Global demand for high-quality, American-made products is well established, and expanded rural exports have the potential to support additional jobs and growth in rural America. Congressman John Shimkus, officials from USDA Rural Development, and Shelby Electric Cooperative echoed that message at a ceremony from the production facility of IHI Turbo America (ITA), a manufacturing company based in Shelbyville, Illinois. ITA continues to add world-wide customers, production orders, and jobs.

ITA will produce Turbochargers for Honda North America starting in 2020. This will require additional capital equipment and employees to support production of this new line of Turbochargers.

Shelby Electric Cooperative secured an interest-free Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) of $2 million to loan to ITA to support a 250,000 square foot addition currently under construction. Current project estimates are close to $40 million.

“This is quite an investment in the United States for ITA’s owners who are based out of Tokyo, Japan. To put that money to work on this expansion project in a small rural town in downstate Illinois speaks volumes about the dedicated people who work and live in that region,” commented Shimkus. “This is a win-win for everyone involved.”

This is the third expansion for ITA with a supporting REDL through Shelby Electric Cooperative. “Investing in the rural communities we serve is at the core of why electric cooperatives were formed some 80 years ago,” said Cooperative President/CEO Josh Shallenberger. “This continues to be a cornerstone of the rural cooperative movement, whether through direct resource allocation or through opportunities to partner, as is the case with ITA and USDA’s Rural Development.

The first, in 2012, contributed $2 million toward a $4.8 million project that created 30 new jobs. The second was in 2016 for $1 million toward a project worth in excess of $3 million that created 20 new jobs. With this latest expansion, ITA will double the number of employees at the Shelbyville facility.

“ITI Turbo America is writing an impressive story of innovation and success in Shelbyville,” said Shimkus.

Continued on 20B
Continued from 20A

Douglas Wilson, USDA Rural Development State Director. “Thanks to the pivotal partnership of Shelby Electric Cooperative, this strong Rural Development program to boost economic development is being used for the third time – each time resulting in more jobs for this rural community.”

The project is estimated to bring an additional 90 jobs to the plant by 2022 including manufacturing, engineering, and management positions.

“The people that work at IHI Turbo America appreciate the support and commitment of Shelby Electric Cooperative, the USDA and members of the Shelbyville community,” explained ITA General Manager John Schuessler.

ITA designs and manufactures a full range of diesel, gasoline, and natural gas turbocharger products and accessories for the agricultural, industrial, marine, commercial truck, and military markets. They provide support from advanced engineering to mass production to customers in North and South America.

Cooperative welcomes two new employees

**Assistance added to the line crews**

The cooperative recently hired Daric Austin as a temporary employee who will be assisting the line crews.

Daric is a Shelbyville High School graduate and recently finished a 15-week lineman program at Northwest Lineman School in Meridian, Idaho.

Daric appreciates the opportunity to work with the crews and building upon what he learned at lineman school. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Welcome aboard, Daric!

**A new face at the front desk**

Jami Boehm recently joined the cooperative as a part-time cashier/receptionist. She grew up in Noblesville, Indiana. Jami graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hillsdale College in Michigan where she received an English degree with a minor in piano performance.

Jami and her husband Nathan live on their 100-acre farm near Cowden, and he is a lineman for Ameren. While living in Indiana, Jami worked for her grandpa and father in their family business. She loves the family atmosphere here at the co-op, and she enjoys helping members when they call or stop by the office.

In her spare time, Jami teaches piano, loves to travel, and enjoys scuba diving from time to time. Welcome to the team, Jami!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home’s heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov
Summer has set sail and autumn is in the air. Our senses come alive with the smells and tastes of pumpkin and hot chocolate, the colorful foliage delights our eyes, and we experience the contradictory feelings of crisp air mingled with wiener roast fires. What’s not to love?

