

## Academic scholarships available

It is that time of year when high school seniors start their final semester and begin thinking about college and how they are going to pay for it. Scholarships are one way to help relieve some of the financial burden of taking that next step.

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) will once again award three academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Eligible students are sons or daughters of a current SEC member who is receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. Students must be high school seniors pursuing a college education in the U.S.

These \$1,000 scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.

Candidates are chosen based on academic and community

accomplishments, character, and financial need as demonstrated in the application and essay. **Friday, March 8** is the deadline for receipt of the completed applications for 2019 graduates. The three scholarship winners will be notified in June and announced at the cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, June 7, 2019.

In 2018, winners were Sydney Trainor of Tower Hill, Ryan Held of Taylorville, and Christian Kessler of Strasburg.

“Offering these scholarships allows us to give back to the communities we serve and gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding youth in our service territory,” commented Heidi Hall, who coordinates the program for the cooperative.

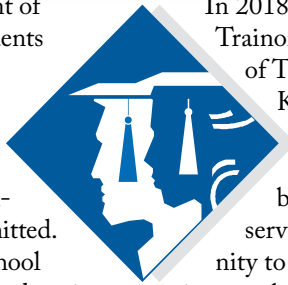
Applications can be obtained by visiting SEC's website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and clicking on the “Community” tab. They are also available from area high school guidance counselors. Please call the



cooperative at 217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612 if you would like more information about this scholarship opportunity.

Some good advice from past winners for filling out any scholarship application: List all of your accomplishments. Always have someone proofread your essay. Make sure you accurately and effectively communicate who you are. For more advice, refer back to the February 2017 issue of Shelby News under the “News” tab on [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and select the “Member Newsletter” link.

If you have not started filling out scholarship applications, now is the time!



The 2018 recipients were, pictured from left, Sydney Trainor of Tower Hill, Ryan Held of Taylorville, and Christian Kessler of Strasburg.

# Smithsonian exhibit on display

The Museum on Main Street exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution and Illinois Humanities is currently on display at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center through January 26, 2019.

Since 1900, the percentage of Americans living in rural areas dropped from 60 to 17 percent, according to experts with The Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street Exhibit. However, Americans still rely on rural communities for the food and other resources that power the nation. The Smithsonian's traveling exhibit, "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," takes a look at the characteristics of rural America. It explores how rural communities have changed and how they are changing for the future. The exhibit covers many themes, including: Rural Identity, Rural Land, Rural Communities, Persistence in Rural Communities, and Managing Change in Rural Communities.

The Crossroads exhibit will visit six rural Illinois locations and help salute



the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration. Lake Shelbyville is the third location for the exhibit.

A local companion exhibit, "Change through a Local Lens," was created by the Shelby County Bicentennial Group. This local exhibit will cover several themes including: changes in Shelby County industry, innovation, technology, transportation, land-use, agriculture, social changes, and recreation. The exhibit will feature a video highlighting changes in farming from the perspective of a local multi-generation family farm. Special activities will be offered for children

and students of all ages including school group tours and scavenger hunts. Besides the Smithsonian displays and the local companion exhibits, various speakers and musicians will be performing on weekends.

"We are excited to have the exhibit come to Lake Shelbyville. The Shelby County Bicentennial Group has worked extremely hard putting this together for the community. We hope people will visit the displays and reflect on the importance of small communities, farms, farm families, and the future of our agricultural heritage," stated

Lake Shelbyville's Natural Resources Specialist Ashley Florey.

**Exhibit Hours:**

December 26 – January 26  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday – Sunday Noon – 6 p.m.

**Exhibit will be closed on  
December 24, 25 & 31, 2018 and  
January 1 and 21, 2019.**

For more information about the Museum on Main Street schedule visit [lakeshelbyville.com](http://lakeshelbyville.com) and click on the calendar of events tab. To schedule a school or group tour, call the Lake Shelbyville Project Office at 217-774-3951, Ext. 2.



**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone: 217-774-3986  
or 1-800-677-2612  
Pay-by-Phone:  
1-855-385-9981  
[www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)  
[twitter.com/YourCoop](https://twitter.com/YourCoop)  
[facebook.com/YourCoop](https://facebook.com/YourCoop)**

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

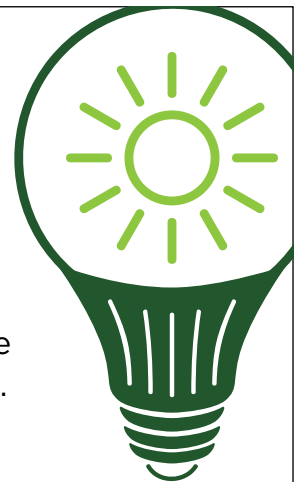


Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting Real with Marla and frozen pipes

**F**rozen is not just a movie. Unfortunately, it is also a reality for winter in Illinois. According to WAND News, Illinois had the most frozen pipe insurance claims in 2017. Damage from frozen pipes is an expensive repair. The average cost per claim was approximately \$28,735.

