

# 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

## May is Electrical Safety Month

### New-Mac says be safe year-round

May has been designated as National Electrical Safety Month, which means everyone is encouraged to increase their awareness of how to be safe around electricity during this time.

Certainly, learning to be safe is always a good practice, for New-Mac Electric, it's something the cooperative encourages year-round.

"At New-Mac, we always say, 'Safety first!'" said Mark Rakes, marketing and consumer services manager.

While that motto definitely applies to all of New-Mac's employees as they go about their daily jobs, "safety first" is also a message the co-op works hard to impress upon



By clicking on this link from [new-mac.com](http://new-mac.com), site visitors can find games, all kinds of information, and even classroom aids for teachers.



New-Mac Electric's Tom Bower gives a safety demonstration recently to students at Rocky Comfort Elementary School.

its customers and the communities it serves.

That commitment to safety education can be seen through New-Mac's safety presentation, which is seen by hundreds of kids each year at as many as 18 schools. New-Mac brings its scaled-down model of an electrical system right into the classroom, and students learn from the mis-adventures of the show's stars made out of neon light bulbs –

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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.

### Watch out for kids

Children will soon be out and about enjoying their break from school, and New-Mac Electric asks that you be mindful of that as you drive around this summer.

It's every driver's responsibility to be on the lookout for kids at play; just as every parent needs to stress that their children always be watchful for cars.

Let's all work together to keep summer both fun and safe.

### Offices closed Memorial Day

New-Mac's offices will be closed May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

### Mulch available

Just in time for spring landscaping, New-Mac Electric has mulch available for \$5 per scoop. Anyone interested should call the Neosho office (451-1515) and ask for Susan or Tobey so that arrangements can be made to assist you.

### Help yourself to 'Rural Missouri'

Copies of the latest *Rural Missouri* magazine are always available, free of charge, at either New-Mac office.

### Outage reporting

To report an outage, have your location number (found at the top of your bill) ready and call 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.



Neon Leon and Lightning Liz are the stars of the show as New-Mac Electric educates kids about electrical safety during its classroom demonstration.

## ○ Safety

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### Neon Leon and Lightning Liz.

Beyond the classroom demonstrations, New-Mac never misses the safety fairs put on for kids by the Newton and McDonald County Health Departments. The co-op also performs safety demonstrations for audiences ranging from fire departments to civic groups.

New-Mac also has a valuable safety educational tool on its website, [newmac.com](http://newmac.com). By clicking on the link, *Safe Electricity*, site visitors are taken to a wealth of resources. Available are games, articles, tips and even classroom aids for teachers wanting to instruct their students about electrical safety.

New-Mac hopes everyone will always give electricity the proper respect, and in the spirit of National Electrical Safety Month, please keep in mind the following:

#### When Indoors:

- Never put your finger or any-

thing other than an electrical plug or safety cap in an outlet.

- Pull by the plug, not the cord, when unplugging an appliance. Be alert for damaged plugs and cords.
- Limit the number of appliances plugged into each outlet.
- Unplug small electrical appliances and toys when you're not using them.
- Don't use electrical appliances when you're wet, have wet hands or are standing in water.
- Install GFCIs in all outlets near water sources.
- Always keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher on hand – or at least one that is rated for electrical fires. Never throw water on an electrical fire.

#### When Outdoors:

- Look before you climb any tree to be sure no wires run through or near it. Your weight may cause a branch to touch a wire.
- Never play on or near power equipment.
- Never touch outdoor wires or anything touching wires with your

body or any object.

- Before you dig in your yard, call 1-800-DIG-RITE.
- Watch out for overhead wires when you're around trees, or if you're using a ladder, pool skimmer or any other long object.
- Keep electrical appliances and toys away from water, including rain, wet ground, swimming pools, sprinklers and hoses.
- Protect outdoor electrical outlets with weatherproof covers and GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters).
- Don't touch or use damaged plugs or cords on electrical appliances and fixtures.
- Make sure tools and appliances are approved for outdoor use – these appliances have heavier wiring, special insulation and/or three-way grounded plugs.
- Fly kites, model planes, balloons and other toys in open spaces, such as fields or parks.
- Use only non-conducting materials for kites, such as plastic, paper, wood and string. Never use wire, metal or foil.

# We can take control...now is the time

From where I sit, it looks like spring has arrived. I can not remember a year when spring was so anticipated by so many people. This past winter was brutal, and I'm not just referring to the ice storm that hit in January. The temperature stayed just cold enough to keep furnaces running around the clock.



**By Barry Hart**  
*Executive Vice President of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives*

Meanwhile, all those electric gadgets that are becoming common in our homes consumed a steady flow of electricity. Missouri electric cooperative members are now using more electricity than ever before.

As a result, electric cooperative members experienced some of the highest electric bills they've ever seen. Co-op employees told me they are seeing homes that used more than 8,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity in a single month. I can remember a time when that amount of electricity consumption could have only occurred at a commercial account.

Across the state, high bill complaints are up. Part of the blame goes to rate increases that many electric cooperatives have put into place for a variety of reasons. But the real culprit is the fact that we are using more electricity. And when we take a look at the bottom line on our bill we automatically assume it is the rate and not our electricity use.

This is the main reason Missouri's electric cooperatives developed the "Take Control & Save" energy-efficiency program so you can work with your local co-op to reduce the energy use at your home or business. There are many success stories around the state where members have installed energy-efficient appliances and lighting and weatherized their homes to

significantly reduce their monthly electric bill.

When I hear someone talking about high electric bills, I think about what is happening in Washington, D.C., and I worry that those bills could go even higher. Energy debate there focuses on limiting releases of carbon dioxide. President Obama's

fiscal year 2010 budget features a climate change policy that will generate tax revenues for the federal government through emission credit auctions.

