

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

MainStreet Messenger

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative can help ease your mind about loved ones living alone.

We have a solution for the people who live alone and for the families that worry about them—it is called the MainStreet Messenger.

The messenger unit is an actual working telephone. Along with the unit, there is a pendant that is worn around the neck or wrist. If a person is in trouble and can't get to the phone, he or she needs only to push the button on the pendant and it will activate the phone. Once activated, the phone automatically dials the Cooperative Response Center (CRC).

As the call is received by CRC, the computer is already telling CRC staff who is calling, their address, phone number, and any other information that was supplied by the customer

when the unit was installed.

MainStreet Messenger is capable of two-way voice communications. The CRC operator will try to get a voice response from the person who is in trouble. If that person can speak, he or she can simply let the response center know what kind of trouble he or she is in and what kind of help is needed. Maybe the person only needs a neighbor to help him get up, or if he thinks he is having a heart attack, CRC can call the ambulance immediately.

If there is no voice response from the caller, CRC will start calling for help from a list that was also created at the time the unit was installed. The calling list can include a next-door neighbor, friend, or relative. In all cases, one of the numbers on the

list will be for local police, fire, and ambulance.

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative works with local hospitals, clinics, and senior centers to get the word out that this service is available to anyone—not just SREC members. We provide the service to anyone in Grant, Lafayette and Crawford Counties. If you or someone you know wants or needs this service, call Barb at 1-888-735-4314 for Crawford County or Leann at 1-800-236-2141, extension 105 for Grant and Lafayette Counties. There is a one-time installation fee of \$35 and a monthly charge of \$25.70 plus tax for the service.



You'd be Surprised at What Some "Small" Appliances Cost You!

A heated water bed can consume more electricity than an efficient refrigerator, and a big 180-gallon aquarium can use as much electricity as a home's central electric heating system and a refrigerator combined, says a report funded by the Department of Energy, pointing out the growing importance of so-called "miscellaneous" electricity use in American homes.

In fact, the report says that virtually all the growth in America's residential electricity use over the next 20 years will be accounted for by these miscellaneous uses.

As we've developed much more efficient major appliances and equipment—from refrigerators and water heaters to central heating systems—there is now an important challenge

to reduce the electric consumption of smaller and miscellaneous appliances. These miscellaneous end-uses now account for about one-fifth of all electricity used by American households. Included in this category are appliances such as televisions and VCRs, home computers, microwave ovens, ceiling fans, hot tubs, personal hygiene and health appliances, aquariums, and water beds, among many more.

The Department of Energy expects that electric use to power these appliances will increase by 50 percent over the period 1996-2010, which is an amount equal to the power produced by 15 1,000-megawatt power plants. Studies indicate about 20 percent of this miscellaneous con-

sumption can be attributed to standby losses for power drawn by appliances such as televisions and VCRs when not in use.

So as you, along with most Americans, use more electricity for today's convenience, comfort, and entertainment, be sure to use it responsibly. You'll save your energy dollars.

Conservations Tips:

- ▲ Use a timer on your waterbed heater and keep the bed made to prevent heat losses.
- ▲ Unplug "instant-on" appliances when leaving for vacation or an extended period of time.
- ▲ Replace incandescent lighting with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.

Currently Cooking

Lynn Farrey brought us this dessert for our Safety Meeting luncheon. She said it is easy to prepare, so we thought we would share it with you.

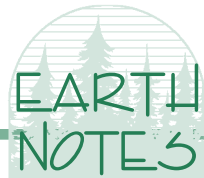


Rice Krispie Roll

- 10 oz. bag of marshmallows
- ½ stick of margarine or butter
- ¼ C. peanut butter

Melt in microwave. Stir in 5 ½ C. rice krispies. Line a jelly roll pan with greased waxed paper. Press mixture in pan. Melt 1 bag of swirled milk chocolate and peanut butter chips. Spread over rice krispie layer. Roll up the long way. Put in refrigerator until firm for easier slicing.

Start the New Year with safety and savings



Here are a few safety and energy saving ideas to help you start off the New Year.

A simple way to a warmer house

Take a look around your rooms. Is furniture blocking your heat vents? Sometimes you just don't notice, but a chair, a couch, a bed, or even a set of long drapes can cover a heat register and make a real difference in how warm the room feels. And with a forced-air furnace, blocking a supply or return vent can cause a pressure imbalance in the entire heating system that will disrupt the heat flow throughout your entire house.

So check around, and if needed, rearrange your furniture to keep from blocking the vents. You'll notice the difference.

Work those drapes!

Here's an easy way to get some free heat. Wash your south-facing windows and open those drapes on sunny winter days. The heat from the sun will help warm your house and keep your heating system from working too hard. When the sun goes down, close your window coverings to provide extra insulation. Insulating curtains, at a cost of about \$100 per window, can help even more. On average, insulating curtains will pay for themselves in energy cost savings in about seven years.

Space heater safety

Portable space heaters can help you keep warm and cozy on those very chilly days. But, please make sure your heater provides these safety features:

- ▶ A tip-over switch that shuts off the heater if it's knocked over.
- ▶ An overheat sensor that shuts off the unit if the heater gets too hot.
- ▶ A low surface temperature to help protect you and your family from burns.

January is "Get Organized" Month

What is the best way to get organized? Each person must find the systems that work best for him or her. There is an ever-increasing number of products and services designed to help you get organized.

First determine the areas in which you want to improve. Then sift through the product and educational options and develop your solutions, even if you use trial and error.

Getting organized at home will help bring calm and control to home and family life. You'll save money by organizing bills, shopping, and clothing and get more done in less time. Remember—if you put the house in order, you'll find what you need, and need what you find!

Just For Fun



A clergyman walking down a country lane sees a young farmer struggling to load hay back onto a cart after it had fallen off. "You look hot, my son," said the cleric. "Why don't you rest a moment, and I'll give you a hand."

"No thanks," said the young man, "My father wouldn't like it."

"Don't be silly," the minister replied, "Everyone is entitled to a break. Come and have a drink of water."

Again the young man protested that his father would be upset. Losing his patience, the clergyman said, "Your father must be a real slave driver. Tell me where I can find him and I'll give him a piece of my mind!"

"Well," replied the young farmer, "he's under the hay."



Against someone holding a grudge hurts you as much as—if not more than—the other person. Try to get beyond your anger by remembering when you broke a promise or did something to hurt someone else. Remembering how you justified your actions may help you understand why someone may have wronged you.

-Vitality Magazine

WATT'S HAPPENING

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