

Scholarship recipients recognized



This year's scholarship recipients, pictured from left, Karalyn Endsley of Shelbyville, Owen Mateer of Taylorville, and Olivia Mizeur of Taylorville.

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) awarded their annual scholarships for higher education at the 87th Annual Meeting of Members. SEC would like to recognize these three area youths who received the 2026 scholarships for their outstanding application and essay: Karalyn Endsley, Owen Mateer, and Olivia Mizeur. Each recipient was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Karalyn is the daughter of Keith and Jennifer Endsley of Tower Hill. A Shelbyville High School graduate, she will be attending Eastern Illinois University in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in fine arts. From there, she will either pursue art education or a master's in art therapy.

Owen is the son of Martin and April Mateer of Taylorville. A

Taylorville High School graduate, he plans to attend Illinois Wesleyan University, where he will be studying kinesiology and playing football. After college he hopes to pursue his PhD for physical therapy.

Olivia is the daughter of Michael and Rebecca Mizeur of Taylorville. A Taylorville High School graduate, she plans to attend the University of Illinois to receive her bachelor's degree in animal science with a pre vet focus. After graduating college, she wants to continue her education to become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with the hope of returning to her community and working as a large and small animal veterinarian.

"We are happy to present these scholarships to deserving students in our service area. This is another way

the cooperative demonstrates our commitment to the communities we serve," noted Faith Wheeler, Member Services Specialist. To see a short video clip of our three recipients, visit the cooperative's website, Instagram, X, or Facebook page. Information about 2027 scholarships will be sent to area high school guidance counselors in the fall. Learn more about this and other scholarships on the cooperative's website, shelbyelectric.coop, under the "Community" tab, or call the office at 217-774-3986.

SEC would like to congratulate all 2026 graduates and wish them well as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.



New meters being installed

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) is upgrading its infrastructure to serve you better. The co-op recently started replacing existing meters with advanced “smart meter” technology. Replacing the existing electric meters with new, smart technology ensures a more reliable power grid. Many of the current meters have been in service since 2005. While individual units have been replaced over the years due to routine maintenance, this system-wide upgrade will serve SEC’s network well into the future. We hope to be fully deployed by the end of July 2027.

Why the change?

The primary reason for this upgrade is communication. Our old system only allowed one-way communication. The new smart meters enable continuous, two-way communication between your home and the cooperative. This gives the SEC team unprecedented visibility into the entire electric system, drastically improving their



operational efficiency, enhanced functionality, and overall service reliability.

What to expect during installation

The installation process is quick, and you will see familiar faces in your neighborhood. Please note:

- **Cooperative linemen** will handle all meter installations.
- **Service interruption** will only last for a few minutes.
- **Device resets** will be necessary for digital clocks and appliances.

Both the cooperative and the members will see benefits from these new meters.

Benefits to the cooperative

- **Real-time data** tracks power quality and grid resilience instantly.
- **Faster restorations** occur because the system automatically maps outages.

- **Remote operations** allow us to connect or disconnect service instantly.
- **Proactive monitoring** catches voltage fluctuations and brief power “blinks” early.

Benefits to our members

- **Usage awareness** helps you better understand and manage your daily electric consumption.
- **Quicker response** means shorter wait times during unexpected power outages.
- **Enhanced reliability** ensures a steadier, more dependable flow of power to your home.

Learn more

For more information about the cooperative’s smart meter project, visit shelbyelectric.coop or call us at 217-774-3986. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we complete these necessary upgrades for a brighter, more efficient future.

SHELBY News

**P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565**

**Phone: 217-774-3986
or 1-800-677-2612**

**Pay-by-Phone:
1-844-963-2859**

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**Summer Office Hours
Monday – Thursday
6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Effective June 8-August 7

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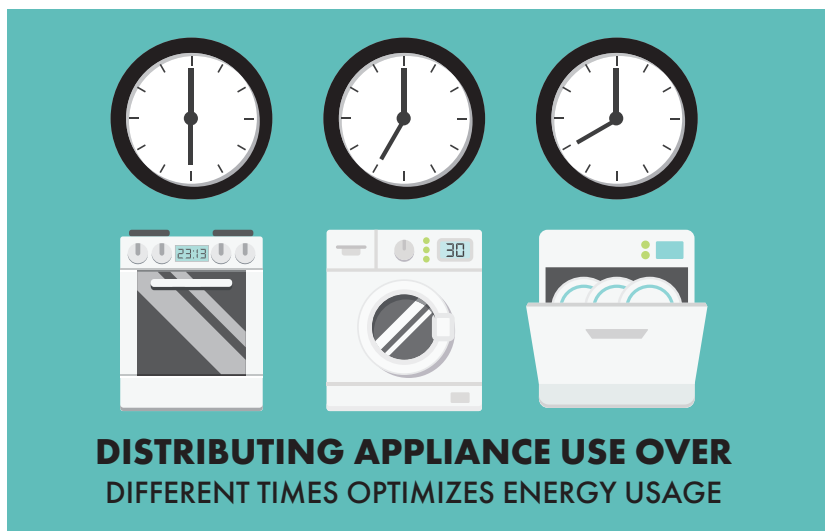
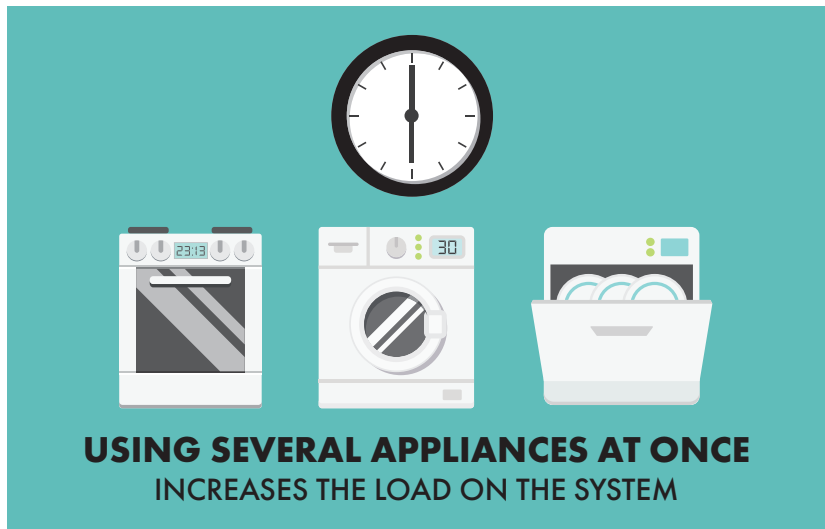
Explaining Demand Charge

