



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

BRYAN STORY

Bringing Power Home

I SAW A STATISTIC THE other day that made me stop and think: More than 700 million people around the world lack access to a benefit that most of us take for granted: reliable electricity.

It seems so simple, doesn't it? Flip a switch, and electricity is there to cool our homes, heat our food and light up the darkness.

But when you think of everything that has to happen to bring this power to us, from the generators that start a flow of electrons through hundreds of miles of wires to a vast array of equipment needed to bring those electrons to our homes and businesses, it seems almost miraculous.

This miracle of modern society is brought to you by the dedication and hard work of thousands of people, including the 37 employees of Lamar Electric Cooperative.

Electricity has become so commonplace these days that it's easy to forget that only a couple of generations ago, it was a luxury available to few people outside urban areas.

You have electricity today because 85 years ago, the founders of Lamar EC got together to bring themselves and their neighbors the same power that folks in the city enjoyed. They laid the foundation for this utility, which strives not to make a profit but to offer the best service possible at a reasonable cost. And those of us who followed strive every day to uphold that mission.

Although we can look back at a proud history, the leaders of this co-op do not dwell on the past. We're constantly looking for ways to improve service and keep power affordable.

As a member of Lamar EC, you play your part. You have a say in the policies of the cooperative, electing fellow members to serve on the board of directors. Your voice is important to us. If you have any comments or concerns about how we do business, just give us a call at (903) 784-4303.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you and bring you a modern miracle that has become an essential part of our lives.

Electricity has come a long way, and we're proud of our progress, but we'll never lose sight of how we can best serve our members today and tomorrow. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cinco de Mayo
Sunday, May 5

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12

National River Cleanup Day
Saturday, May 18

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27

Our offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.



Lamar Electric To Send Local Student to DC

CLARA MAE CARPENTER WILL join more than 150 Texas teens on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, June 16–23.

Carpenter, from Detroit High School, will get to spend a week in Washington, D.C., this summer on a trip that seasoned tourists would envy, thanks to Lamar Electric Cooperative and its members.

Carpenter was selected from among a pool of talented applicants who entered Lamar Electric's Youth Tour contest. Their prize is a place on the all-expenses-paid trip to Washington. Once there, the Texas delegation that includes Carpenter will join 1,900 students from across the country.

Youth Tour is a long and storied co-op tradition that fits into cooperatives' mission to empower and enrich the communities they serve. Since the program's inception in 1965, more than 4,400 Texans have gone on the trip, which for many is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the monuments and museums of the nation's capital, meet with elected officials, and forge lasting memories and lifelong friendships.

Carpenter will fly to Washington to begin a whirlwind tour of the nation's capital, visiting Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include learning about rural electrification, going on a Potomac River cruise with dinner and dancing, and meeting with congressional representatives.

The trip lasts just seven days, but the experiences will shape participants' lives for years to come.

By educating and mentoring the young people of our communities, Lamar Electric hopes to provide today's youths with the tools they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. Youth Tour is just one way we work toward that goal.

For more information about Youth Tour, visit texasyouthtour.com, find the Texas Youth Tour Alumni page on Facebook or ask Lamar Electric for a copy of *Your Tour* magazine. ■



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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



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/lamar



Why Electric Co-ops Replace Utility Poles

YOU PROBABLY DON'T pay much attention to the thousands of utility poles found throughout Lamar Electric Cooperative's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the poles on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews and contractors check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement.

Here's a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews call 811 to request location of any other utility lines (water, gas, fiber, etc.) to

ensure that it is safe to place the pole in a certain area. After this, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be at least 15% of the new pole's height.

Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces—all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Crews then safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So the next time you come across a co-op crew inspecting or replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members. ■

6 Outdoor Kitchen Trends

ONE SURE WAY TO save energy is to cook and eat outdoors. Here are six ways to spruce up your outdoor kitchen.

Add on. Outdoor living spaces, like patios, kitchens or covered porches, are getting larger and more elaborate. Especially as families are spending more time at home and skipping summer vacations, a larger space can make sense and provide a great place to host family and friends.

Splurge on the grill. The grill is the star of any patio's show, so a round-top charcoal model might be too basic. The latest trend favors smoker-style grills, which allow the family chef to instill foods with smoky flavor.

Build storage. The more dishes, utensils, cleaning supplies, seat cushions and condiments you can keep outside, the less work each cookout will be. Save trips between the indoor and outdoor kitchens by installing weather-resistant cabinets and elevate your patio design far above the standard stack of plastic storage bins.

Make cleanup easy. Have a sink or outdoor-safe dishwasher built into outdoor cooking and dining area. That will help minimize the number of trips indoors and keep you with your guests longer.

