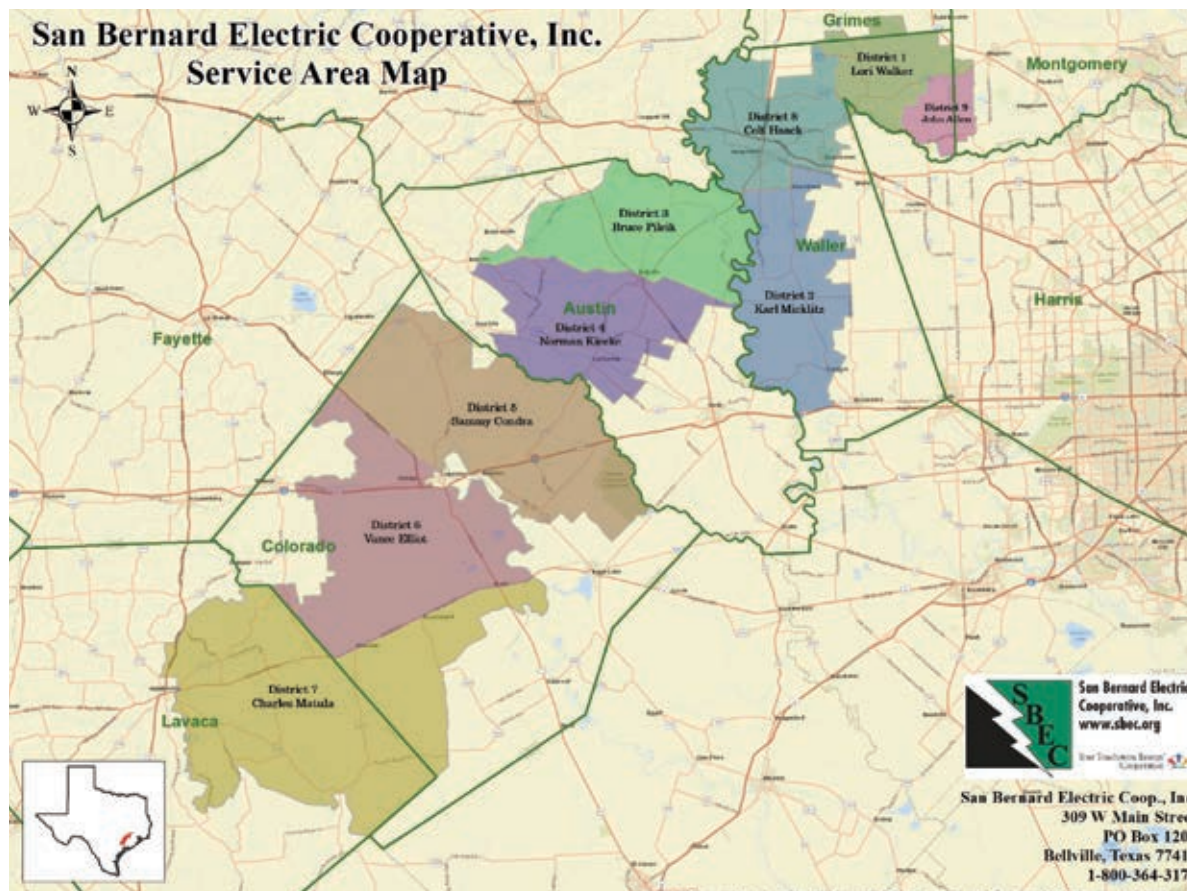


SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**

Austin County Expo Center, Bellville



**BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD AND PRIZE TICKET WITH YOU.**

SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Saturday, May 18, 2019 • Austin County Expo Center, Bellville**

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. • Door prizes and election of directors

**BRING THIS CARD WITH YOU TO THE MEETING—IT'S YOUR PRIZE TICKET!**

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Bellville

To All Members:

