

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

Co-op says ‘Be prepared’

Well, it hasn’t hit yet, but we all know it could anytime now.

In Missouri, we know sometimes big snows even come in March. So, even though an arctic blast hasn’t extensively shut down travel and brought on an outbreak of power outages, New-Mac encourages you to be prepared for winter’s worst. While we might not be able to pinpoint if or when ice or heavy wet snows will set in, something everyone can do is be prepared.

By planning ahead, the hardships of destructive winter storms can be alleviated. New-Mac encourages customers to keep the following items on hand, and be prepared:

- Flashlight (with extra batteries) and candles.
- Battery-powered radio.
- Bottled water and non-perishable food items.
- Manual can opener.
- Extra medicine and baby items.

- First-aid supplies.
- Back-up heating source – NEVER use a charcoal grill to cook or heat inside!
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector.

New-Mac also reminds everyone to never approach downed power lines as they may be energized.

In the event of outages, New-Mac customers should have their map number ready and call 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

Don’t assume that someone else has already called for your area.

During extended outages, customers can get updates on the progression of restoration efforts by checking our website, www.new-mac.com, or through the local media: TV stations (KSNF-16, KODE-12, KOAM-7, Fox-14), radio stations (KBTN AM-1420 and FM-99.7, KMXL 95.1 FM, KNEO 91.7



You never know in Southwest Missouri when the weather will turn.

FM, KZRG 1310 AM, 1230 AM The Talker, Big Dog 97.9 FM, KSYN 92.5 FM, Lite Rock 93.9 FM, KIX 102.5) and newspapers (*Neosho Daily News, Joplin Globe, McDonald County News Gazette, Seneca News Dispatch*).

Standby generators must be set up & ran correctly

In the event of an extended power outage, a standby generator can be quite helpful, but proper installation and operation is critical!

Generators come in a variety of sizes. They can range from 500 watts up to several megawatts of output, and run on gasoline, diesel, propane or natural gas. The size of generator needed can be determined by totaling the wattage of the lights, appliances, devices, etc., and then add about 20 percent for the increased start-up power requirements.

trical linemen, at great risk. A whole-house generator – one that is tied directly into your wiring – must have a double-throw transfer switch installed at your breaker panel by a qualified electrician. Without the switch, a generator can backfeed 240 volts to the transformer, where it is then stepped up to 7,200 volts and sent down the lines, creating a life-threatening situation for the linemen trying to restore your power.

The double-throw switch makes it impossible to have both the generator and the power supplier service connected at the same time. It opens one to close the other.

Another reason for having a qualified electrician hook up your generator is for the protection of everything you plan to have powered by it. Improperly connecting to the generator could damage all of your



A whole-house generator requires a double-throw switch (above).

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Improper installation of a generator puts people, including elec-

Plan ahead

Any plans of additions or upgrades on your property should include New-Mac in the early stages.

Contact the engineering department about any project that will require additional electrical service. Calling New-Mac early will not only expedite the process, but it could also render money saving advice.

Contact the engineering department at (417) 451-1515.

Don't miss us at upcoming trade shows

New-Mac Electric will be hitting the road and making its usual stops at three local trade shows in the weeks ahead.

Come by and visit with us and see how you can be more energy efficient around your house.

HBA Home Show

- February 24-26
- Holiday Inn Convention Center, Joplin
- Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Neosho Area Business & Industry Review

- March 16-17
- Neosho High School cafeteria
- Friday, 5-8 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

McDonald County Business Expo

- March 24
- McDonald High School gymnasium
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Another  on the lines 

Learning, nature, exercise at great price

Carver Monument offers locals many options

It's free, over 35,000 visit every year, and it's right in your backyard.

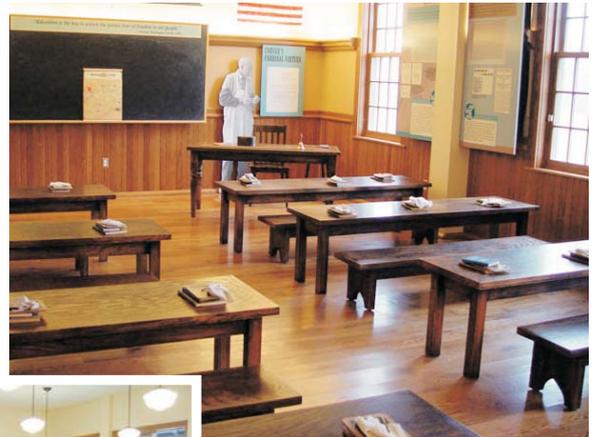
You've possibly been there before, perhaps as a child (since thousands of young students have attended annually for decades). There's ample reasons to come: maybe you're a history buff, bird watcher, into physical fitness, enjoy mental stimulation, or parent/grandparent looking for an enjoyable outing.

If you haven't yet pieced it together that this destination is the George Washington Carver National Monument, then a trip to Diamond might serve you well.

