



Sarah Beal photos

Unless otherwise noted, those pictured are with the McMahan Community Women's Club. From left: Sherry Gonzales, Manny Gonzales, Milton Shaw (Bluebonnet Board member), Annette Wells, Jean Williams, Darlene Jeffrey, Rick Arnic (LCRA), Martha Aiken (holding check), Betty Holfer, Rhonda Gilpatrick, Lori Berger (LCRA Board member), Joyce Buckner (Bluebonnet), Eddie Moses, Sue White, Herb Decker, Nell Berry, Sue Shephard, Tony Martinez and Kimberly Martinez.

## Bluebonnet, LCRA grants improve area communities

Two nonprofit groups in St. John Colony and McMahan were awarded community development grants totaling \$40,292 from Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative and the Lower Colorado River Authority. The money will be used to help build a civic center and make buildings more energy-efficient.

St. John 19th Body, which hosts one of Texas' longest running Juneteenth celebrations and honors historic St. John Colony in Caldwell County, received \$25,000 to help create a community event center. The grant will pay for concrete to be poured in an existing building and to wire it for electricity. The center is on a 7-acre site that also includes a historic church and school.

The McMahan Community Women's Club

received \$15,292 to make the McMahan Community Center's heating and air conditioning system more energy efficient. Other building improvements will include a new porch roof, attic ventilator, insulation, ceiling tiles and a storage closet for the kitchen. The community center in Caldwell County is a meeting place for the women's club, classes, meetings and events.

The grants are part of the LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program, which provides economic development and community assistance grants to cities, counties, volunteer fire departments, regional development councils and other nonprofit organizations in LCRA's electric and water service areas.



Unless otherwise noted, those pictured are with St. John 19th Body. From left: Karen Rankin (LCRA), Eula M. Carter, Gracy Hill, Luerece Hill Tennon, Milton Shaw (Bluebonnet Board member), Doray Hill, Marshall Hill, Teagan Olive (holding toys), James Carter, Jermaine Hill, James Roland, Joyce Buckner (Bluebonnet), Rick Arnic (LCRA), Kyren Olive (striped green shirt), Charles Franks, Johnny Sanders (Bluebonnet), Lori Berger (LCRA Board member), Joyce Bennett and Mary Hill.

### MEMBER SERVICES

## Q&A



**Q:** I've been a Bluebonnet member for a few years now and recall receiving a credit on my bill around this time last year for "capital credits." I love getting money back, but I'd like to know more about how this benefit works.

**A:** "Benefit" is a great way of describing capital credits. One of the benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative like Bluebonnet is that you're also an owner. When the co-op takes in more money than is required to run the business, the excess is returned to its members in the form of capital credits.

Any active member who has bought electricity from Bluebonnet in the past year will receive a credit on his or her May bill, while former members who are owed a capital credit will receive a check in May or June. The amount each member receives depends on how much electricity he or she used in the previous years and how long he or she has been a Bluebonnet member.

The total amount paid out depends on factors such as the impact the amount of money returned to members will have on electric rates and the financial strength of the co-op. Bluebonnet's Board of Directors will weigh those factors before making a decision at this month's meeting. Last year, the board returned \$3 million to members, and in the past six years, members have received more than \$24.9 million in capital credits.

If you have any questions about capital credits, contact a member service representative by emailing [memberservices@bluebonnet.coop](mailto:memberservices@bluebonnet.coop), call 800-842-7708 during business hours or stop by one of our five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart or Manor.

— Nikki Ahlbrandt,  
member service representative