

## Sharing Success X 2

Christmas came early for the village of Strasburg and Sacred Heart School in Pana as representatives from Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) and CoBank presented each group not only a symbolic check, but also an actual check for \$10,000 in early December. The \$10,000 donated to each group included a match from CoBank as part of their Sharing Success program.

The village is raising money to renovate their park to be more ADA compliant and make the current components of the park more functional in time for their upcoming 150th anniversary in 2024. The school will use the donation to upgrade technology and add some much-needed security cameras. “Both of these were a perfect fit for SEC and the CoBank Sharing Success program,” noted SEC Chief Operating Officer Jim Matlock.

Linda Oakley, Village Clerk, was very excited and enthusiastic for the donation. “This money will go a long way in helping us achieve our goals and we really appreciate their donation. It was like getting an early Christmas gift,” said Oakley. Some of the village trustees and fundraising committee members also participated in the check presentation.

Joni Beyers, School Board President, echoed the sentiment as students, some faculty, a few school board members, and the media were on hand for their check presentation. “We were so excited to receive these funds to help us make the building safer and upgrade our technology. It really was like getting an early Christmas gift. The students also enjoyed being part of presentation,” said Beyers.

*Continued on p18B*



Pictured left to right: Aaron Johnson, Vice President CoBank; Jim Connell, Village Trustee; Justin Krile, fundraising committee member; Linda Oakley, Village Clerk; Robert Anderson, Village Trustee; Jim Matlock, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) Chief Operating Officer; and Gary Kull, fundraising committee member.



Adults pictured left to right: Kristen Koons, Sacred Heart School Board member; Joni Beyers, Sacred Heart School Board President; Katie Ohmes, SEC director; Jim Matlock, SEC Chief Operating Officer; Blair Angel, Sacred Heart School Board member; and Aaron Johnson, Vice President CoBank.

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"It is not about the cooperative, it is about the projects, the towns, and the people in those towns," added Matlock. "It was great and really fun to visit with them as we presented both organizations with their checks."

Aaron Johnson, Vice President of CoBank, said, "We have been doing this program since 2012. We set aside \$3 million every year, receive applications from April 1 to October 1, and match dollar for dollar for our

members up to \$5,000 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 in 2012, SEC has donated, including the CoBank match, approximately \$115,000 to area groups within their service territory. Over the years, 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, and Meridian Ag Foundation.

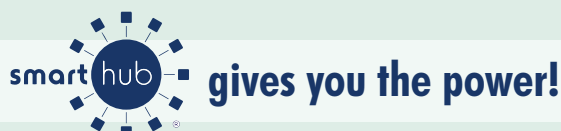
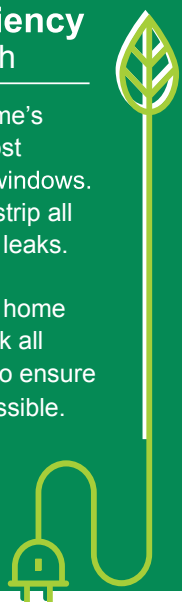
CoBank, headquartered just outside Denver, Colorado is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of banks and retail lending institutions chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure, and rural communities.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Did you know you can have your cooperative send an email or text message when you are part of an outage and when your power has been restored? All you need to do is sign up through SmartHub Web, which can be found on the cooperative's website, [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop). Just sign in, click on **notifications**, and select **manage contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text, or both, go to **manage notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as other messages. If you have not set up an account yet, you can do this at the same SmartHub Web link. You can find SmartHub how-to videos on the cooperative's website and Facebook page.

Download the SmartHub app for your smart devices from your favorite app store. You can report an outage, check your use, communicate with your cooperative, and much more. Download it today!

## Cooperative hires Wheeler



Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) recently hired Faith Wheeler as a member services specialist. She began employment at the start of the new year on a part-time basis while she finishes her senior year at Indiana State University (ISU) in Terre Haute, Indiana. Wheeler graduated from Shelbyville High School in 2018 and chose to go to ISU to pursue a marketing degree. She will become a full-time employee of the cooperative after she graduates in May 2022.

Wheeler, no stranger to the cooperative landscape, did a summer internship at SEC in 2019. She recently completed an internship as an event planner with SEC's IT cooperative, National Information Solutions Cooperative.

"I'm very excited and appreciative to have this opportunity to work for SEC. I'm looking forward to interacting with our members and building relationships," noted Wheeler.

When she has free time, Wheeler enjoys working out, cooking, trying new foods and coffees, and hanging out with family. Welcome to the cooperative family, Faith!

# SHELBY News

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**Office Hours:**

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



**Shelby Electric  
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# Winter weather and your propane tank

Winter can produce some of the most magnificent scenery, but it can also be challenging. Accumulated snow and ice have the potential to damage your propane system. While you can not always predict snowstorms or hazardous weather conditions, you can take safety measures to protect your equipment during and after winter storms.

