

Home Is Where Our Heart Is



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
BILLY
KULWICKI**

The directors and employees at Lamar Electric Cooperative want to see our community succeed. Why? The answer's simple: Because we live here, too.

Local people working for local good. That's the essence of Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community.

First and foremost, we can and do strengthen our community by doing what we do best: provide electricity, reliably and at a reasonable cost. We are a dynamic part of our community. As the area grows, so does our distribution system.

We have strong roots in this community. Lamar Electric has been in business here for 70 years. Part of the benefit of this stability is the assurance that we are not going anywhere. Our business began here, and we would not pull up stakes to pursue greener pastures elsewhere.

By providing jobs and a steady supply of electricity, the co-op helps the local economy stay strong. We pay our employees fair wages because that in turn helps strengthen the economy when they spend that money here. And by offering good jobs, we keep our towns healthy because employees and their families don't have to move away to make a

decent living. The more people we have here paying taxes and contributing to the community, the more vibrant it will be.

The benefits to the community aren't only financial in nature. We open doors for our young people with scholarship programs and the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. We teach children safety through programs in schools and online. We help our members save money by recommending energy-efficiency measures they can adopt.

We also strengthen the community by supporting local charities. We help our members and neighbors in need by sponsoring such programs as the American Cancer Society, the United Way, the Salvation Army, Denver Pyle's Children's Charities and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We also contribute to youth sports programs, academic trusts, Project Graduation and junior livestock shows. We sponsor Newspapers in the Classroom and have electrical safety programs available to our schools. We contribute to over 30 volunteer fire departments in our service territory. We also sponsor county fairs and local festivals.

The co-op is made up of people who care. Our employees go out of their way to better the communities in which they live. They coach youth sports teams, serve on school committees and participate in church activities. They are co-op members like you, and like you they want to make their hometowns stronger.

Remember that when it comes to Lamar Electric Co-op, our local community comes first.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE



Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

**Cooperatives—
Owned by Our Members
Committed to Our Communities**



**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT
WWW.LAMARELECTRIC.COOP**

Going on a 'Duct' Hunt

If your home has a central heating or cooling system, it probably relies on ductwork to carry conditioned air to each room. If this ductwork is not properly sealed, up to 30 percent of the energy you purchase to operate your heating or cooling system could be wasted through duct leaks. Sealing the ducts will reduce this loss.

The best way to measure the airtightness of your home's duct system is by performing a duct-blower test. A duct blower is a portable fan that is used to pressurize the ductwork in your home. It is calibrated to determine the size and location of air leaks, giving guidance to air-sealing technicians on where to concentrate their duct-sealing efforts. A duct-blower test and subsequent air sealing can be performed by either a building performance contractor or by a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor.

Why should duct testing and sealing be a part of your home improvements? Think of your home's ductwork as part of the building shell, working in conjunction with ceilings, walls and floors to keep heat outdoors in summer and indoors in winter. You have probably noticed that even small leaks around your doors and windows cause uncomfortable drafts, perhaps forcing



you to adjust your thermostat to keep your home comfortable. Yet these door and window leaks allow only room-temperature air to escape. Your home's ductwork, on the other hand, carries air that is heated or cooled beyond room temperature. Duct leaks are also pressurized by the system's fan, increasing the rate at which air is lost through even small gaps. This rapid loss of energy-laden air makes duct leaks more costly than similarly sized leaks in ceilings, walls and floors.

To learn more about how duct sealing can improve the comfort and efficiency of your home, visit www.energy.star.gov/ducts.



**LAMAR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

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For general information and outages after hours, call
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1-800-782-9010 toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River,
Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at
www.lamarelectric.coop

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YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Level billing
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LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 3
Love Civic Center in Paris

Business Meeting: 10 a.m.
Barbecue Lunch: 11 a.m.

Play Up Outdoor Electrical Safety to Children



Warm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. Your electric co-op recommends that families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play.

Help keep your kids out of harm's way when they play outdoors. Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Make them aware of overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize that they should never climb or play near them.

We recommend children be taught to follow these rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to a branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas such as a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric cooperative for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment that can be deadly. Never try to rescue

a pet or retrieve a toy that goes inside. Call your co-op instead.

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. Be careful when using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets.

Water always attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix. Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles and wet surfaces.

Spring showers bring more than tempting puddles for kids to splash in, they can also leave behind electric hazards. Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines.

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report to an adult any fallen or dangling wires.

LIGHTEN UP YOUR ROOF TO LIGHTEN UP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL



Roofs are perhaps the most important component of an energy-efficient building. Unfortunately, compared to doors, windows and lighting, roofs are generally much less durable and much less energy efficient.

Over the lifetime of a building, a roof needs to be replaced an average of four times. More than 75 percent of the roofing work in the United States involves reroofing.

Energy-efficient roof technologies are fairly straightforward. Manufacturers have developed lighter-colored shingles and tiles, usually containing a coating of titanium dioxide, that absorb less heat than a typical asphalt shingle and can last twice as long. Since lighter surfaces are easily discolored by fungus, a fungicide coating normally gets added. Many of the new roof coatings are even self-cleaning to retain reflectivity properties and reduce air-conditioning requirements.

Lighter-colored roofs are slightly more expensive. However, the small cost difference will easily pay for itself in one summer.

Roof overhangs are another way to trim summer cooling bills. For many homes and businesses in warmer climates, overhangs reduce solar heat gain and interior temperatures. They can also be designed to let direct sunlight into a living space during winter but keep things shaded in summer.



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