

Lower Colorado River Authority Marks 75th Anniversary February 19

Feb. 19 marks the 75th anniversary of the Lower Colorado River Authority — better known to many people as LCRA.

Born in the Great Depression, LCRA today provides energy, water and community services to more than 1 million people in all or parts of 61 Central and South Texas counties.

"Seventy-five years ago, LCRA opened for business to put the Colorado River to productive work for the people of Texas,"

said LCRA General Manager Tom Mason.

"Through various cycles of floods, droughts and economic expansion and recession, LCRA has been a constant, dependable, and stable servant for this region. We plan to continue to be that reliable, stable source to the people we serve for the next 75 years."

LCRA has launched a special section on its Web site at www.lcra.org that highlights LCRA's 75-year history.

Early attempts to build dams led to the creation of LCRA.

LCRA grew out of a series of attempts by various community and business interests to develop the Colorado River to provide the basin with a reliable water supply against prolonged droughts and protection from catastrophic flooding.

LCRA began developing a third major benefit — electricity for small communities and rural areas in the Central Texas region — with the completion of the first of what would become the chain of Highland Lakes dams.

But the birth of LCRA was a long time in coming.

For nearly a century, private investors and communities struggled to develop dams along the Colorado.

But lack of adequate funds either prevented most dams from being built or forced investors to abandon partially built projects.

The City of Austin twice built a dam in the early 20th century, only to see the structures destroyed or severely damaged by catastrophic floods.

In 1932, the bankruptcy of the Insull utility empire left behind a partially built structure that would eventually become Buchanan Dam, located in the Hill Country upstream of Austin.

The project fell into receivership under Alvin Wirtz, a politically connected attorney and former state senator, who was unable to attract adequate private funding to finish the dam.

By 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" administration was in power.

Wirtz appealed to one New Deal agency, the Public Works Administration (PWA), which was offering funds for large infrastructure projects.

The PWA offered to help — but only if its funds went to a public agency.

Wirtz drafted legislation creating such an agency and had it introduced in the Texas Legislature in 1933.

He modeled the agency after the Tennessee Valley Authority,

a New Deal agency created that year.

But the bill was defeated three times, opposed by a coalition of utility and West Texas water interests.

Only on the fourth try did the bill pass, after Gov. Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson engaged in some political horse-trading to appease the bill's opponents.

The Legislature passed the bill on Nov. 10, 1934, and Gov. Ferguson signed the bill three days later.

But a 90-day delay pushed the bill's effective date to early Feb. the following year.

wholesale electric customers.

LCRA is a leader in providing renewable energy from its original six hydroelectric generating stations along the Highland Lakes and from West Texas wind farms.

A nonprofit corporation created by LCRA provides transmission services to help maintain electric reliability in Texas and increase deliveries of wind energy from West Texas.

• Water: LCRA's chain of Highland Lakes and dams provides a reliable water supply and minimizes the worst effects of floods.

LCRA delivers clean water for

than 40 LCRA parks and recreation areas.

Each year, more than 70,000 people visit one of LCRA's three natural science centers, participating in a variety of programs and activities that promote stewardship of the basin's natural resources.

A Public Safety staff protects billions of dollars of public utility assets, as well as folks who enjoy the Highland Lakes and LCRA parks.

LCRA programs and grants help promote community and economic development.

LCRA employees in 2009 logged more than 6,000 community volunteer hours and contributed more than \$400,000 to local and regional nonprofit organizations.

About LCRA

As a nonprofit agency, LCRA cannot levy taxes or receive tax money but must operate on the revenues it receives for its services.