Pursuant to the bylaws of San Bernard Electric Cooperative, the annual membership meeting will be held at the Austin County Fair and Expo Center, Highway 159 E., Bellville, Texas, on Saturday, May 18, 2019, to take action on the following:

1. Reports of directors, officers and committees.
2. Election of three directors. In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following named members have been nominated by a committee on nominations appointed by the SBEC Board of Directors, pursuant to the bylaws:

## **BOARD DISTRICT 2**

**Karl Micklitz**

P.O. Box 366, Brookshire 77423

## **BOARD DISTRICT 4**

**Norman Kiecke**

1035 E. Hacienda, Bellville 77418

## **BOARD DISTRICT 6**

**Vance Elliott**

2251 Highway 90, Weimar 78962

3. Hear comments and questions.

Every member is urged to attend the annual membership meeting.

Respectfully,

**CHARLES MATULA**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

*San Bernard Electric Cooperative*

*Dated this 21st day of March 2019*

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## ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Saturday, May 18, 2019 • Austin County Expo Center, Bellville

**REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS . . . 8:30 a.m.**

Registration closes at 10 a.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING . . . . . 10 a.m.**

Call to Order

Invocation

Reading of Notice of Meeting

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Reports of Officers

Questions and Answers

Drawing for Attendance Prizes

**BARBECUE MEAL . . . . . 11:30 a.m.**

*One free ticket per member; additional tickets may be purchased.*

**SEE PAGES 18-19 INSIDE FOR MORE ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION.**

## 2019 NOMINEES FOR SBEC BOARD



### BOARD DISTRICT 2

**KARL MICKLITZ** is a retired state judge. Since 1970, he has lived in the Pattison area, where he is a member of the Pattison Area Volunteer Fire Department. He has been a director of San Bernard Electric Cooperative since 1980.

After graduating from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University) in 1960, he attended and graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1965. He also served 30 years in the Army and the Texas National Guard, retiring with the rank of colonel in 1990. Micklitz, who was a paratrooper, is also a licensed pilot but does not fly anymore.

He has four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He attends Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Bellville.



### BOARD DISTRICT 4

**NORMAN KIECKE** is a lifelong resident of Bellville and is no stranger to the business world. He graduated from Bellville High School in 1977 before he went on to earn his bachelor's in business administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Kiecke has worked in the insurance industry and was president of Anco Insurance in Bryan-College Station before purchasing Tesco Industries in Bellville in 1999. He currently is the CEO of DLN Holdings, which owns Tesco Industries and R&M Forge and Fittings in Houston.

Kiecke enjoys the outdoors when he is not in the office. Some of his favorite activities include biking, hiking, hunting and fishing. He also can be found on weekends playing guitar and singing with the Bellville United Methodist Church's praise band or with popular Austin County band Red Bulls in local venues.

He and his wife of 36 years, Darcy Shultz, have three children and one granddaughter.



### BOARD DISTRICT 6

**VANCE R. ELLIOTT** was raised in Dayton, a rural rice farming community in southeast Texas. He grew up showing animals for FFA, shining boots and shoes at the local barber shop, and working in a feed store and in every aspect of rice farming. Elliott has been an insurance agency owner since 1988, working for the past 10 years out of Columbus.

He and his wife, Heather, have three adult children. Elliott obtained an associate degree in criminal justice while serving three years with the U.S. Army Military Police, and earned a Bachelor of Science in law enforcement and police science from Sam Houston State University.

Prior to going into the insurance business, Elliott was employee safety and security manager for the *Houston Chronicle* for five years. During his tenure as an insurance agency owner, he also served 10 years as a justice of the peace in Kerr County. To be closer to his parents and children, Elliott moved to Columbus in 2008 and has served as president of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Lions Club. Outside of the office, Elliott enjoys spending time with his wife, kayaking and zip lining. They also enjoy live music at places like the Kenney Store, Gruene Hall, Austin City Limits and other music venues.