Install an ice maker. Buckets and coolers of ice melt quickly, are messy to clean up and add an extra chore to the to-do list when preparing for company. Most outdoor ice makers are a little bit larger than a dorm refrigerator and can produce anywhere from 50 to 80 pounds of ice per day.

Turn up the heat. You won't need a patio heater during the dog days of summer, but you will extend the seasonal life of your outdoor room if you install one. Family and guests will be able to dine outdoors as autumn evenings turn crisp. ■



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May Is National Electrical Safety Month

FAMILIES SHOULD PRACTICE electrical safety all year round. But May is National Electrical Safety Month—a good time to pay special attention to cleaning up electrical hazards around the home.

Here's how to start:

- ▶ Call a licensed electrician to inspect your home's wiring. Wiring wears out and can pose a fire hazard.
- ▶ Unplug appliances that you keep near water—like the blow-dryer and curling iron on the bathroom sink. Find another outlet where it's safer to use them.
- ▶ Replace lightbulbs in lamps and overhead fixtures whose wattage does not match the manufacturer's recommended wattage. If a lightbulb's wattage is higher than the lamp was designed to handle, it can overtax the lamp's wiring and cause a fire.
- ▶ Unclutter power strips. Just because your power strip has room for eight plugs doesn't mean the outlet you plug it into can handle that much load. High-voltage devices, like toaster ovens, shouldn't be plugged into the same strip.
- ▶ Put away extension cords. They're not designed for constant use. Use them only on a temporary basis. ■



ARTINA BIRNBAUM | ISTOCK.COM

SAFETY

IS THE BACKBONE OF RELIABILITY

Safety is **No. 1** at **Lamar Electric Cooperative**. This commitment to provide electrical safety has always been our priority so we can deliver reliable energy and peace of mind. That's why safety runs through everything we do.

**Lamar Electric
Cooperative**



Mother's Day Frittata

- 1 small onion, chopped**
 - 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter**
 - 2 small jars marinated artichoke hearts (6 ounces each), drained and chopped (keep liquid from 1 jar)**
 - 6 eggs**
 - ⅓ cup grated Parmesan cheese**
 - ⅓ cup bread crumbs**
 - ½ tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon (basil or chives will work also)**
 - 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled**
 - Dash ground black pepper**
 - ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese**
1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
 2. In a 10- or 12-inch oven-safe

skillet, sauté onion in butter until transparent. Add artichokes and liquid from one jar. Keep on low heat while making the following mixture.

3. In a large bowl, lightly beat eggs. Add Parmesan cheese, bread crumbs, herbs, bacon, pepper and sautéed onions and artichokes. Mix together and pour back into skillet.
4. Remove from stovetop and put in oven. Bake for 25 minutes or until set.
5. Sprinkle with mozzarella and return to oven to melt cheese.

SERVES 6-8

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

Cool Off Your Garage

MOST GARAGES HAVE little or no insulation in the walls or ceiling, but by adding some, you can help keep your whole house cooler.

Most folks don't spend much time out there with the cars, lawn tools and Christmas decorations, so keeping it cool in the summer or warm in the winter might seem like a waste of money.

But an attached garage that's as hot as a furnace in the summer can make your house hot, too. If your garage is heating up to 80, 90 or 100 degrees on sunny afternoons, some of that heat is going to transfer into the house.

That means your home's air conditioning system has to work double time.

It doesn't mean you should put an AC unit in your uninsulated garage. That would be about as efficient as trying to air condition your backyard; the cool air will leak right through the door, ceiling and walls.

The solution is to add insulation to walls and ceilings to block the outdoor heat and keep it out of the garage.

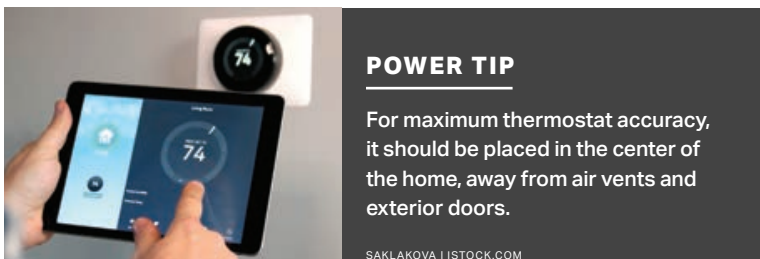
Replacing an old garage door with a new, energy-efficient model can reduce energy loss through the door by up to 71%. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Hanging anything—even a sign—on a power pole is illegal, causes pole damage, can delay power restoration and is dangerous to lineworkers.

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POWER TIP

For maximum thermostat accuracy, it should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents and exterior doors.

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