



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO BRYAN STORY

Reliable Power for Today—and Tomorrow

OUR TEAM AT Lamar Electric Cooperative is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Lamar Electric is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering infrastructure technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps us save money with real-time data and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. Consistent inspections of lines and vegetation have allowed us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability.

As technology advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Texas and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business



model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition. One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our community. You may not realize it, but Lamar Electric doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

Rest assured Lamar Electric will continue working to provide the safe, reliable and affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow. ■

Ice Isn't Always Nice

Although much of the state is unaccustomed to snow and ice, temperatures can fall below freezing even in South Texas, potentially causing power outages. To keep safe and comfortable during a winter power outage:

Report any outages.

Turn off electrical appliances that were operating at the time the power went off. Leave one light on so you'll know when service has been restored.

Keep warm by closing off rooms you don't need and use only safe sources of heat, like a wood stove. Do not burn charcoal indoors. If you operate lanterns or fuel-fired cook stoves or heaters, make sure that you have adequate ventilation.

Don't drive unless absolutely necessary until conditions improve. If you must drive, go slowly.

Lamar Electric encourages you to always practice safety.



PHOTOS.COM



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Phone (903) 784-4303
Web lamarelectric.coop

General Manager and CEO
Bryan Story

Board of Directors
George M. Wood, President, Blossom
Lyle Yoder, Vice President, Pattonville
Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer,
Detroit
Matthew Albus, Roxton
Allen Branch, Sumner
James D. Floyd, Annona
Barbara Golden, Detroit
Jeremy D. Hamil, Sumner
Ron E. Tippit, Clarksville

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

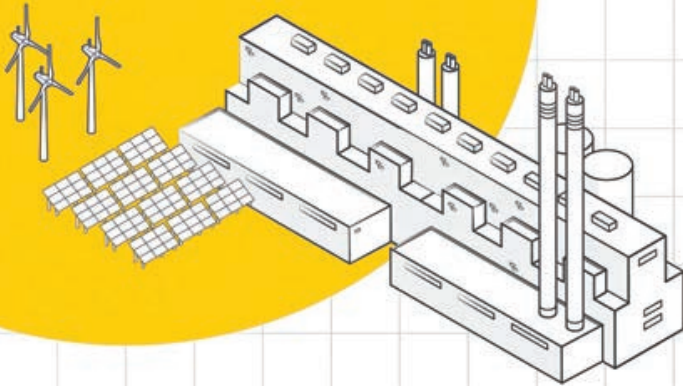
lamarelectric.coop



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/lamar

DID YOU KNOW?

Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants send electricity to the grid.



ABBY BERRY

A Beginner's Guide to the Electric Grid

ELECTRICITY PLAYS an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for power is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.

At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability

Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators or regional transmission organizations monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants—factories that produce electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Lamar Electric Cooperative receives power from our generation and transmission co-op. We work closely with it to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development, and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

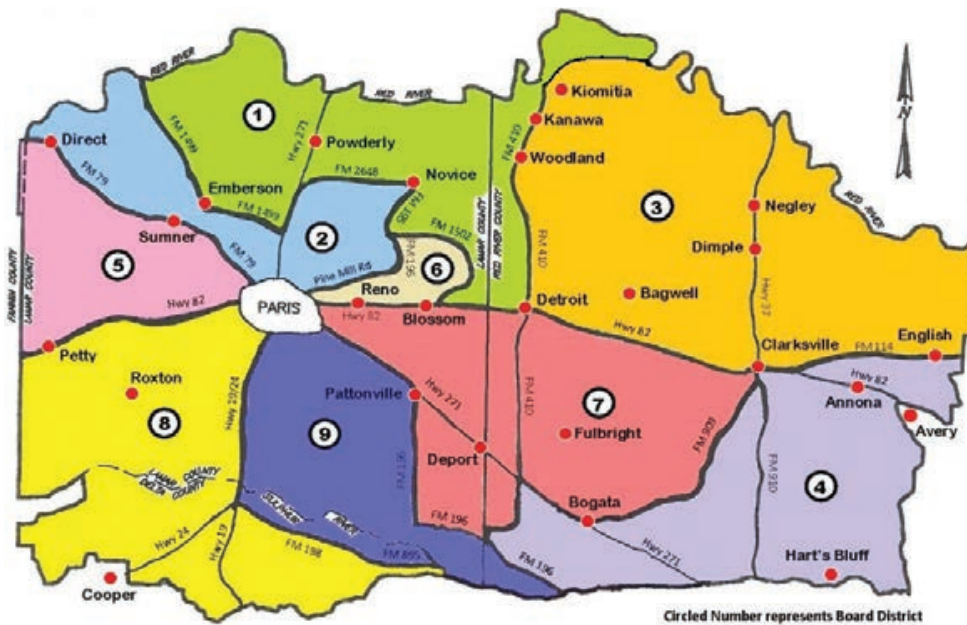
High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you—to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine—and one of our nation's greatest achievements. ■



