

Lamar Electric Changes Wholesale Power Supply— Bills Going Down



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

LAMAR ELECTRIC HAS BEEN PURCHASING POWER THROUGH ANOTHER cooperative for a little over 30 years. Recently Lamar reached an agreement that will allow Lamar to secure wholesale power from the ERCOT market. Prior to 2000, every utility in Texas either generated their own power or negotiated to buy power from a generating company. Most rural electric cooperatives banded together with other cooperatives to build or buy electric generating plants or used the combined load to secure a better negotiated purchase of power. In 2000 the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) was formed and now all electric generators sell their power to ERCOT. Entities that serve electric loads in Texas then purchase power based on the ERCOT electric market. Cooperatives that own generating assets, similar to our prior supplier, can use those assets to hedge against market fluctuations, since they are both selling and buying power and can match the buying price to the selling price they can, therefore secure power at the actual production cost. This has been a common practice to give some price stability over a long term.

This change in how wholesale power is purchased will allow Lamar Electric to take advantage of some of the currently lower priced wind and solar power and maintain retail rates much closer to unregulated retail energy providers. However, I would cautioned that; This change will result in lower retail rates at this time, but the trade-off will be rates that fluctuate more as the ERCOT electric market fluctuates. Due to the continuing low price for natural gas and extensive increase in wind power, most projections indicate the market price for electricity in Texas will remain low for the next several years. Federal government tax credits for wind and solar are scheduled to phase out over the next few years, but congress has extended the deadline every time for the past 15 years. Even with the possibility of phasing out the tax credits for wind and solar, investment in these technologies continues to increase.

This reduction is estimated to be about 2 cents per kilowatt hour. This reduction should start appearing on customer's bills with the first billing cycle in January. A part of the Lamar Electric rate is a power cost recovery factor which allows changes in the wholesale power cost to be passed directly to the end customer. Office Manager, Betty Wood, said according to her calculations "this is a reduction of approximately \$4 million a year when all Lamar Electric bills are added up." Katie Morris, our Director of Communications for Lamar Electric, points out "the average residence using about 1000 kilowatt hours a month will see a reduction of about \$20 per month." The effect will be even greater for commercial accounts and those using more electricity.

CALENDAR: TAPHOUSE_STUDIOS | © ISTOCK.COM



SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting Set for April 21

THREE POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF directors are up for election each year.

This year, districts 5, 6 and 7 will be voting at the annual meeting. Any member residing in districts 5, 6 and 7 who wishes to be a candidate for one of the three available board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative to fill out a nomination form not earlier than January 21 and no later than February 20, as outlined in the co-op's bylaws.

If you are unsure of which district you live in, please refer to the district map below. Lamar Electric will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 21, at Paris Junior High School, 2400 Jefferson Road in Paris. If you have any questions, call Katie Morris at (903) 783-4949. Qualifications for board members are specified in our bylaws. The qualification portion of the bylaws was published last month in this magazine. A copy of the bylaws is available at the Lamar Electric office and on our website, lamarelectric.coop.

Circled number represents board district





1485 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 580
Paris, TX 75461

**GENERAL MANAGER
AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ron E. Tippit, President, *Clarksville*
- Lyle Yoder, Vice President, *Pattonville*
- Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, *Detroit*
- Matthew Albus, *Roxton*
- Allen Branch, *Sumner*
- James D. Floyd, *Annona*
- Jeremy D. Hamil, *Sumner*
- Harry R. Moore, *Clarksville*
- George M. Wood, *Blossom*

Member Benefits

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and MasterCard accepted

Your Local Pages

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* 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.

CONTACT US

CALL US

(903) 784-4303 local or
1-800-782-9010 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.lamarelectric.coop



Time Running Out for Youth Tour Applications

Teens should apply now for DC trip

EACH YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SELECTS TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO attend an all-expenses-paid tour of Washington, D.C., which includes visiting the U.S. Capitol and meeting members of Congress. This year, the trip will be June 6–15.

Eligible students must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade and live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric Cooperative or attend one of the four high schools served by the co-op: Prairiland, Roxton, Detroit or Faith Christian. Home-schooled students served by Lamar Electric Cooperative are also eligible. Applications must be complete with a three-page typed essay titled, “How has electricity improved life in the area where I live?” and submitted to Lamar Electric Cooperative no later than 5 p.m. on February 9.