## AT THE 79TH ANNUAL MEETING, BE SURE TO STOP BY THESE BOOTHS:

- **Member Service:** Visit with our member service representatives about programs SBEC offers to help our members reduce their energy consumption and about rebates for energy-efficient homes.
- **Engineering and Safety:** Be sure to stop by and visit Hazard Hamlet and the gang to learn more about electrical safety. While you are visiting the booth, register the kids for the safety drawing and they could win a new fishing pole, outdoor play equipment and even a bike!

**We look forward to seeing our members at this year's annual meeting!**

## OPERATING STATEMENT

As of December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2017

	2018	2017
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Sales of Electric Power	\$77,924,479	\$72,261,703
Other Electric Revenue	4,348,457	7,413,768
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$82,272,936</b>	<b>\$79,675,471</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Purchased Power	\$52,436,879	\$50,431,601
Operations and Maintenance	8,755,115	9,066,734
Administrative and General	6,093,467	5,955,215
Depreciation	7,501,261	7,249,266
Taxes	356,662	308,566
Interest	4,084,107	3,739,974
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$79,227,491</b>	<b>\$76,751,356</b>
<b>MARGINS</b>		
Operating Margins	\$ 3,045,445	\$ 2,924,115
Nonoperating Margins	602,011	552,203
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 3,647,456</b>	<b>\$ 3,476,318</b>

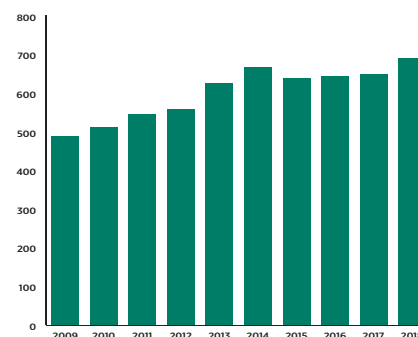
## BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2018, and December 31, 2017

	2018	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Net Utility	\$178,268,026	\$169,171,771
Investments	4,535,927	4,373,937
Cash	1,637,364	1,021,925
Notes and Accounts Receivable	4,328,088	3,906,826
Materials and Supplies	3,883,819	3,667,671
Other Current and Accrued Assets	3,397,476	2,090,208
Deferred Charges	9,049,410	10,028,560
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$205,100,110</b>	<b>\$194,260,898</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Memberships	\$ 59,335	\$ 61,615
Patronage Capital and Margins	86,812,618	84,058,844
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 86,871,953</b>	<b>\$ 84,120,459</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Long-Term Debt	\$104,943,612	\$ 97,921,245
Accounts Payable	6,217,289	5,802,732
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	5,180,574	4,601,327
Deferred Credits	1,886,682	1,815,135
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$118,228,157</b>	<b>\$110,140,439</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$205,100,110</b>	<b>\$194,260,898</b>

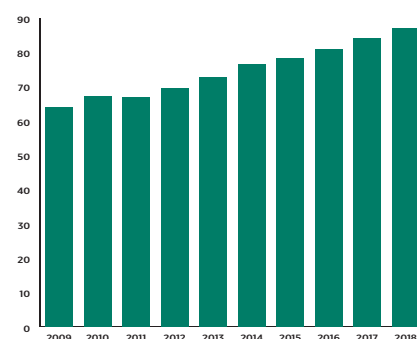
## KILOWATT-HOUR SALES

(Millions, Past 10 Years)



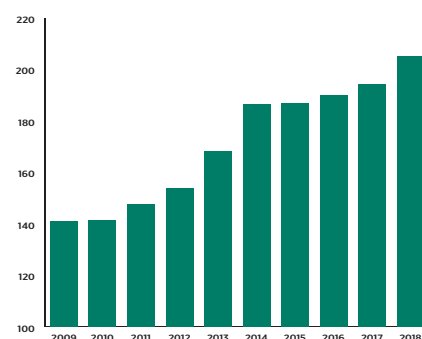
## EQUITY

(Millions of Dollars, Past 10 Years)



