

## Then. Now. Always. We are proud to power your life. **October is National Co-op Month.**

**C**o-ops all across the United States are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities. While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

We are in it for the long haul, strengthening communities through jobs, service, and community involvement.



# #PowerOn

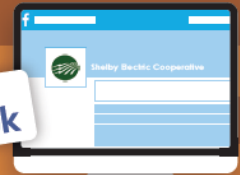
# Who **POWERS** you?

**2020 #WhoPowersYou Contest Deadline: October 9!**

Every local community has unsung heroes who energize its residents, and we would love your support to help us celebrate them. The #WhoPowersYou contest is an excellent opportunity for you to showcase the exemplary individuals making a difference in your community. In addition to receiving national recognition, contest winners may also be awarded cash prizes of up to \$5,000. What better way to help celebrate a local community hero and help celebrate “Co-op Month.” The deadline is fast approaching so go to [www.whopowersyou.com](http://www.whopowersyou.com) and nominate someone today.



Stay up to date on cooperative news, outages, events, and more!




## **SHELBY** News

**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.**

 **Shelby Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## **Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



## Snoke joins accounting department

**L**isa Snoke recently joined the cooperative as a Staff Accountant III. She came to the cooperative from the Shelbyville School District where she worked as the special education secretary since 2017. Prior to working at the school, Lisa worked as a staff accountant at Mose, Yockey, Brown & Kull, LLC for 17 years. Lisa received her accounting degree from Murray State University.

She is excited for the opportunity and looks forward to helping the cooperative and its members any way she can. "This job is a great fit for me, and I look forward to a long career here at Shelby Electric Cooperative. I have learned a lot so far, but I know I have more to learn," noted Snoke.

A Shelbyville native, Lisa and her husband Ben live just outside of town in rural Shelbyville. She loves to bake, work on do-it-yourself projects, and in the summer she enjoys spending time on the lake with her husband and their son Judd.



Welcome Lisa!

*Lisa Snoke started working for the cooperative in July as Staff Accountant III.*

**CO-OPS  
VOTE**  
A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
WWW.VOTE.COOP

**C**o-ops Vote is a non-partisan project of America's Electric Cooperatives. It is designed to inform members on the key issues facing electric co-ops, encourage them to vote, and support their co-ops and the communities they serve when they go to the polls. We do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election. Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) to learn more, and remember to vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

# PAY NOW

ONLINE - QUICK - PAY - OPTION

Paying your bill just got *easier*.  
Online payments without the username and password.  
Must have account number and last name listed on account.

Visit: **SHELBYELECTRIC.COOP** and click: **PAY NOW**



 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**REAL LIFE REAL POWER**

## Getting Real with Marla and Outbuilding Fire Safety

One catastrophic event, the Great Chicago Fire, killed over 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned greater than 2,000 acres of land. In commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, October 4 - 10, 2020 is Fire Prevention Week.

This historic fire started the night of October 8, 1871, in a barn owned by Patrick and Catherine O’Leary. Although the definitive cause of the fire remains a mystery, a lantern-kicking cow takes the blame in many stories. The fire spread from the barn on the city’s southwest side into the heart of Chicago’s business district.

Thanks to rural electric cooperatives, the days of working by lantern-light have been extinguished. However, fire risks still remain in our barns, sheds, and shops. Summer and winter are the most common times of the year for barn fires. Summer fires are often the result of electrical storms or the spontaneous combustion of hot hay. Winter fires are caused by heating equipment (with heat lamps being the primary source), rodents chewing through wires, or the accumulation of dust and cobwebs on electrical sources.

Now is the perfect time to evaluate your outbuildings and make the necessary safety improvements. Use the following recommendations to begin your inspection:

- 🔥 Electrical panel boxes should be corrosion-resistant, weather-proof, and in the driest, most dust-free area possible.
- 🔥 Outlets and switch boxes should be made of metal and have dust- and water-tight spring-loaded covers that close when released. Ground fault receptacles should

be utilized for all outlets. An external switch should be installed that will cut off all electrical power to the barn without affecting other buildings.

- 🔥 Wires should be encased in metal conduit pipes. Even temporary wires (such as extension cords to a tank heater) should be run through conduit pipes. This will help prevent rodents, pets, and livestock from chewing on wires.
- 🔥 Light fixtures should have dust- and moisture-resistant covers surrounded by a globe cage to prevent accidental breakage.
- 🔥 Motors should not be within 18 inches of any combustible material and should have moisture- and dust-proof on/off switches.
- 🔥 Appliances and electrical tools should be UL approved and grounded. Do not use items with damaged cords or bent plugs. Unplug items that are not in use.
- 🔥 Portable heaters should not be left unattended. Heaters should have a shut-off device that activates if the unit is tipped over.
- 🔥 Heat lamps are often placed too close to hay and bedding which may ignite easily from the heat. Never use extension cords with heat lamps.
- 🔥 Heat tapes and water tank heaters should have a thermostat, be UL listed, and be used in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Heat tapes should be protected with a

fire-retardant insulation material.

- 🔥 Smoke detectors are not only for homes and businesses. Consider installing them in all outbuildings.
- 🔥 Electric fence units can be potential fire hazards, especially if the units are continuous current. Use only UL listed units with intermittent current.
- 🔥 Basic housekeeping should be completed regularly. Clean rags should be stored in a closed, metal container away from heat sources. Soiled rags should be disposed of or laundered. Dust and cobwebs should be removed from any electrical items.
- 🔥 Fire extinguishers should be easily accessible. Class ABC extinguishers are multipurpose and will help extinguish fires caused by many common sources:
  - **Class A** - for trash, wood, and paper
  - **Class B** - for liquids or gases
  - **Class C** - for energized electrical sources

With the hours of daylight now decreasing, it is also a good idea to stock up on batteries. In case of a power outage, use a battery-powered lamp, not a combustible lamp! We want your only fires to be safely contained to wiener roasts and fire pits.

*~Marla Foor, Communication Specialist  
Sources: Nfpa.org, Rutgers.edu, Kidde.com*

