

You Can Help Us Keep Your Rates Lower



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

Most of you probably don't give much thought to electricity. You flick a switch, and it's there. It helps light your house, cook your meals, or keep you comfortable. That's how we at Lamar Electric Cooperative want it to be. We deliver a product that is more than a modern convenience; it is a necessary part of life. And you have enough on your mind without worrying about electricity.

Granted, you might worry some about your electricity bills as we are all affected by rising costs everywhere. This is one area where your involvement as a member-owner of Lamar EC can have an effect on our bottom line and on the rates you pay.

Every month in these pages of Texas Co-op Power, and 24/7 on our website at www.lamarelectric.coop, we share with you ways to use electricity more efficiently and help you save money. A lot of folks don't understand why changing air-conditioner filters every month is important or why the A/C unit should be serviced routinely instead of only when it breaks; these answers and more are found on our website. We are interested in helping you manage your energy costs.

It might seem counterintuitive (big word for "don't make sense") that an electric company would encourage its customers to use less power. But we're not in this for the money. Your co-op is a nonprofit business. After paying all the operational obligations, we invest our margins in infrastructure or return

it to you in the form of capital credits. We don't have outside investors interested solely in profits. You are our only stockholders. When the co-op thrives, you are the beneficiaries. But this business model also places more responsibility on you than what customers of for-profit companies have.

Your involvement in the cooperative is crucial, whether through feedback that helps us make our service better or your vote at our annual meetings to elect the board members, who make decisions about the co-op's future.

Your cooperation also can help us keep expenses down and your power costs lower in other ways. One way you can help is to allow crews to access your property to cut and trim trees or perform other necessary maintenance. Clearing trees and limbs that encroach on power line right-of-ways, helps keep reliability high and reduces repair expenses. Fallen limbs and trees are a major cause of power failures and line damage, especially during a storm.

You can also help by keeping an eye out for trouble. Theft of copper from our lines and theft of the electricity they deliver is a problem for cooperatives across the state. Recently, thieves stole the copper wire stapled to over 70 poles in one rural area of Delta County and over a mile of neutral wire strung between poles in Red River County. These thieves are stealing from you, because lost sales and repair costs add to our expense, which we must pass along. If you see anything suspicious, please report it to our office at (903) 784-4303 or to local law enforcement.

My sole aspiration as general manager and CEO, and that of the board of directors that hired me, is to bring to you reliable power at the lowest possible price.

You, our members, can help us reach that goal. We thank you for your cooperation.

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

4-5 Northeast Texas Travelers 24th Annual Rod Run at the Paris Fairgrounds. For more information, call Bill Clarke (903) 785-3181 or go to www.northeasttexasrtravelers.com.

6 Labor Day holiday (LEC will be closed).

11 Clarksville Annual Stew Cook-Off & Auction at the Clarksville Fairgrounds. For more information, call (903) 427-3867.

17 Paris High School Homecoming Parade, football game & dedication of new stadium

18 Second Annual Redneck Golf Tournament at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Paris. For more information, contact Judy Martin at (903) 783-0599.

18 Paris High School 1978-1981 Class Reunion at Love Civic Center, 7 p.m.

22-25 Red River County Fair in Clarksville. For more information, call (903) 427-3867.

25 Roxton Saturday Night in downtown Roxton, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Parade, music, barbecue, craft vendors. For more information e-mail prutherford@suddenlink.net

28-Oct 2 Red River Valley Fair in Paris

If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River counties, please contact Marci Thompson. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. E-mail marci@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4911.

LEC HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE



◀ Jerry Thompson of Paris was the lucky winner of a Texas Co-op Power cookbook. LEC Member Services Director Marci Thompson presented the prize to Mr. Thompson for participating in a co-op sponsored blood drive in July.



From left, Caleb Dunagan, Jose Recendiz and Vickie Bradford give the gift of life with their blood donations at the blood drive recently hosted by Lamar EC.

Youth Tour Winners Return from D.C.

Ronnie Stotts and Kelsey Evans were the winners of Lamar Electric Cooperative's 2010 Government-in-Action Essay Contest.

The two were among approximately 100 students from other cooperatives in Texas who made the trip to the nation's capital for a tour of its many historic sites June 10-18.

Ronnie is the son of co-op members Ronnie and Pamela Stotts of the Atlas community, south of Paris, and attends Chisum High School. Kelsey is the daughter of co-op members Lance and Sheila Evans of the Faught community, northeast of Paris, and graduated from North Lamar High School.

Lamar Electric sponsors two area students on this trip each year. To be eligible for the Youth Tour contest next year, a student must be between 16 and 19 years of age. In addition, the student



Kelsey Evans, left, and Ronnie Stotts represented Lamar EC on this year's Youth Tour.

must live in a home served by Lamar Electric or attend one of the high schools (Detroit, Prairiland, Roxton and Faith Christian) served by LEC.

In next month's issue, we'll include the essays that earned these two their trips to Washington, D.C.



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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
 - Automated meter reading
 - Free bank draft service
 - Visa and MasterCard accepted

Lamar Electric employees are involved in giving back to the community in which they live by coaching, being a dugout mom, or by being their child's biggest fan.



Cory May's Team—Blossom Sluggers. On the back row, from left, are coaches Patrick Williams, Aaron Williams, Eric Whitley and Cory May (an employee at LEC). On the middle row, from left, are Payton Williams, Parker May (Cory May's son), Dillon Hamil, Preston Williams and Dalon Whitley. On the front row, from left, are Garrett Fletcher, Brandon Parks, Devon Elmore and Nickie Aarons.

Ronnie Bridges' Team—Blossom Bulldogs. On the back row, from left, are coaches Randell Bridges and Ronnie Bridges (an employee at LEC). On the middle row, from left, are Cade Curry, Jacob Drake, Allen Elliott, Trace Smith and David Damero. On the front row, from left, are Jordan Bridges, Morgan Landreth, Carson Bridges (Ronnie Bridges' son), Cameron Jones and Caden Jones.



Will Scroggins, son of LEC employee George Scroggins, plays baseball.



Jesse Smith, stepson of LEC employee Scott Sansom, plays on the North Lamar High School football team.



Juddie McFadden, son of LEC employee Dana McFadden, plays on the Paris High School football team.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Julia McFadden, daughter of LEC employee Delayna McFadden, is involved in karate.



Cade Collard, son of LEC employee Leslie Collard, is involved in gymnastics.



Kira McFadden, daughter of LEC employee Delayna McFadden, is involved in karate.



Jesse Recendiz, son of LEC employee Jose Recendiz, plays on the Chisum High School football team.



Zane Chumbley, son of LEC employee Marti Chumbley, is on the Blossom T-ball team.



Kira McFadden, daughter of LEC employee Delayna McFadden, is also on the YWCA softball team.



Natasha Boehler, daughter of LEC employee Rachael Whipkey, is on the Paris T-ball team.



Shelby Sansom, daughter of LEC employee Scott Sansom, plays on the North Lamar High School soccer team.



Noe Recendiz, son of LEC employee Jose Recendiz, plays on the Chisum High School football team.