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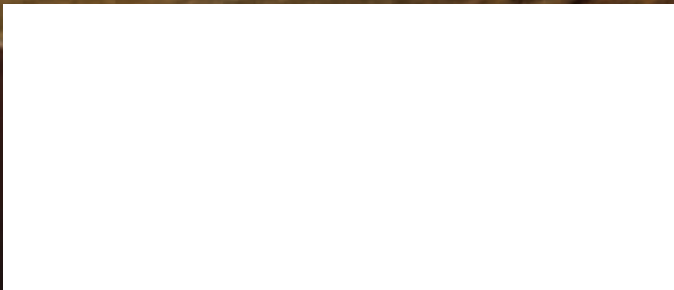
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Comments from your General Manager:

The Right Resources At Your Side

Darren Schauer

Our lives are busy. Between work, school, sports, and volunteering, there's no time to worry over the necessities in life like a hot stove, working water heater, or fast Internet connection. We just need them to be affordable and available for us every day. When you work with good resources, there's no need to worry. I'm referring to GVEC's subsidiary services of GVEC Home and GVEC.net. Open to members as well as the general public, they exist for the same reason as GVEC: to better your quality of life.

The difference between us and the other guys lies in our definition of service. We offer valuable products with good people behind them. You'll find at GVEC, we're not your average retailer focused solely on feeding our bottom line. We consider only the best brands and technologies that offer benefits in line with our cooperative values and goals.

GVEC Home, for example, stocks appliances and central heating and cooling units from trusted brands like GE, Maytag, Amana, and Whirlpool at all three of our showrooms in Gonzales, Seguin, and La Vernia. The manufacturers we carry have some of the most energy efficient models on the market which can contribute hundreds of dollars to a family's budget in energy savings. In cases of existing electric HVAC units needing maintenance or repair, purchased from GVEC or not, our licensed professionals with years of field experience can get your unit running at peak efficiency. And, GVEC members get the added advantage of an instant rebate at the time of purchase where applicable. These services work for the good of our customers to save them money.

In addition, GVEC.net offers wireless Internet service throughout South Central Texas. We build on our vast electric infrastructure when possible and employ the latest technologies to provide fast and reliable internet. We recognize paying bills, shopping, and doing research online

are no longer luxuries in most households and especially not when you're trying to run a successful business.

As important as these aspects are, I am even more passionate about the good people behind the products. This is something GVEC has stood behind for over 70 years. The quality process for all employees includes a thorough background check, initial drug and alcohol screening, then random testing throughout employment. Where applicable, our technicians are trained and licensed to properly install and service the products we sell and educated on securely handling personal information. When you do business with a GVEC subsidiary, you're working with someone you can trust in your home and your place of business. That goes a long way for peace of mind.

Thousands of members depend on GVEC every day for quality electric service. With GVEC Home and GVEC.net, those same values, ethics, and good people are infused into enhanced services for all of the communities we proudly serve. Frankly, sometimes we'll be the cheapest and sometimes we won't. But, we will definitely bring you the service only caring hometown neighbors can provide. That's a sure sign you'll always have the right resources at your side.

I am always interested in your feedback on GVEC programs and services. Contact me anytime via phone at 800.223.4832, email at dschauer@gvec.org, or mail at P.O. Box 118, Gonzales, TX 78269.

Respectfully,

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Food Drives: A Neighborly Necessity

With the abundance of food in the U.S., it's hard to believe that an estimated 17 million children would go to bed hungry if it weren't for food banks and pantries.

That's why community donations and the tireless efforts of volunteers like Cuero's Freda Nelsson make such a huge difference in the lives of many families. Nelsson is director of CAMAL House (Cuero Area Ministerial Alliance) where she coordinates food pantry donations and volunteers to ensure shelves remained stocked for neighbors in need.

For those not familiar with a food pantry, you might be surprised to know who the clientele is. In most cases, it's

older retirees on a fixed income, for example, who suddenly find themselves caretakers for grandchildren. Or a divorced mom or dad who may work one job or more, but earns low wages that don't cover even the most basic needs. By and large, it's average people facing challenging circumstances who are grateful for even the smallest amount of assistance.