Water expands when it freezes, putting pressure on the pipes. Eventually, that pressure can cause the pipes to burst. The “temperature alert threshold” is 20 degrees F, according to the Building Research Council at the University of Illinois.

Follow these tips to minimize the risk of frozen pipes in your home or business.

- Disconnect, drain, and store hoses used outdoors.
- Insulate pipes that are exposed to the elements, such as in barns, sheds, and shops. The local hardware store should be able to assist you with finding the appropriate insulation for your needs.
- Consider using electric heating cable or heat tape. A local hardware store offers a three-foot cable that uses 21 watts of electricity. If used 24 hours, it would cost approximately six cents per day. Have a reminder for yourself to unplug it as soon as the temperatures warm up!
- Keep garage doors closed if water supply lines are located in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Let water drip from the faucet when the temperature is very cold. Choose the faucet farthest from where water enters the house.
- This is not the time to lower the thermostat at night to save money on your heating bill. Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night.
- Set the thermostat no lower than 55 degrees F when away from your home for a prolonged period of time.

If you turn on a faucet and discover nothing or only a trickle of water, you may have a frozen pipe. The culprit is



*Spending a few dollars on seasonal, preventive maintenance now may potentially save several thousand dollars in repairs later. Find these and other items to insulate your exposed water pipes at hardware or home improvement stores.*

often a pipe located near an exterior wall or where the water service enters the home. Do not try to thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame; as this can damage the pipe and may even start a fire. You might be able to thaw a pipe with a hair dryer. Begin by starting close to the faucet end of the pipe, with the faucet open. Work toward the coldest section. **Do not use electrical appliances while standing in water; you could get electrocuted.** If you can not thaw the pipe or it is inaccessible, call a licensed plumber.

Winter tends to have a few fierce tricks up its sleeve. Hopefully, following these precautions will help you give frozen pipes the slip.

~ Marla Pruemer,  
Communication Specialist



### REMINDER:

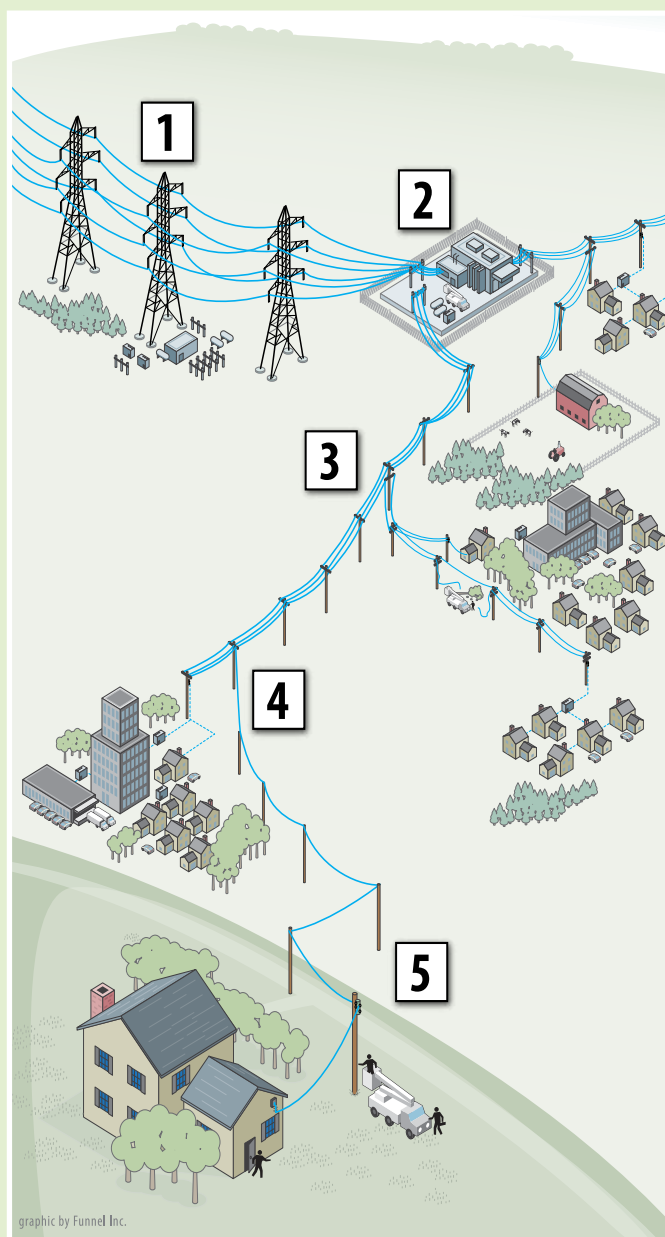
All Shelby Energy Company customers who received a letter concerning their tank rental need to sign and return their new customer service agreement. This new contract was mailed to you in December. If you have questions or misplaced yours, please call 217-774-2311 or visit shelbyenergyco.coop.



# Powering UP after an Outage!

When electricity goes out, most of us expect our power will be restored within a few hours. When a major storm causes widespread damage, similar to the tornados that hit our territory in early December, longer outages can result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.



## 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

## 3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.

## 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, farms, and homes.

## 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. **Always call 800-677-2612 to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues. Never report outages via social media!**