



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
AND CEO

JERRY D.
WILLIAMS

Space Heaters and Hot Air

RECENTLY I SAW AN advertisement for “Budget-Friendly Space Heaters”. The description was quiet amusing to me. To me, that would be like offering Budget-Friendly Diamond Rings, or Budget-Friendly Rib Eye Steaks. The only Budget-Friendly space heater is one that is still in the box or seldom used.

Everyone would like to stay cozy and warm in the winter. Unfortunately, some vendor’s heaters are more hype than heat. This is the time of year you will see full-page newspaper advertisements for energy-efficient heaters with beautiful wood mantles or wood framing that is handmade. Often the picture will show some kind-looking bearded gentlemen driving horse-drawn buggies, delivering the heaters. As beautiful as the wood looks, the bottom line is these heaters are usually simple 1500 watt electric space heaters that look good. They heat the same as the \$30 space heater at the hardware store.

Many folks have been disappointed when they buy “Budget-Friendly” or “Energy-Efficient” space heaters to help heat their homes. A space heater is exactly what the name implies—designed to heat a small “space.” Space heaters can be as simple as the plain white model found on the Walmart shelf or the fancy heaters covered in wood. Either way, a 1,000-watt heater will produce 3,412 British Thermal Units (commonly called Btus) of heat. The heating coils are electric resistance heat, which is 100 percent efficient. If that 1,000-watt heater is on for one hour, it will use 1,000 watts for an hour or 1 kWh on your electric meter. We use a “k” to indicate 1,000 and the “h” stands for “hour.”

Several years ago, Lamar Electric sold a space heater that was constructed to look like a fireplace, complete with a wood mantle, wood hearth and lights that resembled flames. This fake fireplace used 1,500 watts of electricity and had a small fan that would blow the heat a few feet directly in front. It did have one great energy-saving item. It had a separate switch for the flames, which allowed you to see pretty flames coming from this beautiful wood fireplace and not operate the heating unit.

Don’t be fooled by salesmen or advertising displays that tell you, “These heaters will cost you pennies a day.” They generally don’t say how many pennies. The heaters may be efficient because they have a little fan to blow over the red-hot electric coils, but no matter how you slice it, a watt is a watt.

There are some situations where a space heater is the least expensive way to go, but be cautious. If you only want to heat the space around your feet and

chair while you watch TV for a few hours, the space heater may be the least expensive way to go. You can even turn the central heating unit thermostat down (as low as 50 degrees), place the space heater in a room that is occupied by several people and close that room off from the rest of the home. This method of “zone heating” can help reduce your heating costs, especially if you toss everyone a blanket and call the dog (cat) to join you. Just remember, space heaters are not a very good solution to heat the whole house.

I have visited with folks who had five space heaters scattered through their home and couldn’t understand why their electric bill was so high.

Let’s do some math, using the popular 1,500-watt model. Most space heaters have a thermostat, but with one heater per room it will seldom go off, unless something like the sun adds warmth. If we assume the heater is on for 40 minutes and off for 20 minutes, the result is 16 hours of run time per day. Sixteen hours at 1.5 kWh per hour (remember 1,000 watts = 1 kWh; so 1,500 watts = 1.5 kWh) adds up to 24 kWh per day. That doesn’t sound so bad, until you multiply it by about 10 cents per kWh and get \$2.40 per day for about 20 days of the month. The total is \$48 for that one heater. Only pennies a day! Imagine you had 5 heaters going for a total of \$240 for the month. Remember the \$240 is before you add any electricity for your lights, big screen TV, refrigerator, etc.

So, what is the most efficient way to stay warm? Glad you asked. Come by the new Lamar Electric office on Highway 82 East, near Blossom this winter and see how warm an earth coupled heat pump can make a building. The electric heat pump is the way to go. Unless you can invest in a geothermal electric heat pump (the absolute most efficient), the standard air-source heat pump is generally the most efficient. The air to air heat pump is basically a central air conditioner with a few extra parts. The outdoor unit looks exactly the same as one for a central air conditioner. It is called a heat pump because it literally pumps heat into your house (heating mode) or pumps heat out of your house (cooling mode) into your compressor/condenser outside unit. In the case of the new office building; water is pumped through sixty dry wells that are 300 feet deep. (More on this later)

Space heaters have a purpose when used as intended but are not very friendly to your budget when used to heat the whole house. ■



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Lamar Electric To Award \$6,000 in Scholarships

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will award six \$1,000 scholarships to students who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution. Scholarship payment will be made directly to the institution in one lump sum and must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

Eligibility Requirements

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

- ▶ Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric.
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited home school program within the counties served by the cooperative.
- ▶ Apply by April 5.

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric annual meeting April 17 in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

The application can be found on our website, lamarelectric.coop. Submit by email to scholarship@lamarelectric.coop or fill out the application below and mail it to Lamar Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarships, P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE: APRIL 5

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

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

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NO. _____

PHONE NUMBER _____



1485 N. Main St., Paris
P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461
Phone (903) 784-4303
Web lamarelectric.coop

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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





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2021 Youth Tour Canceled

Out of concern for the ongoing issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Youth Tour has been canceled. We thought it prudent not to expose students and chaperones to any COVID-19 risks that may still be present in large crowds in June.

We look forward to sending local students on the 2022 Youth Tour when COVID risks are not expected to be an issue.

10 Don'ts for Cold Months

FOLLOW THESE TIPS to stay safe and save energy during winter.

