

## Nomination and Election Process for Directors

Shelby Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Friday, June 9, 2017 and will include the election of two directors.

Directors are elected from the Cooperative's membership, and any qualified Class A member may seek election to serve as a director.

The Cooperative is divided into seven Director Districts, and one director is elected from each Director District. The directors' three-year terms of office are staggered. In 2017, directors will be elected from District 4 and District 5. Although directors are elected from particular Director Districts, all active Class A members may vote in every election.

The qualifications in the Cooperative's bylaws to serve as a director are:

- Must be an active Class A member who is a natural person (not a corporation, etc.) and not a person acting in a representative capacity for a Class A member (not a Class A member's guardian, etc.)
- Must be a bona fide resident in the Director District from which he or

- she is to be elected
- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must not have completed six or more three-year terms as a director
- Must not be employed by or financially interested in:
  - Any business or enterprise engaged in the sale of any form of energy to the Cooperative (other than any form of energy by law to purchase) or to any of the Cooperative's subsidiaries, members or consumers
  - Any business or enterprise engaged in the delivery of any form of energy to the Cooperative or any of the Cooperative's subsidiaries, members or consumers
  - Any other business or enterprise which is engaged in by the Cooperative or its subsidiaries
  - Any business or enterprise primarily engaged in selling electrical appliances, fixtures or supplies to the Cooperative or to any of the Cooperative's subsidiaries, members or consumers

- Must not be the incumbent or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid, other than a township office or school office
- Must, if seeking re-election for a fourth full term, be certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to have successfully completed a course of training for rural electric cooperative directors.

Nominating petitions (available at the Cooperative office) must be signed by 15 or more active Class A members. The petition and a Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that the potential nominee meets the qualifications must be filed at the Cooperative office not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting, i.e., April 10, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

A Cooperative director is expected to:

- Attend all monthly board meetings, which generally last from three to five hours
- Attend all special board meetings, committee meetings and annual meeting of members
- Attend all board meetings of other organizations for which he or she is a director representing Shelby Electric Cooperative
- Complete the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director training during the first three-year term of office.

The Cooperative's bylaws provide that directors shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of members, but the Board of Directors may determine that an election be conducted exclusively through written ballots submitted by mail or through online internet voting. In recent years, the elections have been conducted by mail. ***If the nominating process results in no contested elections, the Board of Directors may direct the 2017 election to be conducted by ballot at the annual meeting (saving the Cooperative approximately \$10,000 in election costs).***

If you have any questions, give us a call at 1-800-677-2612.

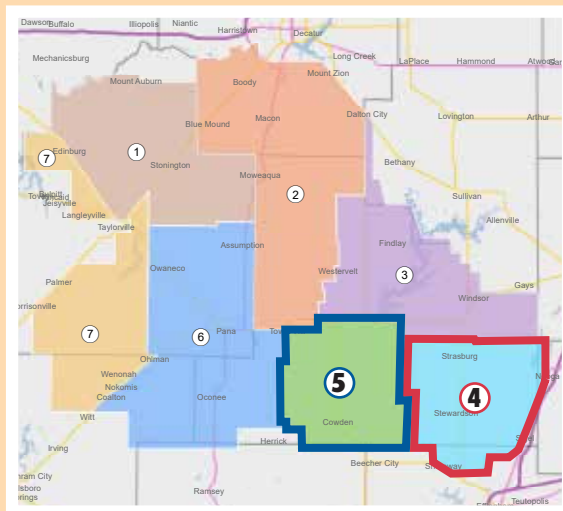
### Director districts to be elected in 2017 are Districts #4 and #5

#### District 4

*includes parts of Shelby, Cumberland and Effingham Counties.*

#### District 5

*includes parts of Shelby, Fayette and Effingham Counties.*



**Remember Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2:00 a.m. You will need to set your clocks ahead one hour. (Spring forward)**



**Fire departments recommend changing the batteries in your smoke detector(s) at this time.**

**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone: 217-774-3986  
or 1-800-677-2612  
www.shelbyelectric.coop  
twitter.com/YourCoop  
facebook.com/YourCoop**

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



## Youth Day is just around the corner!

For over 55 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. Each year, nearly 300 outstanding Illinois students get an up-close and firsthand look at democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives "Youth Day." Over the years, thousands of students have learned how government works and why it's important for every citizen to get involved. State senators and representatives have the opportunity to inspire and encourage the leaders of tomorrow during this annual event, held in Springfield. Students will also tour the Old Sate Capitol and visit other sites.

