



## From the Manager... Times Sure Have Changed, or Have They?

In the 1970s, bell bottoms and bean bag chairs went together like peas and carrots. Evil Knievel's attempt to jump Snake River Canyon headlined the sports page, and a cell phone was where you made your one call when you landed in jail.

Things sure have changed since the 70's, or have they?

Three decades have passed since the 1973 Arab oil embargo which foreshadowed a worldwide energy crisis. This initial shock was followed by several years of tight fuel supplies and steadily rising energy prices, which had major impact on the U.S. economy, as well as the economies of most other world countries.

Prior to the embargo we experienced periods of low-cost energy and high usage levels, the highways were crowded with gas-guzzling vehicles, we were experiencing an increasing dependence on foreign oil, we were a consuming nation not a conserving one.

Sounds a little familiar, doesn't it?

In the early 1970s, low fuel costs and high availability lulled us into a false sense of security. Energy conservation was not a priority, because an energy crisis was inconceivable. In 2008, we know that an energy crisis is indeed possible, and so we must all work together to find a reasonable solution to the problem at hand.

Today, our roads are inundated with inefficient vehicles, we are more dependent on foreign oil than ever before, the high availability of energy has made us complacent about conservation and the world is again experiencing economic instability.

One of the principal actions taken by the United States in response to the worldwide energy crisis of the 1970s was to produce lighter-weight, higher fuel efficiency vehicles. We responded by purchasing these vehicles in droves. America became a nation bent on conservation. We built energy efficient houses, we started producing more of our energy with nuclear power plants,

and the integration of the computer and robot allowed unprecedented improvements in mass production.

As the demand for energy increases, becoming more energy efficient is important. Electric cooperatives and consumers need to work together to help manage energy use.

Because efficiency starts at home, here at Lyon-Coffey we are working hard to improve operational and internal energy effectiveness. We are automating operations where possible and setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability and safety. In the field, we are improving system efficiency by reducing internal power loss with larger conductor size, upgrading transformers, improving voltage fluctuations and installing state of the art electronic meters.

You too can play an important  
*continued on page 16-B*



Scott Whittington

## From the Manager... continued from page 16-A

role in controlling your energy costs by evaluating your home and taking simple steps to trim unnecessary energy use. Heating and cooling represent the largest chunk of your home energy dollar. Have you checked your systems lately? We all need to keep them running lean, mean and clean.

What about your insulation? If you have R-11 or less, consider bringing it up to R-25. When was the last time you had the water heater checked? Do you remember President Carter asking us all to set our thermostats at 68 degrees in the winter and 75 degrees in the summer?

It worked.

For more information about energy efficiency visit our website, [www.lyon-coffey.com](http://www.lyon-coffey.com) or call one of our member services representatives at (800)-748-7395.

## Do You Need to Replace Your Water Heater?

Winter is not a good time to be without a water heater. Lyon-Coffey has Marathon water heaters with rebates available through December. Now, is a good time to replace your water heater with an efficient and reliable water heater.

When it's time to buy a new water heater, there are a number of choices you can make. You can purchase a heater warranted for six to eight years, which will be cheap to buy, but expensive to operate. Or you can invest in a Marathon and save money in operating costs. These features make purchasing a Marathon a wise choice:

### Energy Efficiency

- Envirofoam<sup>®</sup> insulation is free of ozone depleting CFCs and HCFCs so it saves the planet – and it saves energy.
- Pipe Wrap Energy Kit is included to reduce heat loss from plumbing lines.

### Long Life

- The seamless, blow-molded polybutylene tank is impervi-

ous to rust and corrosion.

- Multiple layers of filament-wound fiberglass give the tank unmatched strength.
- The tank is designed, built and warranted not to leak “for as long as you own your home.”

### Durable

- Tough molded outer shell resists dents and scratches.
- Bowl-shaped bottom allows more complete sediment draining.

### Functional

- Factory installed temperature and pressure relief valve for greater value and security.
- Conduit between control boxes facilitates wiring for “Off-Peak” use.
- All plastic tank eliminates the need for an anode rod – preventing potential hydrogen sulfide (rotten egg) odor.

If you are considering replacing a water heater, give us a call at 800-748-7395 for pricing. Don't put it off.

# There's Only One Water Heater As Faithful as the Marathon



Old Faithful and Marathon provide hot water dependently, year after year, without worry. But one is owned by the government and located in Wyoming; the other is available through Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative.

So now you can have your very own "Old Faithful" efficiently providing hot water for a lifetime.



**Call Us Today**  
**1-800-748-7395**

# Get Your Home Ready for Winter

The coats have been cleaned; the mittens and scarves found, and the sweaters have been pulled out. Old Man Winter is on his way. But what about your house, is it ready for winter?