Call it what you want, but that proposal is a back-door tax, plain and simple. That tax rate would be set by Wall Street, collected from you by utilities and divided up by Congress in ways we can only imagine.

Worse, when limits are placed on carbon emissions, we could see a redistribution of money from rural, Midwest states to urban coastal states. States like Missouri that are heavily dependent on coal to generate electricity stand to pay the most for emissions credits under any cap and trade plan. The Wall Street Journal, in an opinion piece, put it this way:

"Cap and trade, in other words, is a scheme to redistribute income and wealth — but in a very curious way. It takes from the working class and gives to the affluent; takes from Miami, Ohio, and gives to Miami, Fla;

and takes from an industrial America that is already struggling and gives to rich Silicon Valley and Wall Street 'green tech' investors who know how to leverage the political class."

Here we go again, taking away from Main Street to give to Wall Street!

For the past year I have been telling you about a campaign called "Our Energy, Our Future" that encourages electric cooperative members to speak out about the need to ensure affordable rates for the future. Since that time, more than 1.6 million messages have been sent through the campaign.



## Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

I encourage you to get involved with this dialogue in 2009, even if you did so last

year. A new question asking Congress to meet both federal public policy goals and your need for affordable, reliable electricity has been added to the [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) Web site.

Your electric co-op may call on you to tell about your personal struggles with affordability issues so we can share that with Congress. As Congress gets closer to enacting new energy legislation, your participation is now more important than ever.

“Here we go again, taking away from Main Street to give to Wall Street!”

### Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

### CARAMEL CREAM DESSERT

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Joyce Richards**

- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (12¼ oz.) jar caramel topping
- 2 cups cubed pound cake
- ¼ cup chopped pecans
- 2 (15 oz.) cans sliced peaches, drained

Beat cream cheese with mixer in med. bowl till smooth. Add whipped topping and ¾ cup caramel topping. Beat until well blended; set aside. Place cake cubes in 1½-quart bowl. Drizzle with ¼ cup caramel topping. Spread evenly with half of cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle with 2 Tbs. pecans. Top with the peaches. Spread remaining cream cheese mixture over fruit. Sprinkle with remaining pecans. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 2 hrs. Yield: 6-8 servings.

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](mailto:recipes@new-mac.com). If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

# Thou shalt get an energy efficient water heater

As we continue with the 10 Commandments of Energy Efficiency, we will keep our focus on making wise investments. This month, I am encouraging you to invest in a specific item that will make a world of difference in your utility bill. And in the coming months, I plan to continue to remind you that using your money for energy efficiency is probably the best investment you can make.

Have you ever thought much about your water heater? Are you aware that about 20 percent of your utility bill goes toward the heating of water? Have you ever had to replace your water heater? Nearly every one of you said "Yes."

Now, why did you replace it? Was it the wrong color? Well, of course not. You replaced it because it quit working or had started leaking.

At some point, we all need to replace a water heater. Now wouldn't it be great if we could install a replacement guaranteed to never leak or rust? And wouldn't it be great if the new water heater was super energy efficient? Well, such a product is available and I will tell you how I learned about it.

About 10 years ago, I was attending a really big home show in the Astrodome in Houston. It takes several days to see everything in that show, which is sponsored by the National Association of Homebuilders. I actually did an energy presentation there and had about four extra hours to look around.

I was practically running through the aisles looking at every display as fast as possible. At one point, I looked to my left and saw some strange looking objects that were shaped like a 44-caliber pistol bullet only they were about 5 feet tall. I hollered over to the fellow and asked, "What are these?" And he said, "Water

heaters." I said, "Commercial?" and he said, "No, mostly residential." I turned and walked his way and asked, "What is so special about these water heaters?" And he said they are guaranteed to never leak or rust and are 91 to 95 percent energy efficient.

I didn't necessarily believe him but I knew that if it were true, a lot of my listeners would want to have one. Later, when I got proof that it was true, I started telling about the Marathon water heater in my seminars and on my radio show. Folks just like you started asking where they could get a Marathon. For months, I had to say, "I don't know." But that didn't last for long

because the electric cooperatives saw what a great product it was and began offering them to their members. And I know for a fact that hundreds of you already purchased one.

If you understand the facts, the rest of you will do the same. The facts are simple. It is the last water heater that you will ever need at a particular location. It won't rust or leak because the tank has no metal. And the Marathon is so well insulated with "envirofoam," that it has practically zero standby loss regardless of location. It does not warm your cold garage in the winter and it does not heat your house in the summer.

Now, consider this: The average gas water heater is less than 58 percent efficient, which means that about 40 percent of the natural gas you buy goes up the flue into the sky. On the other hand, the all-electric Marathons average 91-plus percent efficiency. That's a no-brainer in my book. So, my advice to you is this: When you need a water heater for your new or existing house, contact your local electric co-op and ask about the Marathon water heater. Remember, your co-op values you, the member, and it



**Doug Rye**  
says ...



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Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at  
[www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com).

## Management

CEO/General Manager ..... Mitch McCumber  
Controller ..... David Childers  
Manager of Administration ..... Mary Hatfield  
System Engineer ..... Stan Irsik  
Manager of Operations ..... Alan Loehr  
Manager of Marketing ..... Mark K. Rakes  
Billing Supervisor ..... Vickie Stuart

## Board of Directors

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## Services Provided to Members

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

- Autowithdrawal Payment**
- Levelized Billing**
- Rental Light**
- Meeting rooms available at both locations**
- Credit Card Acceptance**
- Safety Programs (upon request)**
- Surge Protection**
- Green Power**

## Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes  
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO  
[mrakes@newmac.com](mailto:mrakes@newmac.com)

cares. That's why your co-op is doing all it can to help you save money on your electric bill.

*Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 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.*