

Project Will Make System More Efficient



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

Most of you know that electric cooperatives are different from other businesses with which you deal. The truth is, I like being different. We are different because Lamar Electric is looking out for you. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep our electric bills affordable. We live here and pay the same electric rate as you.

Congress did not pass a climate change (global warming/cooling) bill last year. Notice that since there is not a warming or cooling trend, the name was changed to "climate change." The EPA has responded by declaring carbon dioxide a greenhouse gas, and the agency plans on regulating it. It is hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: Government regulations are likely to increase the cost of electricity.

We're committed to taking every possible step to minimize the effect of all this on our consumers. Unfortunately, at this point, it looks like the EPA will continue with its efforts to punish the American public for Congress not supporting their proposed law that I believe is based on junk science.

I am all for a cleaner, healthier and safer place to live and work, but I really think God knew what he was doing when he created man to exhale carbon dioxide and trees to need the very same substance to grow and prosper. What would our quality of life be like if it were not for fire, and what could be more natural than firewood giving us heat and releasing carbon dioxide?

Lamar Electric receives a small amount of hydroelectric power from the Denison Dam. The balance of wholesale power comes from generators that use clean natural gas, released from the Texas soils.

We are planning for the future, and the cooperative that supplies us with wholesale power announced in November it was adding some combined-cycle generators to the mix. The combined-cycle generator uses the hot exhaust off two natural gas turbines to turn a third generating turbine. This increases efficiency and allows the generation of 50 percent more power without burning any more gas. Unfortunately, it will take a couple years for this electricity to start flowing to us, but we must plan many years in advance and continue to

have been added over the years as the load increased, in an attempt to get more power through the same old small wires. I don't live very far from one of our substations, but there are three sets of regulators between my house and the station.

The result of all these step-down or step-up transformers is a lot of lost electricity. Add the electricity lost from overloaded wires, and it all begins to add up. It is hard to put a number on how much of this lost power could be saved, but my goal is to cut losses by \$400,000 per year. You may wonder who is paying for all this lost power. You are! Don't get me wrong: We cannot eliminate all line loss, but I think we can put a pretty big dent in it. Even new, larger conductors (wire) will nat-

Using the most efficient and reliable means of delivering power to your home or business is our mission.

search for more clean, reliable and affordable power.

Using the most efficient and reliable means of delivering power to your home or business is our mission. Many folks are surprised to learn that a lot of electricity is lost during the travel from the generator to your home. Every time the electricity is transformed from one voltage to another, part of the electrons are lost.

We have many circuits at Lamar that begin with 138,000 volts entering the substation, being stepped down to 14,400 volts and down to 7,200 volts after a few miles. In order to maintain the correct voltage at your house, smaller transformers (called regulators or auto-boosters) are added to the distribution line. Many of these regulators

usually lose electrons, and the transformer at your house will still hum as it hangs on the pole losing electricity.

Our engineers have helped us develop a plan to upgrade many of the electric distribution lines over the next four years. Wires with higher voltage lose less electricity. Many areas that are currently operating at 7,200 volts will be converted to 14,400 volts. Unless you happen to already have a dual-voltage transformer, you will need a transformer that is designed for the higher voltage and larger insulators on all the poles. In some areas, the wire is large enough and many of the insulators are already rated for the higher voltage. Every insulator installed or replaced for a number of years has been the 14,400-volt type.

One of the first steps is changing the transformer at your house to one that is “dual voltage.” Replacing the transformer on the pole at your house will cause some inconvenience, but we hope you will be understanding. The dual-voltage transformer allows the distribution wires in your area to remain at 7,200 volts until the day comes when all the insulators and transformers are ready for the higher voltage. After informing all the consumers who are to be affected, a section of the main line will be turned off until a lineman turns a small lever on the side of the transformer to the 14,400-volt setting, and that section of line then will be energized at the higher voltage.

In the areas where the power lines need to be replaced with larger wire, we will most likely be forced to replace most of the poles as well. The poles have to be spaced closer together because the larger wire is heavier.

Some of the first projects are the FM 137 area west of Paris, north and south of FM 1506, between Ambia and Highway 24. The main three-phase line in this area is already large enough and has been recently upgraded to 14,400 volts. We now plan to replace the transformers on the single-phase lines that connect with the main line north and south of FM 1506. Many of the insulators will also need replaced.

Members will also soon see activity along U.S. Highway 271 South between Airport Road and Pattonville, as this small wire is replaced with larger wire and many of the poles replaced. The main three-phase line in the area east of Pattonville to FM 410 is also on the list to have larger wires installed and many of the poles replaced.

