



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
AND CEO
BRYAN STORY

By the Community, for the Community

IF YOU'VE READ these columns before, you know that Lamar Electric Cooperative is not just another utility company. Our roots are different, and that difference is at the heart of everything we do.

Lamar Electric was built by local people who came together to bring electricity to this area. From the beginning, our mission has been simple: provide safe, reliable and affordable power for our members. But our purpose goes deeper than delivering electricity—it's about enriching the lives of the people and communities we serve.

Because we're a cooperative, our business model is built on principles that put members first. We don't have out-of-state shareholders looking for profits. Instead, we're owned by the people we serve. Any money collected beyond what's needed to operate and maintain our system is returned to you in the form of capital credits. That means the money you spend with Lamar Electric stays right here in our local communities.

Locally Governed, Locally Invested

One of the greatest strengths of our co-op is local control. Our leadership team and employees live right here in the same communities as our members. Our board of directors, who help guide the long-term priorities of the cooperative, are elected from among the membership. They're your neighbors and friends, and they represent your voice at the board table.

We also make it a priority to hear directly from you. Whether at community events, through social media or at our annual meeting, we value your perspective and use it to help shape decisions that impact the cooperative's future.

Guided by Cooperative Principles

Every cooperative, including Lamar Electric, follows seven guiding principles that form the framework for how we operate.

1. Open and Voluntary Membership—Anyone who can use our service is welcome.

2. Democratic Member Control—You, the members, help shape the co-op's future through your vote and voice.

3. Members' Economic Participation—Your monthly bills keep the co-op running today and support improvements for tomorrow.

4. Autonomy and Independence—We're locally run and make decisions with only our members in mind.

5. Education, Training and Information—We invest in training our employees and informing our members to build a stronger cooperative.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives—We partner with other co-ops and support them in times of need, just as they support us.

7. Concern for Community—We work for the greater good of the local communities we serve. Your co-op gives back to those communities to help them thrive and grow.

More Than Electricity

Our employees and directors are equally invested in the success of our region because we live here too. That's why we work hard to support economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives, and other efforts that strengthen our communities.

Every time we invest in these programs, the benefits ripple outward to you and your neighbors.

Celebrating Co-op Month

Each October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. celebrate National Co-op Month. It's a chance to reflect on what makes co-ops unique and to celebrate the power of membership. At Lamar Electric, our mission is reliable power—but our purpose will always be people.

We're proud of the fact that Lamar Electric was built by the community, for the community. Together, we will continue powering progress and improving the quality of life across our service territory. ■

Lamar Electric Cooperative 2026 Scholarship Application

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will award 10 \$1,500 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

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

- ▶ Live with a parent/guardian full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric.
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited homeschool program within the counties served by the cooperative.
- ▶ Apply by **April 3, 2026**.



Winners will be chosen in a random drawing at the Lamar EC annual meeting Saturday, April 18, 2026. You do not need to be present to win.

Once the application is completed:

Email to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop

Or mail to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative

Attn: Scholarships

P.O. Box 68

Blossom, TX 75416



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* 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)

Lamar Electric Cooperative 2026 Scholarship Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name of High School _____

College of Interest _____

College Major of Interest _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names _____

Lamar Electric Account Number _____



TRUCK or TREAT

Friday, October 31, 2025
4:30 -6:30PM

Lamar Electric Co-op

5225 US HWY 82 E. Blossom, TX 75416

Celebrate Your Electric Cooperative During October

DID YOU KNOW that electric cooperatives follow a business model that's different from most utilities, stores and organizations?

The cooperative business model means, in part, that Lamar Electric Cooperative belongs to you—the consumer who buys electricity from it. Because each consumer of the utility is also an owner—also known as a member—each consumer has a say in the way the co-op operates.

For example, your cooperative has a board of directors. Each director is also a member-owner (like you), and each is elected by the other member-owners, often during an annual meeting, where you can learn about what your co-op is doing and offer your input to its leaders.

Co-op membership has other benefits, including getting a return on your investment through capital credits. Cooperatives, unlike investor-owned utilities, are not-for-profits and are operated in a fashion such that any margins or revenue remaining after expenses have been paid are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we're a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. This principle is the essential DNA of Lamar EC, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are celebrating the essential role we play in serving communities like ours. Electric cooperatives have been lighting up rural homes for nearly 90 years. In October, National Co-op Month gives anyone whose electricity comes from a cooperative a reason to celebrate. ■



SAKLAKOVA | ISTOCK.COM

Keep Close Tabs on the Thermostat This Fall

IT'S TEMPTING TO flip on the heat during the first chilly evening of autumn. If you can resist, keep the temperature low because your air conditioning and heating system is the largest energy user in your home.

The perfect thermostat setting in fall can keep you comfortable *and* lower your energy bills. Here's a simple guide for October.

Daytime: Set your thermostat between 68 and 70 degrees for a cozy, energy-efficient home during the day.

Nighttime: Lower the temperature to between 60 and 65 degrees while you sleep to save on heating costs without sacrificing comfort.

When away: Set your thermostat to about 60 if you're out for several hours, to avoid wasting energy heating an empty house.

Use programmable thermostats: Automate these temperature changes to avoid manual adjustments and optimize savings.

These ranges balance comfort with efficiency as outdoor temperatures cool. Remember, you can save about 1% per degree you lower your thermostat during the wintertime, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. ■



MAKSYM BELCHENKO | ISTOCK.COM



Youth Tour²⁰²⁶

**JUNE
14-21
2026**

150 TEXAS TEENS 7 DAYS IN D.C. 0 DOLLARS

High school students: Get ready to pack your bags! You can join 2,000 teens from across the U.S. to make new friends and share experiences in Washington, D.C., all paid for by your electric co-op.

Museums. Memorials. Monuments. Memories. Friends. History. There's something for everyone on this trip of a lifetime!

APPLY NOW!

Visit lamarelectric.coop for more information.

SEE THE VIDEO



EXPERIENCE THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!



ANNAPUSTYNNIKOVA | ISTOCK.COM

Silky Caramels

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, plus more for pan if desired

2¼ cups packed brown sugar

Dash salt

1 cup light corn syrup

1 can sweetened condensed milk (14 ounces)

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Milk chocolate or dark chocolate morsels (optional)

1. Line a 9-by-9-inch pan with non-stick foil, or butter it very well.

2. Melt butter in a heavy two-quart saucepan. Add brown sugar and salt, stirring until completely mixed. Stir in corn syrup. Slowly add condensed milk, stirring constantly.

3. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat until candy thermo-

meter reads 245 degrees (firm ball stage.)

4. Remove saucepan from heat and stir in vanilla. Pour mixture into square pan and allow to cool completely.

5. Cut caramels into squares using kitchen scissors or a sharp knife.

6. If desired, melt chocolate according to package directions and dip each caramel piece in chocolate. Allow to set completely before wrapping.

7. Wrap in wax paper squares.

MAKES 42 CARAMELS

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

Inspect Outdoor Outlets, Cords

IT'S ALMOST LEAF-BLOWING SEASON.

Before you power up your leaf blower and other electrical outdoor tools, check your outlets and cords for safety. Here's how.

Inspect outlets: Look for cracked or broken covers and replace any that are damaged to prevent water from getting inside and behind them.

Test GFCI outlets: Outdoor outlets should have ground-fault circuit interrupters. Press the test and reset buttons monthly to ensure they're working. If your home is older, contact a licensed electrician to find out if your outlets have GFCIs.



BRITTAKOKEMOR | ISTOCK.COM

Examine extension cords: Check for frays, cracks or exposed wires. Damaged cords should be replaced immediately.

Use outdoor-rated cords: Only use cords labeled for outdoor use. They're designed to withstand weather conditions.

Keep connections dry: Avoid plugging cords into outlets while it's raining or the ground is wet. Use outlet covers, and keep cords elevated off wet ground.

Regularly inspecting your outdoor outlets helps prevent hazards like shocks or fires. A little maintenance now can keep your fall projects safe and trouble-free. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

Electric cooperatives return over \$1 billion to their members annually as not-for-profit organizations.

ASLAN ALPHAN | ISTOCK.COM

CO-OPS

Powering Communities
With Purpose



October Is National Co-op Month.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit, community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most.

That's the power of co-op membership.

Cybersecurity Tips for a Safer Digital World

DID YOU KNOW the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics—smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected tech, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Lamar Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and while good digital hygiene should be practiced year-round, we'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help you bolster your online safety.

Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts. Phishing is when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications to lure you into clicking a bad link or download a malicious attachment.

If you receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible—and don't forget to block the sender.

If you receive a suspicious work email, report it to your information technology administrator. Suspicious messages that are delivered to your personal email or social media accounts should be reported through the respective services and platforms.

Create strong, unique passwords. When it comes to passwords, remember that length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Create unique passwords for each online account you manage and use phrases you can easily remember.

Enable multifactor authentication when available. Multifactor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access, or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.

Keep software updated. Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.

Let's all do our part to stay smart online and create a safer digital world for everyone. Visit staysafeonline.org for more cybersecurity tips. ■

