

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



Winterizing Your Bed

Ever notice how cold the sheets are when you go to bed during the winter? I don't know how they do it but I swear you could freeze water on them at times. Brrr! Is this an unavoidable fact of life? If not, what are your options? Wear heavy garments to bed? Buy and use an electric blanket? Force your spouse to get in bed first and warm up the sheets?

The answer is simple and won't cause undo stress: flannel sheets. Yup, the humble old flannel we all associate with granny pajamas and work shirts is magnificent when it comes to winter sleeping comfort. Put those 600-thread-count Egyptian cotton sheets away until spring and replace them with flannel and you'll find true cold weather sleeping bliss. They warm almost instantly and are down right comfortable. I like to hear the wind whistling around the house while tucked under a pile of blankets and wrapped in a flannel sheet. Ahhh! Cut the thermostat back another notch and laugh in the face of Old Man Winter.

Want a good source of flannel sheets? Navigate to www.vermontcountrystore.com and search for their Portuguese Flannel Sheets. You'll also find a cornucopia of old timey goods and goodies. Order up one of their catalogs and you can read it from the comfort of your winterized bed. □

Commentary by the President & CEO



A Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2007

by Robert M. Kolling
President & CEO

Let me start the new year with a wish to all Sussex REC members for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2007. As always, we here at your cooperative look forward to serving your electricity needs in the coming year.

Electricity is perhaps the most important driver of the world's economy. Without electricity there would be no computers, telephones, lights, heating, cooling, assembly lines ... You get my point.

And demand for electricity has continued to grow at a steady rate thanks in large part to the microprocessor. Those tiny bits of silicon are nearly everywhere now. Even your everyday appliances like refrigerators and washing machines have electronic brains that provide much better control and reliability.

Even under the steady growth, the price for electricity has stayed well below the consumer price index average increases (see "Currents" April 2006), which continues to make it a terrific value. Given the trends of the last few years, the reliance on electricity to drive the economy, the development of rural parts of the world, and many other factors, demand for electricity will continue to grow.

What does all this mean for the con-

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sumers of electricity? It means that eventually additional generation and transmission capacity will be required. During the latter part of the last century, demand-side management programs were in vogue with the intention that if you curb demand, you avoid building new facilities. The unfortunate truth is that many of those programs did not yield what is termed "persistent" reductions in demand. Power plants are built to run 30 or more years. Demand reduction programs often focused on measures that lasted less than a year.

As consumers we can have an immediate and lasting effect on demand by changing the way we use energy, all forms of energy. Conservation is a primary approach here. Remember your parents nagging you to turn off the lights when you left a room? They had it right. Let me make a New Year's pledge to you right now: we at Sussex REC will strive to help our members make the best informed energy decisions and control their total energy costs. To accomplish this, we will continue working to bring you conservation information and high efficiency alternatives to heating, cooling, lighting and water heating for your home and business. Keep an eye on our Web site, www.sussexrec.com, and your mailbox for new information and resources to help you reduce your overall energy consumption and cost. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your loyal patronage in 2006 and again, our best wishes to you in 2007.

Identity theft prevention

Here's an addition to your list of new year resolutions — take steps to protect against identity theft.

Just what is identity theft? This is where someone obtains enough of your personal information to apply for credit in your name – and get it. This ranges from obtaining credit cards and loans to buying cars and houses. It can result in huge damage to your credit rating and leave you

liable for other's debts.

The key piece of information required is your Social Security number. Be very judicious when and where you

provide this information. Always ask if there is an alternative you can provide, such as a portion of the number. A lot of companies offer alternatives precisely because of theft problems.

One of the best ways to guard against theft is to keep tabs on your credit. Recent federal legislation requires each of the major credit reporting agencies, Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax, to give you a free copy of your report once every 12 months. You can request a copy of your report every four months so you should make a point of scheduling one from each agency during the year.

A number of services charge for reports, so be careful of ads touting

the free credit report. The official site is: www.annualcreditreport.com. Going there is the surest way to get your reports without getting charged. You can also request your free reports by calling 1-877-322-8228 or by mailing a completed request form to:

Annual Credit Report Request Service

P.O. Box 105281

Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

The form can be downloaded from the Web site above or from our Web site at www.sussexrec.com in the Community section. You will need Adobe Reader to open and print the form.



Youth Tour 2007

Are you a junior in high school, the parent of a junior, or do you know one whose family is served by Sussex REC? Then this article is meant for you.

Every year since 1964, electric cooperatives across the United States have sent high school juniors from their service areas to Washington, D.C., for a week in June, with this year's Rural Electric Youth Tour taking place June 10-15. During this intensive week-long stay, the Youth Tour participants experience all that is our nation's capital. They meet with their legislators, watch both houses of Congress in action, tour a range of national monuments and memorials, learn

about the cooperatives and, perhaps best of all, meet with more than 1,200 students from all across the country. You can get the full story at www.youthtour.coop.

