

How Can We Better Serve You in 2019?



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS KNOWN FOR striving to provide safe, reliable electric service to our members—but we do more than that. One of our goals is to find ways to help you control your energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about ways we can work together to help ease the burdens on your wallet.

It may seem strange that we encourage you to use electricity efficiently, which actually reduces the number of kilowatt-hours you buy from us. But, as a member-owned cooperative, our focus is on service—not profit. We want to sell you every kilowatt-hour you need—and want you to need every kilowatt-hour you buy.

Most likely you have heard some recommendations so many times that you could write the script. Keeping the house cooler and use a blanket; turn off lights when leaving a room and hanging clothes outside to dry have been repeated a lot. I would like to suggest a few ideas that you may have not thought a lot about.

A fireplace in the winter puts a sweet smell into the outside air and makes a charming view inside the house. Unfortunately, most wood fireplaces take more heat out of the house than is added and will cause your electric heat to run more. The chimney creates a natural vacuum as the hot air from the fire shoot up the chimney. This vacuum draws cold air into the house around cracks and crevices, such as around doors, windows and baseboards. Placing glass doors across the fireplace opening will restrict the amount of cold air drawn in and cause the wood to last longer. Keeping the fireplace doors closed when not in use will also keep more heat in the house. The best alternative is a manufactured fireplace box which has an outside access to clean out ashes that doubles as an outside air source. At the end of the season the damper should be closed and an old pillow stuffed up into the chimney.

A beautifully decorated Christmas tree adds to family room atmosphere created by a fireplace. This time of year many homes are destroyed and families devastated when a light string has a short or a bulb gets too close to the wrong material, causing a fire. Many manufactured Christmas trees come with LED

or incandescent bulbs already installed. Carefully consider purchasing the artificial tree with LED lights. If you use a fresh cut tree or add lights to your artificial tree, you should consider using LED Christmas lights.

Compared to colored miniature incandescent lights the LED lights are a lot cooler and not as likely to start a fire. A tree with 600 miniature incandescent lights will use \$6.72 of electricity compared to 47 cents for 600 LEDs during a Christmas season.

Many folks decorate with miniature incandescent lights because they are economical and hardly use any electricity. That is not exactly right. It is true the miniature incandescent lights use a lot less electricity and produce less heat compared to full size incandescent bulbs but there is a better alternative. A string of 600 (2 strings of 300) miniature incandescent lights used 12 hours per day for 40 days will consume 69 kWh, while the same amount of miniature LED lights will use 5 kWh for the same time period. Since they don't cost a lot, many will use 10 strings of lights around the bushes, hanging from the gutters and all over the front porch; the result in the regular miniature lights use 640 kWh more than the LED. That is an increase of \$62.35 on your electric bill.

This magazine contains energy efficient suggestions virtually every month. We also have a trained employee that can meet with you at your home to help with recommendations to lower your energy consumption. By analyzing your hourly energy consumption we can also help you determine what may be causing your electric usage to change. As a member owned cooperative it is our desire to help you make the most of every energy dollar.

We will continue to focus on energy efficiency in the coming year, but as 2018 winds down, we want to know your energy priorities. How can we serve you better in 2019?

We encourage you to let us know—stop by, give us a call or send an email (info@lamarelectric.coop).

When we know what you want, we're in a better position to successfully deliver results. However you choose to communicate, we're ready to listen.

Merry Christmas

Lamar Electric will be closed Monday–Tuesday, December 24–25, for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's.



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

**GENERAL MANAGER
AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

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Member Benefits

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
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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



Christmas Coloring Contest

LAMAR ELECTRIC IS HOSTING OUR FIRST-EVER COLORING CONTEST!

Teaching young people about conserving electricity is important to Lamar Electric, and Concern for Community is one of our top priorities. With the help of our mascot, Willie Wiredhand, our coloring pages include electrical conservation tips to help youngsters learn the importance of not wasting electricity.

The contest is for kindergarten through fifth-grade students and is broken up into three categories. Each category will have prizes for first, second and third place. Parents may download the coloring pages from our website, lamarelectric.coop, under the Youth section, or stop by the Lamar Electric office at 1485 N. Main St. in Paris and pick up the pages.

Eligibility:

- ▶ Entrants must live full time in a home served by Lamar Electric.
- ▶ Entries must be submitted to the Lamar Electric office (1485 N. Main St., Paris) by 4:30 p.m. December 14.

