

## Free Home Energy Workshop November 8th

*Learn how you can make your home more comfortable and efficient*

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) is providing an excellent learning opportunity for people who are planning to build a new home or just trying to make their present home more energy efficient. A workshop, "Improving Home Performance," will be taught by Brian Kumer at the Lake Shelbyville Visitor's Center in Shelbyville on Thursday, November 8th. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. with registration beginning at 5:30 p.m. Come prepared to learn and ask questions about how to make your home more comfortable, save energy and money on your utility bills.

Kumer will share his knowledge and passion for weatherization and home energy performance during this interactive workshop. Kumer has worked in the residential and commercial energy field for ten years and is currently a Building Performance Institute (BPI) consultant and trainer, board member of the Midwest Building Performance Association, instructor for the Illinois Weatherization Program and owner of Thermal Imaging Services. Brian

is also past president of the Illinois Association of Energy Raters (IAER).

"Attendees will walk away from this program with some helpful ideas to cut down on their energy use and make their homes more comfortable," said cooperative Member Services Representative Marla Eversole. "Members will also experience the award-winning 'Wall of Savings' display," added Eversole. The eight-foot wall, designed by Kumer for Prairie Power, Inc., is a great teaching tool showing people how to properly insulate their homes and where to caulk to stop air infiltration.

Shelby Electric members attending will be entered into a prize drawing.

For more information and to reserve your spot, call Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative at 1-800-677-2612 or email us at email560@shelbyelectric.coop and put Energy Workshop in the subject area.

Snacks and door prizes will be available to all who attend this informative and educational meeting.

The Lake Shelbyville Visitor's cen-



**Brian Kumer, energy consultant and owner of Thermal Imaging Services of Lewiston, presented a similar workshop at the cooperative headquarters in February 2010.**

ter is located in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers building in the Dam East Recreation area off Route 16 in Shelbyville.

### Jobs.



Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community keeping jobs at home.

Lots of businesses talk about growing their communities. For cooperatives, it's not just talk. It's what we're all about.

We're in it for the long haul ... strengthening communities through jobs, service and community involvement.

Maybe that's why we're more trusted than businesses owned by Wall Street investors.

### Cooperatives

**Owned by Our Members,  
Committed to Our Communities**



REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting real with Marla

It's the time of year for ghosts and goblins; however, your electric bill does not have to be frightful! Often we do not notice the inefficiencies in our homes; we just walk past them like they are invisible ghosts. Here are some ideas to help you improve your home's performance, making it more cozy, comfortable and safe.

Howling wind will gust right under and around doors and windows that are not weather-stripped. Lock windows to help make the best seal.

Put a stake in phantom loads. Up to 10% of a home's electricity is sucked out by electronics that are not even in active use! Look for remote-controlled items (remotes put their electronics on stand-by not OFF) and items that have digital clocks and displays. If possible, plug them in to smart strips. (For more information, see graphic on page 16d.)



Have you noticed cobwebs that are not part of your Halloween décor? Spiders build their webs in locations they hope will provide an easy food source. They choose areas where there are air leaks that allow their prey to enter your house. Find the leaks, seal

them up and then evict the spiders and their webs.

Do you have any outlets that resemble this frightening and unsafe picture? Again, a smart strip may be very helpful. Remember extension cords are to be used as temporary solutions, not permanent fixtures.

Are you anticipating taking the chill off with a crackling fire in the fireplace? Fireplaces can actually make your home quite drafty. Keep the flue closed when not burning a fire. There is no need to send the air you are paying to heat right out the chimney.