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) will once again provide



two junior students from every high school in the Cooperative's service area the opportunity to attend the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives "Youth Day" on March 29, 2017.

Last year, 16 students from nine area high schools attended "Youth Day" representing SEC. Transportation and meals will be provided by the cooperative.

Each high school has been asked to select two junior students to represent their school at the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives "Youth Day." The manner in which students are selected is determined by each high school.

For additional information, contact your high school counselor or call SEC at 217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612. Like us on Facebook ~ facebook.com/YourCoop.



*2016 Youth Day participants pictured (L-R) are: Front Row: Senator Andy Manar, Kierstyn Albin and Rachel Ewing of Neoga High School, Samantha Hafliger and Alexis Gibson of Edinburg High School, Representative Avery Bourne, Marcail Clark of Stew-Stras High School, Brianna Creviston of Okaw Valley High School, Claire Reynolds of Meridian High School and Alisa Miller and Shayna King of Cowden-Herrick High School. Back Row: Caleb White of Meridian High School, Gabe Allen of Stew-Stras High School, Sterling Howard of Windsor High School, Nathan Goebel of Morrisonville High School, Levi Call and Jordan Sieger of Shelbyville High School and Landon Cina of Morrisonville High School.*

# Where are Shelby Electric Cooperative's scholarship awardees now?

This is the second of a two-part series as we close in on the deadline for the 2017 cooperative academic scholarships. The following is a list of past scholarship recipients spanning 20 years dating back to 1996.

For 21 years, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) has annually awarded academic scholarships to sons and daughters of SEC members seeking to further their education. The scholarship program began with two scholarships awarded per year. In 2004, the number of scholarships was increased to three awards per year. Since it is the time of year when many high school students are applying for scholarships, such as those offered by SEC, we thought it would be interesting and inspiring to contact previous scholarship awardees to see how their educational and career goals have developed.

## 1996 —

### Katie (Roley) Schuermann

- Stewardson-Strasburg High School
- Greenville College, Bachelor of Arts, Vocal Pedagogy and Literature (Minor in German)
- University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, Master of Music, Choral Conducting; Master of Music, Music History
- Current career: Author, Katieschuermann.com
- Current location: Sherman, IL

### Erin Ollech-Rife

- Edinburg High School
- Western Illinois University, Bachelor's degree, Summa Cum Laude; Master's degree, Communication Sciences and Disorders, emphasis Speech-Language Pathology, 4.0
- Current career: Speech-Language Pathologist, specializing in stroke rehabilitation and dementia brain retraining.
- Current location: Springfield, IL

## 1997 —

### Erin (Brewer) Temchin

- Findlay High School
- University of Illinois U-C, Bachelor of Science in Finance
- Current career: Merchandise Manager, Walmart.com
- Current location: San Francisco, CA

### Amy (Reed) Pritchard

- Shelbyville High School
- Eastern Illinois University, Bachelor of Science Education (Early Childhood Certificate, Elementary Ed Certificate, Special Ed Approval)
- Current career: Teacher, Shelbyville CUSD #4
- Current location: Shelbyville, IL

## 1998 —

### Brent Covington

- Taylorville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor of Arts, History
- University of Illinois College of Law, Juris Doctor, Summa Cum Laude, Order of the Coif
- Current career: Lawyer, The Boeing Company
- Current location: St. Louis, MO

### Jennifer (Walk) Schlichting

- Neoga High School
- University of Illinois U-C, Bachelor of Science, Community Health;
- University of Illinois, Chicago, Master of Science, Epidemiology;
- University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, PhD, Epidemiology
- Current career: Cancer Epidemiologist, Research Scientist/ Adjunct Professor, University of Iowa
- Current location: Iowa City, IA

## 1999 —

### Kate (Brix) Rutherford

- Shelbyville High School
- University of Illinois U-C, College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Animal Sciences, Bronze Tablet
- University of Newcastle upon Tyne: Study Abroad Program
- University of Illinois U-C, College of Veterinary Medicine; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Co-Salutatorian
- Current career: Veterinarian, Brix Veterinary Service, Shelbyville, IL
- Current location: Tolono, IL