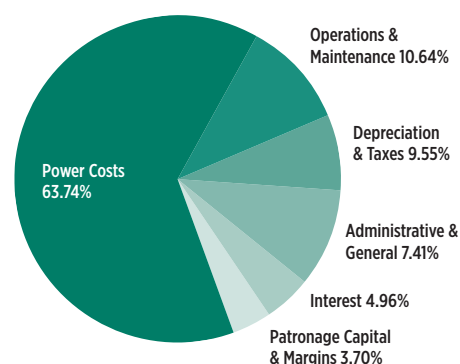
## ASSETS

(Millions of Dollars, Past 10 Years)



## USES OF REVENUE

2018 Revenue Allocation





# Plan To Attend Your Annual Meeting



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER BILLY MARRICLE

**OK, FOLKS, THIS WILL BE MY LAST REMINDER** to you about your upcoming San Bernard Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 18. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. and closes promptly at 10 a.m.

I hope you will join us for a presentation of last year's financials, updates on ongoing projects and a look into some new load developments. We also will discuss a new way for members to communicate with us. And most importantly, the agenda includes the selection or reaffirmation of three members of your board of directors.

We will have booths set up to showcase many aspects of the cooperative, and a few of these booths will have separate prize drawings. Yes, I said separate drawings—because these are in

addition to the numerous prizes that, as a registered SBEC member in attendance, you will have a chance to win.

And let's not forget about a great barbecue meal that will be catered this year by Austin's of Eagle Lake. Each registered membership will receive one free meal ticket, and we will have additional tickets available for purchase.

If you have never joined us for the annual meeting in the past, why not check it out this year? We have a full house at the Austin County Fairgrounds year after year, but there's always room for more. I'm pretty certain that if you decide to make this year your first year to attend, you will not be disappointed. But don't take my word for it—come see for yourself May 18 at the Austin County Fairgrounds.

Until next time, take care.





SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

## SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THE AUSTIN COUNTY EXPO CENTER  
HIGHWAY 159 E., BELLVILLE 77418**

**8:30 a.m. Registration of members**

**10 a.m. Registration ends**

**10 a.m. Business meeting**

**Barbecue meal to follow**

**We look forward to seeing you at the  
SBEC Annual Membership Meeting!**

**This issue of *Texas Co-op Power* has a special dust cover that will serve as your registration card and door prize ticket.** We used the same card registration last year, and it helped alleviate long registration lines. Please take a moment to separate the card located at the bottom of the front cover. Or, if you are not sure which part to cut out, just bring the whole magazine to the annual meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call any of our offices. Our customer service representatives are always happy to help you!



## San Bernard Electric Cooperative

### **PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER**

Billy Marricle

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bruce Pilcik, Chairman, *District 3*

