

Give the Gift of Time



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

MANY OF US HAVE THAT ONE FAMILY MEMBER—OR MAYBE EVEN A few—who, when asked what items are on his or her Christmas wish list, invariably answers, “I have everything I need.” This well-intentioned reply can frustrate a desire to cross a name off your list or check a box during the frenzied run-up to the holiday. But it’s also an opportunity to present a loved one with a more meaningful gift.

Time spent completing an errand or task that might be impractical or difficult for a relative or friend is a way to express affection without resorting to the often-impersonal gesture of pulling an item off a store shelf in defeat. Fighting your way through crowds of holiday shoppers may be a fun challenge for some, but for me it

rates right along with a root canal. Most likely the recipient of the sought-after gift cannot fathom the effort you made in the big box store.

Tasks like changing the filter in a heating, ventilating and air conditioning system; replacing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; or caulking around windows can help make someone’s home safer or shave a few dollars off an electric bill. While you’re

at it, make lunch or bring a baked good. The trinity of time together with a needed home repair or chore accomplished, and a homemade treat or meal is a tough one to improve upon, as gifts go.

Lamar Electric Cooperative also appreciates the gift of your time. Whether it’s spent in attendance at a community or annual meeting, where we get valuable feedback on how to continually improve our processes and operations. It could be a moment taken to alert us to a problem you notice with a power line or meter. Those small yet meaningful measures of your time allows Lamar Electric to thrive and be responsive to your needs. Your willingness to engage with the co-op and frequent role as our eyes and ears in the field enable us to maintain a level of service that we’re proud of.

So why not extend that tradition of providing gifts of time and service to those closest to you this year? Take a look around an older relative’s home for any leaky faucets or outdoor lightbulbs that need replacing. Check for loose door or window locks, or clean an out-of-reach window. Your thoughtful gift will keep on giving, as it makes someone’s life that much easier or safer.

From all of us at Lamar Electric Cooperative, we wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Got Gas Appliances?

Then you need carbon monoxide detectors

ANY HOME WITH GAS HEAT OR OTHER gas appliances needs carbon monoxide detectors.

You can’t see or smell carbon monoxide, which is a potentially deadly byproduct of burning fuels like natural gas, propane and kerosene.

Follow these guidelines:

- ▶ You should have a CO detector on every floor, outside of bedrooms and in the garage.
- ▶ Place your detectors a minimum of 15 feet away from a gas stove or oven, which may emit a small amount of carbon monoxide on ignition.
- ▶ Detectors don’t operate properly in humid areas like bathrooms.
- ▶ Replace the batteries in your alarms twice a year.
- ▶ Properly maintain your gas appliances, including the furnace and stove.
- ▶ Know the warning signs of too much carbon monoxide in the house: stuffy, stale air; condensation on windows; yellow burner flames on the stove; and fluttering or extinguishing pilot lights.
- ▶ If you see warning signs or your alarm sounds, turn off your gas appliances, open doors and windows, and leave the house.
- ▶ If your garage is connected to your house, avoid idling your car inside it.



Cool Off Your Winter Energy Bill

YOU'VE BUDGETED FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS, MEALS, MAYBE A VACATION—BUT WITH MONEY tight, that doesn't leave much room for energy efficiency upgrades at home. Does that mean you're powerless to lower your electric bill? Not at all. Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips and tricks.

Drape delivery. Are you using your curtains to retain heat? Open drapes and shades to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.

Got tape? Though not as durable as foam or vinyl, you can use nonporous tape (first-aid cloth tape, for example) to keep cold air from infiltrating your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks, and can be used at the top and bottom of a window sash, door frames, attic hatches and inoperable windows.

Pull the plug. Unplug any appliance or electronic device that you don't regularly use. Most devices use electricity anytime they are plugged in even if they are off.

Be a fan of fans. Run ceiling fans on low to circulate your air up in the winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.

Flue flux. Be sure your fireplace damper is tightly closed anytime the fireplace is not being used.

Free your vents. Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system will have to work twice as hard if your air vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely. This is especially important with floor vents.

Get caulking. Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal gaps around leaky doors and windows.

Garage drain. Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.

Rug relief. Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.

Bundle up. Slip on some fuzzy socks and a sweater and lower the thermostat. You can save 5% for every degree you drop your thermostat between 60 and 70 degrees.