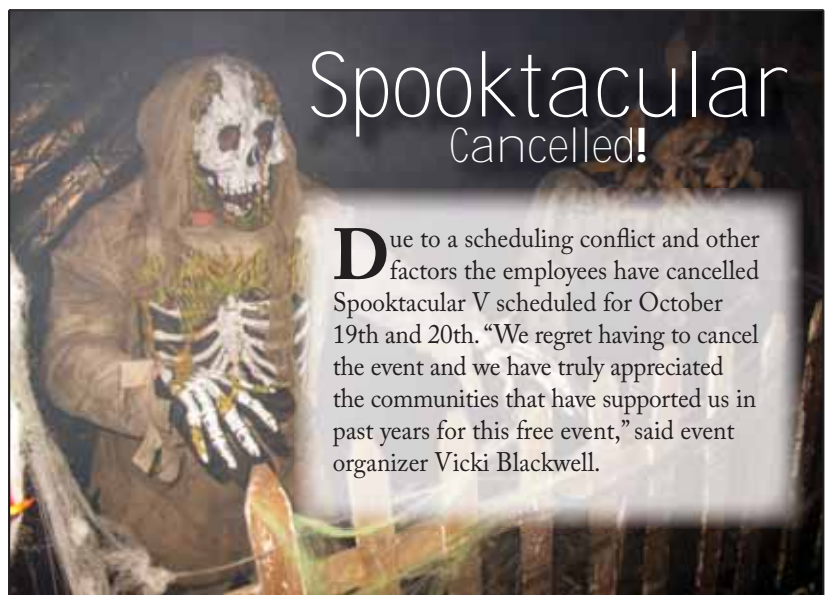
BEWARE of the space-heating monster. A 1500-watt, electric space heater will cost approximately \$0.19 for every hour it operates.

As always, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Remember to read the small print and don't get tricked by your own house!

- Marla Eversole,  
Member Services Representative

**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.**



## Spooktacular Cancelled!

Due to a scheduling conflict and other factors the employees have cancelled Spooktacular V scheduled for October 19th and 20th. "We regret having to cancel the event and we have truly appreciated the communities that have supported us in past years for this free event," said event organizer Vicki Blackwell.

# Shelbyville is the place to be on Columbus Day weekend

## Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest on Lake Shelbyville October 5th – 7th.

The streets of downtown Shelbyville will once again come alive with a festive flair and the skies around Lake Shelbyville will be filled with vibrant fall colors of hot air balloons aloft as the 16th annual Scarecrow Daze takes place on Columbus Day weekend October 5th, 6th and 7th.

Shelby Electric Cooperative and several other Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives invite you to the 3rd annual Lake Shelbyville Balloon Fest, which is held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze. Pilots from around the Midwest will take to the skies with flights on Friday night and on Saturday and Sunday mornings. They will also light up the night on Saturday night with a cookout and balloon glow at the Spillway Dam off Route 16.

“We are returning to our roots as we plan the festival with the theme “Back to the Future”. The festival began 16 years ago in the downtown area. We are paying homage to that by once again holding the festival downtown,” said event organizer Dr. Katie Harley. “It is a great way to promote all of the downtown merchants and gives a sense of community pride,” added Harley.

“We are happy to be part of the Scarecrow Daze weekend again this year for the third annual Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Fest at Lake Shelbyville,” said coordinator of the balloon event, Kevin Bernson. “Mother Nature willing, this should be a great Columbus Day weekend you don’t want to miss. We hope people come from all over to see just what Shelbyville has to offer,” added Bernson.

If you would like to volunteer as part of the balloon chase ground team

please call 217-774-3986. For more information about the Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest visit [www.lakeshelbyville.com](http://www.lakeshelbyville.com). For more

information about Scarecrow Daze contact the Shelbyville Chamber office at 217-774-2221.



### Balloon schedule of events

- **Friday night, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., Media Flight** – balloons will launch from soccer fields at Forest Park in Shelbyville. *(Best place to view balloons, Forest Park.)*
- **Saturday morning, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at sunrise, Sponsor/Task flight** – balloons leave park area to fly over soccer fields attempting to hit a target on the field. *(Best place to view balloons, Forest Park.)*
- **Saturday night Glow (at dusk) and Cookout** starting at 4 p.m., at the Spillway Dam off Route 16. The cookout will benefit the Shelby County Rescue Squad and is sponsored by the Shelbyville Moose lodge 1294 and the Shelby Sports Club. Lake Area Volunteers will be selling soda, water and chips to raise money for their activities. Flenor’s Wieners will be selling hot dogs and Walkers will be selling kettle corn and lemonade shake-ups. Thunder Hits DJ service will be providing great music from late afternoon until the end of the glow.
- **Sunday morning, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at sunrise, Sponsor/Task flight** – balloons leave park area to fly over 9th Street Beach attempting to hit a target on the beach. *(Best place to view balloons, 9th Street Beach.)*

**Note:** All scheduled balloon events and times are weather dependent and are at the pilot’s discretion. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would appreciate everyone following the **No Parking** signs that will be posted in designated areas.

