

Website makeover

Shelbyelectric.coop debuted a new design in July. You can still access all aspects of the cooperative and what it has to offer. The landing page provides access to the latest news, your account for reviewing and paying your bill, quick links to the cooperative's social media platforms, the real-time outage map, and much more. This new website is still device-friendly, so you can access and view on any computer, phone, or tablet.

"Nothing really changed, it was just time for a new, clean look to the site originally launched in 2017," said cooperative spokesperson Kevin Bernson. "We will continue to add and make improvements to our online presence, so visit shelbyelectric.coop often."



Propane Safety Tips

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Propane tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when igniting a pilot light.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately, call 911 from outside the home, and then call your propane provider.

Shelby Energy Company is an LP gas subsidiary of Shelby Electric Cooperative. You can reach them by calling 217-774-2311, visit their website at shelbyenergyco.coop, or like them on Facebook @ShelbyEnergyCo.



Shelby Energy Company

PROTECTING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, September 18-24 has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.



Source: The National Education Center for Agriculture Safety

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Nate Miller joins the cooperative

As the cooperative started researching bringing fiber to the cooperative's service territory, we needed someone to continue that research and head up a fiber project the cooperative is working on with Macon County. Nate Miller became the perfect choice to lead this effort.

Miller, who started with the cooperative in July as Fiber Project Manager, came to the cooperative from Consolidated Communications where he was an Area Service Manager. He has a strong telecommunication/fiber background through his 15 years at Consolidated, starting as a field service tech before becoming a manager in 2019. Miller is looking forward to the work ahead and is excited to be part of a team that will eventually bring fiber to the underserved rural areas to benefit cooperative members and others looking for a high-speed internet option. "I'm looking forward to the co-op expanding broadband across the service territory. It is exciting to be part of something like this in the beginning stages," explained Miller.

A Windsor High School graduate,



Miller worked for GE in Mattoon for five years. He then received an associate degree in telecommunications from Lake Land College.

He currently resides in Shelbyville with his wife Rebecca and their two children, Adalynn (16) and Jaden (13). Both Jaden and Adalynn are active in sports so that keeps him busy. In his spare time, he likes to tinker with his truck and spend time on the family farm.

Welcome to the cooperative family, Nate!

SHELBY News

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Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, September 5th for Labor Day



Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville October 7 – 9

Mark your calendars now for the annual Touchstone Energy® Hot Air Balloonfest held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze over Columbus Day weekend, October 7-9.

“We will have plenty of exciting things to see and do for the whole family that weekend,” noted balloonfest organizer Kevin Bernson.

The event kicks off Friday evening at Willow Ridge Winery with food, music, fun, and a small balloon glow (weather permitting). NATU band out of Nashville will be performing, and Pauly’s BBQ food truck will also be on site. Pilots from around the Midwest plan to take to the skies with fun flights on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Plan on coming to the Shelby County Airport for breakfast Saturday morning and watch the balloon pilots participate in a fun task over the airport. Stick around for the Young Eagle flights put on by the Loren Hodge Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 274. Kids ages 8 to 17 get an introduction to general aviation and a free plane ride over Shelbyville. SummerSkys helicopter rides will be available all day for a fee.

Saturday evening festivities at the airport begin around 4 p.m. with a free kids’ area sponsored by Family Drug and music by All Kindz of Soundz. Bring your appetite, as the Shelbyville Fire Department will be having their evening cookout fundraiser. Just before dusk, enjoy skydivers from the Mid America Sports Parachute Club, based in Taylorville, as they land on targets at the airport. To cap off an exciting day, enjoy a tethered balloon ride for charity and watch the balloons light up the night with the J&R Collision Center’s hot air balloon glow (weather permitting). To round out the weekend, the pilots will once again



be challenged as they perform a fun task over 9th Street Beach located at Dam West Recreation Area, Sunday morning.

In addition to all the balloonfest activities, the Greater Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Scarecrow Daze in the downtown area of Shelbyville. There will be crafters, food trucks, entertainment, a beauty pageant, and so much more on Saturday, October 8, starting with a parade at 10 a.m. “The parade begins in Forest Park and makes its way to the downtown area. It is kind of an official kickoff for

Scarecrow Daze,” said chamber board member Dannette Logue.

“Without great community support, the sponsors, and probably most importantly the volunteers, we couldn’t pull off this exciting family event. We can always use more volunteers, especially to help crew for one of the balloon teams. If anyone is interested, please call the Shelby County Office of Tourism at 217-774-2244,” concluded Bernson.

For a list of the weekend’s activities, visit LakeShelbyville.com. See you in Shelbyville over Columbus Day weekend, October 7-9.



REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and September

September is a month that many appreciate after the heat of summer, especially since it ushers in the autumn season and pumpkin spice this and that.

If it seemed the energy needed to cool your home this summer was expensive, do not expect winter heating expenses to be much better. An effective way to help reduce the amount of energy needed to heat and cool your home, while also making it feel more comfortable, is to air seal and insulate.

With September's moderate temperatures, it is an opportune time to improve upon the unseen, and often forgotten, sealing and insulating of your home before winter. All those little cracks and holes around your home's envelope (the physical barrier that separates the inside conditioned space from the outside unconditioned space) and settled or damaged insulation are estimated to have the same air infiltration as leaving a window open every day of the year.

Sealing leaks and adding insulation can also help reduce or eliminate noise, pollen, dust, insects, and mice from entering your home. ENERGY STAR has helpful resources available to help you determine where to start and even a downloadable do-it-yourself guide.

September also has several noteworthy days, even if some are folklore. So, get your calendar out and make note of these dates!



🍁 "Fair on the first of September, fair the entire month." (Farmers' Almanac)

🍂 "As the weather is on September 6th, so it will be for the next four weeks." (Farmers' Almanac)

🍁 The Harvest Moon will rise just after sunset on September 9th. The Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the fall equinox, occurring in either September or October.

🍂 "If on September 19th there is a storm from the south, a mild winter may be expected." (Farmers' Almanac)

🍁 Autumn officially begins on September 22nd.

🍂 "The three days of September 21st, 23rd, and 24th rule the weather for October, November, and December." (Farmers' Almanac)

🍂 "The first snow comes six weeks after the last thunderstorm in September." (Farmers' Almanac)

Personally, I believe this September I will be sipping a pumpkin spice this or that while hoping for no thunderstorms, unless it comes from the south on September 19th!

~Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist



ONLINE BILL PAY

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