



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
AND CEO

JERRY D.
WILLIAMS

Out of Power? Just Text Us!

WHEN A BIG WIND storm blows through or something happens that causes a major electric line outage, our telephones light up. When several hundred people all try calling at the same time, many will get a busy signal. About six years ago, we added an option that should help many of you get around the telephone busy signal. Unfortunately, very few members are using the Text option. Texting is faster and an easier way to report your power outage. If many folks report their outage by text, those calling in their outage will have a better chance of getting through the first time. We know there are many members that do not Text. By reducing the phone calls, the non-texting folks will be able to communicate with us much quicker.

Here is how it works: You will need to complete a short registration process. Sorry, but we are required to comply with the laws governing Text. Your cell phone number must also be on file at Lamar Electric for the registration process to be completed successfully. If you have not provided your cell phone number to Lamar Electric in the past, please contact us at 903-784-4303 to do so.

The registration process to text reports of power outages to Lamar Electric is easy. Note, however, that your cell phone plan's standard text messaging and data rates apply. To sign up, all you need is a computer and a cell phone to follow these steps:

- ▶ Visit www.LamarElectric.coop and click on the button that says "Looking for a new way to report your outage?" The button is actually a lady's hand holding a cell phone showing text. Click and you will be asked to accept the terms;
- ▶ On the next page, enter your Lamar Electric account number and the cell phone number we have on your account file;
- ▶ The next page will ask for a verification code that was texted to your cell phone;
- ▶ You will now be asked to accept the Account Management screen that lists your account information. On this screen you can add a nickname to your account if you have multiple accounts.

After logging out, you are all set up. If you have multiple accounts, you can go thru this process for each account and assign a nickname such as "House" "Barn" or "Camp". This allows you to include the Nickname in your text to report an outage at only one of the accounts.

After completing the registration process, you

should name the phone number that sent you the verification code. I call mine "Outage Report." It will most likely be 550-50. This is called a Short Code. If Lamar Electric does not have your cell phone number on file for each account, you will not be able to get past the second screen. You can have us list your cell phone as your home phone and your spouse's cell phone under "Mobile". This way, you can set both phones up to report outages by text.

Since I only have one account; I would text the word "Outage". Those with multiple accounts might text "Outage Home" or "Outage Barn". If all your accounts are without power, you would type "Outage All".

Texting an Outage

Texting your outage to Lamar Electric just requires a few simple steps:

- ▶ Open a new text message in your cell phone,
- ▶ Type "Outage" (without quotes, not case sensitive),
- ▶ Enter the outage number (or name you gave it) provided during the sign up process in the "Send To" field, and
- ▶ Send the message.

Once the text is received and verified by Lamar Electric's outage management system, you will receive an "Outage Reported Successfully" text message. Once your power is back on, a text confirming the restoral will be sent to you. If you find you are still without power, it will direct you to call the cooperative with the contact number provided.

As always, you can still report your outage to Lamar Electric by calling 903-784-4303 or use our SmartHub App. When you call our telephone number, you will still be given the option of using our "Automated Outage Reporting System", by pressing the number one and entering your outage using your phone key pad. To use the Automated System, you may need your account number in case your caller ID does not match one of the phone numbers on your account file. Of course, if you don't press any number, we will always have a real live person available to take your phone call, but you may have to wait till he or she can get to your call. ■



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Stay Safe at Home

ELECTRICAL MALFUNCTIONS ACCOUNT for thousands of home fires each year, resulting in deaths, injuries and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977, which means many homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices. Keep safety in mind with these helpful tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- ▶ Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses.
- ▶ Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on.
- ▶ Buzzing sounds from switches or outlets.
- ▶ Discolored outlets.
- ▶ Appliances that seem underpowered.

How to avoid overloading circuits:

- ▶ Label your circuit breakers to distinguish the different circuits in your home and what they power.
- ▶ Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if the home is older than 40 years or if you've had a major appliance installed.
- ▶ Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for devices that draw lots of energy.
- ▶ Reduce your electrical load by using energy-efficient appliances and lighting.

Working from home? Follow these safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.

- ▶ Avoid overloading outlets.
- ▶ Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.
- ▶ Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- ▶ Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis.
- ▶ Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- ▶ Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- ▶ Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- ▶ Keep paper and other potential combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- ▶ Use lightbulbs with the proper wattage for lamps and light fixtures.
- ▶ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace units every 10 years. ■



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Contact Us

For information and to report outages, please call us.

(903) 784-4303

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and Mastercard accepted
- Prepaid metering

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Lamar Electric provides *Texas Co-op Power* and *TexasCoopPower.com* to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

VISIT US ONLINE

lamarelectric.coop





Brianna Bridges



Jaden Franklin



Kiley Miller



Emily Mouser

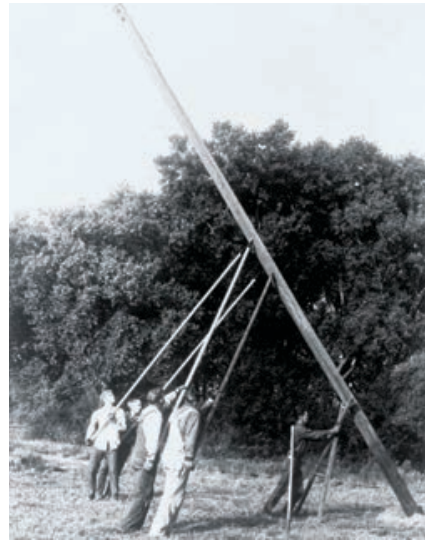


Corbin Strain



Eric Williams

Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
**October is
National Co-op Month.**



#PowerOn

Lamar Electric Awards 6 Scholarships

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are active co-op members. The students were chosen randomly July 31 in a drawing of eligible applicants held at the cooperative headquarters and streamed on Facebook Live.

