

Be Thankful for What Is Important



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

WITH THANKSGIVING JUST AROUND THE CORNER, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership and support of Lamar Electric Cooperative. This is no offhand or flippant thanks. Because of your connection to Lamar Electric, we are able to make our community a better place. It might sound trite if it weren't so true.

We appreciate the countless acts of kindness our linemen and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather or its aftermath. Our employees are thankful for your patience, care and concern while they work to restore power during prolonged outages amid challenging conditions. Those cups of coffee and bowls of stew are appreciated. Our office



Chipley, Florida October 2018

employees appreciate your patience after you finally get through on busy phone lines. They appreciate your understanding heart that many of your neighbors are in the same fix and coop employees are struggling to get the job done as quickly as possible.

Lamar Electric was established more than 80 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that reason and many others, we're thankful for your membership.

This November there is a specific way you can show appreciation for your cooperative employees and make them feel safer. It is very common to find linemen working on main power lines that are strung along the edges of highways. It may seem like a

minor issue to whiz past a crew in your vehicle, missing them by a few feet. After all, you knew you would stay inside the white line and they should have no fear of being hit. The problem is distracted drivers and those with poor driving skills have proven the side of a highway is a very dangerous place to be.

As I write this I am reminded of an event that occurred last October. After hurricane Michael wreaked havoc on the Florida panhandle, a crew of Lamar Electric linemen went to Florida to help a sister cooperative restore power. The crew spent most of their time working on a major circuit going south out of the Chipley Florida substation. One of the local cooperative men, James Ussery, worked alongside our crew for ten grueling days replacing poles and stringing wire. Finally the Lamar Electric crew returned home and was replaced by a different coop crew. A few days after the Lamar crew returned to Texas, Mr. Ussery and two other linemen were working on that same main power line south of Chipley when a driver veered off the road and mowed them down, killing all three men.

After working for the local cooperative for over 35 years, Mr. Ussery was looking forward to retirement. Most likely his wife had dealt with the fear of him working around high voltage wires, and never dreamed he would die in a ditch under a Ford pickup. The driver was drunk and ran from the scene. Due to the amount of alcohol still in him when he was apprehended, we will likely never know exactly why he left the straight roadway to hit three men. We do know that getting a drivers attention and causing him to slow down, will help keep our men safe.

Our men work long hours and they are dedicated to ensuring affordable and reliable power is available around the clock. With this demanding work, safety around high voltage wires is always the first priority because, in some cases, there are no second chances to get the job done right.

Thanks to the Texas Legislature we now have another important tool to help keep our linemen safe from distracted drivers. It is called the "move over/slow down" law. As of September 1, 2019 when you see a cooperative vehicle parked on the side of the road with Blue and Amber flashing lights it means move over a lane or slowdown 20 mph below the posted speed limit. Although many states have allowed utility vehicles to display flashing blue or red lights for many years, Texas has now authorized blue lights for cooperative vehicles.

When you move over, you're giving workers the room they need to safely complete their jobs for you and other members. We've all been careful to keep an eye out for police, firefighters,

emergency medical technicians and other first responders who are on the scene of an accident. Now, with the new law in place, we should consider utility workers in the same category as all other emergency workers and first responders. After all, they are among those who move toward trouble, not away from it, to keep all of us safer.

The last thing they need to be worrying about when they are taking care of our business is a careless motorist. Common sense tells us to just move over. As of September 1, the power of the law stands behind this important rule.

If you are driving on a two-lane road and you do not have an extra lane to move into, the law says you should slow down by 20 mph. If the speed limit is 25, slow down to 5 mph. A slower-moving vehicle is a safer vehicle. Keep in mind; significant fines give these law teeth. After all, there is no price that can recoup a lost life. You don't need to ask questions or wonder what the men are up to. Just move over or slow down.

Renewal Required for Ag and Timber Sales Tax Exemption

IF YOU ARE CLAIMING A SALES TAX EXEMPTION ON ELECTRICITY USED IN THE PRODUCTION of agricultural or timber products, you must renew your exemption by December 31 through the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and provide a new tax exemption certificate to Lamar Electric Cooperative by January 1. Otherwise, Lamar Electric will be required to charge sales tax on your account beginning in January.

How To Renew

There are several options for renewing your exemption registration: online, by phone or by mail. Renewal by phone is the easiest. Simply dial 1-844-247-3639 any time, day or night, and the phone system will ask you to key in your existing exemption number. That is all you have to do. Those applying by phone will receive their new registration card by mail in about seven days. Renewal by mail requires you to return a copy of your reminder letter and could take four to six weeks.

Renewal can also be done online at comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/ag-timber. If you want to renew online, you will first need to log in with your user ID and password. You will then need the web file number from your reminder letter. The online renewal process is a bit more complicated than the other methods, but it does allow you to print your new registration card.

For more information, contact the comptroller's office at comptroller.texas.gov or 1-800-252-5555.