A Demand Charge reflects the highest level of electricity you use at any one time, measured in kilowatts (kW). Your energy charge covers the total electricity you use during the billing period, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Using several high-power appliances at once — such as an electric stove, clothes dryer, and dishwasher — raises your demand and can increase this charge. Demand rises or falls based on how many appliances are running simultaneously.

- **Demand Charge** = how much electricity was used at one time during a specific interval of time.
- **Energy Charge** = total amount of electricity used over a billing period.

Currently, you will see a Demand Charge listed as a separate line item on your billing statement. Right now, it will show 0.00 (no charge) for that line item.

Simple example: You and your neighbor do household chores in the evening. Your neighbor has the stove on, runs the clothes dryer, and dishwasher all at the same time, which increases demand. You on the other hand, spread out the appliance use to avoid overloading the system. In this case, your neighbor incurs a higher Demand Charge despite using the same amount of energy. Since they required more power within a specific time period, they will receive a higher charge than you.



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Why does my speed test say I'm not getting 1 Gig?

ShelbyFiber is thrilled to bring blazing-fast, 1-Gig symmetrical, future-proof fiber internet directly to your home! This upgrade delivers incredible bandwidth, however, you might notice your speed test numbers don't always show a perfect "1,000 Mbps" (1 Gig) on your phone or laptop. Don't worry, you are getting the full pipe of speed to your house! Here is why your individual devices might report lower numbers, and how you can experience the true power of your new connection.

The Wi-Fi "speed limit"

Wi-Fi is incredibly convenient, but wireless signals degrade quickly. Walls, furniture, interference from electronic devices such as a microwave, distance from your router, and even your neighbor's router can slow things down. When you test your speed over Wi-Fi, you are testing the strength of your wireless signal at that exact moment, not the actual speed coming into your home. A smartphone on Wi-Fi will often top out around 300 to 500 Mbps, even right next to the router.

The device bottleneck

Your internet can only go as fast as your device allows. Older smartphones, tablets, and smart TVs have older internal antennas and processors. They simply cannot process data at 1-Gig speeds.

How to see and test your 1-Gig speed

To truly see your 1-Gig connection in action, you need a physical connection:

- **Plug in directly:** Connect a laptop or desktop computer directly

to your router using a network cable.

- **Use the right cable:** Make sure you are using a Cat 5e, Cat 6, or Cat 7 ethernet cable.
- **Turn off Wi-Fi:** Temporarily disable your device's Wi-Fi while plugged into the cable to ensure the traffic goes through the wire.

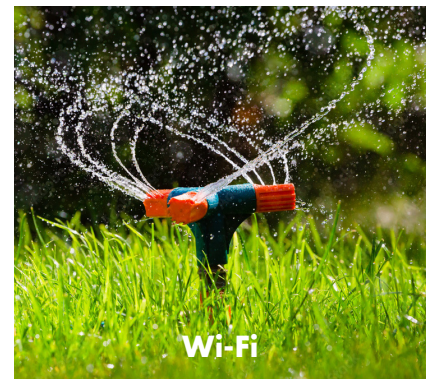
The garden hose and sprinkler analogy

Think of your 1-Gig fiber connection as the main water valve on the side of your house. It delivers a massive, powerful flow of water.



- **The wired connection (the garden hose):** If you attach a heavy-duty garden hose directly to that valve, all that high-pressure water flows perfectly out of the other end. This is just like plugging a computer directly into your router with an ethernet cable — you get the maximum, unfiltered speed.
- **The Wi-Fi signal (the sprinkler):** Now, imagine you attach a lawn sprinkler to the end of that hose. The sprinkler shoots the water into the air, breaking it up into thousands of tiny droplets to cover the whole yard. Because the

water is spraying everywhere, you can't get the same high-pressure blast at any single spot that you did from the open hose.



When your phone connects via Wi-Fi, it is like standing on the edge of the lawn catching the spray from the sprinkler. The water is still there, but it is spread out to cover all your devices at once!

The real power of fiber

With a 1-Gig package from ShelbyFiber, your family can simultaneously stream multiple 4K movies, play online games, and hold video calls on several devices all at once without anyone experiencing an annoying buffering, signal drop, or any other digital bottleneck.



Call ShelbyFiber today, 217-774-2323, to learn how we can provide enough bandwidth for your entire household to stream, game, and work simultaneously without a single hiccup.