

Who Powers You contest announced

Shelby Electric Cooperative is partnering with our national brand, Touchstone Energy, to help them launch the second annual #WhoPowersYou contest to honor local heroes who are making a difference in our co-op communities.

The #WhoPowersYou contest is an online contest inviting our co-op members and employees to submit photos and stories about fellow members who are making a positive impact in their communities. Those nominated will have a chance to win a cash prize from Touchstone Energy. The nominee has to be a cooperative member to qualify.

Contest Overview

- Members can enter the contest by visiting WhoPowersYou.com
- Contest begins on 10/2/2017
- Contest ends on 11/4/2017
- Only Touchstone Energy Cooperative members and employees are eligible to participate
- Co-op employees can make nominations, but are not eligible to be a contest nominee
- Winners will be selected by a panel of judges
- Winners will be announced in December 2017
- Contest winners will receive up to \$5,000
- To enter, co-op members will be asked to share a photo of their nominee and a brief description of how their nominee makes a difference in their community

Entry form and full contest rules and conditions can be found at WhoPowersYou.com or follow the link on the cooperative's website shelbyelectric.coop.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperatives and Jobs...



Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community, keeping jobs at home.

In October, co-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; member's 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.

Cooperatives

**Owned by Our Members,
Committed to Our Communities**

**ELECTRIC
CO-OPS
COMMIT**
Co-op Month 2017

Did you know?



You can keep up with the cooperative on Facebook by going to Facebook.com/YourCoop or follow us on Twitter, Twitter.com/YourCoop. You can also link directly to the cooperative's social media pages from the cooperative's website shelbyelectric.coop or via the SmartHub app.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back a few degrees and save year-round on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature – set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



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Pay-by-Phone:
1-855-385-9981
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

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



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Are you secure?

Sony, Target, Home Depot, Yahoo, and even the U.S. Office of Personnel Management have all been attacked by cybercriminals. Let's face it: In today's world, the cybersecurity threats facing our nation can seem overwhelming – and downright scary. Cybersecurity, specifically the protection and security of consumer-members' assets and the nation's complex, interconnected network of power plants, transmission lines, and distribution facilities, is a top priority for electric cooperatives and other segments of the electric power industry.

October is not only Co-op Month, it is also National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Since its inception under leadership from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, it has grown exponentially, reaching consumers, businesses, educational institutions, and young people across the nation.

By raising awareness and understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats.

You have a role to play in ensuring the security of your personal and professional data. Use the tips below to safeguard your computer:

- **KEEP** all software on internet-connected devices – including PCs, tablets and smartphones – up to date to reduce risk of infection from malware.
- **CREATE** long passwords that only you will remember, and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.
- **AVOID** the use of thumb drives and other portable memory devices.
- **DO NOT** click on weblinks or attached files in emails when you're not certain of who the sender is.
- **KEEP** up to date with new ways to stay safe online. Check trusted websites for the latest information. Share security tips with friends, family and colleagues, and encourage them to be web wise.

Join us in raising cybersecurity awareness. Use and follow #cyberaware on social media to show and share your support. To learn more, visit www.staysafeonline.org.

REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Fireplaces

After his summer vacation, old Jack Frost usually returns to Central Illinois in mid-October. That frosty nip in the air may make us think of sipping hot chocolate by the warmth of the fireplace.

However, that mesmerizing, crackling fire may actually cause the rest of the house to become uncomfortable. If not used properly, fireplaces can waste more heat than they generate and leave the rest of the home feeling drafty and chilly.

Wait a minute! How can a fireplace waste more heat than it generates? More than 90 percent of the heat produced by the fire goes up and out the chimney. The amount of air that exits the chimney must be replaced. This process creates a drafting effect, pulling cold air into the home through any crack and gap it can. If your furnace is turned on, it is working to heat the cold air being pulled into the house.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy recommends reducing heat loss by opening the dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if available) or by opening the nearest window slightly (approximately one inch) and closing the doors leading into the room. You may also want to lower the thermostat setting while you have the fireplace in use. Additionally, tempered glass fireplace doors and a blower to push warm air from the fireplace into the room will help efficiency.



Most fireplaces are not used 95 to 99 percent of the time. During periods of inactivity, always close the damper. Check the seal on the damper and use appropriate caulk to seal around the hearth. If your fireplace is mainly for decoration, consider sealing the chimney with a specially-designed insert.

Hopefully, we will experience a long and beautiful Indian summer (that

warm, dry period after a killing frost), delaying the need for home heating.

~ Marla Eversole,
Communication Specialist

Sources: US Department of Energy
and Touchstone Energy

Fireplace safety tips:

- **Check the damper.** Make sure it is open before starting a fire and closed when the fireplace is not in use.
- **Burn only seasoned wood.** Wood should be dried for at least six months before burning. Creosote can build up in the fireplace from burning unseasoned wood.
- **Have carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.** Combustion creates carbon monoxide. Reduced chimney airflow and backdrafts can allow polluted air into your home. Remember, carbon monoxide is odorless.
- **Have your chimney inspected annually.** A professional should inspect and clean your chimney to alleviate build-up and check for blockage or damage.



ONLINE BILL PAY

Pay your bills online and monitor usage
with the **smarthub app!**





Columbus Day Weekend

10.06 | Friday Evening

Event Kickoff | 5PM-9PM | Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center

HOT AIR BALLOON SCIENCE FAIR | 5-7PM | Visit @LakeShelbyvilleUSACE on Facebook for details! | Ages 10 and UP
 Balloons will inflate and launch on site
 Cromwell Radio Group LIVE Remote | LIVE MUSIC by Forest Parker Band 7-11PM
 Best viewing of balloons: Visitor Center | Sunset time: 6:29PM

10.07 | Saturday Morning

Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9AM | Shelby County Airport (W Hwy 16)

Balloons will fly over airport in a fun flight
 Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Best viewing of balloons: Airport | Sunrise time: 6:57AM
 6:30-10AM | Breakfast Fundraiser by Festival of Lights & Chautauqua Preservation | Adults: \$5 AYCE; Kids ↓12: FREE

Young Eagle Flights | 8-11:30AM | Shelby County Airport

Registration begins at 8:00AM, Flights from 8:30-11:30AM, Ages 8-17
 Introduction to general aviation—basic ground school & 20-25 minute **FREE** airplane ride over Shelbyville area
 Legal guardian must be present to sign waiver of consent; All kids receive a certificate and flight log book
 SummerSkyz will be offering helicopter rides from 9AM-Dusk: \$30 per person—3 people maximum per ride

10.07 | Saturday Evening

BALLOON GLOW & COOKOUT | 4-9PM | Shelby County Airport

BALLOON GLOW BEGINS AT DUSK
 Several local food & drink vendors, Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 4-6:45PM | Inflatables/bounce houses for kids: \$2 per wristband
 4-9PM | Tethered balloon rides: \$10 per person to benefit local charities
 Spectacular view of all sponsored balloons in ONE location | Sunset time: 6:27PM

10.08 | Sunday Morning

Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9AM | Dam West Recreation Area

Balloons will fly over beach in a fun flight
 Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Best viewing of balloons: Dam West | Sunrise time: 6:58AM

Balloonfest admission is FREE & events are open to the public | Donations appreciated

ALL SCHEDULED EVENT TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, WEATHER DEPENDENT & ARE AT THE PILOTS' DISCRETION
 Follow the Touchstone Energy® Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville on Facebook: @balloonslakeshelbyville

Call (217)774-3986 for more information OR go online
www.shelbyelectric.coop | www.lakeshelbyville.com/events/balloon.htm