When Your New Registration Arrives

Once you have received your renewed registration card in the mail, you will need to fill out the appropriate sales and use tax exemption certificate. A copy of the renewed registration card along with a completed tax exemption certificate needs to be turned in to the Lamar Electric office or emailed to DeLana McFadden at delana@lamarelectric.coop.

You can pick up blank agricultural exemption and timber exemption certificate forms at the Lamar Electric office at **1485 N. Main St., Paris 75460**. You can also print these forms from our website, lamarelectric.coop, under the Forms and Applications section on the left side of the homepage.



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
- 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

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.lamarelectric.coop





US SCHOOLS | ISTOCK.COM

Apply for Youth Tour Today

EACH YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SELECTS TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where participants tour the U.S. Capitol, meet members of Congress and visit many monuments and museums.

To be eligible, students must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade and live full time in a residence served by Lamar EC or attend one of the three high schools served by the co-op: Prairiland, Detroit and Faith Christian. Home-schooled students served by Lamar Electric are also eligible. Applications must be complete with a three-page typed essay. This year's essay topic is, "What would life be like without electricity?" The essay must be submitted to Lamar Electric no later than **5 p.m. Friday, February 7, 2020.**

Applications are available 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 by clicking on Youth Tour under the Youth tab on the homepage.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2020 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7

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 _____

Savor an Energy-Efficient Feast

NEW APPLIANCES USE FAR LESS ENERGY than older ones, but that doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking—like a turkey—will be in it for a long time.

Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie isn't burning. Opening the oven door—even for a second or two—can drop the temperature inside by 25 degrees.

Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.

Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way.

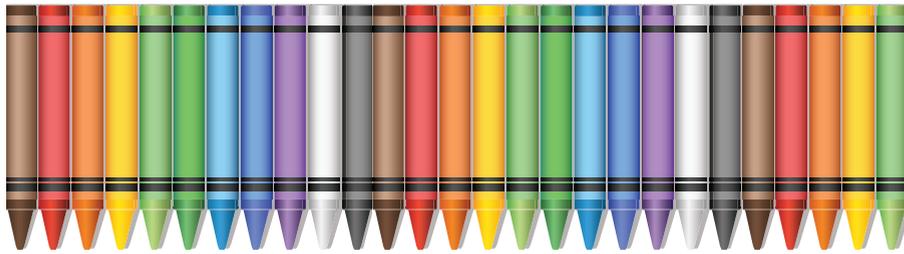
Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do.

Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40% of the generated heat.

Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.



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Christmas Coloring Contest

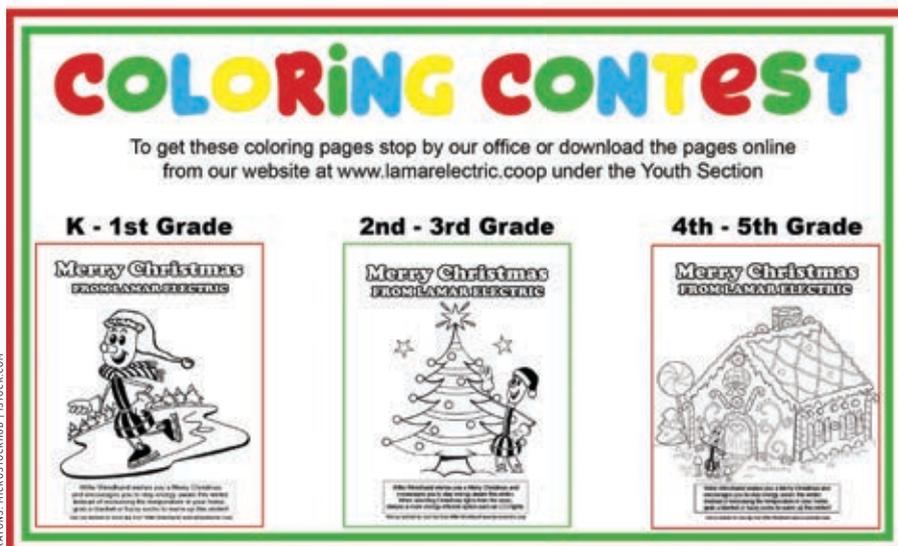
LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS HOLDING ITS SECOND ANNUAL COLORING CONTEST! Teaching young people about conserving electricity is important to Lamar Electric because Concern for Community—one of the Seven Cooperative Principles—is one of our top priorities. With the help of our mascot, Willie Wiredhand, these coloring pages include electrical conservation tips to help youngsters learn the importance of not wasting electricity.

This contest is for kindergarten through fifth grade students and will be 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 (www.lamarelectric.coop). Look for “Coloring Contest” under Forms, or stop by the Lamar Electric office (1485 N. Main) 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 at 1485 N. Main St., Paris, by 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 13.

Winners will be announced on our Facebook page and website Wednesday, December 18, by 5 p.m. 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.



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Power Tip

Heading out of town for the holidays? **Unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load.** Some gadgets use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they’re not in use.



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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Set clocks back one hour Sunday, November 3.



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Veterans Day

Monday, November 11