A small investment of time to review your home for safety and efficiency weak spots can pay big dividends toward making your home safer, more energy efficient and ultimately reduce electric bills this winter.

Energy dollars pour out of homes through drafty doors, windows, attics, walls and floors without even being noticed. Taking time to winterize and check heating equipment now can be a worthy investment, saving you money on your monthly bill and ensuring your home is safe as well.

- Have a professional inspect and service your furnace to make sure it is in good working order before turning the heat on this winter. An efficient heating system means greater comfort at a lower cost.
- Regularly clean or replace furnace filters monthly during winter use and check ducts, flues and chimneys. Ensure the chimney is clean, clear of bird and animal nests and that there is no blockage by high efficiency furnaces that vent through the wall. Keeping equipment clean and in good repair will ensure peak efficiency and safety.
- Make sure attics and flooring, especially above unheated spaces such as crawl spaces and garages, are properly

insulated.

- If you can see the ceiling joists in the attic you don't have enough insulation. Insulation should be a minimum of 12 inches.
- Find air leaks in homes by moistening fingertips and running them around doors or window frames to feel a draft. Check around outlets and look for gaps near the dryer vent, chimneys and faucet pipes. Seal them all with caulking or weatherstripping.

Another way to save energy is by replacing screens with storm windows and doors. Double-pane windows with low-e coating can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-pane windows. If you have older windows that you cannot replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film that create the effect of an interior storm window.

Consider replacing regular incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs. CFLs use one-fourth of the energy consumed by a regular bulb and can last 10 times as long or longer.

During cold weather, don't overlook simple energy-saving steps such as opening curtains to let sunshine warm your home and reversing your ceiling fans to a clockwise rotation to recirculate and force the warm air downward. Make sure fireplace dampers are closed when not in use. These tips will keep you warm and help save you money.

## Hoch Retires

Mike Hoch, Lyon-Coffey Electric Lead Lineman, retired from



**Mike Hoch**

Lyon-Coffey Electric October 1.

Hoch began working as a groundsman October 3, 1977. He held positions of first, second and third year apprentice lineman, journeyman, crew chief, and foreman and then changed to lead lineman to work on a special project in October 2007.

During his tenure at Coffey County REC Assoc. Inc. and Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative, Inc., he has done virtually everything an electric lineman could do including customer service work, construction of new services, maintenance, pole inspection, mapping, storm repair, mutual aid when other cooperatives had storm damage, leading a crew and working alone.

We thank him for his service and wish him a fulfilling and productive retirement. Good luck, Mike!

## Have a Safe Halloween

Lyon-Coffey Electric would like to wish everyone a Happy Halloween, and to remind motorists to look out for Trick-or-Treaters.

# TV Converter Box Coupon Program

At midnight on February 17, 2009, television viewing in America is scheduled to change. All full-power television stations in the United States are converting their broadcasting from analogue to 100 percent digital. This will result in better clarity of viewing and more programming options for the public.

Individual households will be required to have a converter box if their television sets are not controlled through cable, satellite or fiber optics. From now until March 2009, consumers will be able to apply for up to two \$40 coupons per household provided by the U.S. Government.

The converter box is a one time purchase and prices are expected to range between \$50 and \$70 without the coupon. Coupons expire within 90 days of the date they are mailed out to consumers. Local retailers will carry the boxes for purchase. For more information visit:

- For coupon applications visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)
- For information on where to purchase converter boxes, visit [www.ntiadtvtv.gov](http://www.ntiadtvtv.gov)
- For information on how to install a converter box, visit [www.DigitalTips.org](http://www.DigitalTips.org)
- To learn more about options please visit [www.DTVTransition.org](http://www.DTVTransition.org)

## Avoid Electrical Hazards at Halloween

The decorative lights, fog machines, black lights, and animatronics of Halloween make for adventurous, entertaining times for children and adults. With these decorations, though, the risk of fire or electrocution could be lurking around the corner. It is important to check for electrical hazards before accidents happen. Use the following tips to keep electrical hazards from haunting you this Halloween:

- Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and maintenance. Check the instructions to see how many light strings can be connected together.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords.
- Provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Make sure the walkways are clear for trick-or-treaters.
- Don't overload extension cords or place them near, or in, snow or water.
- Make sure electrical decorations are approved by a nationally recognized certification organization like Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and marked for outdoor use if you are using them outside. Check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com) for recalls. Many Halloween toys have been recalled in the past by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).
- Do not overload your circuit breakers or fuses.
- Plug lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.
- Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- Turn out all lights and decorations before leaving or going to bed. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

**Keep Your Engine Running In Top Form**

**Fixing a car that's noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve gas mileage by an average of 4 percent.**

**Source: U.S. Department of Energy, [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)**