CAMAL House is just one of several organizations that distribute food in the GVEC area. Although each operates a little differently from the other, they all have one thing in common: they couldn't do what they do without their caring communities.

"We feed about 400 families a month,

which translates into more than a 1,000 people," Nelsson explains. "In addition to the food we receive from Food Bank of the Golden Crescent in Victoria, we are helped by many community groups who hold food drives. And there are activities like the Turkey Fest here in Cuero where the cost of admission on a designated day is canned goods. I'm also fortunate there are some very generous individuals in the community who give monetary donations."

When it comes to cash donations, pantries can stretch dollars much further than the average shopper by buying food from larger area food banks at deeply discounted prices. While you may pay 80 cents for a can

of corn, food pantries can buy several cans for the same money. So money is always welcome.

In La Vernia, the responsibility for the local pantry is shared by area churches. The parishioners not only take turns running the La Vernia Food Pantry, but also have taken on the responsibility to donate specific "food groups" on a regular basis to help keep shelves full.

According to Odell Zarsky, food pantry coordinator for St. Anne Catholic Church, their yearly fund drive is another critical element in the success of their pantry. The funds not only allow them to take advantage of volume food bank purchases, but also help fill the gap when canned donations are low or specific items are needed.

As for the type of canned goods most

needed? Protein. This includes peanut butter, canned meats like tuna and chicken, canned stews, chili with beans, peas, and beans in general — canned and dried. Canned fruits and vegetables are always needed, too, along with prepared box mixes like macaroni and cheese.

Here's something else to keep in mind: donations usually drop during the summer, but the community's need doesn't. So it's important to help out food pantries all year long.

If you'd like to be a part of this season's food drive, donate directly to your area pantry or join GVEC as we collect for CAMAL House in Cuero, Christian Cupboard in Seguin, Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministries (GCAM), La Vernia Food Pantry and Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program (RACAP).



Thank you volunteers! Whether it's picking up highway litter, helping to build or repair homes for those who can't, or sharing the holidays with a soldier, thanks for caring for your GVEC neighbors. Above, GVEC employees spent a day in Marion cooking and serving meals at the "Homes for Our Troops" key ceremony.

GVEC Food Drive Begins

Our annual holiday food drive begins November 28 and runs through December 15. Each GVEC office is collecting canned goods, nonperishable food items and checks for local food pantries throughout our service area. Help us surpass the 3,500 items collected in 2010 and feed our communities!



All GVEC Offices will be closed on November 11, 2011 for Veterans Day, and on November 24-25, 2011, for Thanksgiving. Have a safe and happy holiday!

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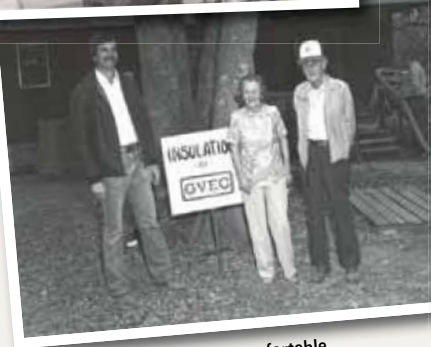
Your Cooperative



Helping to improve quality of life



Setting an example for the next generation



Making homes more comfortable



Taking time for family

Do your children — adult or otherwise — know what an electric cooperative is?

Although it's only been a little more than 70 years since the first electric lines were installed in the GVEC service territory, memories about what life was like before electricity are fading.

Newer generations may not realize what the Cooperative meant to their grandparents and great grandparents or how it can help them today. They may be surprised if they knew that as members, they're owners in one of the most important industries in the world.

You can't tell one electron from another, so naturally most people think

electric companies are all the same. But the difference comes in how they do business.

To begin with, cooperatives are not-for-profit entities. Unlike utilities owned by investors, cooperatives are owned by and accountable to the members they serve. They are dedicated to keeping the lights on while helping their member communities thrive. Operating by cooperative principles, they focus on people, not profits.