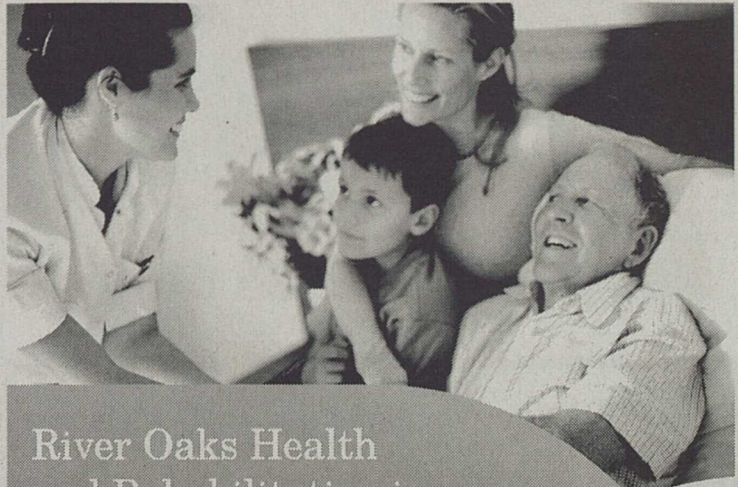
For its current fiscal year, LCRA estimates total revenues of nearly \$1.2 billion, 92 percent of which come from its electric generation and transmission operations.

But LCRA spends 43 percent of those revenues for coal and natural gas for its power plants and to purchase power from other utilities to meet its customers' electric needs.

LCRA is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors appointed by the governor, with the consent of the Texas Senate.

Tom Mason, a 22-year LCRA employee, was appointed general manager in November 2007, LCRA's ninth in its 75-year history.

More than 2,200 regular full-time employees operate the facilities, programs and activities that enable LCRA to provide energy, water and community services to the people of Texas.



River Oaks Health and Rehabilitation is pleased to welcome Hallmark Rehabilitation as the new contract therapy provider at our facility. Hallmark Rehabilitation offers state of the art physical, speech, and occupational therapy services that are customized to meet the needs of geriatric residents.

For admissions, please call:
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300 North Street
Columbus, TX 78934



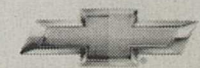
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SPECIAL OF THE WEEK
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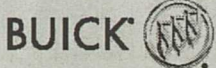


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Rice Medical Center Approves New Billing Policy

Rice Medical Center and Rice Medical Associates in both Eagle Lake and East Bernard recently approved a new collection policy. The policy states that all patient accounts in excess of 120 days that have no insurance payments pending or where arrangements have not been made for payment will be turned over to collection.

Anyone having an older account (over 120 days) and having no other insurance coverage will be allowed a grace period to settle up the balance of their accounts. Private pay patients wishing to take advantage of this opportunity will be given a one-time 50% discount on the balance owed and will have fifteen (15) days from the date this ad appears in the local newspapers at Eagle Lake and East Bernard to make payment arrangements at the hospital or either clinic.

After the fifteen (15) day period, all patients seen at the hospital or either clinic who haven't paid their bill or made payment arrangements within 120 days from the date of service will be turned over to a collection agency.

If you have a past due payment and have questions about it, please contact the business office at the hospital or at either clinic.

Rice Medical Center	234-5571
Rice Medical Associates-EL	234-2551
Rice Medical Associates-EB	335-4433

The hospital is very aware that many people have been affected by the length and severity of our recent recession, and we will do everything possible to work with any patient in making reasonable payment arrangements.

NEWSBRIEFS

Continued from front page

County night at HLS&R is March 12

Colorado County night at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is March 12. The entertainer for that night will be Toby Kieth. Tickets for the show are available from any Go Texan Committee Member. For tickets call Lisa Krenek Ambassador for Colorado County at 979-758-3733. You may also get tickets from Connie Herman at 979-234-3927. If no answer, please leave a message.

RMC golf classic is March 20

The Rice Medical Center (RMC) Classic 13th Annual 4-player golf scramble will be held Saturday, March 20 at Eagle Lake Golf Course. Shot gun starts at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Entry fee \$200 per team, which includes meals and gift. Prizes for 1st - 3rd place teams, closest to hole, longest drive contest and hole in one prize. Proceeds to benefit Rice Medical Foundation and RMC Employee Volunteers for hospital equipment and renovations.