## Keep snow and ice from accumulating on propane equipment

Snow or ice accumulation can potentially cause parts of your propane system to crack or break, resulting in a gas leak. It is your responsibility to make sure that all propane pipes, valves, regulators, and tanks are clear of snow and ice. Gently brush away snow or ice that has accumulated around the tank, meter, regulator, and any other piping. Do this using a broom or by hand. If you must use a shovel, use extreme caution around all equipment. If you notice any snow or ice buildup that cannot be removed easily, contact Shelby Energy Company. DO NOT attempt to remove snow or ice by kicking or hitting any equipment.

## Be alert to snow buildup on rooftops and other areas

Frequently check where snow or ice collects on your roof, structure, or nearby trees, and clear it if you believe it might fall on any part of your propane system. Never shovel snow off of roofs and onto propane equipment. Heavy accumulations of snow or ice falling on tanks, regulators, meters, piping, or valves may cause damage that could result in a gas leak.



*Keeping your propane tank free from snow and ice will allow your propane provider safe and easy access to service your tank.*

## Keep vents clear

Appliance vents and chimney flues must ALWAYS be clear of snow or ice. Some homes may have “direct” vents, which are close to the ground. Improper venting can cause carbon monoxide to become trapped in your home, resulting in serious illness or even death.

## Clear driveways and pathways to propane tanks

Please remember that a propane delivery truck needs at least a 10-foot-wide path to be able to deliver fuel to your home. Also, keep the tank area and

a path to the tank free of snow. When plowing, snow blowing, or shoveling, do not push or pile snow around your tank, meter, regulator, or piping.

## Talk to your contractors

If you use a snow removal service, make sure that the service knows the location of all propane equipment on the property. Instruct them to keep their equipment clear of all parts of your propane system. If your snow removal service shovels snow off your roof, instruct them to never shovel snow onto any part of the propane system.

## Propane safety tips



Shelby Energy Company

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Cylinder tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when igniting a pilot light.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately, call 911 from outside the home, and then call your propane provider.

Shelby Energy Company is an LP gas subsidiary of Shelby Electric Cooperative.

☎ 217-774-2311 | 🌐 shelbyenergyco.coop | 📘 @ShelbyEnergyCo

## Offices Closed

Your cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents Day.



# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

## Getting Real with Marla and the Numbers

For \$8.06, I can pay for a day's worth of electricity at my house. That \$8.06 will provide my household with heating or air conditioning, hot showers, washer and dryer use, refrigeration, lights, cooking options, our morning coffee, the farm shop's electrical needs, television and all its side-kicks, and even the ability to flush the toilet!

Or, if I am really careful with my choices, \$8.06 could get me a fast food lunch.

I know that I have spent \$8 on far less useful items than 24 hours of electricity.

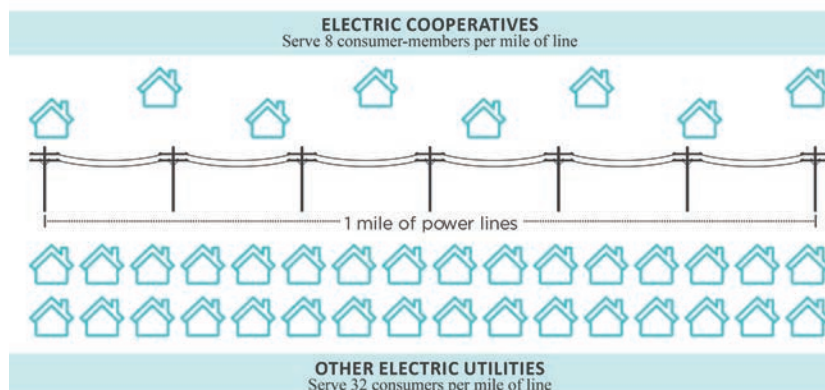
\$8.06 is the daily average based upon my last six months' bills. Find *your* numbers on the second page of your electric bill or on the SmartHub app.

Here are more numbers that you may find interesting:

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) has 2,208 miles of energized lines. That is approximately the distance from central Illinois to Seattle, Washington.

SEC averages 4.55 members per mile of line compared to the national average of eight for other electric cooperatives; and 32, the average of all other electric utilities. Therefore, on average we have less members per mile of line to help distribute the costs it takes to provide electric service to our homes and businesses.

### GOING THE EXTRA MILE Did you know electric co-ops power fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other utilities?



## SQUIRREL!

Approximately 11% of all power outages are caused by squirrels.



Animals cause 7 to 20 percent of all U.S. power outages annually and are likely the second-most-common cause of interruptions after weather-related outages.

Access to electricity is one of those things we take for granted until the bill comes or the power goes out. It is no

longer considered a convenience, but a necessity. When you break down the numbers, electricity still remains a good value!

~Marla Foor,

Communication Specialist

Sources: [cooperative.com](http://cooperative.com), *RE Magazine*, [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)

Stay up to date on cooperative news, outages, events, and more!