In addition, members, as owners, have a voice in co-op business through the democratic election process. And they know electric bills won't be inflated because rates are set to cover the cost of doing business, not earn profits for unknown investors. When revenues exceed costs, those excess funds

are allocated for paying down debt, investing into future projects, and at the discretion of the Board of Directors, are returned to co-op members in the form of capital credits.

So even though time has passed, our original cooperative traditions and values remain. From rural Goliad to the suburban areas of Schertz, every member-owner is part of this special form of business that operates for and by its neighbors.

Take a little time to learn where GVEC came from and where we're going. Odds are, we've been serving your family for years and it's only fitting that tradition carries on for generations to come! To learn more about our history, GVEC programs and services, efficiency, and safety tips, visit www.gvec.org.

Remember When? Start the Co-op Conversation!



Thank You for Your Service: New Patriotic Plaza to Honor Veterans

If you're looking for a lasting way to honor a veteran from any branch of service, you may be interested in the Veterans Plaza Memorial — a patriotic project underway in Schertz. Commemorative bricks dedicated to veterans, past and present, are being sold as part of a fundraising effort. Funds to build the plaza will be from private donations only.

"We have so many citizens living in our area who are serving or have served in the military. To honor them and let them know we appreciate their service, we want to create an area for honoring ceremonies on military holidays and other special occasions," says longtime Schertz resident and Veterans Plaza Board Chair, Ruth Tienor.

"We want this project to be worldwide

in appeal by allowing anyone from any state, who has served for at least two years, the opportunity to leave a piece of their memory here. By purchasing a brick, they can let people know they were here."

The city donated the land which is across from the Knights of Columbus Hall on Schertz Parkway. The groundbreaking is planned for next spring.

Fundraising is in partnership with VFW Post No. 8315. For more information about the plaza project or to donate, visit: <http://veteransplaza.org>. Brick paver donation forms are also available at the Schertz Library, Schertz Bank and Trust and Jim Wolverson's office in the Guadalupe County Building.



The plaza will be pentagon-shaped with a monument at each corner representing the five military branches. Three flagpoles — one each for the U.S., Texas and POW/MIA flags — will be at the center along with a bronze statue of a young boy saluting a bronze Battle Cross statue. The boy represents the future generation that will "always remember".



Looking for tips on saving energy at home?
Wondering about major power outages?

Find this and more when you follow GVEC on Facebook and Twitter. Plug into GVEC news, major outage updates, energy and safety tips, and recipes. Now we're talking!



plug | be
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Decking the Halls? Take Time for Safety



If decking your halls in holiday glory is on your list, make sure any shortcuts taken won't compromise your family's safety.

GVEC reminds you that taking a few extra minutes to inspect and handle electrical decorations properly will save you time and give you peace of mind in the long run. It can help prevent an emergency room visit, home fire, or much worse.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Always connect light strings to your extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- The green UL (Underwriters Lab) Mark on light strings and extension cords means they're for indoor use only. A red UL Mark means they can be used inside and out. (This logo indicates products have been tested and conform to safety standards by a recognized testing laboratory.)
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. A person touching a branch could be electrocuted if the tree becomes charged from faulty lights.
- Plug outdoor decorations into outlets protected by Ground Fault

Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shock. If your home doesn't have GFCIs, you can purchase portable outdoor ones.

- Make sure extension cords and automatic timers are rated for your intended use, for example, indoor or outdoor use and wattage.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses. Make sure the bulb is the correct wattage to prevent overheating.
- Don't overburden your electrical system by running clothes dryers, space heaters and other high-energy appliances at the same time. Remember: flickering lights, tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are warning signs that your home's electrical outlets may be overloaded.
- Make sure smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are working. If you don't have any, now's the time to buy them. Refresh detector batteries and practice your home escape plan.

Remember, electricity can be hazardous so it's important you yield to its power.

