



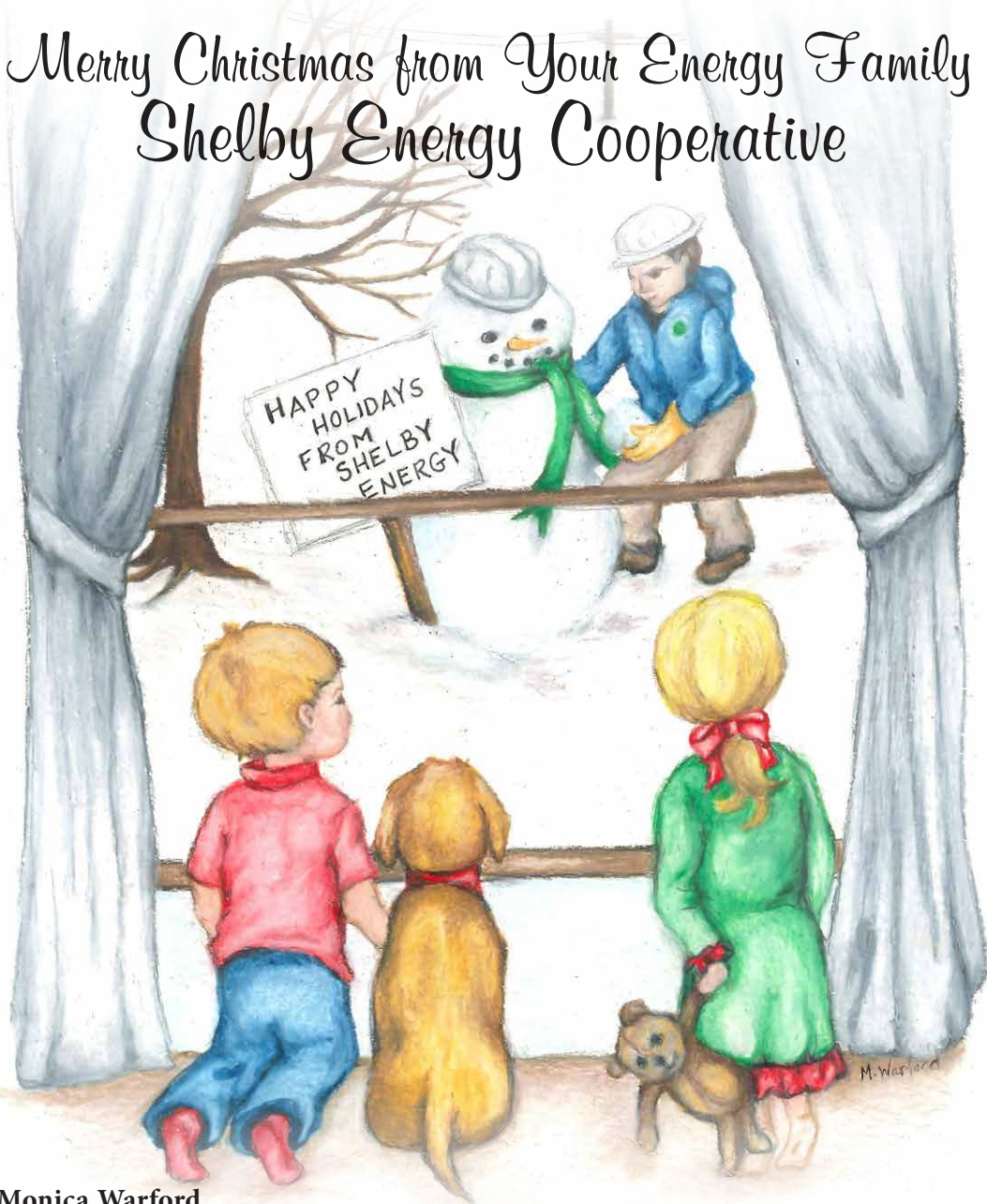
# Shelby Energy Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

December 2019

*Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful  
Holiday Season and a Happy New Year*