### Jodi (Evans) Goodman

- Stewardson-Strasburg High School
- Millikin University, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Indiana University, Master of Science in Biological Chemistry
- Current career: Analytical Scientist
- Current location: Cincinnati, OH

## 2000 —

### Robert J. McAllister

- Windsor High School
- Elmhurst College
- SIU School of Medicine
- Current career: Doctor
- Current location: Fishers, IN

### Genevieve (Apke) Sullivan

- Teutopolis High School
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Bachelor's degree, Mechanical Engineering
- Current career: Associate Consultant Engineer, Eli Lilly & Co, Indianapolis, IN
- Current location: Greenwood, IN

## 2001 —

### Jodi (Miller) Clark

- Pana High School
- Southern Illinois University, Bachelor of Science, Ag Business Economics
- University of Phoenix, Master of Science in Accounting
- Current career: Auditor for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue
- Current location: Evergreen, CO

### Kasey (Pruemer) Klein

- Shelbyville High School
- University of Illinois at U-C, Bachelor of Science, Animal Sciences - Business, Management, and Industry
- Current career: Work-from-home-Mom with the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA) Graduate Student Division; additionally, works with husband, Joe, and his family on Champaign, IL farm and the Pruemer family farm in Shelbyville, IL.
- Current location: Champaign, IL

## 2002 —

### Shelby (Hyland) McClain

- Windsor High School
- Lake Land College, Associate of Science, Business

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- Eastern Illinois University, Bachelor's degree, Business Management
- Millikin University, Bachelor's degree, Accounting
- Current career: Accountant for Sloan Implement
- Current location: Shelbyville, IL

#### Amanda Solliday

- Taylorville High School
- Illinois Wesleyan University, Bachelor's degree, Biology and Environmental Studies
- Cornell University, Master's degree, Crop and Soil Science
- Indiana University, Master's degree, Journalism
- Current career: Science Reporter for Arizona Science Desk, a collaboration among the National Public Radio affiliates in Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma.
- Current location: Yuma, AZ

#### 2003 —

##### Erin (Nolan) Coatney

- Taylorville High School
- Illinois State University, Northwestern University
- Bachelor of Science in Speech Language Pathology, Master of Arts in Speech and Language Pathology
- Current career: Speech Language Pathologist at North Wasco County School District, Dalles, Oregon
- Current location: White Salmon, WA

##### (Lindsey) Allison Briggs

- Taylorville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor's degree in Communication and Sociology
- University of Wollongong, Master's in Strategic Marketing University of Wisconsin, Master of Business Administration in progress
- Current career: attending school for MBA with plans to work in health-care leadership.
- 2008-2015: Implementation Executive at Epic, a software company that makes Electronic Medical Records for hospitals.
- Current location: Madison, WI

#### 2004 —

##### Blake Durbin

- Shelbyville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor's degree, Finance
- Eastern Illinois University, Master of Business Administration
- Current career: Owner, 3-D Cattle Inc.; Grain Farmer
- Current location: Shelbyville, IL



**"Choose a career that will make you happy and allow you to make an impact."**

*Emily Raab ('09)*

##### Jennifer (Hoene) Hoelscher

- Teutopolis High School
- SIU-Carbondale, Radiologic technologist license
- SIU-Edwardsville, Doctorate of Pharmacy
- Current career: Pharmacist with CVS Pharmacy
- Current location: Texico, IL

##### Eric Welch

- Shelbyville High School
- Southern Illinois University, Bachelor of Science, Speech Communication
- Indiana University, Master of Arts, Journalism
- Current career: Higher Ed Administration/Finance, Indiana University
- Current location: Bloomington, IN

#### 2005 —

##### Charles Holmes III

- Shelbyville High School
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science; Minor in Mathematics
- Current career: Software Developer, SSI, Shelbyville, IL
- Current location: Shelbyville, IL

##### Steven Dawson

- Taylorville High School
- Northern Illinois University, Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering
- University of Illinois C-U, Master of Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Current career: RF Engineer at FIRST RF Corporation
- Current location: Longmont, CO