Who should apply? Any student with an interest in politics, public service, or how electric cooperatives function is an ideal candidate.

Sussex REC will review all the applications, interview the candidates, and select three for the tour.

Why should you apply? It sounds a bit trite but you should apply for the experience you'll gain. The trip provides participants with an outstanding exposure to

the way our system of government works and provides experiences that can last a lifetime. If you have college aspirations, participation in the Youth Tour will be a very nice addition to your college application.



How do you apply? Applications are due in March. They are available now from the Sussex REC office and Web site. Either call 973/875-5101 or browse to: www.sussexrec.com/youth-programs/youthtour.html. During January and February you will also be able to get the applications and a brochure from your guidance counselors and club advisors at High Point, Vernon, Walkill, Pope John, Vo-Tech, Warwick, and Minisink high schools.

Don't miss this opportunity! Deadline for applications is March 1, 2007.

Meet your Employees...

Donna Williams, Senior Billing Clerk

Originally from College Point, N.Y., Donna Williams is an Upsala College graduate with a degree in social sciences. She began her career at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative 15 years ago as a billing clerk then moved into the position of accounts payable clerk and is now the senior billing clerk.

Her main job functions, among many others, involve processing collections, providing customer service, and managing capital credit refunds. Donna enjoys being able to help someone understand their bill and how their household uses energy.

“The best part of the job is speaking to the customers to help them see where they can conserve energy,” she says.

The most interesting experience she has had during her 15 years at Sussex Rural has been joining the Youth Tour students on their Washington, D.C., trip in 2001. Currently residing in Montague, Donna and her husband Frank have four grown children, Lora, Michael, Jason, and Christopher. The smallest member of the family, Ali, her toy poodle, is the most spoiled of all. When asked how the kids are doing, she replies with “Who, Ali?”

In her spare time she enjoys embroidery and reading. During her lunch break she is always seen reading her latest novel. Along with reading she enjoys camping in the tranquil and calm countryside of Lancaster, Pa.

Donna is one of the people you can count on at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.



Donna Williams



Ali



What a difference a century makes! *A look at life 100 years ago:*

- The average life expectancy was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of homes had bathtubs.
- Only 8 percent of homes had telephones.
- There were only 8,000 cars and 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage was 22 cents per hour.
- The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- An accountant could earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500, a veterinarian \$1,500 to \$4,000, and a mechanical engineer \$5,000.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.
- Ninety percent of doctors had no college education.
- Sugar cost 4 cents a pound.
- Eggs were 14 cents a dozen.
- Coffee was 15 cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Five leading causes of death were:
 1. Pneumonia and influenza
 2. Tuberculosis
 3. Diarrhea
 4. Heart disease
 5. Stroke
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas was only 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Two of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.
- Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstore.
- Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.A.!

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

News & Events:

SUSSEX/WANTAGE:

• **Sussex-Wantage Little League** — Baseball Registration for the 2007 season is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 6, 8 a.m. - noon; Fri., Jan. 12, 7-9 pm and Sat., Jan. 13 8 a.m. - noon at the Sussex Firehouse. You can also download the registration form from www.wantagetwp.com/sports/baseball/ and mail it in with fees. Jan. 15, 2007, is the deadline for registration. Any questions may be found on the website or directed to Tim Loughery at 973/875-3370.

VERNON:

• **Tricky Tray** — To benefit the Immaculate Conception School. Friday, Feb. 9 at the Crystal Springs Country Club (Emerald Ballroom), Vernon. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. No one under 18 admitted. For more information e-mail squirrelg@net-zero.net.

See our website for a more complete listing at <http://www.sussexrec.com/News/newshome.html>

NOTICE: Do you get *Currents* at the end of the month or after a particular event occurred? Find out about events online at the beginning of each month at www.sussexrec.com/currents/currents.html. Events (and *Currents* articles) are posted at the beginning of each month.

POSTING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to list your clubs and/or organization event you can call, stop by, or even e-mail us with the information. *Currents* is published monthly. All submissions must be received by the 10th of the month 2 months prior to the event. E-mail to: info@sussexrec.com. We reserve the right to edit any requests. □

Address/ Telephone Change?

Has your mailing address or telephone changed recently? If so, please make sure you contact us and provide us with the new information. In the event of an outage, we rely on your phone number to bring up your account information quickly and accurately.

You can contact us by sending an e-mail to customerservice@sussexrec.com indicating the change on your bill stub. Or call us at 973/875-5101 and select the customer service option.

**BE A HERO
SAVE A LIFE
GIVE BLOOD**

Blood Drive at
Sussex Rural Electric
Cooperative
**Tuesday, January 23, 2007,
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
Sponsored by: The Blood
Center of New Jersey
Know your Social Security
Number and bring a
signed identification when
you come to donate.

Currents

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