*Merry Christmas from Your Energy Family  
Shelby Energy Cooperative*



Artwork by Monica Warford  
Wife of Shelby Energy Lead Line Technician Gary Warford

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ashley Chilton • Chairman  
Pat Hargadon • Vice Chairman  
Roger Taylor Jr. • Secretary-Treasurer  
R. Wayne Stratton • Diana Arnold  
Jeff Joyce

Jack Bragg Jr. • President & CEO  
Alan Zaring • Attorney

### Shelbyville Office Hours

Monday – Friday:  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mailing Address: 620 Old Finchville Road  
Shelbyville, KY 40065-1714  
(502) 633-4420

### Remote Payment Centers

Henry County Supply  
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

#### Riverside

Smoker's Friendly  
Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Poppy's General Store  
24 Equity Drive, Bedford, KY 40006  
(502) 663-6028

Monday - Saturday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Sunday: Closed

For information or to report an outage

**1-800-292-6585**

Visit our website at:

[www.shelbyenergy.com](http://www.shelbyenergy.com)

Email: [shelbyenergy@shelbyenergy.com](mailto:shelbyenergy@shelbyenergy.com)

### Online Bill Pay:

Access your Shelby Energy account  
through our website at  
[www.shelbyenergy.com](http://www.shelbyenergy.com).

Click on "Online Bill Pay" to view your  
electric bill and make payments by debit  
card, e-check, Visa or MasterCard.

All members signing up for new service  
with Shelby Energy receive a short survey.  
Members who return the completed survey  
to Shelby Energy are automatically eligible  
to win a one-time \$20 credit on their elec-  
tric bill. Each month, one name is drawn  
and a lucky Shelby Energy member receives  
a bill credit on their next statement.

The new member survey winner for September is  
Jessica White of Shelbyville.



# Giving back is the co-op way

In these weeks leading to Christmas, it seems there is always so much to do and not enough time. We often forget to slow down and enjoy the season. We forget that this last month of the year can be a time of reflection, a time to remember all of the wonderful things that have happened over the past 12 months.

Throughout the year, I have enjoyed meeting you at our office, in conversations in our community, at the annual meeting and here in the pages of *Kentucky Living*.

Because Shelby Energy Cooperative is literally owned by you and operated by people in the communities we serve, the interconnectedness that drives the holiday season is something that we strive to echo throughout the year. Being connected to our community is the best way to understand the needs of our members and to embrace the cooperative spirit.

Beyond our commitment to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity, as a cooperative, Shelby Energy is guided by the seven cooperative principles, including concern for community.

This core value guides our decisions, operations and everything we do. Though the employees of Shelby Energy value this principle all year, during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

We have a proud history of giving back. From sponsoring the Special Olympics and sending local veterans on an Honor Flight to participating in Beautify the Bluegrass projects in Trimble County and providing scholarships and educational programs, Shelby Energy wants our communities to grow and know that we care.

The members of Shelby Energy help us give back, too! Through your donations to Wintercare or donating to food and supply drives for the Ronald McDonald House charities, you have helped make a difference in your community by working with us.

The employees of Shelby Energy Cooperative are continuing in their volunteer efforts and charitable giving to help, and we encourage you to consider doing what you can. Take this time to reflect on the year, and with gratefulness, we invite you to work with us to make our communities better and stronger each year. No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community.

On behalf of all of us at Shelby Energy Cooperative, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Shelby Energy Accounting Clerk Emily Hartgrove volunteers her time during the 2019 Beautify the Bluegrass project in Trimble County. Photo: Melanie Morrow



Jack Bragg Jr.  
President & CEO  
Shelby Energy  
Cooperative

## Your Safety Matters

# Deck the halls with boughs of safety

When Ralphie Parker's dad attempts to plug his glorious but tragically fragile "Italian" leg lamp into an overloaded wall outlet in the holiday movie classic *A Christmas Story*, there first came a "snap of a few sparks" and the "whiff of ozone" before the lamp blazed forth in the front window.

