

Love on the line

Shelby Electric Cooperative lineworkers don't work alone on our power lines. Whether they are climbing eight-foot poles, restoring power or clearing tree limbs to prevent future outages, they are never far from the hearts of the women who love them.

At this time of year, stores seem flooded with hearts, candy and cards professing true love. But to be honest, those sentiments pale in comparison to the bonds of love we see every time a storm sweeps through our area.

If the lights go out, our lineworkers' wives send their loved ones out into the elements. When other electric cooperatives are in trouble after devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and floods, our lineworkers have traveled as far as the east coast and gulf coast to bring the lights back on for complete strangers. Each time these brave men, and in some instances women, leave home to help those in need, their families are left behind, praying for a safe return.

Working with high-voltage electricity, lineworkers find themselves in life and death situations on a

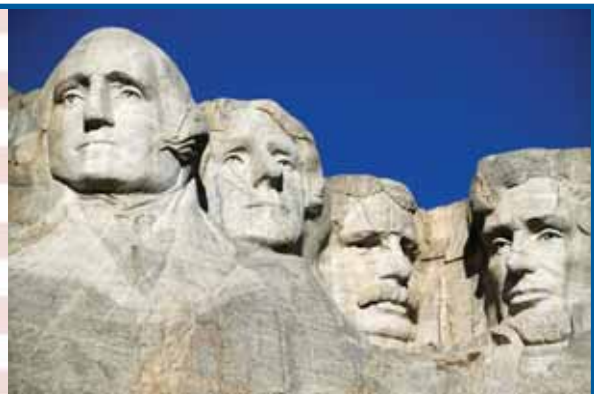
regular basis. That's why Shelby Electric Cooperative focuses on safety first. Through our state association, our linemen go through classroom and in-the-field training on a regular basis to make sure they stay on their game. We know the folks who love our lineworkers appreciate the time we take to make sure our employees get home safely every night.

Marrying into this profession isn't easy. Lineworkers are often on call, and must be ready to respond at a moment's notice if our community needs them. This makes children's sporting events and family get-togethers hard to pull off sometimes. The bold men and women who keep your power flowing do so because they know without their commitment, many of the things we have come to expect—cold food, lights and entertainment—would not be possible. By devoting their lives to working on utility lines, they connect all of us to a better way of life.



This Valentine's Day we would like to take a moment to thank the families who support and love the men who brave the elements and work long hours to keep power flowing to our homes each and every day. Thank you for putting your love on the line—we're committed to making sure the men you love return home safely.

**Cooperative offices
closed Monday,
February 18th in
observance of
Presidents' Day**



Have you used your Co-op Connections Card yet?

As a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative you should have your new Co-op Connections Card and hopefully you are enjoying the savings provided by the pharmacy discounts and the Healthy Savings Benefits, which provide you savings on dental, vision, hearing, chiropractic care and more.

In addition to the health savings, your card can save you money at over 30,000 businesses nationally. Just visit connections.coop or use the link via shelbyelectric.coop to see all the businesses offering discounts locally and nationwide. If you're traveling for work, visiting friends or on vacation make sure you carry your co-op card and check the website for money saving discounts along the way.

Here is a list of local participating businesses as of January 1, 2013.

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.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**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.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

- **Wireless Mike's** 356-9300
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.

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 and pillows.
- **Bogart Vision Care** 774-4422
20% off eyeglasses/sunglasses 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.
- **Grammy's West Side Floral** 774-4644
10% off, some restrictions apply.
- **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 & Boutique** 774-4233
Save \$2 on a purchase of \$25 or more.

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▪ **Simply Yours Unique Crafts and Jewelry** 622-8766
\$1 off every \$10 spent, \$2 off every \$20 spent, \$3 off every \$30 spent, etc.

▪ **Wireless Mikes's** 774-9559
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an 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.

▪ **Hear Well Hearing Care Centre** 824-5210
20% off all services.

