

## Plan to attend your cooperative's annual meeting

**M**ark your calendars now for Shelby Electric Cooperative's 76th annual meeting of members to be held on Friday, June 13, 2014. This year's meeting will again be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds with the business portion of the meeting to be held in the 4-H Center.

Look for your annual meeting notice that will be arriving in the mail sometime this month. The notice will contain information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda and important registration information. All registered members who come to the meeting will receive a \$10 bill credit. **If you bring your registration card with you and present it at the time of registration you will receive an \$11 bill credit.**

The "Energy Efficiency Wall" will be set up in the registration area again this year so members can learn about energy efficiency tips. There will also be free blood pressure checks, bucket truck rides, bounce house, crowd favorite the Gene Trimble Band will provide pre-meeting music and much more. Sunshyne the Clown and Tim the Twister are new additions this year.

As in previous years, a barbecue pork chop dinner will be served between 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. prepared by the Pork Producers of Shelby County. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with the business meeting scheduled for 1 p.m.

Hope to see you Friday, June 13, 2014 at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville for your Annual Meeting.



▲ The business meeting will once again be held inside the 4-H Center at the fairgrounds off of North Route 128.



Come enjoy a pork chop dinner. ▶



# Tamper Resistant Receptacles

## What are Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)?

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature is a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted which sets them apart from standard outlets. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates will remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes

can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL or CSA.

### TRRs by the Numbers:

- Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day.
- It is also estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering with electrical receptacles.
- Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50¢ more than a traditional receptacle.
- Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.



Young children often play around outlets. If your home isn't equipped with tamper resistant receptacles, make sure they at least have safety caps on them.

*For more information on TRRS, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).*



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



*Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.*



Power of Green recycling will not be open Saturday, May 24th in observance of Memorial Day weekend.

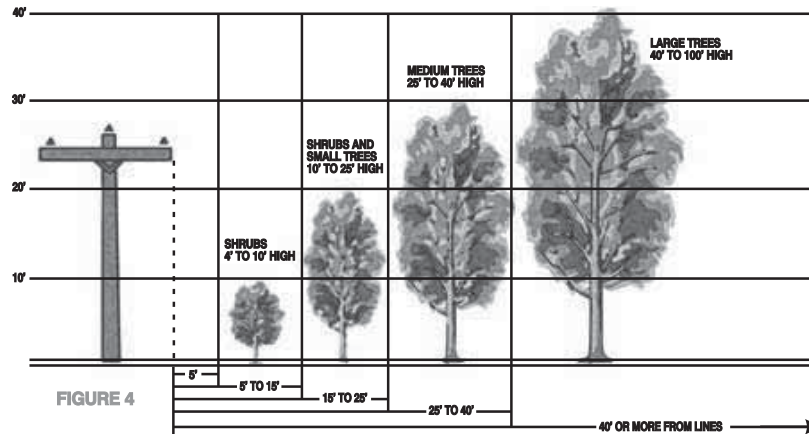
# Be safe this summer

**W**ith summer outdoor projects well underway, keep safety in mind for all your jobs around the house and farm.

Be sure to look up as you head outdoors and always be aware of power lines that could create a hazard. Long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles could contact overhead lines and make you a path to ground for electricity. The results can be shocks, electrocutions and even death.

Lower any long tools or equipment when you are moving them. Carry ladders and poles horizontally whenever possible. Of course, be careful when operating dump trucks or construction equipment so that they're not raised into a power line.

Be careful when working on or



around your roof, installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, doing roof repair or cleaning gutters. Never use water to clean gutters near electric lines, and don't go up on the roof in bad weather.

Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house or buildings. Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet from lines – both vertically and to each side.

Never trim trees near power lines, leave that to the professionals. If you discover limbs or shrubs in the lines, contact the cooperative.

Never let your children climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could come in contact when more weight is added to a branch. Trees contain sap, which is a good conductor of electricity!

### Be aware of underground lines

Remember that there may be underground electric lines on your property, in addition to telephone, cable or other wires and pipes. Even

if you think you know where the electric wires are, you still must call JULIE to have any utility lines located before you start to dig or drill for a project. Call 8-1-1 at least two business days in advance for

locates, which are provided free by the companies that have facilities in the general area.

Knowing where underground lines are present can help you plan where to plant a tree safely or avoid building over the top of underground lines.

Planning is also important when planting a tree that may be just a few feet tall now but will grow to 40 feet or higher. Don't plant large-specimen trees within 40 feet of overhead lines to avoid future interference and drastic trimming.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



## After 40 years Bennie Clawson retires from cooperative

**R**etirement is something we all think about at some point in our working career. Some pencil it in their mind as soon as they start a job while others count it down once they have announced it.

Almost everyone at some point in his or her career think about that day and for some of us we can't wait until it finally gets here. But then, BOOM, that day finally gets here, now what? Travel, start a new hobby, garden, go fishing and spend quality time with family and friends is what you might hear from people when you ask them, what are you going to do now that you are retired?

"You start thinking about retirement as you get older and I know I'll enjoy my retirement days but for me Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) was every bit a part of my life as my family was," said staking engineer Bennie Clawson. "When you work for a place as long as I have, future plans will happen but it will also be hard to give up that part of my daily routine, it is kind of hard to explain," continued Clawson. "This place and the people I have had the chance to work with have meant a lot to me and my family over the years. This place and these people are an extension of my family," said Clawson.

Bennie has lived in Shelby County his whole life and his home away from the cooperative has about five acres and is located west of Henton. He has three grown children, a son and two daughters and also has three grandchildren.

Bennie recently retired from SEC after 40 years of dedicated service. He was first hired at the coopera-

tive as a groundman on June 4, 1974 and moved inside in 1995 to the position of staking engineer. Bennie served under Bill LeCrone, who hired him, and current President and CEO James Coleman. "Both men have been good for SEC even though they each have different management styles," said Clawson. "I've been honored to work for both of them".

"Probably the biggest change, when working as a groundman, was the use of hydraulics and getting bucket trucks in and Coleman played a big role in that when he was hired as CEO," said Clawson. "As a staking engineer, technology, which continues to change rapidly, has improved efficiencies in the engineering department. From computers to tablets and smart phones and now apps that can be used are really changing how we do our daily work," said Clawson.

"In both positions, I truly enjoyed my work and many times I was the first point of contact between the member and the cooperative," continued Clawson.

"You would almost have had to been a linemen or worked outside with a crew to understand this but its almost like a brotherhood. You have everyone's back and that will probably be the one thing I will miss the most about retiring — working with all the guys over the years," commented Clawson. "I have some very fond memories indeed".

So what is Bennie going to do now that he is retired? "I'm going to go pick mushrooms, do some hunting and fishing and travel to visit my grandkids," answered Clawson.



*Bennie Clawson, left, poses with Butch Walden next to "Ole Number 9" back in 1986.*



*Staking engineer Bennie Clawson, standing, poses for picture with vice president of engineering Jim Matlock and engineering assistant Debbie Carlen.*

*Good luck and best wishes, Bennie, from your family, friends and co-workers.*

*Enjoy your retirement; you've earned it.*

<p><b>Shelby Energy</b> 1-217-774-2311 24-hours-a-day</p>	<p><b>PWR-net Internet</b> 1-877-994-2323 weekdays</p>	<p><b>Shelby Electric Cooperative</b> 1-800-677-2612 1-217-774-3986 24-hours-a-day</p>
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