Annual Meeting Set for April 20

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at the cooperative’s headquarters, 5225 U.S. Highway 82 E. in Blossom. There will be additional information in *Texas Co-op Power* regarding the meeting 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 vote 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 no later than February 20, as outlined in the co-op’s bylaws. If you’re unsure of which district you live in, refer to the district map.

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 in 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 in 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. ■



VESNAANDJIC | ISTOCK.COM

Chocolate Caramel Bars

- 11½ ounces milk chocolate chips**
- 2 tablespoons vegetable shortening**
- 30 vanilla caramel candies**
- 3 tablespoons salted butter**
- 2 tablespoons water**
- 1 cup coarsely chopped peanuts**

1. Line an 8-inch-square pan with nonstick foil.
2. Melt the chocolate chips and vegetable shortening in a double boiler or a heatproof bowl set above (not touching) simmering water. Stir until chips melt and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat and pour half the chocolate into the lined pan, spreading evenly. Set aside remaining chocolate and refrigerate lined pan of chocolate until firm, about 15 minutes.

3. In a second double boiler, combine caramels, butter and water. Melt over simmering water, stirring constantly. Add peanuts and stir until well blended. Pour into chocolate-lined pan and spread evenly. Refrigerate until tacky, about 15 minutes.

4. Place the reserved melted chocolate back over the simmering water and heat, stirring once or twice until soft enough to spread. Spread evenly over caramel filling. Return to refrigerator and chill until firm, about 1 hour.

5. Lift from pan and cut into 2-inch squares. Keep refrigerated.

MAKES 16 PIECES

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).



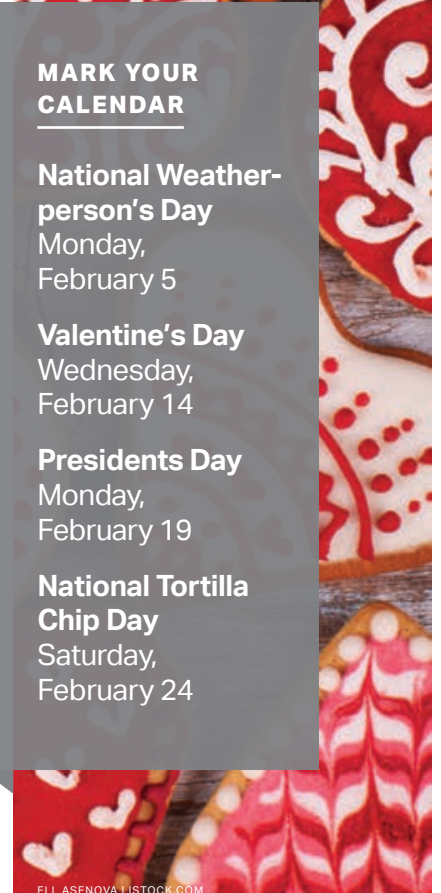
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

National Weather-person's Day
Monday,
February 5

Valentine's Day
Wednesday,
February 14

Presidents Day
Monday,
February 19

National Tortilla Chip Day
Saturday,
February 24



ELI_ASENOVA | ISTOCK.COM



DID YOU KNOW?

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance.

JOSE CARLOS CERDENO | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% annually on energy bills.

FERRANTRAITE | ISTOCK.COM

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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 the student must:

- Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric Cooperative.
- Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited home school program within the counties served by the Cooperative.
- Apply by April 12.

Winners will be chosen in a random drawing at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2024. You need not be present to win.

Entry Deadline is April 12, 2024

Once the application is completed email to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop

Or mail to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative
Attn: Scholarships
PO Box 68
Blossom, TX 75416

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

COLLEGE OF INTEREST _____

COLLEGE MAJOR OF INTEREST _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAMES _____

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

PHONE _____