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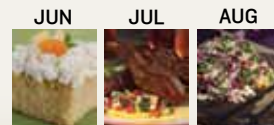
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2012 Recipe Calendars Are Here!
Pick up your copy at any GVEC office.



There are a number of ways to light up a community.

Electricity is just one of them.

As your cooperative, we're committed to providing the affordable, reliable electricity you expect. But we also believe in the power of community and the importance of giving back. That's why you'll find us helping to save lives through blood donations and feeding the hungry with food drives, teaching our children about electrical safety, and walking with neighbors to raise money for a cause. For us, lighting up communities isn't just about electricity. It's about lighting up lives, too.

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Member Recipes

Hillis Bass, Schertz

Czechoslovakian Cabbage Soup

3 pounds boneless arm roast
1 cup onion, chopped
½ cup celery, chopped
6 carrots, sliced thin
½ teaspoon paprika
3 quarts water
14 beef bouillon cubes
1 medium cabbage, shredded
2 cans (large) tomatoes
Salt to taste
½ teaspoon Tabasco sauce
¼ cup parsley
3 tablespoons lemon juice
5 tablespoons sugar
1 can sauerkraut, rinsed and drained

Roast meat, onion, celery, carrots and paprika at 450 degrees for 20 minutes until brown. Then put roast in a large kettle; add water, bouillon cubes, cabbage, tomatoes, salt and Tabasco. Bring to boil. Cover and simmer for 1-½ hours. Add parsley, lemon, sugar, and sauerkraut; cook for 1 hour longer. Serves 10-12

Denise Leverich, Schertz

Chocolate Pistachio Cake

1 box yellow cake mix
1 box instant pistachio pudding mix
4 eggs
½ cup orange juice
½ cup water
½ cup oil
¾ cup chocolate syrup
Powdered sugar or favorite icing

Mix together yellow cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, orange juice, water and oil. Pour ¾ of the mixture into a greased Bundt or tube pan. Mix chocolate syrup in remaining batter. Pour over batter in Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Let cool. Then top with powdered sugar or drizzle with your favorite icing.

Get Your Recipes in
THE GVEC REVIEW!
EMAIL THEM TO info@gvec.org

Community Calendar

New Braunfels

Wurstfest

November 4-13, 2011

Polka anyone? Dance to nonstop oompah music, sample German and Texas treats, and soak up German heritage at this 10-day festival on the Wurstfest grounds at Landa Park. Admission. Hours vary; for info, call 800-221-4369 or visit www.wurstfest.com.

Goliad

Market Days

November 12, 2011

Get a head start on holiday shopping at this combination arts and crafts fair, farmers market and festival. You'll find antiques, collectibles, furniture, jewelry and more. Visit stores and restaurants around the Square, too. From 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in downtown Goliad, 127 N. Courthouse Square. For info, call 361-645-3563 or visit www.goliadcc.org.

Shiner

Home for the Holidays Homes Tour

November 13, 2011

'Tis the season for tradition, and what better way to set the mood than touring Shiner's historic homes and buildings? Sponsored by Historic Old Town Shiner, you can purchase/pick up tickets at the Ehlers Cigar Factory in Shiner. Tour is from noon-5 p.m. Advance tickets-\$10; day-of-tour tickets-\$12. For info, visit www.shiner-oldtown.org or call 361-594-3999.

Cuero

Christmas in the Park

November 21, 2011-January 1, 2012

Drive through a magical winter wonderland filled with over 120 lighted and animated Christmas scenes! Favorites include the 17-piece nativity, 85-foot paddlewheel boat and Old Man Winter making snowflakes. Open from 6 -10 p.m. nightly in Cuero Municipal Park, U.S. Hwy 87 South (Broadway). For info, visit www.christmasincuero.org.

All dates, times and events are subject to change without notice.

We welcome your input and questions!

Recipes, photos, stories about you, your family, and communities! Always feel free to contact us with information for the *GVEC Review* or any questions you may have for us. Email info@gvec.org, write to us at P.O. Box 118, Gonzales, TX 78629, or phone us at 1.800.223.4832.

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