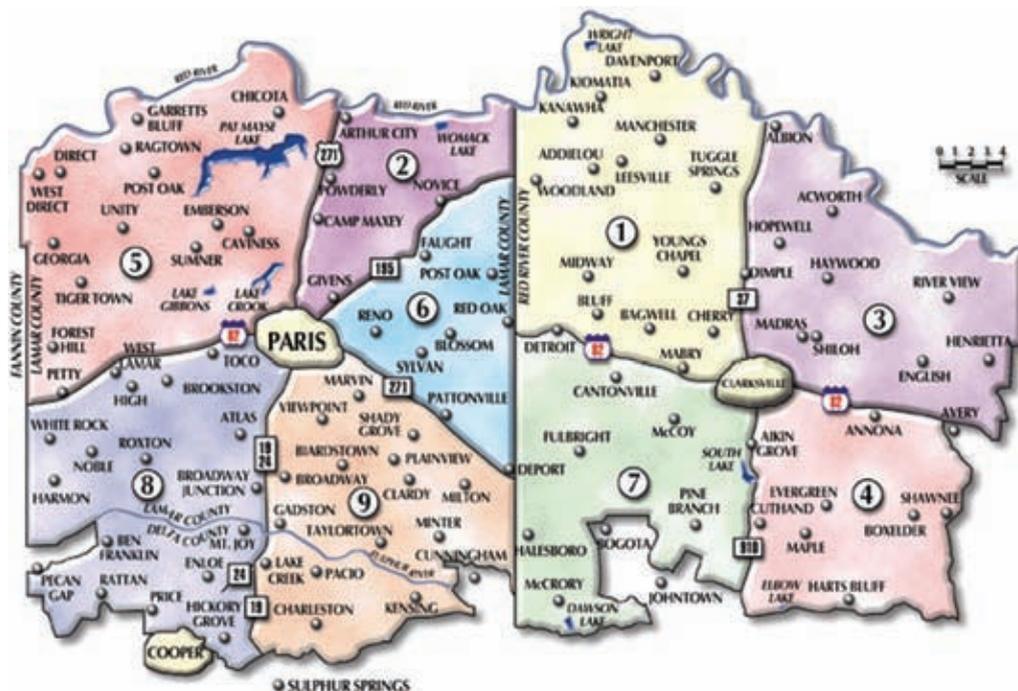
As the above projects get under way, work will move to the area north of Reno and the Roxton areas. We will try to keep you informed when construction gets started on these very important projects that will help improve your service reliability and reduce line loss. As line loss is reduced, the savings is directly passed through to your electric bill.

Watch these articles in the future for more updates.



*The Directors and Employees of
Lamar Electric Cooperative
wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.*

Our offices will be closed December 31 for the holiday.



Co-op Annual Meeting Set For April 9

Lamar Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at Love Civic Center at 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris. There will be additional information in this magazine regarding the meeting over the next few months.

Three positions on the board of directors are up for election each year. This year, Districts 1, 8 and 9 will be voting at the annual meeting. Members residing in Districts 1, 8 and 9 who wish to be a board candidate must file an application not less than 60 days (February 8) or more than 90 days (January 9) before the annual meeting date. If you are unsure which district you live in, please refer to the district map above.

The qualifications to be a board member are spelled out in the cooperative bylaws as follows:

Co-op Bylaws Excerpts, Article IV

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS. No person shall be eligible to become a board member of the cooperative who:

a) Has not been a member of the cooperative for at least one year prior to nomination;

b) Has not been a bona fide resident of the board district for which seeking election for at least one year prior to nomination;

c) Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;

d) Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years; or

e) Is a close relative of an employee or an employee's spouse ("close" being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, step-parent, step-child, step-brother, step-sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law).

f) Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or pled "no contest" to a felony; or

g) Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

Additionally, no person shall be eligible to remain a board member who:

a) Is not a member of the cooperative;

b) Is not a bona fide resident of the district for which elected;

c) Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;

d) Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years; or

e) Is a close relative of an employee or an employee's spouse ("close" being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, step-parent, step-child, step-brother, step-sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law).

f) Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or pled "no contest" to a felony; or

g) Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board or at any special or annual meeting of the members.

Win A Free Trip to Washington D.C. this June

Lamar Electric Cooperative is again sponsoring two students from the Lamar Electric service area for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 9-17, 2011.

For more than 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students from across America to visit the nation's capital and meet their members of Congress. You could be a part of this tremendous opportunity to learn about the political process and how your federal government works. More than 40,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this unique program.

The Lamar Electric winners will join approximately 100 students from across Texas, winners from other cooperatives, on this trip of a lifetime. Sponsorship includes airfare, transportation while in Washington, hotel rooms, meals and Youth Tour t-shirts.