Sammy Condra, 1st Vice Chairman, *District 5*

Karl N. Micklitz, 2nd Vice Chairman, *District 2*

Colt Haack, 3rd Vice Chairman, *District 8*

Charles Matula, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 7*

Lori Walker, *District 1*

Norman Kiecke, Assistant Secretary-

Treasurer, *District 4*

Vance Elliott, *District 6*

John Allen, *District 9*

## Contact Us

### **HEADQUARTERS—BELLVILLE**

**(979) 865-3171**

**1-800-364-3171**

309 W. Main St. • P.O. Box 1208  
Bellville 77418

### **COLUMBUS SERVICE CENTER**

**(979) 732-8346**

4285 Highway 71 S. • P.O. Box 309  
Columbus 78934

### **FIELDSTORE SERVICE CENTER**

**(936) 372-9176** or

**(936) 372-9177**

29244 FM 1488 • P.O. Box 1367  
Magnolia 77353

### **HALLETTSVILLE SERVICE CENTER**

**(361) 798-4493**

1686 U.S. Highway 90A East • P.O. Box 610  
Hallettsville 77964

### **PAY BY PHONE**

**1-844-201-7199**

### **FIND US ON THE WEB**

**sbec.org**

**facebook.com/sbecoop**







Fayette and San Bernard ECs and the city of Bellville sponsored the PowerHouse Energy Investigation Program for Bellville's sixth-grade science students. The PowerHouse program shows students how their actions affect the environment, natural resources and their household budget. Front row, from left: Kennedy Watson, Keifer Snell, Nicolas Carlile, Jack Herbrig and Kaitlynn Duncan. Middle row, from left, Landon Grafe, Gracie Hajek, Sydney Triplett, Kenya Enriquez, Samantha Marik and Garrett Morris. Back row, from left, John Spiess, SBEC member services supervisor; Marleeann Posey; Skylar Ordner; Gracie Johnson; Taylor Eckelberg; Jaylen Tesch; Sydney McKay; Eric Shao; and Catherine Poppe, FEC marketing and training coordinator.

## Bellville Students Learn Smart Energy Choices Through PowerHouse Program

**NOW IN ITS 20TH YEAR, THE POWERHOUSE ENERGY INVESTIGATION** Program continues to challenge students to discover simple ways to conserve energy and save on their families' utility bills. Developed by the Lower Colorado River Authority, the program is sponsored by Fayette Electric Cooperative, San Bernard Electric Cooperative and the city of Bellville for sixth-grade students at Bellville Junior High School.

As part of the program, students entered data about their personal habits into online software that shows them how their actions impact the environment and our natural resources. They then received a report with practical solutions they can use and share with their families to save money on their monthly utility bills while simultaneously helping the environment.

During an interactive presentation, the 192 students in classes taught by Sharon Schroeder and Amberly Howard discovered that LED lights consume 80–90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last much longer. They

also learned that a programmable thermostat can be one of the most effective investments for their homes. Both of these devices can lead to savings on their families' utility bills.

"I learned that LEDs can help me save hundreds of dollars and may last 30–40 years," Nicolas Carlile said.

"The students love the PowerHouse program," Schroeder said. "It brings real-life experiences into the classroom that they can relate to. This is a program we look forward to each school year."

For the co-ops that sponsor the program, it's yet another way to show their dedication to the principles that guide all cooperatives.

"The fifth cooperative principle is 'Education, Training and Information'. The sponsors share a vested interest in the education of students in schools located in or near their service territories," said Catherine Poppe, FEC marketing and training coordinator. "This program demonstrates that this principle is being fulfilled in the schools where the PowerHouse energy investigation program is presented."

# Why Electricity Is Dangerous

**HAVE YOU EVER WALKED ACROSS CARPET AND RECEIVED A** shock when you touched a doorknob or another person? What you felt was a buildup of static electricity.

But a real electric shock is a lot more painful and can be deadly. Here's what can happen:

- ▶ Muscles tighten up, making it almost impossible to pull away from the circuit.
- ▶ Lungs constrict, making it hard to breathe.
- ▶ Heartbeat is interrupted and blood vessels narrow.
- ▶ Burns and internal organ damage occur.
- ▶ Death may follow.

It sounds scary—and it is—but if you remember some simple safety rules, you can use electricity without getting hurt.

## Humans Are Good Conductors

The human body is a good conductor of electricity. That means electricity flows easily through our bodies. Why? Because electricity moves quickly through water—and the human body is 70 percent water.

Another fact to remember is that electricity always tries to

find the easiest path to the ground—so don't get in its way. Maintain safe distances from electric lines at all times. Avoid using ladders, poles or other tools in situations where they may come into contact with overhead lines. Contact your electric cooperative if you need to work near power lines.

## Accidents Happen Quickly

You might think that if you get shocked, you can pull away quickly and not get hurt. Electricity travels at nearly the speed of light, 186,000 miles per second, so the effects of electricity can be felt immediately. A person has almost no chance of avoiding the shock.