##### Jackie (Kuhn) Thompson

- Pana High School
- Lake Land College
- Eastern Illinois University, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology
- Current career: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), Taylorville Correctional Center
- Current location: Pana, IL

#### 2006 —

##### Renea Harbert

- Pana High School
- SIU – C, Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences
- Current career: Radiation Therapist
- Current location: Pana, IL

##### Sarah (Hoene) Kiley

- Shelbyville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor of Science, Biology, Bronze Tablet; Minor, Chemistry; Doctorate, Veterinary Medicine
- Current career: Veterinarian, Brewer Animal Hospital, Springfield, IL
- Current location: Decatur, IL

##### Joe Raab

- Taylorville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor of Science, Molecular & Cellular Biology
- SIU School of Medicine, MD
- Current career: Anesthesiology Resident, Northwestern University Medical Center
- Current location: Chicago, IL

#### 2007 —

##### Scott M. Nimmer

- Taylorville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor's degree
- Manhattan School of Music, Master's degree, Jazz Studies
- Current career: Staff Arranger - "The President's Own" United States Marine Band
- ScottNimmer.com
- Current location: Arlington, VA

##### Anna Dowling

- Rochester High School
- University of Illinois U-C, Bachelor's degree, Molecular & Cellular Biology w/Chemistry Minor; Master's degree, Integrative Biology
- Current career: Global Biopharmaceutical Firm
- Current location: Chicago, IL

##### Stacey Solliday

- Taylorville High School
- Harvard University, Bachelor of Arts, Economics; Secondary degree, Computer Science
- Current career: Corporate Venture Investing, Mergers & Acquisitions
- Current location: San Francisco, CA

#### 2008 —

##### Samantha McCue

- Bartlett High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering and Professional Pilot Certificate
- Current career: Integration and Test Engineer for Boeing's Commercial

- Crew Program
- Current location: Houston, TX

#### Andrew (Drew) Nimmer

- Taylorville High School
- University of Illinois (U-C), Bachelors of Music, Jazz Studies
- California State Long Beach, Masters of Music, Jazz Studies
- Current career: Professional Musician (trumpet), Los Angeles, CA; occasionally teaches at Fullerton College and Long Beach City College; maintains a private trumpet studio
- Current location: Cypress, CA

#### Margaret Riley

- St. Teresa High School
- St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Pharm D
- Butler University, Teaching Certificate
- Current career: Pharmacist - PGY-2, Pediatric Pharmacy Resident, Children's National Health System, Washington, DC
- Current location: Washington, DC

#### 2009 —

##### Kaitlyn Robinson

- Shelbyville High School
- Butler University, Doctorate of Pharmacy
- Current career: Pharmacist, PG4-1 Resident
- Current location: Ft. Wayne, IN

##### Emily Raab

- Taylorville High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor's degree, Accounting; Master's degree, Accounting w/concentration in tax
- Certified Public Accountant
- Current career: Tax Accountant at Ernst & Young
- Current location: Chicago, IL

#### 2010 —

##### Ethan Simmons

- Central A & M High School
- Eastern Illinois University, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology
- Bradley University
- Current career: Student for Doctorate of Physical Therapy
- Current location: Peoria, IL

##### Lauren Adcock

- Central A&M High School
- University of Illinois U-C, Bachelor of Science, Agriculture and Consumer Economics, Finance in Agribusiness emphasis
- Tarleton State University, Master of Science in Agriculture, Meat Science emphasis
- Current career: Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
- Current location: Walnut Springs, TX



*Above: former Board Chairman Robert Primmer is pictured with 2000 Scholarship recipients from left Robert McAlister of Windsor, Primmer, and Genevieve Apke of Effingham. Right: 1996 recipient Erin Ollech of Edinberg receives her scholarship from former cooperative Public Relations Advisor Suzanne Tate.*



##### Tamar Adcock

- Central A & M High School
- Kansas State University, Bachelor of Arts, Animal Science; Minor, Ag Economics
- Current career: PhD Student, University of Missouri - Beef Cattle Genomics
- Current location: Columbia, MO

#### 2011 —

##### Ryan Gant

- Central A & M High School
- University of Illinois, Bachelor of Arts, Communication
- Current career: Student pursuing J.D., Marquette University Law School
- Current location: Milwaukee, WI