While that's a funny movie scene, those at Shelby Energy want to remind folks that overloaded circuits and sparks are never funny, especially this time of year.

In the rush of decorating, shopping, cooking, entertaining and attending extracurricular activities, it might be tempting to shortchange safety measures you'd never think of doing any other time of year. But don't.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, one of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems. And though not common, Christmas tree fires are more serious than typical home fires. One of every 31 reported Christmas tree fires results in a death. On average, just one in 144 typical home fires do.

"This is such a beautiful and special time of year," says Jack Bragg Jr, president & CEO at Shelby Energy. "It's always tragic to hear of home fires and loss of life, especially when it's caused by something like a Christmas tree or holiday decorations that were meant to bring joy and celebrate our faith."

Here are some things to keep in mind when decorating your home for the holidays:

■ If you decorate with a real tree, make sure it's fresh. Needles should not be dropping or coming off easily. Try this: Take hold of a branch between your thumb and forefinger about 6 inches from the tip. Pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your fingers. Needles should not come off.



■ When you get your tree home, cut a few inches off the bottom of the stem and immediately place the tree in water, even if you do not yet intend to decorate it.

■ Make sure you keep your tree watered daily throughout the holiday.

■ Decorate your tree with LED lights. Unlike traditional incandescent bulbs or tiny lights, LEDs do not get hot. They also use 75 to 90% less electricity for the same amount of light and come in a wide range of sizes, colors and lighting patterns.

■ With any light set, carefully inspect each light and the cord. Cracked and loose bulbs and frayed or bare wires can shock or start a fire.

■ Do not mount or string light strands in ways that might damage the cord's

protective covering, such as with nails or staples.

■ Make sure all decorations, especially those used outside, are plugged into an outlet protected with a ground-fault circuit interrupter.

■ Always unplug your indoor holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed. Have your outdoor lights on a timer to save energy and reduce the risk of fire.

Obviously, Ralphie made it to adulthood to look back warmly on that Christmas he got a BB gun in *A Christmas Story*. And even though he almost shot his eye out and the neighbor's hounds ate their turkey, at least the Parkers were not displaced, or something worse, by the old man's overloaded outlets.

# Save energy when it's cold outside

It's so hard to muster the courage to lower the indoor temperature when it's freezing cold outside. Here are eight ways to keep your home so toasty that you'll be happy to shave a few degrees off of the thermostat.

**1** Look for leaks. Cold air can sneak into your home through windows, doors, the attic and gaps in walls where cable lines come inside. Inspect your walls for holes and cracks, and patch them with caulk or weather stripping.

**2** If your furnace is old, it's probably inefficient. Newer models come with energy-saving features. Consider replacing yours.

**3** Switch to LED lights. They're available as ceiling fixtures, lamp bulbs and even Christmas lights. They use less energy than fluorescent lights and last much longer.

**4** Program your thermostat so it automatically lowers the heat at

bedtime and again when everybody leaves the house in the morning. If you don't have a programmable thermostat, isn't it time you got one?

**5** Retire your fireplace. A wood fire is pretty, but it doesn't make your home any warmer. Plus, it sucks the heated air from the room up; through the flue and out into the great outdoors. If you can't live without a fireplace, consider adding glass doors on the front and closing the doors of the room where it's located. And when it's not in use, close the flue.

**6** Open the drapes. When the sun is shining during the day, invite its warm rays into your home. Then, cover the windows in the evening to keep the nighttime cold outside where it belongs.

**7** Older, single-pane windows are notoriously drafty. If you can't afford to replace them with energy-efficient,



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

double-pane versions, cover your windows and frames with plastic sheets.

**8** Replace air filters. They're designed to stop dust, pet hair and other pollutants from getting into your ductwork. But once they're clogged, your furnace has to work way too hard to heat your home.

*We wish you a Merry Christmas!*

**Shelby Energy's office will be closed  
December 24 & 25, and January 1 for the holidays.**

**Please call (800) 292-6585 to report outages.**

*Hassle-free payments with Shelby Energy Cooperative's*

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