

DECORATE AND TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFELY THIS HALLOWEEN

Who does not like receiving candy, wearing fun costumes, and in some cases, setting up outdoor lighting or inflatable decorations for Halloween?

While preparing for and enjoying the holiday, follow these safety precautions:

Outdoor lighting

- 🎃 Inspect each electrical decoration. Check cords for cracking, fraying, or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Also, inspect for damaged plugs.
- 🎃 Replace any damaged decorations.
- 🎃 Make sure any lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are safety tested by a reputable laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and approved for outdoor use.
- 🎃 Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- 🎃 Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into ground fault circuit interrupter-protected outlets.
- 🎃 When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Always carry a ladder or other long object or tool in a horizontal position.



DECORATE SAFELY, DRESS UP WITH CARE, ENJOY YOUR TREATS, AND HAVE A HAUNTINGLY FUN HALLOWEEN!

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Division, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips:

Costume safety

- 👻 Wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
- 👻 Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape for added visibility.
- 👻 Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eye care professional for a proper fitting and instructions on how to use them.
- 👻 Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.
- 👻 Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy by putting a small amount on your arm.

Food safety

- 🍬 Do not let your little ones (or anyone) eat candy or other treats until they have been inspected at home.
- 🍬 Check all labels for potential food allergens.
- 🍬 If you have very young trick-or-treaters, remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys from the goodie pile.
- 🍬 Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as tiny pinholes, tears in wrappers, or anything unusual.
- 🍬 Limit your risk of receiving questionable candy by only visiting homes you know.



Reagan Scott
Age 4 – 6



Sophia Wells
Age 7 – 9



Heather Ruot
Age 10 – 12

Coloring Contest Winners

This year our annual coloring contest provided kids, ages 4-12, a chance to decorate Touchstone Energy's Hot Air Balloon. The Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's Balloon program began in 1999. It is the second longest running corporate balloon program in the country second only to the ReMax Hot Air Balloon program.

Out of the many creative entries submitted, 6-year-old Reagan Scott,

Shelbyville; 8-year-old Sophia Wells, Macon; and 10-year-old Heather Ruot, Tower Hill, put their coloring skills to work and were named winners in Shelby Electric Cooperative's 2022 coloring contest. "Our three winners took home an assortment of summer fun items," noted Jill George who coordinated the contest for the cooperative again this year.

Every child who entered the contest received a stackable colored pencil and

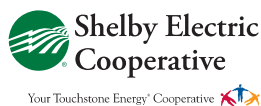
a balloon replica zipper pull. "It was fun to provide the kids something to do so they could be a little creative away from their devices and electronic games. The best part was seeing the winners' excitement when they came in to claim their prizes and have their picture taken!" exclaimed George.

For more information about Shelby Electric Cooperative's youth programs, visit the "Community" tab at www.shelbyelectric.coop.

SHELBY News

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



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Fireplaces

The first frost is as inevitable as eating the first bag of Halloween candy you purchase. Have you ever wanted to cut the chill in your home on a frosty morning without firing up the furnace? Would you like to add some cozy ambience to a room? Don't want to chop wood? Have you considered purchasing a gas or electric fireplace but are unsure which choice is right for you? The following considerations may help you decide which type is right for your home.

Ease of installation - A professional should install a gas fireplace. A gas line to a propane or natural gas source will be required. A direct vent fireplace may require installing venting to the outside of the home. An electric fireplace usually only requires a 120 volt outlet. Be sure to consider location, as extension cords are not recommended.

Operation and safety - Both types have remote control options available. Electric units may come with the option of "flames" with crackling-fire sounds without the heating unit being activated. Ventless gas units are designed to burn gas more efficiently than their direct vent counterparts. However, many ventless fireplace manufacturers instruct that users open a window near the unit while it is burning. Look for units that come with oxygen depletion sensors and carbon monoxide detectors. Additionally, water vapor is often a by-product of ventless gas fireplaces, which can

Dreaming of a fireplace?



increase your home's humidity levels. Always keep flammable items at least three feet away from any heat source.

Heat produced - Gas wins the British thermal unit (BTU) battle. BTUs are a unit of measurement for thermal (heat) energy. Gas fireplaces typically produce between 7,000 to 40,000 BTUs, while electric fireplaces produce 4,000 to 5,000 BTUs. The size of the unit needed depends on if you want to add a little extra warmth and ambience to a room, use the unit as a

replacement heating source, and the size of the room.

Operating cost - This can depend upon many variables: unit size, amount of time used, price of fuel, and your temperature settings. A 1500-watt heater will cost approximately 18 cents per hour. Gas prices are currently higher than normal. Regardless, I recommend a thermostatically controlled unit and turning it off when you are not in the room.

Now is a great time to fan that spark of an idea to add a fireplace to your home in time for the holidays. After all, the Christmas decorations are already in stores.

*~ Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist*

GAS vs ELECTRIC FIREPLACES



GAS

PRO:

- Real flames
- Ability to heat larger rooms
- Higher heating capacity

CON:

- Requires professional installation
- Requires access to a gas source
- Risk of noxious emissions
- Potential for increased humidity levels



ELECTRIC

PRO:

- Easy installation - plug & go
- Very low maintenance
- Low risk of danger

CON:

- Does not produce real flames
- Lower heating capacity

Source: HomeAdvisor.com



10.07 | Friday Evening

Event Kickoff | 4-9PM | Willow Ridge Winery

Some balloons will inflate and do a soft glow if weather permits

Pauly's BBQ food truck available

Entertainment by Nashville's NATU Band

Sunset time: 6:31PM

10.08 | Saturday Morning

Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9AM | Shelby County Airport (W Hwy 16)

Shelby County Dive Team breakfast fundraiser

Balloons will fly over airport in a fun flight sponsored by Lithia Resort

Music by All Kindz of Soundz

Best viewing of balloons: Airport | Sunrise time: 7:01AM

Young Eagle Flights | 8-11:30AM | Shelby County Airport

Registration begins at 8:00AM, Flights from 8:30-11:30AM, Ages 8-17

Introduction to general aviation - basic ground school & 20-25 minute **FREE** airplane ride over Shelbyville area

Legal guardian must be present to sign waiver of consent; All kids receive a certificate and flight log book

2PM-Dusk: SummerSkyz helicopter rides: \$40 per person—3 people maximum per ride

10.08 | Saturday Evening

BALLOON GLOW & COOKOUT | 4-8PM | Shelby County Airport

J & R Collision Centers' **BALLOON GLOW BEGINS AT DUSK**

Balloon Glow Cookout benefits the Shelbyville Fire Department

Several local food & drink vendors, Music by All Kindz of Soundz

4-6:45PM | **FREE** Inflatables/bounce houses for kids sponsored by Family Drug

5-7PM | Tethered balloon rides: \$10 per person to benefit local charities

Spectacular view of all sponsored balloons in ONE location | Sunset time: 6:29PM

10.09 | Sunday Morning

Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9AM | Dam West Recreation Area

Balloons will fly over 9th Street beach in a fun flight sponsored by Findlay Marina

Music by All Kindz of Soundz

Best viewing of balloons: Dam West | Sunrise time: 7:02AM

Balloonfest admission is **FREE** & events are open to the public | Donations appreciated

ALL SCHEDULED EVENT TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, WEATHER DEPENDENT, & ARE AT THE PILOTS' DISCRETION

Follow the Touchstone Energy® Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville on Facebook: @balloonslakeshelbyville

Call (217) 774-2244 for more information **OR** go online

www.shelbyelectric.coop | www.lakeshelbyville.com/events/balloon.htm balloonslakeshelbyville