**Pilot’s Discretion** – Ballooning is a very weather dependent sport and if winds are high or storms are in the area, pilots could determine they do not feel it is safe to fly. They may determine they will fly but can not take passengers for safety reasons. Even if the sun is shining and it appears to be a great day, winds could play a factor on any ballooning activity (this is primarily a concern for safe landings).

# Fact or Fiction— Myths about Electrical Safety

**S**ometimes conventional wisdom, even if it comes from a trusted source can be deadly—especially if it pertains to electrical safety. This is one time that checking facts just might save your life.

**Here are some common electrical safety myths and the truth behind them:**

**MYTH –** A downed power line will be arcing and smoking if it still has power.

**FACT –** Power lines do not automatically shut off when they fall and do not necessarily arc, flash, pop or smoke when they hit the ground. There is no way to know for sure if a line has potentially deadly current running through it unless it has been properly discharged by a utility crew. Stay away from all downed power lines and keep others away.

**MYTH –** Household current cannot kill you.

**FACT –** Household current can and does kill. Case-in-point, 10-year-old Caitlyn Mackenzie was killed by household current when she touched a lamp while still damp from a swimming pool. You can learn more about Caitlyn’s story at SafeElectricity.org.

**MYTH –** Power lines are insulated.

**FACT –** The majority of outside power lines are not insulated. The coating you might see on the lines is just weatherproofing that will offer no protection from the electricity flowing through the lines.

**MYTH –** Light digging in the yard won’t be deep enough to hit any wires or pipes.

**FACT –** Unless you call 811 and have a professional come to your home and locate the utilities, you can never be sure where lines and pipes are buried. Even if you are just planting flowers or a shrub, you might come into contact with power lines that could kill you. Find out how dangerous underground digging can be by watching Tom’s story at SafeElectricity.org.

**MYTH –** Tires insulate my car from electrical dangers.

**FACT –** If a wire falls on your car while you are in it, the tires are not keeping you from being injured by the electricity. You are not being hurt because you are not a path to ground for the electricity—as long as you stay in the car. Once you step out of the car, you become that path to ground and can be seriously injured or killed. If you find yourself in a situation where your car has hit a utility pole or has a power line come down on it, the best place for you to be is in the car. Call for help and keep others away until a utility crew can kill the wires. If you must exit the car, it is critical for you to make sure not to touch the ground and the car at the same time. Jump out of the car, keeping your feet together and bunny-hop away.

When it comes to electricity you cannot take chances. You must be prepared and make sure that your family and friends know how to work and live safely around electricity. For more information about how to keep your family safe from electrical hazards, go to SafeElectricity.org.

*Editor’s Note: Due to a change in our printer’s deadlines, outage reports will no longer be printed in the Shelby News but can now be found on the cooperative’s Website [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop).*



**In an average home, 5 percent to 8 percent of electric use stems from “energy vampires”— devices that use power even when turned off. Smart power strips help you unplug energy-draining devices when not in use easily.**

**There are typically three different types of outlets on a smart strip:**



**The blue outlet serves as a control plug (ideal for a TV or computer).**



**Devices plugged into red outlets stay on—electricity to these receptacles never cuts off, making them perfect for satellite boxes and other items that need constant power.**



**Remaining outlets, often green or neutral in color, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue outlet. Turning off a device plugged into the blue outlet cuts power to items connected to these outlets.**

**Smart strips are available online or at specialty electronic retailers and generally cost \$20 or more depending on their size.**

*Source: Cooperative Research Network, Bits Ltd.*