

# SHELBY News

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)

# Season's Greetings

*From the Directors and Employees  
of Shelby Electric Cooperative,  
Shelby Energy Company,  
and PWR-net High Speed Internet*

## Offices Closed

Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 23 and 26 to celebrate Christmas. Offices will also be closed January 2, 2023 to celebrate New Year's.



For food safety questions, contact the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline.

- Call 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)
- Visit [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov) or [foodsafety.gov](http://foodsafety.gov)

Turkey cooking questions? Butterball® Turkey Talk-Line™ is there to help!

- Call 1-800-BUTTERBALL (1-800-288-8372)
- Text 844-877-3456
- Live Chat at [butterball.com](http://butterball.com)

**REMINDER:** December 31, 2022 is the application deadline for the 14 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarships. The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023. Visit [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the "Community" tab for more information or call us toll-free 1-800-677-2612.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in your ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes, or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.



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

## 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.**



## Josh Phegley joins the cooperative

The cooperative recently welcomed Apprentice Lineman Josh Phegley to the Operations Department. Josh comes to the co-op after working five years at Hydaker-Wheatlake (H-W), a contractor dedicated to the construction and maintenance of utility infrastructure. He mainly worked on electric transmission lines.

His job at H-W had him working all over the country, and he also helped on some of the hurricane rebuilds during that time. Before going to work for H-W, Josh worked in construction and as a semi-driver. A Shelbyville native, he was excited to be able to come home and work for the members at Shelby Electric Cooperative. He is looking forward to continuing to learn and grow as a lineman.

While his work with the contractor did not leave him with much spare time, Josh enjoys riding horses, side-by-sides, and hunting. He hopes this job will allow him a bit more free time.

**Welcome to the cooperative family, Josh!**



*Josh Phegley was recently hired as an apprentice lineman.*

## Cost of service and rate study under review

Like your homes and businesses, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) has also been impacted by inflation, world events, new legislation, and efforts to transition to a cleaner energy future. A third-party engineering firm conducted a cost of service and rate study for the cooperative. The final results and management recommendations stemming from this study were reviewed at the end of November. "As noted in the November issue, in order to meet revenue requirements for the coming years, a rate adjustment will be necessary," explained SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger. "Preliminary results indicate that, on average, residential "Class A" members can expect a single-digit percentage increase beginning in January," added Shallenberger. The cooperative has not made a change to its residential rate since January 2014. More detailed information will be presented in the January issue of the Shelby News insert in the *Illinois Country Living* magazine. More information will be provided as a bill insert in members' January bill. Members who do not receive a paper bill will receive a notification from SmartHub.

## Shelby County 4-H and Jr. Fair receives \$20,000 donation

The Shelby County 4-H and Jr. Fair Association received an early Halloween treat, courtesy of Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) and its participation in CoBank's Sharing Success program. On Thursday, October 13, fair board officials received a ceremonial check for \$20,000 from representatives of SEC and CoBank.

"The Shelby County 4-H and Jr. Fair board was in desperate need to upgrade their restroom facilities in the 4-H Center. The new restroom facilities will be air-conditioned, have better handicapped accessibility, and be more accommodating for young families. The cooperative also addressed power line issues by rerouting the line that went over the building. This was a perfect fit for SEC and the CoBank Sharing Success program," said SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger.



"This project was long overdue. We will be excited and happy once this project is completed. The 4-H Center is not only used by 4-H clubs, various other groups and organizations, but families use it as well. The community as a whole can rent this building out, and that section of the 4-H Center was inadequate and really unsafe," noted Shelby County 4-H Board President Don Telgmann.

SEC's \$10,000 donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of



*Present for the check ceremony, pictured left to right: Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) Chief Operating Officer Jim Matlock, SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger, Vice President of CoBank Aaron Johnson, Shelby County 4-H & Jr. Fair Co-Treasurer Stacy Burgener, Shelby County 4-H & Jr. Fair President Don Telgmann, Fair Board members Yolanda Nation and Jim Hampton, and Shelby County 4-H & Jr. Fair Vice President David Smith.*

the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$56 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

Aaron Johnson, vice president of CoBank, said, "We have been doing this program since 2012. We set aside \$3 million every year and receive applications from April 1 to October 1, and match dollar for dollar for our members up to \$10,000 each. It all goes to improving rural America. We are proud to be part of this."