Applications are available online at lamarelectric.coop. Submit by email to dctrip@lamarelectric.coop or in person at 1485 N. Main St. in Paris. It’s that easy! Learn more about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour at lamarelectric.coop. Look for Government-in-Action Youth Tour 2018 after clicking on the Youth Programs tab.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2018 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL OR LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NO. _____

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Lamar Electric Cooperative To Award \$6,000 in Scholarships

LAMAR ELECTRIC WILL AWARD SIX \$1,000 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college, junior college, technical school or other post-secondary educational institution. Scholarship payment will be made directly to the college, university or school in one lump sum. Scholarships must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, room and board.

Eligibility Requirements for an Academic Scholarship

To be considered for a Lamar Electric Cooperative scholarship, the student must:

- ▶ Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric; AND
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited Home Extended Studies program within the counties served by Lamar Electric Cooperative.

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on **April 21** in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

Entry deadline is **April 6**. The application can be found on our website: lamarelectric.coop. Once the application is completed, simply click on the email button and send to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop.

Or fill out the application below and mail to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative
Attn: Katie Morris
P.O. Box 580
Paris, TX 75461

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Deadline: April 6

Name _____

Address _____

Name of High School _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s) _____

Lamar Electric Account Number _____

Phone Number _____



WHAT TO DO IF...

You Encounter a Downed Power Line

EVEN IF EVERY HOME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD loses electricity during a storm, a power line hanging loose could very well be “live” and electrocute you if you touch it.

Just because the electricity is out doesn't mean power lines are dead. **So if you see one, follow these tips to stay safe:**

- ▶ Don't touch a power line with your hand, body, a stick, a broom—not with anything. Stay as far away from it as possible.
- ▶ Call 911 and Lamar Electric.
- ▶ If your car or another person is touching a downed line, don't touch your car or that person. The power could flow through them and into you.
- ▶ Don't drive over a downed wire.
- ▶ If a line falls on your car while you're in it, stay inside. The ground around your car could be energized, and if you touch it, you could be electrocuted. Warn others to stay away and call 911 for help.
- ▶ Teach children about the dangers of fallen power lines.

Spread the Love

FEBRUARY IS NOTORIOUS FOR BRINGING OUT THE romantic in all of us. If you have a sweetheart or if you have close friends or family, you know how important it is to share your heart with the ones you love. At Lamar Electric, we share our heart by serving and supporting the communities we serve. One of our Seven Cooperative Principles is Concern for Community. Lamar Electric serves rural communities in Lamar County, Red River County and a northern portion of Delta County. The cooperative works hard to make sure our members not only have electric service but also know that we care. The cooperative donates to many wonderful causes.

We enjoy supporting local students by donating to FFA programs, project graduations, scholarship foundations and more. We send two students a year to Washington, D.C., on a special trip called Youth Tour to learn about our nation's capital. We visit schools and demonstrate the importance of electrical



BY KATIE MORRIS

safety and participate in school events like career days. We give several scholarships to seniors in high school who plan to pursue higher educations.

The majority of our members are rural folks. For this reason, we enjoy donating to activities in which our members are likely taking part, such as local rodeos, festivals and events. We also occasionally donate utility poles for various community needs, such as emergency sirens or school football field

lights. Our employees enjoy supporting local organizations and fundraisers on behalf of the cooperative. On several occasions, many employees have worn shirts in support of various causes or attended a fundraising event supported by the cooperative. Lamar Electric Cooperative shares quite a bit of love with the communities we serve.

Call me a romantic, but I can't think of a better time to share the heart of your cooperative than this February. We love our members and we thank you for being a part of the co-op family!



1. Lamar Electric linemen David Roberts, Dustin Dale, Ronnie Bridges and Drew Conder, with Jim Williams and Monty Hobbs, stand next to a newly installed storm warning siren. Pole and installation donated by Lamar Electric. 2. Lamar Electric employees Ryan Dean, Rachael Whipkey, Tessa McFadden and Katie Morris at a Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl For Kids' Sake event 3. Bailey Intermediate fifth-grader J.T. Franklin shows off lineman gear in front of the Lamar Electric Safety Town display. 4. Lamar Electric employees sport Dress Down for Disabilities shirts supporting the Red River Valley Down Syndrome Society.