CEC teaches rules to children

On Sundays thru March 21 Christ Episcopal Church (CEC), 401 N. Lake at Stockbridge (the pink church), is offering a series on The Ten Commandments for all children ages 7 through 16. Each Sunday during the first half of the 10 a.m. church service the children will learn one of God's commandments through Scripture, interactive play, drama, crafts, and stories. The first Sunday after Easter the children will give a dramatic presentation in church to share what they have learned. You're invited to bring your children each Sunday, so they can learn about God's rules for life. For more information contact Fr. Ralph Morgan at 234-3437.

Residential sewer averaging

Annual residential sewer rates are determined by water consumption from through March 15. The readings for these three months are averaged and that average will be your sewer charge for the next 12 months, starting April 1, 2010. Customers are encouraged to fix any water leaks as soon as possible and limit water usage (like watering grass or washing cars) in an effort to keep water consumptions at a minimum during this time. Each residential sewer rate is based on the actual water consumed at that particular location. If you have any questions, please call city hall at 234-2640.

LCRA Will Not Curtail Water

Continued from front page

tions from recent rains," said Tom Mason, LCRA General Manager.

"We also are encouraged that the Highland Lakes will receive additional inflows due to the El Niño weather pattern."

LCRA operates the Highland Lakes under a Water Management Plan, which is approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Under this plan curtailment for irrigation customers can occur during times of drought when

water supplies are low.

The lower Colorado basin continues to recover from a severe drought that has lasted since 2008.

Conditions have significantly improved since water supplies dropped to 39 percent full in Sept. 2009.

Water supply lakes were 75 percent full on Feb. 9.

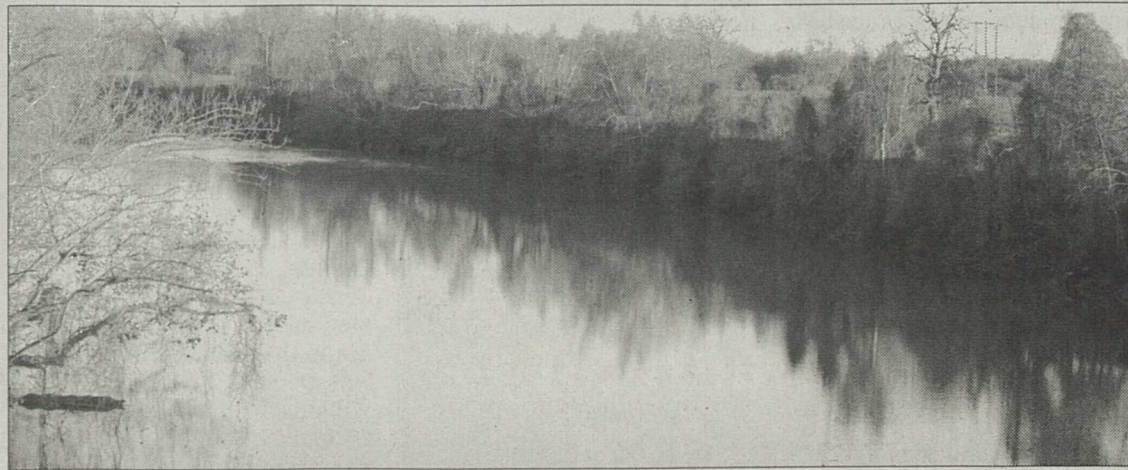
"LCRA began signing contracts last week for water for first

crop" said Kyle Jensen, LCRA water operations manager.

"Now that water will also be provided for second crop, LCRA will begin working with our irrigation customers to develop contracts to include second crop."

Many of LCRA's 350 rice farmers grow two crops of rice.

The growing season for the first crop typically runs from March to Aug., and the growing season for the second crop typically runs from Aug. to Oct.



Rice farmers have depended on the Colorado for years, and LCRA just told them that they will get their water this year, after fears that low lake levels would force curtailment.