While in Washington, tour participants from Texas will visit their congressman, tour the House and Senate Chambers, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress, and will have

photo sessions on Capitol Hill and in front of the White House. The group will also see the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns; see Kennedy's Gravesite; and tour Arlington Cemetery; Lincoln Memorial; Vietnam Memorial; World War II Memorial; Korean Memorial; Mount Vernon; Theodore Roosevelt Memorial; Old Town Alexandria; Ford's Theatre and Peterson House; Smithsonian Museums of American Art, Natural History, American History and the National Museum of American Indians; Air & Space Museum; Union Station; and the Old Post Office Pavilion. In addition, the students will visit the Washington Zoo, Pentagon City Mall and the Hard Rock Café; experience the Washington at Night Driving Tour; and see the Sunset Parade at Iwo Jima. On the last night in Washington, Youth Tour groups from all states will come together for a dinner and dance.

To be eligible for this year's contest:

- You must be a junior or senior in high school, AND
- Your parents or legal guardians

must be residing members of Lamar Electric Cooperative, OR you must attend one of the four high schools serviced by Lamar Electric Cooperative, which include Detroit, Prairiland, Roxton and Faith Christian. Home-schooled students in homes served by Lamar Electric are also eligible.

HOW TO ENTER:

Let us know a little information about yourself and send us a two-page article (about 300 words) on "Electricity in the Future." It's that simple!

The information application can be found on our website: www.lamar-electric.coop

Once the information is entered on the application, simply click on the e-mail button, attach your two-page article (must be PDF or Word format) and send to: dctrip@lamarelectric.coop.

The deadline is 8 a.m. on February 21, 2011.

For more information, contact Marci Thompson at Lamar Electric Cooperative at (903) 783-4911 or marci@lamarelectric.coop.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2011 YOUTH TOUR CONTEST

Deadline is February 21, 2011

Applicant's Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-mail Address _____

Father/Guardian's Name _____ Mother/Guardian's Name _____

Is parent/guardian an active member residing FULL-TIME in LEC's service territory? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please give account number # _____

Name of High School _____

Applicants hereby acknowledge that the application article becomes the property of Lamar Electric and may be published.

Applicant signature Date

Blood Drive Held for Carter Townes



Lots of donors lined up to give blood on November 2 at the Lamar Electric Cooperative headquarters in the name of Carter Allen Townes (left), 3, who has been diagnosed with leukemia.



Lamar Electric hosted a blood drive with Carter BloodCare for Carter Allen Townes on Tuesday, November 2. Carter was diagnosed with Precursor B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

Carter is the son of co-op members Charlie and Timberley Townes of Clarksville. He is the grandson of co-op members Gerald and Elaine Townes of Clarksville and Tim and Darlena Shimpock of Annona.

Darlena Shimpock called Lamar Electric on the morning of November 1. She saw that LEC was going to have a blood drive the next day, and she wanted to know if we could give all the blood credits from our drive to Carter since he would be having numerous blood transfusions. We worked everything out with Carter BloodCare, and little did we know what kind of turnout we would have.

November 2 was a dreary, rainy day, but a miracle happened that day for the 3-year-old child diagnosed with leukemia. It may have poured rain, but there was also an outpouring of love. The blood drive was so busy that donors were asked to go to the Carter BloodCare Center or TCIM, which was also hosting a blood drive that day, to give blood. There were people who knew the family, people who did not, veteran givers and first-time givers, all lined up and waiting patiently to donate.

The drive was a huge success. We got 30 units of blood, for which Carter will get credit. This is a prime example showing that giving blood does save lives. The winner of the 60 Years of Home Cooking cookbook, which was given away after the drive, was Bobby Bryan Jr.

Why does Lamar Electric do things like this? Because we are your neighbors and we care. Care without action is fruitless.



Employee Anniversaries



DELANA MCFADDEN

Manager of Finance and Accounting
2 years on January 16



RONNIE BRIDGES

Line Crew Supervisor
24 years on January 6



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P.O. Box 580 • Paris, TX 75461
Phone (903) 784-4303

For general information and outages after hours, call (903) 784-4303 local or 1-800-782-9010 toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River, Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at www.lamarelectric.coop

GENERAL MANAGER

Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE CHAIRMAN

Charles Dooley Annona

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James Sam Cooper Roxton
Mark Jones Paris
Ron E. Tippit Clarksville
Mike Williams Detroit
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Lyle Yoder Pattonville

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
- E-Bill
- Visa and MasterCard accepted

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

December 31

New Year Holiday
(LEC will be closed)

January 28-30

Paris Community Theatre presents
"Steel Magnolias" 7:30 p.m.

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.

NEW SPRING 2011 CONTEST!

TEXAS CO-OP POWER
Co-op Teens Power Texas

SHOOT A VIDEO AND WIN \$1500!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: Make your own YouTube video, and you could win a cash prize!

TEACHERS: You could win \$1000 for your school by sponsoring the grand prizewinner.

For full details, go to www.TexasCoopPower.com