#### 2012 —

##### Jana Randolph

- Meridian High School
- Ohio Northern University, Raabe College of Pharmacy, PharmD Candidate, 2018; Spanish minor
- Current career: Pharmacy student, pharmacy technician during college breaks
- Current location: Ada, OH

##### Maxwell Fransen

- Meridian High School
- Illinois State University
- Current career: Physical Education, Teacher Education student
- Current location: Normal, IL

##### Karli Robinson

- Shelbyville High School
- University of Illinois U-C, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science
- Current career: Student
- Current location: Champaign, IL

Students awarded scholarships in the years after 2012 may very well still be college students or are very new in their careers. We will give them a few years to get established and will hopefully provide a follow-up to this article in the future.

*Thank you to all those who replied to our request for information and made this article possible!*



## REMINDER:

**2017 scholarship applications are due, Friday, March 10. Applications can be found on the cooperative website under the "Our Community" tab. For more information, call 1-800-677-2612 or talk to your school's guidance counselor.**



## Why do we have a right-of-way maintenance program?

Your cooperative provides electricity over approximately 2,200 miles of energized line in all or parts of nine counties. Trees and underbrush surround many of those lines. When winds blow, it can cause trees to come into contact with these lines causing your lights to blink. During storms limbs could break and fall onto lines causing fuses to blow or reclosers to open. Even worse, a storm may cause a tree or heavy limb to fall and take down a power line and pole, which can create other issues down the line. This is why we have a right-of-way maintenance program.

Part of the right-of-way program is tree trimming, spraying and pole testing. *(See our planned 2017 activities in graphic on the right.)*

For **tree trimming**, the cooperative's forestry crew is trained to use safe cutting methods to minimize damage to the tree's health. Sometimes trimming isn't enough so we have to cut down trees to avoid potential issues down the road. Other times trees are old and start to lean or become potential hazards.

For **right-of-way spraying**, we use a custom blend of selective herbicides

applied with a foliar spray application method. The foliar spray method puts herbicides directly to the plant's leaves. "We found this is the most cost efficient way to control woody plants and evasive species, unwanted vegetation, and control their growth along right-of-way. It also promotes native plants and prairie grasses to germinate and grow," said Forestry Line Foreman and LSA Certified Arborist Kevin Carlen.

For **pole inspections**, we utilize a contracting crew based out of Missouri. Poles are tested for integrity and inspected for rot, decay, and insect infestation, as well as hardware issues on the cross arms or other areas of the pole. All contractors should have Shelby Electric Cooperative signs on their vehicles as well as carrying required paper work.

A clear right-of-way cuts down annoying blinks and outages; it also makes it easier for linemen to access and fix other problems that may occur. Your cooperative seeks to provide you with safe, reliable electric service all year round. Our right-of-way maintenance program is just one more tool for us to achieve this.

# 2017 Tree Trimming, Spraying & Pole Inspection Schedule

## \*2017 Tree Trimming

Shelby Electric Cooperative's tree trimming crew and contractors will be trimming trees in the areas of **V, P, L, H,** and **N.**

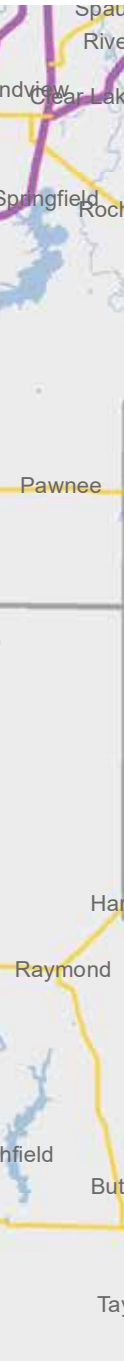
## \*2017 Spraying

Shelby Electric Cooperative spray crew will be working in these areas **P, L, H,** and **N.**

## \*2017 Pole Inspection

A contractor for the cooperative will be inspecting poles in the following areas **W, V** and **M.**

*\*These are our areas of concentration for 2017 but maintenance work will continue in other parts of our service territory.*