The winners are **Brianna Bridges** of Avery High School, daughter of Margie Larzelere of Avery and Roger Bridges of Paris; **Jaden Franklin** of North Lamar High School, son of Joshua and Sharmila Franklin of Paris; **Kiley Miller** of Detroit High School, daughter of Jimmy and Courtney Miller of Bagwell; **Emily Mouser** of Prairiland High School, daughter of Greg and Amy Mouser of Paris; **Corbin Strain** of Prairiland High School, son of James and Tina Strain of Blossom; and **Eric Williams** of Detroit High School, son of Mike and Ginger Williams of Detroit.

The scholarships can be used at any university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution of the recipients' choice.

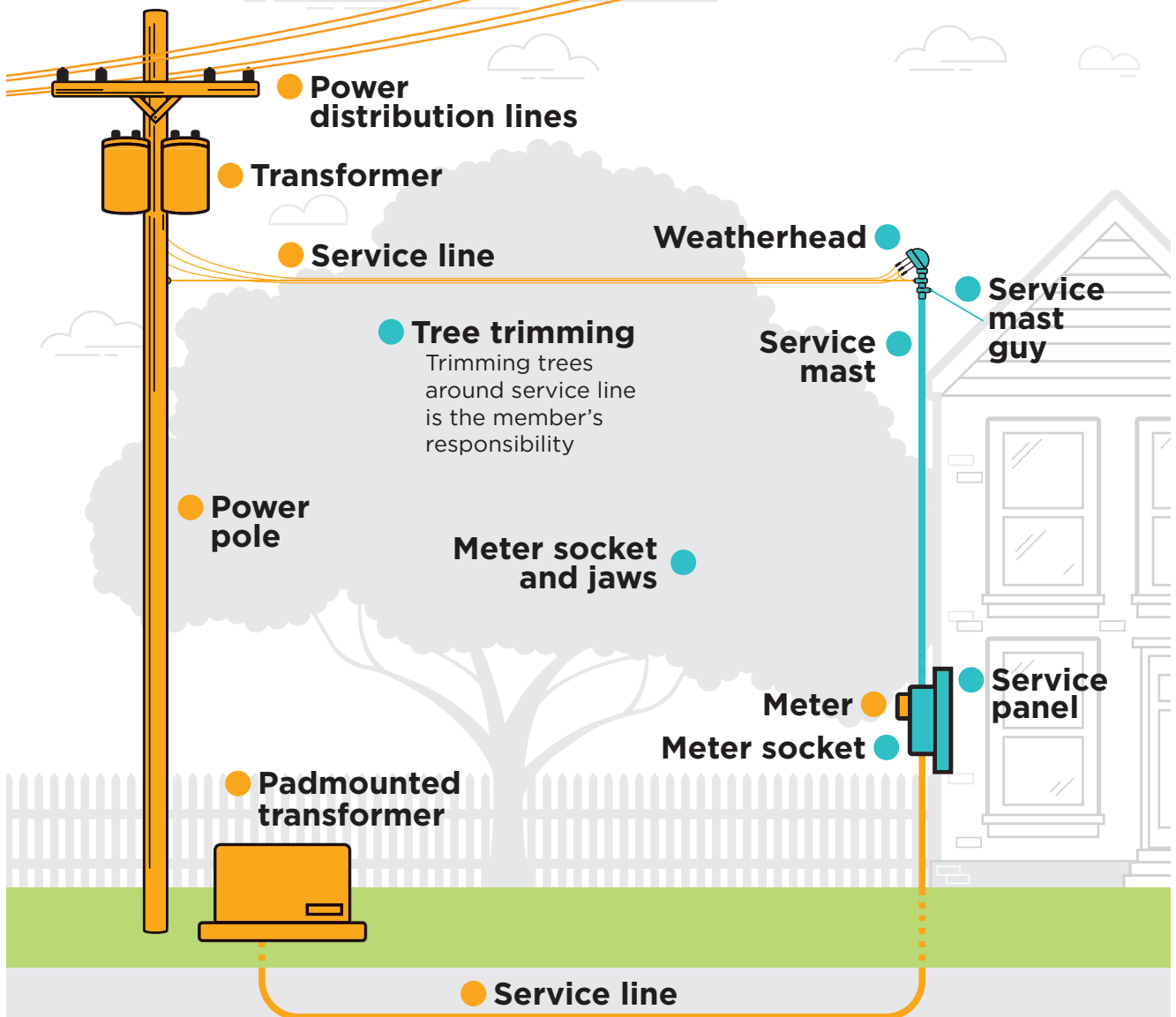
These scholarships are funded by unclaimed deposits and capital credits returns from our members. Any member can still file a claim with the state of Texas to recover unclaimed checks, but the law allows Lamar Electric to use a portion of these funds for scholarships. ■

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

- Co-op owned
- Member-owned



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.