▪ **Market Street Inn** 824-7220
10% off single night stay, 20% off two or more nights 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.

Also available on the connections.coop website, you can download the Connections mobile app for your Apple or Droid phones and tablets. There is also a link to money saving coupons for you to download before you head out to the store. If you shop online, click on the My VIP Savings tab and earn cash back while shopping online with over 1,000 plus national retailers. The Co-op Connections Card and connections.coop website are just another way we are looking out for our members.

If you have any questions about the Co-op Connections Card and the many benefits associated with it please contact the office at 1-800-677-2612 or visit www.connections.coop.

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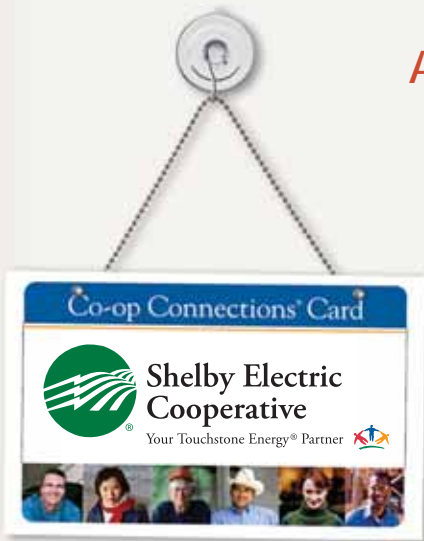
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REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting real with Marla

February can be a long month, even though the calendar says differently. It feels as though winter outlasted hibernation.

Some household bill-payers may be surprised to find their electricity bills are higher than they anticipated. The bills received now may still be reflecting holiday use, guests and entertaining. Check the dates of service (right above the bar graph on the left-side of your statement).

This may be a good time to ask yourself, "Just how many items are plugged in at our house!?" Did you or your family members receive new electronic gadgets for Christmas? Did you get rid of any items to make room for the new or just add to the maze of cords and power strips? Were space heaters being used that could now be turned off and unplugged?

Is the thermostat setting in your home adjusted about as frequently as the channels on the television? For each degree that can be lowered on the thermostat for eight hours, a savings of one to three percent of total heating costs can be made. However, this is not recommended for air source and geothermal heat pump systems. For those systems, set the thermostat and forget it. Make sure you tell the rest of the occupants in the home, "Hands off the thermostat."

While analyzing the thermostat setting, you may also want to consider the thermostat's location. Performance and efficiency can be adversely affected by location. Thermostats should be located



away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows. Has there been an addition to the house, yet the thermostat remained in the same location? Many times the home's layout may have changed substantially; however, the thermostat location was not adjusted accordingly.

Once all these items are accounted for, sit back and peruse the garden catalogs. Don't forget to consider optimum landscaping design for energy efficiency. Windbreaks belong on the north and west sides of your home and shade trees on the south side. It won't be long and you can call JULIE - 811 for safe digging!

– Marla Eversole,
Member Services Representative



Invest in Efficiency

The benefits of some home efficiency investments aren't seen as quickly as others. Here's how a few upgrades compare over time:

	Instant Benefit
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;">    </div> <p>Set Water Heater to 120° No Cost; Save \$73/yr</p> <p>Open Window Blinds in Winter; Close in Summer No Cost; Save \$35/yr</p> <p>Adjust Thermostat 1° Down in Winter, 1° Up in Summer No Cost; Save \$82/yr</p>	Instant Benefit
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;">    </div> <p>ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Costs \$194 extra; Save \$140/yr</p> <p>ENERGY STAR Refrigerator Costs \$97 extra; Save \$100/yr</p> <p>Wrap Hot Water Tank Costs \$85; Save \$23/yr</p>	1-5 Year Payback
<p>Upgrade to ENERGY STAR Heat Pump (From 10 to 15 SEER) Costs \$5,700; Save \$408/yr</p>	Long Term Investment

Find more ways to save at **TogetherWeSave.com.**

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. Based on national average savings; actual savings will vary by climate.