

Season's Greetings

*From the Directors and Employees
of Shelby Electric Cooperative,
Shelby Energy Company, and
PWR-net Wireless Broadband Internet.*

Deck the halls safely

There is nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It is something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Your cooperative and Safe Electricity offer several tips as you deck the halls this season:

- 🎄 When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light strands or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- 🎄 Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least ten feet from power lines.
- 🎄 Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- 🎄 Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets and extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
- 🎄 Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.

- 🎄 Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- 🎄 Do not attach cords to utility poles.



The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, any portable space heaters, and radiators; water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn lights off before you go to sleep, or use a timer to do it for you.

For more information on holiday safety tips visit SafeElectricity.org.

How to read your propane gauge



Shelby Energy Company, the cooperative's LP gas subsidiary, recommends that you learn how to read your tank gauge and develop a habit of checking it on a regular basis.

Look at the gauge attached to the tank with numbers from 5 to 95. The numbers indicate the percentage of gas remaining in the tank. If your tank gauge reads 25 percent or less, call Shelby Energy for a refill at 217-774-2311.

IF GAUGE READS	NUMBER OF GALLONS REMAINING			
	120 Gal. Tank	250 Gal. Tank	500 Gal. Tank	1000 Gal. Tank
80%	96	200	400	800
70%	84	175	350	700
60%	72	150	300	600
50%	60	125	250	500
40%	48	100	200	400
30%	36	75	150	300
IF GAUGE READS LESS THAN 25% ORDER GAS NOW!				
20%	24	50	100	200
10%	12	25	50	100

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load.



SHELBY News

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



Co-op hires Cade Helton

We would like to extend a cooperative welcome to Cade Helton. After having worked part-time at the cooperative as summer help, Cade was recently hired as a full-time employee in the operations department.

A 2019 Shelbyville High School graduate, he attended and graduated from the North American Lineman Training Center in Tennessee. He is excited for the opportunity to continue to grow in his profession and looks forward to doing whatever it takes to help our members.



REMINDER: December 31, 2021 is the application deadline for the 13 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarships. The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. Visit shelbyelectric.coop and click on the "Community" tab for more information or call us toll-free 1-800-677-2612.



Offices Closed

Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 23 and 24 to celebrate Christmas. Offices will also be closed on December 31 to celebrate New Year's.



Everyone's favorite

Chris French retired from the cooperative in August 2021

For 18 years, Chris French had many different responsibilities over the course of her career at Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC).

She was hired in February 2003 as a Customer Service Representative (CSR) for DirecTV located at the co-op's building east of Shelbyville. In this role, she was a front line employee taking care of her customers.

In this new business, she answered phones, took payments, programmed remotes, changed packages, troubleshooted, scheduled installs, and listened to customers' complaints. Chris had a knack for helping all customers out, no matter their mood or situation.

As the cooperative expanded into other services and moved away from DirecTV, Chris maintained her CSR role with the co-op's Internet subsidiary, PWR-net High Speed Internet. PWR-net began operations in 2008. She took care of the PWR-net customers just as she did for the DirecTV consumers.



In July 2010, SEC started a community wide recycling program called Power of Green. This free



recycling program was open to the public. Chris and her fellow employees accepted this new challenge and felt it filled a void in the area.

"People were looking for a place to recycle their magazines, newspapers, cardboard, office paper, plastics, tin, steel, and aluminum," explained French. "Power of Green did just that. Over the course of its four year life, over 600,000 pounds of material was recycled," she continued. "Unfortunately, various factors led to us having to close the Power of Green in November 2014. I met a lot of great people over those four years and appreciated the opportunity to be part of the Power of Green."

That same year, Chris and the other PWR-net employees, located at the east building, were all moved to the main Shelbyville office located on State Highway 128. While she may have changed offices, Chris was still that very friendly and accommodating voice

on the other end of customer calls. "Chris was not only well liked by the various customers who would call or stop by, she was also well liked by fellow cooperative employees," stated Broadband Account Specialist Tiffany Hancock.

Starting out as a CSR for DirecTV and retiring as a Broadband Account Representative, Chris loved her job and enjoyed helping people whether it was for satellite TV, PWR-net, or the customers who brought in their recycling products religiously to the Power of Green.

"I can say I truly cherished the people I was able to help over my career. It was a great feeling to know I was able to help so many of them resolve an issue, receive service, or just lend a patient

and understanding ear when customers called. That is the one thing I will miss the most, helping people; and of course I'll miss all the employees at the cooperative who were my friends and really became an extension of my family," she lovingly said.

We are very happy for Chris and wish her nothing but the best. As with most people when they retire, Chris plans to spend lots of time with her grandkids, do some gardening, and mainly enjoy life in the moment without any schedules or deadlines.

Chris, *you* are well respected by all, *you* have left your mark here, and *you* are truly missed!

Best wishes on your retirement, Chris!

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and gifts that keep on giving

From fuzzy blankets to socks and slippers, many of us like to give and receive gifts that help us feel cozy and warm. This year, consider adding gifts to your shopping list that keep on giving throughout the year. Wise gifts can provide comfort, safety, and even help reduce heating and cooling waste and expense.

Start by checking out the weather-proofing supplies in your local hardware store. Frost King and 3M have many reputable products that are user friendly. Provide extra value to your gift-giving by taking a little time to install the needed items. Installation and removal how-to videos are available at frostking.com along with tips, tricks, and quick fixes.

For example, temporarily end uncomfortable drafts with indoor window kits that include clear plastic sheets that shrink tight and wrinkle-free with a hair dryer. Kits are available for basement, standard, and picture windows; as well as patio doors.

If you have ever felt cold air blowing in through an outlet, it is time to stuff a stocking or an electric wall outlet with U.L. listed fire-retardant foam insulated sealers. These inexpensive items can be installed behind the faceplate of the outlet or switch and are not visible once the cover is reinstalled.



Add a layer of protection to new or existing electronics by gifting an outlet USB surge protector. Expensive home theater and office equipment can be highly susceptible to surge damage. Note that not all power strips offer surge protection. Power strips are multi-outlet products that are an expansion of a wall outlet. Surge protectors, unlike power strips, offer a level of protection against power surges. Some even offer a warranty on the equipment that is connected to the surge protector. It may pay off to purchase a quality surge protector.

Remember that it is also the season for a higher chance of a home fire. The gift of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors can save lives! According to the National Fire Protection Association, from 2014–2018, almost three out of five home

fire deaths were caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that failed to operate. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, including the basement. Additionally, smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound. For those residents that may be hard-of-hearing or deaf, there are special alarms available with strobe lights and even bed shakers. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. Do not forget the batteries! Fire departments recommend replacing the batteries when the time changes in the spring and fall.

We would like to wish all our members a happy, safe, and efficient Christmas season and beyond!

~Marla Foor,
Communication Specialist



ONLINE BILL PAY

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