Spiders, for one thing (and maybe those smelly Asian beetles). Spiders may make frightfully fun Halloween decorations, but the real critters are not welcome in most of our homes. Their presence may be a scary clue that your home needs to be better sealed. Spiders set up shop near their version of a fast-food drive through. My pest-control contractor told me that spiders will pack their silken bags and move on if they do not have a food source. Now is the time to clear leaves and seal any cracks and gaps around your home’s foundation.

A faulty furnace is definitely more trick than treat. According to the National Weather Service, central Illinois usually experiences our first frost between October 7 and 17. It is time to schedule a service check of your heating system, and be sure to change the filter regularly.

Fall decorations that may cause a fiery fright are not beloved either. Participate in Fire Prevention Week (October 7 – 13) by following these safety tips:

- Avoid using highly flammable items, such as corn stalks and straw, near heat-producing items. Even a lightbulb can produce enough heat to catch highly flammable objects on fire.
- Do not let outdoor electrical decorations become a hazard. Ground fault circuit interrupters should be used wherever moisture may come in contact with electricity.
- Be mindful that trick-or-treaters may have flowing or long, trailing costumes. Use battery-operated candles in decorations that children may be near.
- Always inspect cords for wear. Discard any that have been damaged, cracked, or frayed.
- Only use electrical products that have been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Taking care of these responsibilities will hopefully allow you to safely, comfortably enjoy the beauty of autumn, and may there not be a worm in your caramel apple!

~Marla Eversole, Communication Specialist
Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Cooperatives and Jobs...

Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community, keeping jobs at home. In October, co-ops all across the United States are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member’s economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

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

Cooperatives
Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities
October 5-7, 2018
Columbus Day Weekend

**10.05 | Friday Evening**

**Event Kickoff | 5-7PM | Lake Shelbyville Visitor Center**
- Balloons will inflate and launch on site
- Cromwell Radio Group LIVE Remote | Music by All Kindz of Soundz
- Best viewing of balloons: Visitor Center | Sunset time: 6:33PM

**10.06 | Saturday Morning**

**Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9AM | Shelby County Airport (W Hwy 16)**
- Balloons will fly over airport in a fun flight
- Music by All Kindz of Soundz
- Best viewing of balloons: Airport | Sunrise time: 6:58AM
- 6:30-10AM | Breakfast fundraiser by Festival of Lights & Chautauqua Preservation | Adults: $5 AYCE; Kids ↓ 12: FREE

**Young Eagle Flights | 8-11:30AM | Shelby County Airport**
- Registration begins at 8:00AM, Flights from 8:30-11:30AM, Ages 8-17
- Introduction to general aviation—basic ground school & 20-25 minute FREE airplane ride over Shelbyville area
- Legal guardian must be present to sign waiver of consent; All kids receive a certificate and flight log book
- *SummerSkyz helicopter rides from 9AM-Dusk: $30 per person—3 people maximum per ride*

**10.06 | Saturday Evening**

**Balloon Glow & Cookout | 4-9PM | Shelby County Airport**
- Cookout benefits the Shelbyville Fire Department
- Several local food & drink vendors, Music by All Kindz of Soundz
- 4-6:45PM | Free inflatables/bounce houses sponsored by Family Drug
- 4-9PM | Tethered balloon rides: $10 per person to benefit local charities
- Balloon Glow at dusk sponsored by B & R Marine | Sunset time: 6:32PM

**10.07 | Sunday Morning**

**Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9AM | Dam West Recreation Area**
- Balloons will fly over beach in a fun flight
- Music by All Kindz of Soundz
- Best viewing of balloons: Dam West | Sunrise time: 6:59AM

Balloonfest admission is FREE & events are open to the public | Donations appreciated

*ALL SCHEDULED EVENT TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, WEATHER DEPENDENT & ARE AT THE PILOTS’ DISCRETION*
Follow the Touchstone Energy® Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville on Facebook: @balloonslakeshelfbyville
Call (217)774-3986 for more information OR go online
www.shelbyelectric.coop | www.lakeshelfbyville.com/events/balloon.htm