

Paying tribute to our lineworkers

*“I’m a lineman for the county
And I drive the main road
Searchin’ in the sun for another overload ...”*

Jimmy Webb wrote “Wichita Lineman” in 1968 after noticing a solitary lineman atop a pole while driving through southwestern Oklahoma, recalling it as “the picture of loneliness.” Glen Campbell recorded it later that year. Rolling Stone magazine ranked it number 195 on a list of the 500 greatest songs of all time.

What a fitting song to honor our extraordinary lineworkers, who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities!

On April 10, 2023, we will honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations making our lives brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities on a 24/7 basis.

At Shelby Electric Cooperative, 25 line personnel maintain 2,200 miles of energized line across the cooperative’s service territory in all or parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon, and Shelby Counties.

Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time — day or night, weekday or weekend, even holidays — if the lights go out, so do they. Crews often work around the clock to restore power in harsh weather conditions.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing to help when another cooperative is in need of assistance after a major weather event occurs.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers — both locally and around the world — that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support on April 10 for Cooperative Lineworker Appreciation Day and on April 18 for National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

**#ThankALineworker
on April 10**



**Our lineworkers are fearless, committed,
and critical to our success. We say
THANK YOU to our line personnel:**

Manager of Operations

Terry Oldham

Construction Superintendent

Brian Chevalier

Operations Assistant

Amy Peters

Metering Foreman

Dave White

Foremen

Andy McDonald
Blake Summers
Brad Wright

Linemen

Dalton Brown
Luke Brown
Roger Jones
Blake Knearem
Jake Kull
Nick Ray
Adam Schrock
Jamie Sharp
Nick Sloan
Tyler Urbanski

Apprentice Lineman

Cade Helton
Lucas Morse
Josh Phegley

Groundmen

Wyatt Fox
Adam Hudson

Laborer

Jared Phelps

Fleet Manager

Craig Atteberry

Material Control Clerk

Marlow Stephens

#ThankALineworker



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: *energy.gov*



SHELBY News

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smart hub gives you the power!

Did you know you can have your cooperative send an email or text message when you are part of an outage and when your power has been restored? All you need to do is sign up through SmartHub, which can be found on the cooperative's website, shelbyelectric.coop. Just sign in, click on **notifications**, and select **manage contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text, or both, go to **manage notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as other messages. If you have not set up an account yet, you can do this at the same SmartHub link. You can find SmartHub how-to videos on the cooperative's website and Facebook page.

Download the SmartHub app for your smart devices from your favorite app store. You can report an outage, check your use, communicate with your cooperative, and much more. Download it today!



Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 7th, in observance of Good Friday.



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Faith's

ROADTRIP



Hi, Member Services Specialist Faith Wheeler here. Periodically I will be traveling around to visit with our members about their business, and I will be sharing stories about the visits in the Shelby News. If you are interested in being featured in Faith's Roadtrip, please contact me. My first stop was Johnstons Berries.

Located just five miles south of Shelbyville sits 10 acres that Richard and Lisa Johnston have transformed into Johnstons Berries, a garden center that sells trees, shrubs, flowers, and yes, even berries! The minute you set foot onto their property, you immediately feel a sense of home, whether it comes from the beautiful scenery or the warm greeting from the Johnstons' smiling faces.

In 2003, land across from the Johnstons' house came up for sale, and with hopes of preserving nature, Richard and Lisa purchased the land. They wanted a way to pay it off, so before long, the fields were filled with strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries. They were selling over 18,000 pounds of strawberries alone per year.

After 15 years of selling fruit, the Johnstons wanted to incorporate more of their family, as well as their



Johnstons Berries owners Lisa and Richard Johnston

passion for trees, shrubs, and flowers into their growing business. "Our family is always here helping," noted Lisa. "Our son works at the Shelby County Community Services greenhouse, which was a helpful and local resource for us. Our niece also went to school for horticulture, so it has been great being able to incorporate their knowledge and skills into Johnstons Berries." The Johnstons grow the trees and shrubs themselves to keep prices fair for their customers. "It's rewarding to visually see your hard work pay off," Richard said of growing the plants, as that is where his passion lies. They also offer the service of delivering and planting the trees and shrubs for their customers.

The 2023 spring season will mark the third year of the garden center being open. A building that was once filled with just berries is now home to local artists' and vendors' creations varying from wind chimes to jewelry, and even mugs! If Lisa is not

working in the garden center, she can be found outside tending to the flowers. "Who doesn't love flowers?" Lisa asked. "They spark joy everywhere!"

The Johnstons have worked tirelessly to turn their property into a place for all ages. From magical fairy gardens to plant shopping, the Johnstons gladly welcome giggling kids and their families to come spend the day wandering the gardens. If you would like to visit but need assistance getting around, the Johnstons will drive you in their golf cart to look at the flowers, plants, and berries.

Johnstons Berries is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. They are located at 816 N. 1800 East Road (five miles south of HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital) in Shelbyville, Illinois, and can be reached at 217-774-3762. I am definitely adding this to my "must visit" list this summer.

Thanks for riding along. I'll see you down the road!



REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Lightning

April showers are an expected spring rite of passage. Remember to stay vigilant for when those showers develop into thunderstorms as we are heading into our thunderstorm season. It is impossible to have a thunderstorm without lightning because it is lightning that produces thunder.

Thunder gets our attention, but lightning does the damage. It is an incredibly powerful source of energy. A typical lightning flash is about 300 million volts and 30,000 amps compared to typical household current of 120 volts and 15 amps.

Lightning deaths often happen on weekends. Outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, playing sports, and relaxing at the beach account for almost two-thirds of lightning deaths. Construction workers, roofers, and farmers are at highest risk for work-related lightning strike fatalities.

Knowing the facts and practicing the following safety measures can help keep you and those around you safe.

-  If you hear thunder, even in the distance, get to a safe place immediately. Lightning can strike 10 miles from the area in which it is raining.
-  Places considered safe are inside fully enclosed buildings and fully enclosed metal-topped vehicles. Open structures, such as porches,



- gazebos, pavilions, and baseball dugouts, are not safe; neither are open vehicles, such as convertibles, motorcycles, ATVs, and golf carts.
-  Even when inside an enclosed building, avoid touching anything that conducts electricity, such as corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors, and windows. Metal does not attract lightning. However, it is a great conductor of electricity. Lightning can also travel long distances through metal.
-  If you get caught outdoors when a thunderstorm hits, steer clear of metal fences, gates, railings, bleachers, and playground

- equipment. Additionally, immediately get out of and away from bodies of water, such as swimming pools and lakes. Water does not attract lightning, but it is also an excellent conductor of electricity.
-  Stay in a safe shelter for at least 30 minutes after thunder is last heard.

It will not be long before those April showers bring May flowers. Then, you know what May flowers bring, right? Pilgrims! 😊

*~Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist
Sources: Safeelectricity.org,
Weather.gov, cdc.gov*



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