

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections



The New-Mac service area was hardest hit in McDonald County, where the effects of torrential rain and tornadic winds were clearly visible.

Another month, another storm

Spring-like weather causes around 2,000 outages

While it was nice to get springtime temperatures in January for a few days, the New-Mac Electric service area could have



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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

done without the spring-like weather that moved in during the evening of Jan. 7.

Following consecutive days of 70-degree tem-

peratures, a storm system moved into southwest Missouri, bringing with it flash flooding, tornadoes, and two-inch hail, according to National

Weather Service reports. Funnel clouds were spotted near Wheaton, Pineville and Powell.

The damaging weather
See *Storm*, page 3

Please call before you dig

Digging in areas where there may be an underground electric line can be dangerous! So, before any project that requires digging, call the Missouri One Call System at 800-DIG-RITE.

Those who fail to make this call not only face the chance of electric shock; they also will be held responsible for any repairs that may be necessary if a line is accidentally cut or damaged.

New-Mac members can also call the New-Mac office to receive assistance in locating lines up to the meter. To take advantage of this service, call 417-451-1515, ask for dispatch, and talk to Chad Gaines.

Moving advice

When moving out of the New-Mac Electric service area, please don't forget to leave a forwarding address. You could be leaving capital credits behind.

Please don't lock us out

Even though automatically read meters make monthly visits to each location unnecessary, New-Mac still needs access to each meter for periodic checks and outages. So, make sure the co-op can get to your meter, and any existing lock arrangements with New-Mac need to be maintained.

As energy costs rise, so does interest in energy efficiency

Well, folks, it has finally happened. Since 1975, I've been saying that America and the world would face a serious energy crisis in my lifetime. And I believe that time is now. Simply put, demand for fossil fuels is exceeding supply. This is evidenced by the rising prices of gasoline, natural gas and electricity. With energy costs increasing at alarming rates, it is not surprising that interest in energy efficiency is soaring as well. In fact, calls to my home office have doubled in recent months.

With natural gas bills expected to rise up to 30 percent this winter and with electric bills also on the rise, the most pressing question right now is: "How can I get through the winter without mortgaging my house to pay the heating bills?" Although I can't do anything about the rising energy costs, I can give you some time-honored tips that will hopefully help you use less energy and, therefore, lower your bills.

So where do you start? First you must identify the problems in your home and I often say that the three biggest ones affecting the comfort and energy efficiency of your house are 1) air infiltration, 2) air infiltration, and, yes, you guessed it, 3) air infiltration.

The total air infiltration in an average house is the equivalent of having a door or window open every day of your life. Just think with me for a moment. If you can keep the cold air from getting in, it won't take as much to heat your house, not to mention the fact that you would be a lot more comfortable in your home. So where does the air come in? Think of it this way. Anywhere an ant can get in, air can get in. Here are a few major problem areas:

- Where your wall touches your slab.
- Cracks between the wood framing in your home's walls.
- Around electrical receptacles and light switches in your house, even on interior walls. (When the north wind is blowing, go feel the electrical outlets and switches on your north wall.)
- Holes and leaks around your sink plumbing.
- Gas and fireplace flues.

- Recessed can lights that are not IC-rated. Between 3 and 10 cubic feet per minute of air will pass through one of these lights. A typical plastic garbage bag is 3 cubic feet. So that means that three garbage bags full of air can leak out of one of those lights every minute.

- Leakage in ductwork can be major. Leakage in the return air system of your heating/cooling unit can especially be a problem during the winter as it lets the cold air into your house. In the average house, gigantic amounts of air enter through this system.

So how are you going to stop the cold air from penetrating your home this winter? The solution is mostly labor and a little bit of material. Now, say this with me. "Caulk it. Caulk it. Caulk it."

