



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
AND CEO

BRYAN STORY

Safety Starts With You

ELECTRICITY PLAYS many roles in our lives, powering baby monitors, cellphones and lighting and running air conditioners and appliances. No wonder we've gotten so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect our systems and devices to do the job.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none are designed to last forever. Periodic inspections can prevent hazards from becoming dangerous.

GFCIs

Outdoor outlets and those in potentially damp locations like the kitchen, bathroom or laundry room typically include ground-fault circuit interrupters.



GFCIs are designed to detect abnormal current flows and break the circuit to prevent electric shocks.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less.

Check them frequently by pressing the test button. Make sure you hit the reset button when you're done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Outlets and Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration are early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards.

Loose connections can allow electrical arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like TVs and computers from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb.

If your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that warn you when they've stopped working, but many don't. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, it might be time for a replacement.

Extension Cords

With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Lamar Electric Cooperative, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging.

Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary use. If you use extension cords regularly, you may need to call an electrician to add more outlets.

Watch out for cords that get noticeably warm when in use; they might be undersized. If a cord shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced.

If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, it will not provide the protection it's designed to. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Lamar Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all our members. We encourage you to keep these safety tips in mind so you can address potential hazards before damage occurs. ■



MEGAN MYERS

Jalapeño Popper Bites

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
½ cup finely shredded cheddar cheese
½ cup chopped jalapeño peppers
⅓ cup cooked and crumbled bacon
½ teaspoon salt
Pinch cayenne pepper (optional)
30 phyllo shells
Pickled jalapeño slices, for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a bowl, combine cream cheese, cheddar, chopped jalapeños, bacon, salt and cayenne, if using, until

smooth and uniformly mixed.

3. Use 2 spoons or a small cookie scoop to divide mixture among phyllo shells. Place filled shells on a rimmed baking sheet and bake 10 minutes or until shells are crisp and filling is just starting to brown.
4. Let cool slightly and top each shell with a slice of pickled jalapeño. Serve warm.

MAKES 30 POPPERS

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



5225 US Hwy. 82 E, Blossom, TX 75416
P.O. Box 68, Blossom, TX 75416
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
James D. Floyd, Annona
Barbara Golden, Detroit
Jeremy D. Hamil, Sumner
Josh Hostetler, 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](https://www.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](https://www.TexasCoopPower.com/lamar)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Drive-In Movie Day
Friday, June 6

Flag Day
Saturday, June 14

Father's Day
Sunday, June 15

Juneteenth
Thursday, June 19

JOSH HODGE | ISTOCK.COM



Members Gather for 87th Annual Meeting

THE LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Annual Membership Meeting was held Saturday, April 26, at Lamar Electric's meeting room in Blossom.

Three directors were up for election. In District 5, Josh Hostetler ran unopposed and received 110 votes. In District 6, George Wood ran unopposed and received 85 votes. In District 7, Ron Tippit ran unopposed and received 80 votes. These directors were declared reelected and will each serve another three-year term.

Bryan Story, general manager and CEO, updated the members on financial reports and ongoing projects.

The names of 10 high school seniors were drawn out of a hopper to receive a \$1,500 scholarship each. The scholarships can be used at any university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution.

Scholarship winners are Kenleigh Watson of Prairiland High School; Joshua McDowra of Trinity Christian Academy; Miya Brooks of Clarksville High School; Brandi Ballard and Kaylee Johnson of Chisum High School; Emily Driggars, Emma Johnson and Dustee Rahn of Rivercrest High School; and Kylie Barber and Brayden Reynolds of North Lamar High School.

Money for these scholarships comes from unclaimed deposits and unclaimed capital credits retirements. Members still can 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.

All members present at the meeting were eligible for prizes won by 35 attendees. The grand prizewinner of a Nexgrill four-burner grill and propane tank was Frances Agee of Paris. ■

It's Grillin' Time

SUMMERTIME IS grilling season, and burgers and hot dogs over a sizzling fire are a welcome sight at barbecues across Texas. But fire anywhere else can make your family cookout memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Remember these rules for grilling.

Electric Grills

- ▶ Don't expose cords, plugs or heating elements to liquids.
- ▶ Check the grill for damage before operation, and replace broken parts.
- ▶ Turn the unit off before plugging in or unplugging.
- ▶ Plug the grill into an outlet with a ground-fault circuit interrupter.
- ▶ Don't grill near combustible materials, and don't grill in the rain.

Charcoal and Propane Grills

- ▶ Only grill outdoors. Grills are fire hazards and produce carbon monoxide, a deadly gas, so keep yours in a well-ventilated, open-air space.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Young ones or Fido can knock over grills and start a fire or injure themselves or others.
- ▶ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grates and in the trays below the grates. Buildup can start a grease fire.
- ▶ Never leave your grill unattended.

Charcoal Grills

- ▶ Use only charcoal starter fluid and never add flammable liquids to a fire.
- ▶ Keep charcoal lighter fluid out of the reach of children.
- ▶ Cool coals completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

Propane Grills

- ▶ Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it. If your grill has a gas leak but no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- ▶ If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

Whatever type of grill you're using, keep these tips in mind:

- ▶ Always check for burn bans in your area before lighting your grill.
- ▶ Keep a fire extinguisher readily available just in case.
- ▶ Place the grill on a flat, stable surface.
- ▶ Arm yourself with heavy-duty oven mitts and pot holders, and wear appropriate clothing. ■



DID YOU KNOW

A leak of one drop per second from a faucet can waste nearly 40 gallons of water a week. And if that's a hot water leak, you're wasting the energy to heat it.

SOLSTOCK | ISTOCK.COM



POWER TIP

Want to light your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try solar lights. They're easy to install and won't increase your bill.

SV PRODUCTION | ISTOCK.COM






Voices for Cooperative Power
United for Stronger Communities

As a co-op member, your voice matters!

Voices for Cooperative Power is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence public policy decisions that impact our co-ops and our way of life.



Scan this code to join today

voicesforcooperativepower.com