If the electricity is strong enough, muscles tighten so much that a person can't let go.

Anyone who touches someone who is being shocked can become part of the circuit, too. That's why you should never grab anyone who's been shocked. If an electrical accident happens, turn off or unplug the circuit if it's safe to do so; call 911 and tell the operator that someone has been involved in an electrical accident; and keep others away until trained help arrives.



TACKLE | ISTOCK.COM

## ELECTRICITY SAFETY RULES

1. **Look up and look out for power lines** before you raise a ladder, climb onto a roof or climb a tree. Stay at least 35 feet away from overhead power lines.
2. **Don't ever play or work on or near** a green transformer box or climb the fence around an electrical substation.
3. **Keep electrical equipment away from water.** Most electrical accidents around the house happen when people use electricity near water.
4. **Don't plug a bunch of devices** into one outlet or extension cord. It could damage the electrical system in your house or even cause a fire.
5. **Make sure all electrical cords** are tucked out of the way to avoid a tripping hazard and to keep pets or small children away from them.
6. **Don't yank an electrical cord** from the wall. Instead, pull from the plug. Pulling on a cord can damage the appliance, the plug or the outlet.
7. **Don't fly drones or kites** near power lines or substations. A kite and its string may conduct electricity—sending it right through you to the ground.
8. **Install tamper-resistant receptacles.** Not only will it help keep kids safe, but covering outlets will also help save energy by stopping cold drafts.
9. **Make sure all electric appliances and tools** are in good repair.
10. **Don't use extension cords** for long-term electrical needs. They are intended for temporary use only.





# Flame Lives On at Edmonds Fire Museum

BY LARI SAMFORD

**THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT MAKE LIVING IN CO-OP COUNTRY** special. Among those are the neighbors we meet along the way.

Awhile back, I had the pleasure of meeting one of those neighbors, San Bernard Electric Cooperative member Butch Edmonds, who gave me a tour of his collection of firefighter memorabilia. Edmonds, a retired fifth-generation firefighter, has been collecting firetrucks and fire service equipment for most of his life, and since his retirement from the Houston Fire Department, collecting has become his focus.

In 2008, Edmonds and his wife, Mary, moved out to Waller, where he opened the small Edmonds Fire Museum, which has since grown to 6,000 square feet. There is no space wasted in this museum, which houses many vintage firetrucks from across Texas and the world.

When I visited the museum, I was honored to tag along for a tour that Edmonds and his wife gave to one of his former fellow firefighters, a man named Ray Stanford. The visit would not have been the same had I not heard the memories shared between these old friends and the joy and passion each had in serving the public.

We began our journey in the main part of the garage, where Edmonds displays firetrucks that he restored with a friend named Abel. Edmonds is known for these vintage firetrucks,

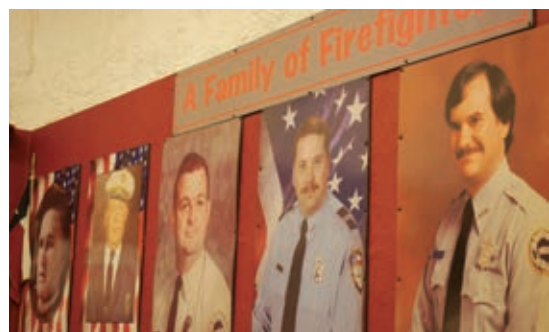
which he showcases in local parades in and around the Waller County area. After their parade outings, he repolishes the trucks and parks them in this three-bay garage that also houses historical firefighting artifacts.

Among his collection is a vintage firetruck from Houston Fire Department 33, where he and Stanford worked together. The collection also includes restored trucks from Waco and Louisiana and even a station wagon from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Houston Fire Department.