For big holes, such as those under the sink, simply use expandable foam. For the smaller cracks, use a clear siliconized caulk. For electrical outlets and light switches, install the insulated foam gaskets and childproof

plug inserts. Installing cellulose or foam insulation in your attic will also help reduce air infiltration from your attic space. For existing homeowners who have less than 8 inches of fiberglass insulation in the attic, I recommend that you add cellulose insulation over the fiberglass to a final insulation depth of 12 inches. Cellulose insulation, which is made from recycled newspapers, or foam insulation will greatly outperform the more conventional fiberglass insulation.

These products can be purchased at most home centers.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KQYS 1420 AM), works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org.



Doug Rye
says ...

Storm

Continued from page 1

and its effects knocked out power to around 2,000 New-Mac customers. However, crews, working through the night, dropped the outage count to under 600 the following morning, and all power was restored by 10 o'clock that night, Jan. 8.

"Maybe soon we'll have a month go by without a storm," said New-Mac Electric's Mark Rakes. "Regardless, we'll be here ready for whatever comes our way. When the storms come in, we're ready to go out."



Unlike the recent storms, in which heavy ice accumulation brought down lines, New-Mac had to contend with happenings such as poles being washed out of the ground by flood waters.



Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives

Four key values serve as the foundation of every Touchstone Energy co-op's service commitment to members. These values make all the difference in how communities across America benefit from local electric co-ops.

1. Integrity
2. Accountability
3. Innovation
4. Commitment to Community

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

LEMON ARTICHOKE PESTO

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Kelly Starks**

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro | ½ cup olive oil |
| 8 medium garlic cloves | salt to taste |
| 4 Tbs. lemon juice | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. frozen artichokes, |
| ½ tsp. cayenne pepper | thawed and chopped |
| 1 cup walnuts | ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| ½ cup canola oil | |

Place the cilantro, garlic, lemon juice, cayenne pepper, walnuts, canola oil, olive oil, and salt into a food processor. Process until smooth, then pour into a large bowl. Gently stir in chopped artichokes and Parmesan cheese.

Send your recipe, along with your name and customer number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Visit New-Mac Electric at upcoming trade shows

New-Mac Electric hopes to see *you*, as the cooperative makes its annual stops at three local trade shows.

First, New-Mac will be at Neosho's 16th Annual Business & Industry Review, scheduled for Feb. 15-16 at the Neosho High School cafeteria & junior-high gym.

The review features a wide variety of businesses and organizations that can be found in the Neosho area. The B&I Review will run from 5-8 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Next, New-Mac will be one of around 100 exhibitors on display at the Home Builders Association of Southwest Missouri's 20th Annual *Everything for your Home Show*, to be held Feb. 29-March 2 at the John Q. Hammons Trade Center in Joplin.

The three-day event draws thousands of people each year and features virtually everything involving a home: construction, remodeling, maintenance, appliances, furnishings, decor and much more. The show times are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Finally, New-Mac is pleased to be part of McDonald County's 2nd Annual Business Expo, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 12 at McDonald County High School in Anderson.

With all of the recent growth in McDonald County, this event gives people the opportunity to become acquainted with all of the new businesses that have moved in, as well as

Story continues below right



Linda Crosby hands out some giveaways to visitors of New-Mac Electric's booth at last year's *Everything for your Home Show* in Joplin.



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Or visit us on the Web at www.newmac.com.

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Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

- Autowithdrawal Payment**
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- Rental Light**
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- Safety Programs (upon request)**
- Trade-A-Tree Program**
- Surge Protection**
- Green Power**

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

see what's going on with the county's existing businesses.

At all three shows, New-Mac plans to showcase some helpful uses of electricity in your home, as well as provide information on how to make your home more energy efficient. Additionally, co-op representatives will be on hand to answer questions, and visitors of the New-Mac booth are also likely to come away with a souvenir.

So, stop by and see the New-Mac Electric exhibit at Neosho's Business & Industry Review (booth 32), the HBA *Everything for your Home Show* (booths 333 & 334), and the McDonald County Business Expo (booth 31).