Winners will be announced on our Facebook page and website by 5 p.m. December 19. Entry categories include kindergarten and first grade, second and third grades, and fourth and fifth grades. Winners in each category will receive Walmart gift cards so that they can purchase a toy of their choice—\$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. All winners also will receive a box of LED Christmas lights.

Government-in-Action Youth Tour

EACH YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SELECTS TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO attend an all-expenses-paid tour of Washington, D.C., which includes a visit to the U.S. Capitol and a meeting with a members of Congress.

Eligible students must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade and live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric or attend one of the four high schools served by the co-op: Prairieland, Roxton, Detroit and Faith Christian. Home-schooled students served by Lamar Electric are also eligible.

Applications must be complete with a three-page typed essay. The essay prompt is, "Tell us about circumstances where you have demonstrated your leadership skills." The essay must be submitted to Lamar Electric no later than 5 p.m. February 8, 2019. The application is available online at lamarelectric.coop. Submit by email to dtrip@lamarelectric.coop or in person at 1485 N. Main St., Paris. It's that easy!

Learn more about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour at lamarelectric.coop. Look for Government-in-Action Youth Tour 2019 after clicking on the Youth tab.



LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2019 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 8

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NO. _____

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



1K0636 | ISTOCK.COM

Turkey Enchiladas

- 6 cups shredded, cooked turkey
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
- 1 package (1.61 ounces) brown gravy mix
- 1 can (19 ounces) chili without beans
- 1 can (10 ounces) enchilada sauce
- 12 corn tortillas
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Sour cream (optional)
- Sliced avocado (optional)

1. Put turkey in a large mixing bowl. In a skillet, sauté onion and garlic in butter until clear. Mix with turkey and set aside.
2. In a saucepan, prepare gravy per directions on package. Stir in chili and enchilada sauce. Heat until warm, stirring occasionally.
3. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Put a small baking dish near the stovetop. Dip tortilla in gravy mixture and lay in baking dish, fill with turkey and roll up; repeat for each tortilla, putting rolled tortillas side by side. Pour remaining gravy mixture over enchiladas. Top with mixed cheeses. Bake 30–45 minutes, or until sauce is bubbling. Serve with sour cream and avocado slices, if desired.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM



MELANIE LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

ABOVE: Steaven and Melanie Lee, owners of Lee's Christmas Tree Farm and members of Lamar Electric Cooperative.

TOP LEFT: These growing Texas pines are 2 years old and have a few more years of growth before families can come and cut them down for their own Christmas tree.

CENTER LEFT: Fraser firs ready to be taken home and decorated.

BOTTOM LEFT: Lee's Christmas Tree Farm is open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. every Saturday in December until they run out of trees.

Lee's Christmas Tree Farm



BY KATIE MORRIS

DECEMBER TENDS TO BE A MAGICAL month full of merriment, generosity, tradition and cheer. For the Lee family of Detroit, it's also a month to enjoy the nostalgia that comes with the Christmas holiday season.

When Steaven and Melanie Lee purchased their land, they wanted to create something with it that would bring the community together while celebrating their favorite time of year. "We wanted to make use of the land in a different way," said Melanie, who also runs a photography business.

Two years ago, their dream came alive when they planted their first set of Texas pines for what would become Lee's Christmas Tree Farm. The trees take four to six years to grow to Christmas tree height.

"We knew this process would take a while, but we wanted to go ahead and establish a name for ourselves before our customers could actually come and cut down their own Christmas trees," said Steaven, who is also a full-time machine operator at Kimberly-Clark.

The Lees would have to get trees from another source until they could begin selling trees of their own, so the couple purchased fully grown Fraser fir trees from North Carolina. They put the trees in water to keep them fresh, unlike big-box stores that sell live trees.

Maintaining a Christmas tree farm in Texas comes with other struggles, too. Keeping the trees alive during the summer heat is not an easy task. The Lees said irrigation and insects are issues they have battled while caring for their growing trees. The long start up time is also an obstacle tree farm owners must overcome with patience and watchful care.

The planting cycle that the Lees began two years ago entails planting new trees each year so that when each round of trees grows, there will be enough to sell at the proper height the following year.

Lee's Christmas Tree Farm—the only Christmas tree farm in the Lamar, Red River and Delta counties area—is located at 25 County Road 2140 in Detroit and is open 10 a.m.–4 p.m. every Saturday in December until they run out of trees. Fresh-cut wreaths and garlands also are available. Join the Lees in their holiday merriment and enjoy a cup of hot apple cider while you browse their tree selection.