"The station wagon was run by mostly wives of the firefighters," Edmonds said. "It has a place for a coffee pot and a water jug and benches in the back for the ladies to sit as they rode on the way to a fire scene. There are only 50 of these vehicles made like this."

One wall of the museum serves as a memorial to fallen firefighters of the Houston area. Edmonds makes sure each firefighter is honored in a respectful manner that befits the sacrifices they made in serving the public. Among those honored in the museum is Sealy firefighter Kevin Kulow, who passed away fighting a fire in 2004.

Edmonds' connection to the firefighting world stretches back generations, and the legacy has even carried on to his sons. He proudly displays pictures of his father, uncle and sons





on his wall to show that his family is at the heart of his collection. A wall presenting various coats from his family shows a brief history and progression of firefighting uniforms.

There is not a blank space in the 6,000 square feet of the museum, yet Edmonds continues to work on restoration projects almost every day and is constantly rearranging his collection to make room for those one-of-a-kind pieces he finds in his many travels across the U.S. with his wife.

"It was mostly pulled by women," Edmonds explained as he pointed to a hose reel in his collection. "It would have the fire hose on it and a nozzle. When they got word there was a fire, the women would take it to the scene. This was an important job because small towns like this used to only have one firetruck. That one firetruck would get to the scene, and they could easily lay the line and not delay time."

Some of Edmonds' pieces come from retired and deceased firefighters.

"Here is the helmet from retired Houston Fire Chief C.R. 'Jake' Cook," Edmonds said, pointing to the helmet. "His wife gave me his helmet and every picture he had while he was in the Houston Fire Department. He was given the helmet as a joke



from his peers and he wore it all the time," he said, laughing.

A couple unusual items in the collection are what Edmonds calls "these two air pumps." The pumps were used to supply air to firefighters while fighting fires in the 18th century.

"If they thought the building was going to collapse, they would use an accessory to start the siren to warn the firefighters," Edmonds said before blowing the horn on the air pump.

This museum tour was unlike any other. Every piece in the museum came alive as we walked around with Edmonds. He has a story about every item and took his time to tell its history and how it became a personal treasure in his museum.

Edmonds couldn't help but spend his entire life as a collector. "I started collecting before I had stuff from my dad," he said. "Everything means so much to me. I don't like to throw anything away, and they all are a part of history."

The Edmonds Fire Museum is in the Waller area off Highway 290, and the family welcomes visitors, school groups and anyone who wants to take a tour. Call Edmonds at (832) 270-1630 if you would like to plan a visit to this truly one-of-a-kind museum.



# TRADING POST



## FOR SALE

**VARIOUS**—14' cargo trailer converted into a camper, back opens as a hatch for BBQs or hanging out, has wraparound couch that turns into a bed, 2 sinks, refrigerator w/ freezer, shower, toilet, on-demand water heater, new tires, built-in microwave, roof-mounted A/C, lots of cabinets, wired for 110 V, 30 A. 1986 Honda Rebel motorcycle, runs well, carb recently rebuilt, great beginner motorcycle. 2006 Johnson saltwater long-shaft boat motor, very low hours. 14' weld craft flat-bottom Jon boat w/ galv. Trailer, needs some repairs. Call (979) 732-1910.

**VARIOUS**—32-by-44-inch doghouse; 14' tandem wheel torque trailer; 16" scroll saw. Call (979) 357-4801.

**TRUCK AND TRUCK BEDS**—1988 Ford pickup, 4-speed OD, 6-cylinder parts; '60s Chevy truck bed trailer, \$100; '70s Ford truck bed trailer, \$100. Call (979) 877-7257.

**VARIOUS**—Leaf blower, handsaw, vacuum, 5-drawer oak chest (like new). Come see anything you want, 2 miles north of I-10. Call (979) 732-2041.

**2003 NEW HOLLAND DISCBINE**—NH1431 center-pivot Discbine, \$11,500. Call (979) 277-2016.

**RIDING LAWMOWER**—2012 Cub Cadet Hydrostatic Riding Lawnmower, model number LTX1046KW, 46" cut, Kawasaki 21.5 hp V-Twin motor, \$700. Call (979) 992-3783.