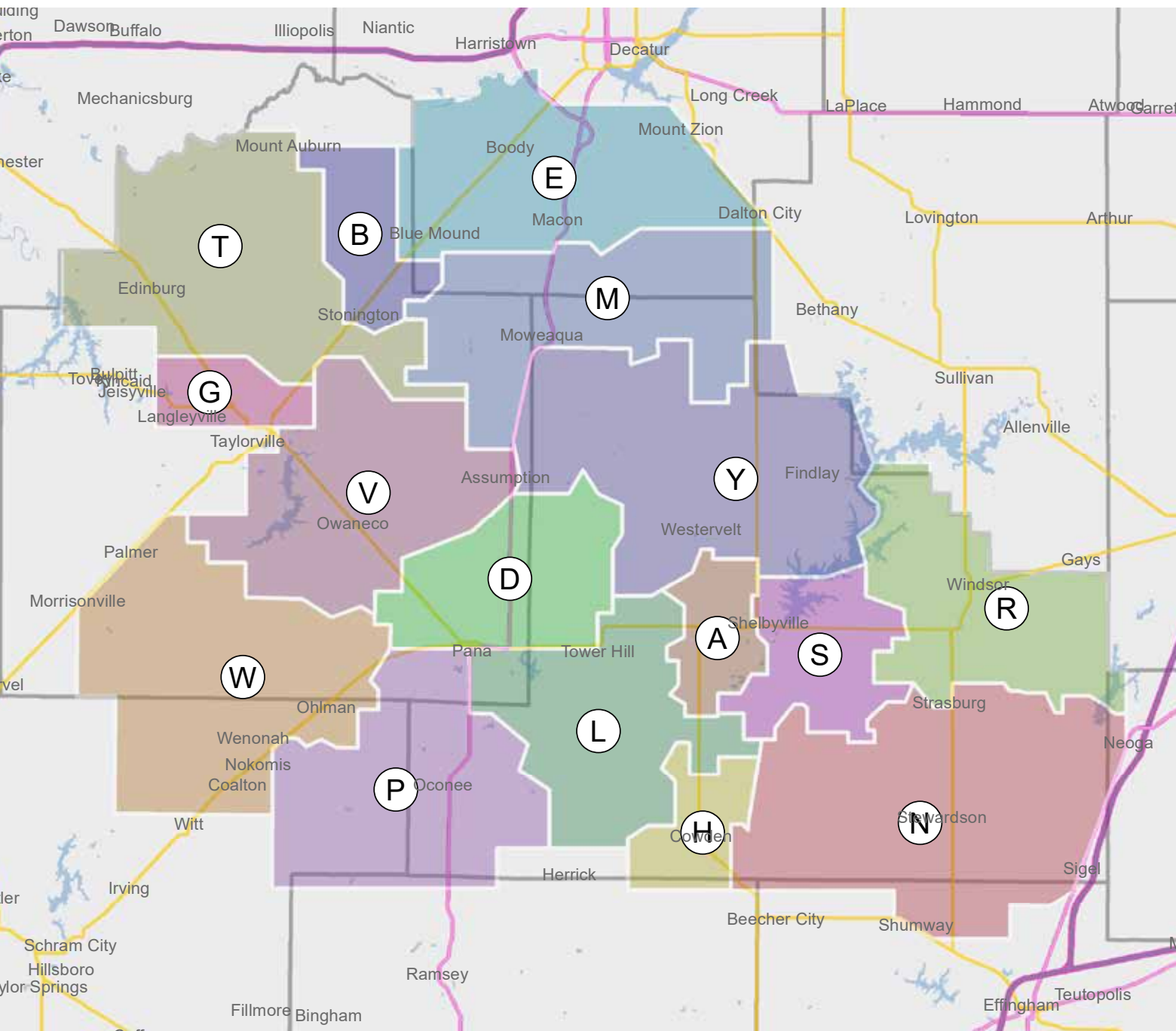


Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) through our Operations Department and Forestry Crew maintains an annual schedule for tree trimming, spraying and pole inspections. Any contract crews working for SEC will have magnetic signs on their vehicles that indicate they are working for the cooperative. If you have any questions or concerns contact the cooperative at (217) 774-3986 or toll free (800) 677-2612.

 Find us on Facebook



Watch a video on how the brontosaurus clears brush and trees from the cooperative's right-of-ways. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/YourCoop/videos> or search Shelby Electric Cooperative on Facebook.