Set in the prairie, just a few miles west of Diamond, where its namesake actually grew up, George Washington Carver National Monument offers much to see in the peaceful outdoors and much to learn in an inviting, state-of-the-art visitors center and museum. Even if you think you've seen the sights, if it's been more than five years since your last visit, many new experiences await.

Of course, the park commemorates the life of humanitarian, scientist and educator George Washington Carver. While perhaps best known for finding over 300 uses for the peanut, it was his devotion and teaching to poor southern farmers about practices such as crop rotation that brought him national recognition. He was born into slavery around 1864 (the exact year is unknown), kidnapped, orphaned, overcame whooping cough, eventually earned a master's degree at Iowa State, before teaching for 47 years at the Tuskegee Institute until his death in 1943. The national monument opened in 1953.

In 2007, a 15,000-square-foot, two-story addi-



George Washington Carver National Monument features classrooms modeled after a one-room schoolhouse (above) from Carver's day and his laboratory at the Tuskegee Institute (at left). Below, young visitors can conduct a radio interview, like the ones that often featured Carver.



tion to the park was completed, featuring two unique classrooms, interactive exhibits, a multi-purpose room, additional bathrooms, offices, library and secure storage for the thousands of historical documents, textiles, paintings and other items relating to or crafted by Carver. Also, the addition incorporated what previously existed, so the gift shop, museum and theater room likewise

○ Carver

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received updating.

The museum is just what you might expect: a rich look at the life of Carver through authentic items from his childhood – like his bedroom furniture, numerous photographs, a model of the cabin where he was raised, and a documentary video of his life. However, the classrooms and interactive exhibits may surprise you. The “classrooms” are actual recreations of a one-room schoolhouse from Carver’s era and the laboratory that belonged to the famous scientist during his career at the Tuskegee Institute. The interactive exhibits offer hands-on learning opportunities, especially for kids, allowing for the examination of local plants, insects and wildlife, consistent with Carver’s passion. Also, they can observe and arrange newspaper components from Carver’s day on a magnetic board and simulate radio interviews like the many in which Carver was involved.

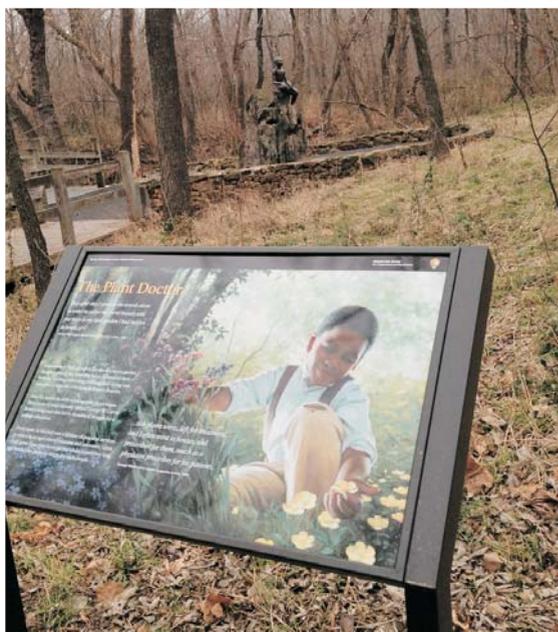
There are plenty of additional indoor learning activities besides what this story has space to mention (certainly enough to make this a multi-day destination), however some may prefer what the national monument has to boast outdoors.

A peaceful almost mile-long stroll will take you around the property formerly owned by Moses and Susan Carver, who raised George. You’ll walk by George’s birthplace, an iconic sculpture of the boy who loved plants, Williams pond, the 1881 home of Moses Carver, the Carver family cemetery, and finally a bust of George Washington Carver, where a pushed button plays a portion of a speech he once gave.

According to park ranger Diane Eilenstein, there are many benefits to following the trail, which is even partially covered with a cushiony rubber surface.

“This is a beautiful place if you just want to come and walk it for exercise,” she said. “You’ll notice when you get down here, you don’t hear the noises of everyday life. You will hear an airplane every now and then, but you don’t hear trains or cars very close... If you’re a bird watcher, bring your glasses and come out and see what you can see. Sometimes we see bald eagles out here.”

At least one day a year, nearly 2,000 people arrive at Carver. Annually, in early September (this year on Sept. 8), *Prairie Day* is celebrated at the park. The event depicts life on the prairie during the late 1800s. Always a popular happening, *Prairie Day* features activities such as woodcarving, basket weaving, candle-making, Dutch-oven cooking, spinning, weaving, storytelling, traditional folk music and much more. *Prairie Day* and *Carver Day*,



The walking trail, which is partially covered by a cushiony rubber surface (at right) offers beautiful natural settings and informative wayside displays – featuring the award-winning artwork of Mike Wimmer, as seen (above) overlooking the creek and (at left) in the foreground of the sculpture of Carver as a boy.

which is an annual celebration of the anniversary of the national monument’s establishment (held July 14), are just two of numerous events held throughout the year. A schedule of events can be found at the park’s website: www.nps.gov/gwca/index.htm.

So the next time you’re looking for a family outing or even a personal getaway for a few hours, remember an economical choice can be found close to home.