**WATERFRONT LOT**—1.38 acres, Matagorda Bay, Waypoint Landing, Palacios, Texas, dock access, underground utilities, paved roads, mobile home not permitted, \$98,500 with owner financing. Call (713) 301-1350.

**TAXIDERM**—Corsican ram trophy in excellent condition; this shoulder mount will complete any collection for the weekend warrior, \$200 OBO. Axis buck shoulder mount with pelt for decorative purposes, \$200 OBO. Call (281) 350-1664.

**COLLECTOR COINS**—Roll of 1900s decade Indian head pennies. Also, roll of steel wheat pennies. Call (979) 877-7257.

**BRAHMA BULLS**—2-year-old Brahma bull and 1.5-year-old Brahma bull for sale. Call (979) 992-3860.

**VARIOUS**—5-ft. shredder, \$200; electric hedge trimmer; 12-ft. stepladder; 20-cubic-foot upright freezer, \$25; used treadmill for free. Call (936) 581-3115.

## WANTED

**UTILITY VEHICLES**—John Deere Gator or Kawasaki Mule needing repair or for parts. Call or text (832) 797-5267.

## SERVICES

**FREE WILD HOG REMOVAL**—Use dogs, well-experienced, willing to travel. Call (832) 715-1130.

## ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBEC members are invited to submit ads for the Trading Post to P.O. Box 1208, Bellville, TX 77418 or lsamford@sbec.org. **However, no commercial business ads will be accepted.** Ads are placed on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to refuse any ad. Please submit your ad by the **20th** of each month. (If you submit an ad by May 20, it will appear in the July issue). Your ad will be published in two consecutive issues, then deleted. If you want the ad to run another two months, you must resubmit the ad. **The ad will not exceed four consecutive months.**





PIE PHOTO | ISTOCK.COM

# Mark Your Calendar for Savings

*Take advantage of the Memorial Day weekend tax-free holiday*

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO MAKE SOME ENERGY-EFFICIENT OR WATER-CONSCIOUS UPGRADES** to your home, this is a great month to take the plunge. Texas holds its co-occurring Energy Star and water-efficient products sales tax holidays annually over Memorial Day weekend. This year, the sales tax reprieve will be in effect from Saturday, May 25, through midnight Monday, May 27. There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can buy, and no exemption certificate is required to buy items tax-free.

Any product that displays a WaterSense label is eligible to be purchased free of sales tax, whether its planned use is for personal or business purposes. Labeled items include faucets, showerheads and toilets. Certain other water-conserving products are also tax-free during the holiday weekend but only when bought for use at your residential property. These items include soaker and drip-irrigation hoses, moisture controls for sprinkler and irrigation systems, mulch, rain barrels, plants, soil and compost.

The Energy Star-labeled products that qualify for tax exemption include air conditioners (priced \$6,000 or less), refrigerators (priced \$2,000 or less), ceiling fans, lightbulbs, clothes washers, dishwashers and dehumidifiers.

Bear in mind that some Energy Star-labeled products do not qualify and are still taxable during the holiday, including water heaters, clothes dryers, freezers and stoves. Also, be aware that air conditioners and refrigerators purchased for prices higher than the allowable amounts will be taxed in full. The same caveat applies to delivery charges that increase an item's total price beyond the cap. For example, if an Energy Star refrigerator costs \$1,995 but has a \$50 delivery charge, tax will be due on the total \$2,045 amount.

For more information on how to take advantage of this year's tax holiday, visit [comptroller.texas.gov](http://comptroller.texas.gov).



**GO BEYOND  
THE CARD.**

**Our free app helps you save  
money locally, online or  
wherever you may roam.**



**San Bernard  
Electric Co-op**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Co-op Connections®  
app today!**

