

REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla

The wind gusts of up to 40 mph and wind chill factor of 6 F we experienced January 2nd chilled me to the bone. The really bad news is that I was in my house for the majority of the day! I did bundle up to go outside for evening chores and in my insulated coveralls, I didn't feel too miserable. Please note the key word, insulated. That got me thinking about how, with the proper insulation, we can stay much more comfortable than the outdoor air temperature indicates.

It is time to put my money where my mouth is. I was reaffirmed in our decision to hire a skilled and experienced weatherization contractor for improvements to our house this month. My husband's driving motivation is to save money on the energy bills. The kids and I do not want to have sore jaws from clenching our chattering teeth. I am all for dressing for the weather, but there are limits to cooking while wearing a fur-lined parka! I also do not enjoy the dash from the bathroom to the bed. Our bedroom, located on the north side of the house and over an un-insulated crawl space, is usually eight to 10 degrees cooler than what the thermostat registers.

I have researched and studied



This photo was taken in the home of Marla Eversole. Note the way the insulation is rolled away from ducting, leaving no insulation in that area!

weatherization but do not feel my husband and I have the tools, skills and time to do the work ourselves. In my assessment of the house, I thought the thermostat might be located in the wrong place. A building addition to the home has made the thermostat no longer centrally located. The attic of our home is sadly under-insulated. (see photo) Did you know that up to 80% of a home's heat gain/loss is through the attic? We have 12 recessed can lights that we use CFL bulbs in; but I know they require special insulation techniques. If they are not IC rated fixtures, they could be a fire hazard if they come in contact with the insulation. Duct work runs

under the house through the un-insulated crawl space, cooling the air that we are paying to heat as it travels through the ducts and the list goes on. Does your home have any of these issues?

The work is scheduled to begin next week. I hope to document the work with photos and have an update for the next Real Life/Real Power article. In case you are curious, no, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) is not paying for this work to our house. I'm a bill-paying member of SEC, just like you are, looking for ways to improve the performance and efficiency of my home. Stay tuned for next month's article, which maybe I'll write from the cozy comfort of my home, after my fingers, toes and nose have warmed up from yesterday's chill.

If you want to research ideas and improvements for your home's efficiency, there are some great resources and videos at www.energy.gov/home-weatherization, www.energystar.gov – under the Home Improvement tab and www.togetherwesave.com.

~ Marla Eversole,
Member Services Representative

**Cooperative offices closed
Monday, February 20 in
observance of Presidents' Day.**

OUTAGE REPORT				
LINE OUTAGES				
DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
12/30/2011	1.05	Yantisville	Broken insulator	102

Have you taken advantage of the Co-op Connections Card yet?

Did you know your Co-op Connections Card can be used at over 25,000 businesses nationally? Have you checked out the new and improved website yet? If not, go to connections.coop or link to it via shelbyelectric.coop to see all the businesses offering discounts locally and across the country. If you are traveling for work, vacation or a family visit make sure you visit the website and see if there are any businesses along your route that accept the Co-op Connections Card.

Here is a list of local participating businesses as of January 1, 2012.

Bloomington

- **Glass Specialty Company Inc.** 309-664-1087
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.

Champaign

- **Glass Specialty Company Inc.** 352-4258
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.
- **Wireless Mike's** 356-9300
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.



P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565
Phone: 217-774-3986
Fax: 217-774-3330
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Decatur

- **Creative Media Services, Inc.** 428-9950
1 year of FREE hosting with website design or re-design.
- **Glass Specialty Company Inc.** 429-2371
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.
- **Scotty's Pest Control** 422-9372
10% discount on all jobs.

Forsyth

- **Herzog Quality Optical** 872-7710
20% off complete pair of prescription glasses, lenses only or Plano sunglasses. 10% off all other products for sale (purses).

Gays

- **Seal & Save** 273-4638
Free inspection of ductwork and 20% discount on all services.

Greenville

- **Enertech, Inc.** 618-664-9010
\$50 per ton equipment discount (max 5 ton) on GeoComfort or Paradise geothermal systems.

Macon

- **Macon Speedway** 764-3000
\$2 off regular admission ticket.

Mattoon

- **Wireless Mike's** 258-8771
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.

Oconee

- **Hired Hands Services** 539-4218
5% off any carpet or resilient flooring.

Pana

- **Bland Heating & Air Conditioning** 562-4256
10% discount on service calls.
- **Merle Norman Cosmetic/Cut N Curl** 562-4722
10% off retail.

Peoria

- **Glass Specialty Company Inc.** 309-676-6181
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.

Pleasant Plains

- **Paul Tree Farms, LLC.** 414-9556 971-7876
10% off pines, spruces, maples and oaks.



Shelbyville

- **Best Wedding Chapel** 774-7809
A framed personalized wedding prayer with full wedding package.
- **Beyers Chiropractic** 774-5313
10% off vitamins, braces, pillows.
- **Bogart Vision Care** 774-4422
20% off eye glasses/sun glasses and 50% off second pair.
- **Carl Grabb Motors** 774-2165
Full service oil change \$23.45 plus taxes, up to 5 quarts and filter. Excludes synthetic.
- **Coon Creek Lodge** 756-3147
10% discounts on kitchenettes.
- **Custom Care Cleaners** 774-3422
\$1 off every \$10, \$2 off every \$20, \$3 off every \$30.
- **Druby's** 774-5143
2 free medium drinks w/ purchase of any everyday Family Deal.
- **Just A Stitch** 774-2227
20% off regular priced merchandise.
- **Leach-Wilson Chevrolet Buick CO.** 774-3975
5% off parts and labor any day of the week.
- **M & M Crafts** 774-2609
10% off.
- **Macari's Service Center** 774-4214
10% discount on furnace/AC clean/checks. Card to be present at time of billing.
- **Merle Norman Cosmetic's & Boutique** 774-4233
Save \$2 on a purchase of \$25 or more.
- **Nuvo Print** 774-2337
15% off business customers or individuals.
- **Possum's Treasures** 774-1300
Free greeting card with \$10 purchase.
- **Whalen's West Side Floral** 774-4644
10% off, some restrictions apply.
- **Wireless Mike's** 774-9559
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an

Continued Next Page ▶

► Continued from page 16b existing plan.