“We have a beautiful place. We have an awesome story to tell,” said Eilenstein. “It’s always free and we’re open seven days a week.”

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

SWEET & CRUNCHY SNACK MIX

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Luanne Qualls**

½ box <i>Golden Grahams</i> cereal	2½ cups toasted coconut
½ box <i>Rice Chex</i> cereal	¾ cup butter
½ box <i>Corn Chex</i> cereal	1 cup sugar
1½ cups nuts (peanut or roasted pecans)	1 cup light corn syrup

Mix cereal, nuts and coconut together in a large bowl. Bring butter, sugar and corn syrup to rolling boil and boil for 2 min. Pour boiling mixture over cereal and stir to coat evenly. Spread on wax paper to cool and dry for several hours or overnight. Store in airtight container.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account 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.

'I plan on being happy and making you comfortable in the new year'

I decided to splurge and take my wife to a lodge at one of our great state parks to help ring in the New Year. It is difficult for me to stay up much past the late news, but I can do it if I am in good company and if someone will give me a green New Year's hat and a silly little horn.

There was only one place to eat, and it was the nice restaurant at the lodge. By the time you have been there for two full days and eaten six straight meals with the same people, you begin to feel like family. In this case, it was super nice.

On New Year's morning, I left our room and went to the room with the big fireplace and the big view to get some coffee. As I stepped into the hallway, a lady housekeeper with a vacuum cleaner looked at me and said, "Hey, I just read your article in the electric cooperative magazine last night." I said, "Then you must know about the little bitty bedroom that I had as a child." And sure enough, she did.

She told me about her childhood, sisters and brothers, and a house with only a small wood heater for the winter. Then she said, "But we were all happy." Several others have commented on the article with their stories, and all of them have mentioned that they were happy even though their house did not have all the comforts that we have today. At that time, I had not yet made a New Year's resolution, but I heard the word happy so many times and I was wishing everyone a Happy New Year, so I made my 2012 resolution. I will be happy regardless of the circumstances.

Although I am not convinced that it is necessary to have total temperature comfort for one to be happy, I am convinced that everyone would like to have comfort. In this and next month's column, I am going to teach you everything I know about temperature comfort in your house.

The first thing to know is that not everyone has the same comfort temperature. Some like it hotter and some like it colder. Based on the calls that I get at the office, I would say that a husband and wife rarely agree on which temperature is best.

One lady told me, in a kidding tone, that her husband was more worried about his cattle being comfortable than her. That was on a day when it was snowing over most of the state. Comfort is usually related to both the air temperature and the relative humidity. Generally

speaking, folks are the most comfortable if the temperature is about 74 degrees with a relative humidity of about 50 percent. Remember that relative humidity is the percentage of moisture in the air compared to the most moisture that the air could hold at a certain temperature. Let's start with some summer comfort tips.

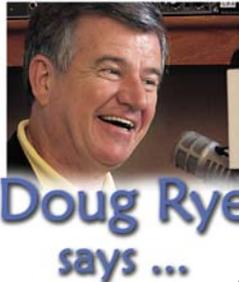
I have never had a person tell me that their house was too dry in the summer. Let's take a day in Arkansas when the temperature is 90 degrees. If the relative humidity is 70 percent, you will feel sticky hot because the moisture on the skin cannot evaporate and cool the body. So you turn on your AC unit. An AC unit cools by removing heat and humidity. As the humidity is lowered, the skin moisture evaporates and you feel cooler.

That same 90-degree day in Arizona with 50 percent relative humidity would be like going to heaven because the skin moisture evaporates easily. So that 90-degree air at 50 percent is much dryer than the 90-degree air at 70 percent. If it were raining on a 90-degree day, the relative humidity would be right at 100 percent in either state. How can we relate this to your house for better comfort? Well if it is a hot 90-degree/70-percent humidity day and your house has lots of air infiltration, leakage in the return air system, unvented bath areas or anything making moisture, the air-conditioning unit will have to work harder and longer to keep you in the comfort range.

If your air-conditioning unit is oversized, it will not run long enough to remove the humidity, so you will probably lower the thermostat setting to make the unit run longer. All of this means higher utility bills. The solution is to caulk, repair ductwork, vent bathrooms, etc., and then purchase a properly sized air-conditioning unit when needed. This really isn't complicated if you take it one step at a time. So I suggest that you let this much absorb and not evaporate, and next month we will discuss winter comfort tips.

Until then, BE HAPPY.

Doug Rye is a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show – heard Saturdays at 9 a.m. on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 AM. If you would like advice from Doug, call his office at 501-653-7931. To order Doug's videos, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.



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Questions? Comments?

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Generators

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appliances, electronics, etc.

When weather threatens, generators can provide peace-of-mind, but they must be installed correctly. Please also consider the following safety tips involving generators:

- Follow the instructions included with your generator.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload the generator.
- Never add fuel while it is running.
- Never use a generator indoors.
- Always keep a fully-charged class ABC fire extinguisher nearby.
- Turn off all appliances powered by your generator before shutting it down.