- 1. Don't overstuff your refrigerator.** Stacking holiday leftovers on top of each other and squeezing extra containers of food onto every refrigerator shelf will prevent air from circulating. That forces the appliance's compressor to work harder and use more electricity.
- 2. Don't crank the thermostat way up to heat a cold house in a hurry.** Turning the heat up to 90 degrees won't warm a 60-degree house any quicker than turning it up to 67 degrees. Any setting over 10 degree increase will turn on auxiliary heat.
- 3. Don't run bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans any longer than you have to.** Flip them on to clear smoke while cooking and steam while showering.
- 4. Don't use a barbecue grill or a propane patio heater indoors, even if your central heating system is on the fritz.** This is a fire hazard and can expose you to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- 5. Don't stop using ceiling fans.** They can save energy during winter. The trick: Set the spin direction to pull cool air up. Heat rises, so in the winter, the blades should spin clockwise to move warm air toward the walls and down into the room.
- 6. Don't let your fireplace suck warm air out of the flue.** Keep the damper closed when not in use and consider getting an insert to help heat radiate into the home.
- 7. Don't use the same thermostat setting when you're away for when you're home.** Decrease the temperature setting by 10 degrees while you are gone to save big.
- 8. Don't leave lights on in a room when no one is using them.** Install automatic sensors to help ensure the lights go out when a room is vacant.
- 9. Don't continue using old lightbulbs.** LEDs can provide the same amount of light with much less energy usage.
- 10. Don't turn up the water heater temperature.** Keep the setting at 120 degrees to conserve energy and reduce the risk of scalding. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

It takes 50,000 watts to power the 32,256 LEDs on the ball dropped in Times Square on New Year's Eve. In 1907 the original ball had 100 25-watt bulbs.

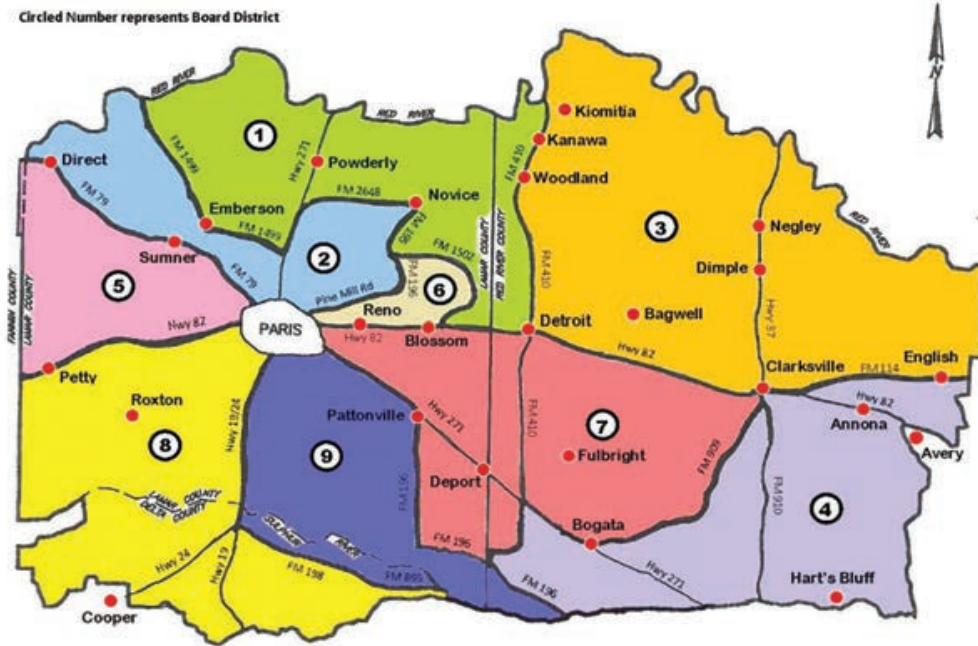
OGIVUK | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

When you're finished baking, turn off the oven and then open the oven door to let heat radiate into the home rather than exhausting it outside with a fan.

MAPODILE | ISTOCK.COM



Annual Meeting Set for April 17

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will hold its annual meeting 10 a.m. Saturday, April 17, at the new cooperative headquarters, 5225 U.S. Highway 82 E. in Blossom. Additional information regarding the meeting will be published in *Texas Co-op Power* over the next few months.

Three positions on the board of directors are up for election each year, and this year, districts 1, 8 and 9 will be voting for their directors at the annual meeting. Members residing in districts 1, 8 and 9 who wish to be a candidate for one of the three available board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative and fill out a nomination form between January 17 and February 16, as outlined in the co-op's bylaws. If you are unsure of which district you live in, please refer to the district map above.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 annual membership meeting was canceled. The bylaws specify that the board members or board seats that were up for election at that meeting will stand for election at the next annual meeting—in this case, the 2021 meeting—and the board members who would normally be up for election at the 2021 meeting will have their terms extended until the 2022 annual meeting. The terms of the other members of the board shall be extended accordingly.

Lamar Electric Cooperative Bylaws Excerpt

ARTICLE III. SECTION 3. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become a board member of the cooperative who:

- a. Has not been a member of the Cooperative for at least one year prior to nomination;
- b. Has not been a bona fide resident of the board district for which seeking election for at least one year prior to nomination;
- c. Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;

- d. Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- e. Is a close relative of an employee or an employee's spouse ("close" being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);
- f. Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead "no contest" to a felony; or
- g. Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

No person shall be eligible to remain a board member who:

- a. Is not a member of the Cooperative;
- b. Is not a bona fide resident of the district for which elected;
- c. Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- d. Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- e. Is a close relative of an employee or an employee's spouse ("close" being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);
- f. Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead "no contest" to a felony; or
- g. Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board or at any special or annual meeting of the members. ■