Smart food. When cooking, keep lids on pots and let hot food cool off before placing it in the refrigerator.

There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. When you're not watching TV or using lights, computers or other electronics, turn them off.



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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





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Government-in-Action Youth Tour

EACH YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SELECTS TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR an all-expenses-paid tour of Washington, D.C., that includes visiting the U.S. Capitol and meeting 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 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 completed 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. The application is 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 Youth Tour after clicking on the Youth tab.

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 _____



What Are Capital Credits?

CAPITAL CREDITS ARE AT THE HEART OF the cooperative difference and one of the many benefits of your membership. Lamar Electric Cooperative operates as a nonprofit business—meaning we operate on just enough to run the business. We don't exist to earn a profit; we exist to serve you, our members.

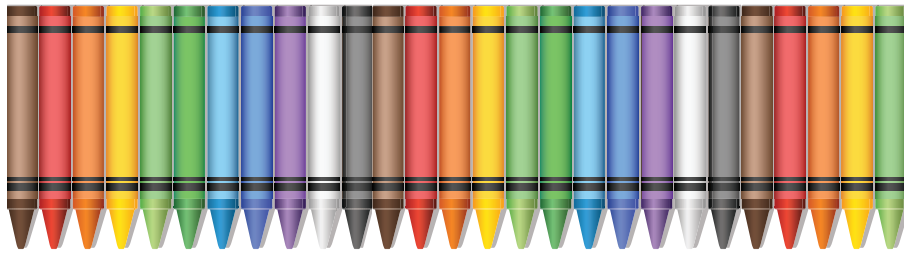
Investor-owned utilities, on the other hand, maximize profits for the purpose of paying dividends to their stockholders. Lamar Electric members—not stockholders—are owners of this electric utility.

Capital credits represent your ownership in Lamar Electric. When you pay your monthly bill, we in turn pay all the expenses associated with running the cooperative, and any funds left over are called margins. Our mortgage requires us to have rates that generate a margin. Your allocated share of the cooperative's margins is based on the amount of electricity you purchased during the years you received service. These credits are used for capital projects such as new lines and system improvements to allow us to better serve you.

Periodically, the Lamar Electric Board of Directors reviews the financial condition and requirements of the cooperative to determine when and how much of the co-op's accrued capital credits can be responsibly retired and distributed to members. Those allocations are then returned to you.

Capital credits are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits you have as a member of Lamar Electric.

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Christmas Coloring Contest

LAMAR ELECTRIC IS HOSTING OUR SECOND ANNUAL 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 power conservation tips to help youngsters learn the importance of not wasting electricity.

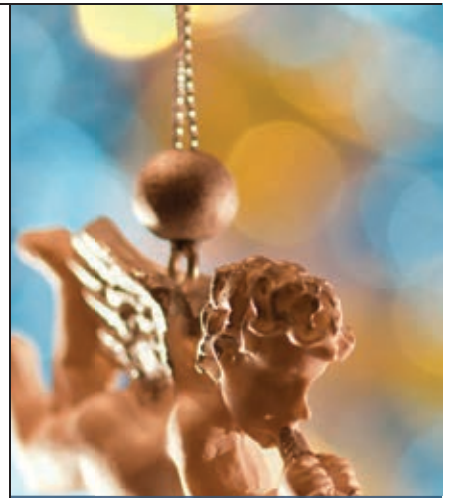
The contest is for kindergarten through fifth grade students and is broken up into three categories. Each category will have prizes for first, second and third place. Parents may download the coloring pages from our website, lamarelectric.coop, under the Youth section, or stop by the Lamar Electric office 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. Friday, December 13.

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

The employees and board of directors at Lamar Electric wish you a merry Christmas.

Our offices will be closed Tuesday–Wednesday, December 24–25, and Wednesday, January 1, for the holidays.






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Power Tip

Save on your holiday energy bill by using LED lights. Traditional incandescent bulbs consume 70 times more electricity than LEDs.

COLORING CONTEST

To get these coloring pages stop by our office or download the pages online from our website at www.lamarelectric.coop under Forms look for "Coloring Contest"

K - 1st Grade	2nd - 3rd Grade	4th - 5th Grade
		

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