Since the inception of CoBank's Sharing Success program, the cooperative has received matching dollars for donations to the Shelbyville Fire Department, Roxy Theatre, Shelby County Veteran's Fund, Shelby County CEO program, Taylorville Development Association, Shelby County Dive Team, Meridian Ag Foundation, Pana Sacred Heart School, and the Village of Strasburg Park, to name a few.

CoBank, headquartered just outside Denver, Colorado, is a member of the Farm Credit System which is a nationwide network of banks and retail lending institutions chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure, and rural communities.





**REAL LIFE  REAL POWER**

# Getting Real with Marla and Food Safety

*'Twas the night before Christmas,  
and Mama is busy;  
Everything's not quite done and  
she is in a tizzy.  
The children are not nestled or  
settled at all;  
They are full of sugar and bouncing  
off the wall!  
When what to my wondering eyes ...  
wait, I can't see;  
The power went out; oh no, it can't be!*

**W**e can have the best of plans, including power outages. Do you know what to do if a power outage interrupts your food preparation? How long are foods in the refrigerator or freezer safe?

First of all, report the outage by calling 800-677-2612 or use the SmartHub app. Social media sites are not monitored 24/7. Next, make a note of the time the outage occurred. Time matters with food safety. Consider the potential source of the outage. Generally speaking, if we are experiencing an ice storm or blizzard, those types of weather-related outages may take longer to restore. If the weather conditions are not severe, potentially (and hopefully) the outage will not be a lengthy one.

Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Do not place hot foods in the refrigerator or freezer because that raises the temperature inside those appliances. Food in refrigerators should be safe as long as the power is out no more than four to six hours. A freezer that is

full should keep food at a safe temperature for about two days, while a half-full freezer's contents should be safe for about 24 hours. Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40°F or below.

Food cooking in the oven may be safe if the power is restored quickly. Items will continue to bake in the residual heat of the oven for a while. It may become a wait-and-see situation. Some baked items that rely upon leavening agents, such as baking soda or baking powder, will collapse as they cool if not baked long enough. Other items, such as casseroles and fruit pies, may be fine if the temperature inside the oven does not dip too low before the power is restored and the oven can be restarted.

Have you ever filled your slow cooker before leaving the house and wondered what would happen if the power went out? There's an app for that! SmartHub. Although it will not turn the slow cooker back on for you, you can set up notification alerts for power outages and restoration. If an outage occurs while using a slow cooker, you can transfer the food to a gas oven, grill, or a location that has power. If the food was finished cooking at the time of the outage, it should be safe to leave in the slow cooker for up to two hours.

Cooking meat slowly for longer time periods in smokers has become increasingly popular. If your smoker is powered electrically and the power goes out, the food's safety

is dependent upon the length of the outage and how long it has been cooking. A Traeger Grills® forum recommended using an uninterruptible power supply/source (UPS) with your smoker. A UPS will provide power to devices plugged into it for minutes up to hours. Cooks who have used a UPS with their electric smoker reported having saved costly meat dishes as well as gained peace of mind while cooking.

What about Santa's milk? If you do not want old Saint Nick to leave behind more than you bargained for, milk should not be unrefrigerated for longer than two hours.

Now, let's see how our Christmas story ends:

*A phone call was made in the blink  
of an eye,  
The outage was reported, with a sigh.  
Though soon we knew we had  
nothing to dread,  
We saw the co-op trucks and linemen  
ahead!  
Power was restored, quick as a wink,  
Never was I so happy to see the clocks  
blink!  
Then we heard them exclaim as they  
drove out of sight,  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a  
good night.*

~Marla Foor,

Communication Specialist

Sources: Indiana State Department of Health, Michigan State University Extension, usda.gov, usdairy.com



## Answer Key for the Holiday Efficiency Crossword Puzzle on page 6:

- 1. DOWN - TREE    2. ACROSS - THERMOSTATS    3. DOWN - TIMER
- 4. ACROSS - FIRE    5. DOWN - SUNLIGHT    6. ACROSS - GUESTS