- **Woodpile Primitives** 254-6955
10% off on any stock item.

Sullivan

- **Coyote Cabins** 728-7150
Regular price is \$125/night, discount price is \$99/night for weekend and \$89 Sunday – Thursday.

Taylorville

- **A Classic Bouquet** 824-6556
10% off purchases – cash & carry.
- **Gordon Pontiac GMC** 824-3381
\$200 off bottom line price after you have made your best deal. Limit – 1 offer per transaction, no cash value.
- **Market Street Inn** 824-7220
10% off single night stay, 20% off two or more night stay.
- **ProStitch Auto Interiors & Upholstery, Inc.** 824-3228
\$10 off any basic headliner replacement or free black vinyl for ag/commercial seat repairs.
- **Taylorville Community Credit Union** 824-9658
.25% off any new installment loan.
- **The Best 4 Less** 824-4003
10% off already discounted prices.
- **Yard Heating & Cooling** 824-4737
10% off on furnace and/or air conditioner checkup.

Urbana

- **Wireless Mike's** 365-9300
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.

Windsor

- **Hickory Hills Crafts & Collectibles** 459-2347
10% off on \$20 or more.

Please keep this copy for your convenience. We will notify our members of any future participating businesses through this newsletter, on our website, shelbyelectric.coop and via our facebook page, facebook.com/YourCoop. Be on the lookout for exciting news about new things coming to the Co-op Connections Card. If you have lost or misplaced your card, stop by the cooperative for a new one.

Co-op Connections Card also provides Rx savings

Your Co-op Connections card also has a **pharmacy discount component**. Since its introduction in May 2007, **over 35 million dollars have been saved** by cooperative members all across the country on their prescription costs. During that same time frame, **Shelby Electric Cooperative members have saved over \$38,000**.

This card is accepted at over 48,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores including Kmart, CVS, Walgreens, WalMart, Target and many others. Over 24,000 independent pharmacies also offer the prescription discounts.

To find out the discounted price of a prescription go to www.rxpricequotes.com

and to find a participating pharmacy go to www.locateproviders.com. You will be asked to put in a member number and a group number. This can be found on the back of your card.



See a question and answer sheet about the pharmacy discount program on page 9 of this issue of the Illinois Country Living magazine. This is **not** insurance.

Local Non-Chain Pharmacies

FAMILY DRUG STORE

(217) 774-7838
1603 W MAIN ST - SHELBYVILLE, IL 62565

HAGEN'S FAMILY PHARMACY

(217) 728-7388
8 E HARRISON ST - SULLIVAN, IL 61951

THE SULLIVAN PHARMACY

(217) 728-2331
102 E HARRISON - SULLIVAN, IL 61951

MOWEAQUA PHARMACY PC

(217) 768-3832
620 N PUTNAM ST - MOWEAQUA, IL 62550

SAV MOR PHARMACY

(217) 895-2238
596 OAK ST - NEOGA, IL 62447

BROWN'S DRUG STORES

(217) 342-2185
115 W JEFFERSON AVE - EFFINGHAM, IL 62401

MEDICINE SHOPPE PHARMACY

(217) 342-9393
805 W FAYETTE AVE PO BOX 1266 - EFFINGHAM, IL 62401

MARTIN'S PHARMACY

(217) 342-4301
101 S MERCHANT ST - EFFINGHAM, IL 62401

CARLE THERAPY SERVICES

(217) 258-3640
200 LERNA RD S - MATTOON, IL 61938

RENE'S DRUG STORE

(217) 824-5323
201 W MAIN CROSS ST - TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568

THE PHARMACY

(217) 824-3411
600 N MAIN ST - TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568

BOB'S PHARMACY

(217) 563-2701
116 W STATE ST - NOKOMIS, IL 62075

ALTAMONT PHARMACY INC

(618) 483-5614
12 NORTH 3RD - ALTAMONT, IL 62411

ANDES HEALTHMART

(217) 342-9393
805 W FAYETTE - EFFINGHAM, IL 62401

CAIN'S DRUG STORE

(618) 283-0196
1401 N. 8TH STREET - VANDALIA, IL 62471

DALE'S SOUTHLAKE PHARMACY






(217) 429-5165
280 W. FIRST DRIVE - DECATUR, IL 62521

CURRY'S FAMILY PHARMACY

(217) 629-7001
1275 N. 7TH STREET - RIVERTON, IL 62561

Common Caulking Compounds

(source ~ Bob Dickelman)


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.



Recycling fact:

Each ton of mixed paper that is recycled can save the energy equivalent to 185 gallons of gasoline! ~ source RecyclingFacts.org. To date, Shelby Electric has recycled over 5 tons of office paper and almost 30 tons of newspapers and magazines. Something to think about next time you're at the pump!

Power of Green recycling days and hours of operation: Tuesday 8 a.m. – noon Thursday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. – noon	Shelby Electric's recycling site will not be available for drop-off the following date(s): Saturday, February 18th for Presidents' Day weekend.
Recycling drop-off is located at the cooperative's Internet subsidiary PWR-net building on East Route 16 in Shelbyville.	
For more information or if you have questions about the Power of Green call 774-2323 or 877-994-2323.	



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, gas lines, water spigots and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives