



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER  
AND CEO  
BRYAN STORY

## Your Co-op Is a Hometown Business

**I LOVE THE FEELING** of walking into a locally owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor all stay right here—making a positive impact on our community. That same spirit of main street is at the heart of Lamar Electric Cooperative.

This Thanksgiving is a perfect time to reflect on how co-ops are among the most local, community-centered organizations you'll ever find. Electric cooperatives were founded to bring power to communities that investor-owned utilities ignored—and that's something I'm truly grateful for.

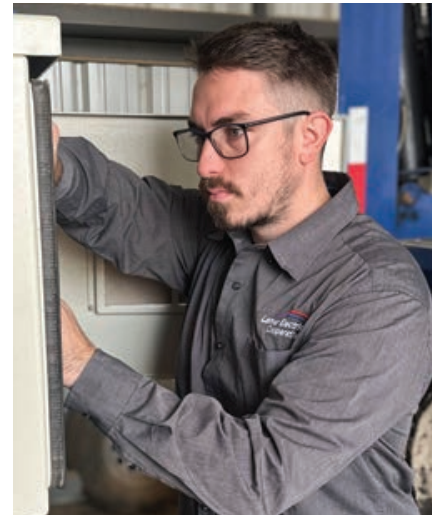
The gratitude I feel supporting local businesses is the same gratitude I feel every day when I walk into work at the co-op. It's also a deep sense of pride—because I get to be part of an organization that serves neighbors and friends, not distant shareholders who may never set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just reliable, affordable and safe electricity. It's an investment in our community and its future. Because LEC is a not-for-profit cooperative, any funds left after expenses are returned to our members as capital credits. That means the money we make flows right back into the hands of the people who own us—you.

And because we're owned by you, we have a vested interest in helping our community thrive. Whether it's through economic development, youth programs or community service, LEC invests in more than electricity—we invest in people.

This Thanksgiving, I hope you see Lamar Electric not just as your electricity provider but as a partner in building pride and prosperity in our community. If you'd like to learn more about how we keep the lights on—and how we serve beyond the meter—stop by or give us a call.

We're grateful to be part of this community, and we're grateful for you—this Thanksgiving and always. ■



## Co-ops Power Careers for Vets

**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is among the more than 900 electric co-ops across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans. We're grateful to have vets within our ranks, and we're proud to serve veterans and their families within our community.

At the national level, we support the Vets Power Us program, an initiative of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to hire veterans and help them explore meaningful career opportunities within co-ops across rural and suburban America.

America's electric co-ops are working closely with federal partners to establish a national employee resource group—Veterans in Energy—to provide transition, retention and professional development support to veterans working in the energy industry.

With more than 40% of veterans hailing from rural communities and a heightened challenge of attracting and retaining a new co-op workforce, facilitating the connection between job-seeking veterans and electric cooperative career opportunities is a win-win endeavor.

Lamar EC is proud to be a part of the cooperative network that honors and supports vets of all ages, ranks and branches. ■

# Prepare Now for Winter Weather

**NOW IS PROBABLY THE** time you're making plans for the holidays—arranging travel, finding gifts for loved ones and getting in the festive spirit. But now is also the perfect time to make a plan to keep your home safe this winter.

Cold weather, ice and snow can do real damage to your home if you don't prepare. Take the time to do some maintenance and winterize your home to make it more comfortable and safe in the coming months.

**Insulate windows.** Reducing drafts can lower your home's energy costs by up to 30% per year. You can get inexpensive supplies like weatherstripping, rope caulk, shrink film and draft stoppers at a hardware store.

**Trim tree branches.** Any tree limbs or branches hanging over your home should be cut back to at least 3 feet away from your house.

**Inspect and repair your fireplace.** In addition to your own visual inspection, you may want to have an expert inspect your chimney inside and out. Check that the roof flashing is tight against the chimney.

**Check and repair the roof.** Do a visual inspection or hire a professional. Check for cracked caulk or rust spots on flashing; shingles that are buckling, curling, blistering, missing or broken; cracked rubber boots around vent pipes; and masses of moss and lichen, which may indicate the roof is decaying underneath.

**Clear out and repair gutters and downspouts.** Clogged rain gutters or downspouts can damage your home's foundation or cause ice dams during a freeze. Make sure the gutters aren't sagging or trapping water, and tighten gutter hangers and downspout brackets.

By taking the time now to prepare your home for winter, you can prevent a headache—or serious damage—later on. ■



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Bryan Story

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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](http://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](http://lamarelectric.coop)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/lamar](http://TexasCoopPower.com/lamar)



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## We're Thankful for Your Membership

**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** would like to express our gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Lamar EC, we're able to make our community a better place.

During this season of giving thanks, it's important to let our members know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, or provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

Because we're locally governed by members of our community, we're able to get a firsthand perspective on community priorities.

We're thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep up to date on industry trends. This investment results in better-informed advisers who serve the co-op's interests in a way that other members expect and deserve.

Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and we're thankful for your membership. ■

### POWER TIP

Applying new weatherstripping (or replacing old) around doors and windows can make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste.

MIGUEL ALVAREZ | ISTOCK.COM



## Paula's Cranberry Relish

- 1 pound fresh or thawed frozen cranberries**
- 1½ cups dried sour cherries or dried cranberries**
- 1½ cups sugar**
- ½ cup red wine (or pure, unsweetened cranberry juice)**
- 2 pods star anise**
- 1 cinnamon stick**
- ½ cup freshly squeezed Satsuma tangerine juice (or orange juice)**
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt**

**1.** In a heavy medium saucepan, combine all ingredients and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Cook the sauce about 10–15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the cranberries burst and the texture becomes thick and jam-like.

**2.** Use a spatula to transfer the sauce into a heatproof bowl and let cool completely. Season with salt to taste and refrigerate until chilled.

**3.** Serve the sauce cold or at room temperature. Remove cinnamon stick and star anise just before serving.

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

JODY HORTON





# How's Your Indoor Air?



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**SOME DAYS, THE AIR INSIDE** your house is as polluted as the air outside.

You can change that—and you should. After all, many of us spend most of our time indoors.

Clear up the air inside your home, especially if household members have headaches or suffer from allergies. Here's how to start.

If your house is newer, it's likely the builder made it airtight so the air conditioning and heating systems would work more efficiently. But that seal can trap pollutants and moisture inside. If your indoor air smells stale, get the ventilation system checked. Your house needs proper ventilation to keep the air circulating, which will help prevent indoor air pollution.

Furnaces and stoves should be directly vented to remove moisture and combustion by-products from your home. Bathrooms should have exhaust fans to pull moisture outside. Clothes dryers should be vented to the outdoors.

Check and clean your furnace annually to prevent damaged heat exchangers or blocked flues from spewing pollutants into indoor air.

Change AC filters frequently. The filters not only protect furnace equipment, but high-quality filters can also trap and remove pollutants from the air.

Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home. Unlike some other pollutants, carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and extremely dangerous, so you won't know when it's in the air until it's too late.

Paints, solvents, household cleaners and air fresheners can contain pollutants. Use them with windows open and exhaust fans on.

If you need to remove lead paint from your home's walls and ceilings, call a professional. The removal process can cause serious health risks if not done properly. ■

## Don't Let Thanksgiving Eat Up Energy

**DURING THANKSGIVING**, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect holiday dish. Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

**1. When possible, cook with smaller appliances.** Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens, air fryers and convection ovens, is more energy-efficient than using your large stove or oven.

**2. Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load.** These are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to as much as \$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use.

**3. Help large appliances work less.** Keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first.

**4. Use your dishwasher efficiently.** Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse and hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. ■



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