

A day to honor our lineworkers

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), most of you would picture a lineman. While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at SEC, one of the most visible jobs is that of a lineworker.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in America. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks with high-voltage power lines. On any given day or night, and in all kinds of weather conditions, these specialized employees install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems to ensure our members receive uninterrupted power 24/7. Whether they are restoring power after a major storm, maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, or building a new service, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions? Their dedication behind the scenes is what allows us to power up our lives with just a flip of a switch.

This commitment and sense of service to the community is why we want to show them our appreciation. That is why cooperatives all across the country set aside the second Monday in April each year to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on. On April 12, please join us in thanking these brave men and women for their exceptional service.

*#ThankALineworker
on April 12*



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

Metering Foreman

Dave White

Foremen

Andy McDonald

Blake Summers

Brad Wright

Linemen

Luke Brown

Matt Clark

Nick Dunaway

Roger Jones

Blake Knearem

Jake Kull

Nick Ray

Adam Schrock

Jamie Sharp

Nick Sloan

Tyler Urbanski

Apprentice Linemen

Dalton Brown

Lucas Morse

Forestry Foreman

Jerry Johnston

Forestry Apprentice

Daric Austin

Fleet Manager

Craig Atteberry

Material Control Clerk

Marlow Stephens

#ThankALineworker



SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE

4

co-op meeting

Mark your calendar now for **Friday, June 4, 2021**. Your cooperative will be holding its 83rd annual meeting of members at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville. The cooperative will have a **drive-through-only** barbecue pork chop dinner. All members will be able to register for an attendance prize of a \$15 bill credit. For those that would like to attend the business meeting, it will be held in the show arena. Be on the lookout for more information.



Ashley Funneman joins the cooperative

The cooperative recently welcomed Ashley Funneman to the position of operations assistant.

Ashley came to the cooperative with utility experience having worked with Aclara, a utility technology company, and Ameren Illinois with its Smart Meter Program.

She hit the ground running and is looking forward to the new challenges this job will bring. Ashley is excited for the opportunity to serve the members of the cooperative and getting to know everyone.

From Pana, Illinois, Ashley graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 2015 with a degree in Speech Language Audiology. In her spare time, Ashley is an avid runner, likes to work out, and spends time with her two Bernese mountain dogs, Jet and Calleigh.

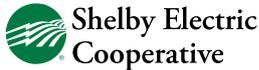


Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 2 in observance of Good Friday.

SHELBY News

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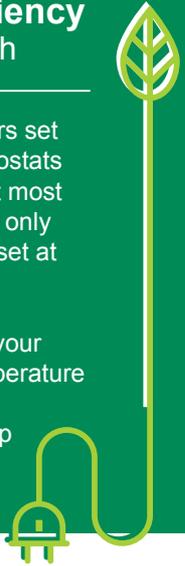
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov

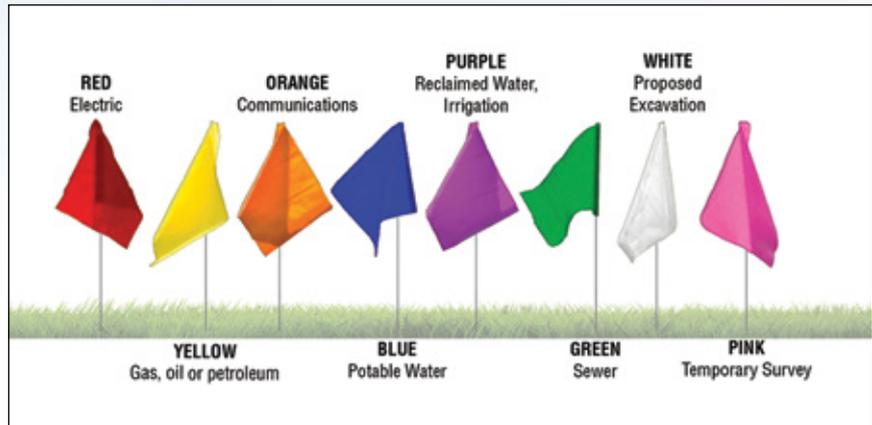


Before you dig

There are millions of miles of buried utilities beneath the surface of the earth that are vital to everyday living like water, electricity, and natural gas.

State law requires that the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) be notified at least two business days before digging begins. To contact JULIE, call 811 or go online for self-service options at www.illinois1call.com. JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services. They alert member utility companies, such as Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), so each utility can mark their underground lines for safe digging. If you call SEC for a locate you will also be directed to call 811.

Before you notify JULIE, mark the proposed site with white flags or paint. After JULIE has been notified, each utility is responsible for locating and marking their own underground lines with paint or flags within two business days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays). Locate requests received after 4 p.m. are processed as if received at 8 a.m. the next business day. If you want to start your project on a weekend, remember to contact JULIE before 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Your digging project must begin within 14 days of your notification to JULIE.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Locates: Private Vs Utility

It is important to understand that utility companies, such as SEC, only mark the underground lines that they own, not privately owned or installed lines. It is possible that you have both public and private utilities at your dig site. SEC Operations Assistant Ashley Funneman explained, "When we perform our locates through the JULIE request, our locates will be for our lines only. Any lines that the homeowner

buried are the responsibility of the homeowner." Therefore, it is critical to call JULIE and not SEC.

A few examples of private lines are:

- Electric lines installed after the meter
- Propane gas lines from the tank to the building
- Septic and well systems
- Internet lines
- Invisible fences

A list of private contract locators is available on the Illinois1call website.

Take the extra time to plan ahead and remember to call 811 before you start any digging project. We want everyone to remain safe while digging into their outdoor projects.

What lines are considered private lines?

Private lines are maintained by the property owner and not the utility or service provider.

Private lines need to be located by an independent locator.



Water and sewer lines from the meter to the house are private lines.

Electric, gas, water, or communication lines that you or a contractor install are private lines.

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Outdoor Living Space

If spring has you thinking about being in the great outdoors and improving your corner of the world, you are not alone. Earthday.org anticipates 1 billion people around the world will participate in Earth Day activities on April 22. Outdoor projects are at the top of the to-do list for many people.

As a society, we have embraced yards and patios as extensions of our homes and as social gathering areas. Interest in outdoor kitchens, patios and decks, firepits, pools, and hot tubs is on the rise. If you are considering ways to develop your yard into year-round living space, keep in mind that the original electrical sources may need updating.

To help reduce the likelihood of shock, the National Electrical

Code (NEC) requires installation of specific outdoor equipment such as the following:

- GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) protection is required for all outdoor receptacles.
- Receptacles in damp locations and under protective covers, such as a porch roof, must be weather-resistant and have a weatherproof cover.
- Receptacles in wet locations (exposed to weather) must be weather-resistant and have a weatherproof “in-use” cover. This cover provides protection even when cords are plugged into the receptacle.
- Light fixtures in wet/exposed areas must be listed for use in wet locations.

- Light fixtures in damp areas (protected by an overhanging eave or roof) must be listed for damp locations.
- Surface-mounted electrical boxes for all electrical fixtures must be raintight/weatherproof.

JULIE locates are also required before beginning any project that will require digging. See the “Before you dig” article on page 20C for more information.

Whatever your plans for April 22 are, keep safety in the forefront and enjoy the great outdoors!

*~Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist*

*Sources: Earthday.org,
Belgard.com, TheSpruce.com*

