

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • www.shelbyelectric.coop

Back side of bill

How to Read Your New Billing Statement

Your billing statement has a new look! The new layout is designed to provide you additional, easy to understand information.

The following example is a Rate 1/Single Phase Service electric billing statement. Your bill may have different features and charges.

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Front side of bill

- **A Contact Us** Look here for ways to contact our office or make a payment.
- **B** Message Center Important messages about your account and payments will be listed here. This is also where you can learn about news and events for co-op members.
- **C Billing Summary** Here you will find your recent payments, current and total charges due, and your due date.
- **D Payment Stub** If you are mailing your payment, tear off and include the payment stub with your check or money order. Turn the stub over for all your payment options; there are NO FEES to pay using any of these options!
- **E Energy Use Graph and Comparison Chart** Compare your current energy use to previous months and last year with this 24-month graph. Knowing the length of your billing period and average temperature during that time can help you understand changes in the amount of electricity you use.
- F Billing Details For each of your accounts, the top bar displays details such as the meter number, rate schedule, service dates, meter readings, and total usage. Below this bar, charges are detailed and calculated.

Please note, Electric and PWR-net rates have <u>NOT</u> changed.

Please call 217-774-3986 if you have questions about your bill.



Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville October 8–10

The streets of downtown Shelbyville will soon come alive with a festive flair, and the skies will be filled with vibrant colors of hot air balloons as the annual Touchstone Energy Balloonfest, held in conjunction with Scarecrow Daze, takes place on Columbus Day weekend, October 8–10.

"We have not finalized plans yet, but we hope to have some exciting things to add to the event. We will notify the public as we go along. Leading up to the event, the best place to get updates is the Lake Shelbyville Balloonfest's Facebook page or you can call the Shelby County Office of Tourism at 217-774-2244," stated event organizer Kevin Bernson.

Pilots from around the Midwest plan to take to the skies with fun flights on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The event kicks off Friday evening at Willow Ridge Winery with food, music, fun, and a small balloon glow (weather permitting). Saturday morning come out for breakfast, watch



P.O. BOX 560 Shelbyville, IL 62565 Phone: 217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612 Pay-by-Phone: 1-855-385-9981 www.shelbyelectric.coop twitter.com/YourCoop facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours: **7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**





the balloon pilots participate in a fun task over the Shelby County Airport, and stick around for the Young Eagle flights. Kids from ages 8–17 get an introduction to general aviation and a free plane ride over Shelbyville from the Loren Hodge Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 274. SummerSkyz helicopter rides will be available all day for a fee and the Shelbyville Fire Department will have an evening cookout fundraiser.

There will be plenty of family things to do, including the Family Drug kids' area and music by Pope's Party Patrol. Just before dusk, enjoy skydivers from Mid America Parachute Club, out of Taylorville, as they land on targets at the airport. To cap off an exciting day (weather permitting), enjoy tethered balloon rides and watch the balloons light up the night with the J&R Collision Center's hot air balloon glow. To round out the weekend, the pilots will once again be challenged as they perform a fun task over 9th Street Beach located at Dam West Recreation Area Sunday morning.

"This will mark the 10th time that we have held a balloonfest in the Shelbyville area after moving the event from Eagle Creek Resort in Findlay back in 2011. It is held in conjunction with Shelbyville's street festival, Scarecrow Daze," noted Bernson. "This event will provide something for the whole family. The support of many businesses, community groups, and individual volunteers is what makes this a great event. Without them, we could not put this on," concluded Bernson.

If you would like to volunteer, please call 217-774-2244. See you in Shelbyville over Columbus Day weekend!



Shelby Electric Cooperative Coloring Contest Winners



Dalten Beck Age 4 – 6





Age 10 - 12

ur annual coloring contest provided kids ages 4-12 a chance to decorate a cooperative icon, Willie Wiredhand. Willie was created in 1951 and this year marks his 70th year in the rural electrification program.

Out of the 30 entries submitted, 6-year-old Dalten Beck, Taylorville; 9-year-old Kassidi Sugg, Macon; and 10-year-old Madelyn Likes, Stonington put their coloring skills to work and were named the winners. "Each of our three winners took home a beach bag full of summer fun," noted Jill George, who coordinated the contest for the cooperative this year.

Every child who entered the contest received a stackable colored pencil. "It was fun designing the coloring page and picking out the gifts for the kids. The best part was seeing the winners' excitement when they came in to claim their prize and have their picture taken!" exclaimed George.

For more information about Shelby Electric Cooperative's youth programs, visit the "Community" tab at www.shelbyelectric.coop.

Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, September 6th for Labor Day



Propane **Safety** Tips

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Propane tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when igniting a pilot light.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately, call 911 from outside the home, and then call your propane provider.

Shelby Energy Company is an LP gas subsidiary of Shelby Electric Cooperative. You can reach them by calling 217-774-2311, visit their website at shelbyenergyco.coop, or like them on Facebook @ShelbyEnergyCo.



Shelby Energy Company

REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and harvest-time driving

A cting Shelby County Sheriff Sean McQueen would like to caution motorists to take special care driving this harvest season. "We do see an increase in motor vehicle accidents in the fall," stated McQueen. A culmination of circumstances leads to increased danger - harvest work with large, slow-moving vehicles, deer on the move, and changing weather conditions.

Mews

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 21 percent of the population lived in rural areas in 2016, but 60 percent of crash fatalities occurred in rural areas. Those large vehicles that slow down your commute usually "win" in a crash situation. In 2018, 96 percent of vehicle occupants killed in crashes involving a large truck and a passenger vehicle were occupants of the passenger vehicles.

McQueen provided three simple directives to aid in avoiding accidents:

Avoid driving distracted. Put that phone away!

- Slow down!
 - Understand that the large implements and vehicles are on the roadways for a purpose and cannot speed up or always move over safely.

Operators of farm equipment must also be vigilant about checking



for electrical wires and equipment. "One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness," explains Erin Hollinshead, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. "It is important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height, and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe route for equipment can help reduce accidents."

All farm employees and helpers need to follow these guidelines:

- Look up and live!
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines at all times, in all directions.
- Use caution when moving any equipment such as augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.

- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging, contact Shelby Electric Cooperative at 217-774-3986.
- If equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab! Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for a utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit machinery or a vehicle that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the vehicle is on fire. In this scenario, jump out of the vehicle with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, keeping feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

This year, National Farm Safety and Health Week is September 19-25, helping usher in the first day of autumn, September 22. Slow down and observe the beautiful, changing landscape by safely traveling on the roads.

~Marla Foor, Communication Specialist Sources: driving-tests.org, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