**REAL LIFE REAL POWER**

# Getting Real with Marla ~ Talking Caulking

**H**ave you ever been told (or said), “Close the door/window! Were you born in a barn?” Most of us would agree that it is not an efficient idea to leave a window or door open in our home when the heating or air conditioning is operating. Yet, we do not give cracks and gaps around our home much consideration. Some energy experts estimate that the typical home has enough air leakage around the foundation, plumbing and electrical accesses, gas and fireplace flues, and recessed can lights to equal leaving a window or door open!

Did you notice any drafts in your home when the cold winter winds were blowing? If so, it is time to get caulking. I did a quick Internet search of types of caulk and found quite a variety – paintable, expandable, waterproof, mildew-resistant, and peel-n-seal, to name a few. However, not one of them is self-applying. Caulking is a do-it-yourself project.

Personally, I did not know about peel-n-seal caulk; but I am glad I do now. It is designed to provide an interior or exterior, weatherproof, temporary seal that can be peeled away when no longer needed. This sounds perfect for using around window air conditioning units. Some of the foam weather stripping I have used in the past has not been ideal. Foam is not water proof and it allows air to infiltrate. When my sons have installed the window unit upstairs, I have discovered towels, t-shirts, and socks stuffed in the gaps. Although using laundry is creative, it is not necessarily visually appealing, especially from

**Common Caulking Compounds**

Caulk Type	Recommended Uses	Cleanup	Shrinkage	Adhesion	Comments
 Silicone	Seals most dissimilar building materials such as wood, stone, vinyl, metal flashing and brick	Immediately with dry cloth and mineral spirits or naphtha	Little or none	Good to excellent	Permits joints to stretch or compress. Will stick to painted surfaces, but paint will not adhere to most cured silicones.
 Polyurethane, expandable spray foam	Expands when curing. Good for larger cracks. Use in non-friction areas, because foam becomes dry and powdery over time.	Immediately with solvent such as lacquer thinner	None; expands quite a bit	Good to excellent	Quickly expands to fit larger, irregularly shaped gaps. Flexible. Can be applied at variable temperatures. Must be painted for exterior use to protect from ultraviolet radiation.
 Water-based spray foam	Around window and door frames in new construction or remodeling projects; smaller cracks	Water	None; expands only 25%	Good to excellent	Takes 24 hours to cure to a soft consistency. Will not overexpand to bend window frames. Must be exposed to air to dry. Not useful for larger gaps, as curing becomes difficult.
 Butyl rubber	Seals most dissimilar materials such as glass, metal, plastic, wood and concrete. Seals around windows and flashing; bonds loose shingles	Mineral spirits or naphtha	5%-30%	Good	Lasts 10 or more years. Resilient, but not brittle. Can be painted after one week. Variable shrinkage may require two applications. Does not adhere well to painted surfaces.
 Oil or resin-based	Seals exterior seams and joints on almost all building materials	Mineral spirits or naphtha	10%-20%	Good	Low cost. Rope and tube forms available. Oils dry out and cause material to harden and fall out. Low durability; lasts 1-4 years. Poor adhesion to porous surfaces such as masonry. Should be painted. Limited temperature range.

the exterior of the house, nor is it weatherproof.

Take some time to locate the cracks and gaps that surely exist around your home. Use the chart above to help determine the type(s) of caulk you may need. Once you have the appropriate caulk, follow these directions to get caulking:

1. Clean all areas to be caulked. Remove any old caulk or paint. Make sure the area is dry so you will not seal in moisture.
2. Prep the caulking gun (if you're using one). Cut the tip of the caulk cartridge at a 45-degree angle. Practice on a piece of cardboard to get a feel for the work.
3. Hold the caulk at a 45-degree angle to the area to be filled. Try to avoid many starts and stops and caulk in a straight stream.

4. Push the caulk into the crack. Dampen your finger, piece of wood or other blunt tool, and smooth the bead of caulk, pushing the caulk deeper into the crack.
5. Clean up any mess with a damp rag right away. Dried caulk is more difficult to clean up.
6. Allow the caulk to dry according to its specific directions.
7. If any caulk remains, seal the tube with a galvanized nail or wire nut.

If this project inspires you to tackle larger projects, go to our website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop), and click on the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives TogetherWeSave icon for more great information.

~ Marla Eversole  
Member Services