be made between you and the co-op in which you agree to pay your electric bill in full after the due date of the outstanding bill, but before the due date of the next bill. If you do not fulfill the terms of your payment arrangement your electric service may be disconnected under standard termination procedures.
- b) **LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN.** If you are on a fixed income or have a unique financial need you may qualify for a level payment plan. This plan allows you to pay a monthly amount equal to an average of the current month's bill plus the previous eleven (11) months electric bill, or an estimated amount if you are a new customer. Your level payment amount will be adjusted semiannually. If you do not fulfill the terms of your level payment plan your electric service may be disconnected under standard termination procedures.
- c) **DEFERRED PAYMENT PLAN.** If you have not been delinquent in paying your bill more than two (2) times in the last twelve (12) months and are unable to pay all of your bill, you are qualified for a deferred payment plan. Such plan requires that you keep all subsequent bills current and pay monthly an amount not to exceed one-third (1/3) of the outstanding amount. You may, but are not required to, sign this agreement and if you do not fulfill the terms of the agreement your service may be terminated under standard termination procedures. Such breach of the agreement voids your right to a deferred payment plan or renegotiation to avoid termination. The cooperative is not required to offer this arrangement if you have had service for less than three (3) months.

VII. SERVICE RECONNECTION:
If your service is interrupted for any of the reasons listed under Section IV of the Bill of Rights, you may re-establish service when all outstanding and delinquent bills are paid and when a deposit or other evidence of payment guarantee is provided to the cooperative.

VIII. COOPERATIVE OFFICE AND BUSINESS HOURS:

Address: 101 North Main, McGregor, Texas 76657. Office business hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. Phone: Area Code (254) 840-2871 or if long distance, 1-800-840-2957. After business hours: Call (254) 840-2871 to reach a service representative. Web site: www.mclennanelectric.com

IX. METER READING:

If you would like information regarding the proper method for reading your electric meter, the cooperative will provide, on request, full instructions.

X. DEPOSIT POLICY:

You may be required to establish credit satisfactorily by making a deposit but you will not be required to pay a deposit for residential service if you have been a customer of any other electric utility within the last two years and you have not been delinquent in paying your bill for electric service on more than one occasion in the last 12 months or unless your service was terminated for nonpayment. The deposit is limited to one-sixth of your estimated annual electric bill. Deposits accrue interest at the rate of not less than 6.0% per annum and will either be paid to you when

the deposit is returned or credited to your account.

In lieu of a cash deposit, you may demonstrate a satisfactory credit rating with acceptable credit cards or letters of credit if easily verified or you may furnish a guarantee. After 12 consecutive residential billings, provided your account is current and you have not been disconnected for nonpayment or delinquent more than two (2) times, your guarantee will be voided and returned or your cash deposit plus interest will be applied or refunded.

XI. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Governmental or social service agencies may be able to assist you if you are having trouble making your payment for electric service to the cooperative. The following governmental social service or state agencies may be able to assist you if you are having trouble making your payment for electric service to MCEC. Please look for the government or social service agency which serves the county in which you receive service.

McLennan County: EOAC 756-0954; EOAC 840-3383; Caritas 753-4593; Salvation Army 756-7271.
Falls County: EOAC 803-3751 (Leroy Thomas).
Bell County: HelpCenter 770-6842.
Coryell County: Senior Citizen Center 865-8234; or Over 60 1-800-252-9240.

Bosque County: EOAC 694-2261

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Human Resources and Texas Community Affairs.

XII. NONDISCRIMINATION:

Your cooperative provides electric service without discrimination as to a member's race, nationality, color, religion, sex, disability, or marital status. Credit history shall be applied equally for a reasonable period of time to a spouse or former spouse who shared the service.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

McLennan County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Deidre Lauterbach, Administrative Services Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Happy New Year!

Those words are spoken countless times each year and are the essence of the oldest of all holidays. But have you ever wondered just why we celebrate—and why we celebrate the way we do?

In the Beginning

New Year's was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4,000 years ago. Around 2000 B.C., the Babylonian New Year began with the first new moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of spring).

The beginning of spring was a logical time to start a new year as it was a season of rebirth and of planting new crops.

The original Babylonian New Year celebration lasted 11 days, with each day having a particular type of celebration.

The Romans observed the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually adjusted by a procession of emperors. The result was a new year's celebration that did not occur at the beginning of the new year.

In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar established the Julian Calendar which began the new year on January 1. To align things properly, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

Traditionally Speaking

Resolutions are the most prominent new year tradition, dating back to the early Babylonians. Our 21st century resolutions to lose weight or quit smoking provide an interesting contrast to the Babylonians' most popular resolution of returning borrowed farm equipment.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year began in Greece around 600 B.C. The early Egyptians continued using a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Looking for Luck

For centuries it has been thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck for the rest of the year. The history books don't tell us what kind of a visitor brought bad luck, but it was reportedly particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall, dark-haired man.

No celebration is complete without food, and New Year's has its own array of interesting food-related traditions. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck because it symbolizes "coming full circle." For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating doughnuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

In the U.S. New Year's celebrations often include black-eyed peas or lentils. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable viewed as a sign of prosperity. In some regions, rice is the "lucky food" eaten on New Year's Day.

However you choose to celebrate the new year, you can rest assured that we remain committed to our resolution to provide you with the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.



Happy New Year
From
The Directors and Employees of
McLennan County
Electric Cooperative