

Primary Lines



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Regular Board Meeting • July 8

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Electric Co-op Leaders Visit Washington, D.C., Officials

In early May, a delegation of Mountain Parks Electric, Inc., directors and staff discussed electric co-op concerns and issues with legislators in Washington, D.C. Board Vice President Ross Caldwell, board member Jeff Hauck and Assistant General Manager Tom Sifers joined 90 electric co-op leaders from Colorado and an estimated 2,500 representatives of electric co-ops across the country in bringing specific co-op concerns to the attention of senators and representatives.

Sens. Michael Bennet (D) and Mark Udall (D) met with the group, as did Reps. Jared Polis (D-Dist. 2), John Salazar (D-Dist. 3), Betsy Markey (D-Dist. 4), Doug Lamborn (R-Dist. 5), Mike Coffman (R-Dist. 6) and Ed Perlmutter (D-Dist. 7). Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Dist. 1) was ill and sent her legislative aid to meet with the Colorado co-op leaders.

This annual trip to Washington, D.C., by your board of directors and management staff is critical in making sure that elected officials understand the concerns of electric co-op members as laws and regulations are considered that will significantly affect Mountain Park's business operations and the price you pay for electricity. This annual legislative pilgrimage is just one way that MPEI represents you, the member-owners, with a unified voice on significant legislative and regulatory issues. Kimberly King, Granby — Account #1006061

Making this trip at the same time as rural electric leaders from other states adds to our numbers and is effective in gaining legislative attention and an



Rep. Mike Coffman (far left) greets Tom Sifers and Jeff Hauck (far right) after speaking to the co-op group in Washington, D.C.

understanding of our national political influence. During the co-op leaders' brief visit, the group had the attention of our House and Senate legislators during face-to-face meetings and focused on those issues most important to electric co-ops.

At this year's legislative rally, Colorado's electric cooperative delegation, along with the lobbying groups from the nation's other electric cooperatives, focused its messages to Congress on four specific areas of concern. First, the co-ops asked Congress to preserve funding for the 75-year-old Rural Utilities Service program (formerly the Rural Electrification Administration) and to oppose the administration's efforts to reduce the RUS electric loan program funding levels for fiscal year 2011 by \$2.5 billion. Members of Congress were reminded that this program does not cost the government money as the loans are repaid with interest. This year, the program brought \$63 million into the government coffers. Co-op representatives asked senators and representatives to support keeping the

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Rocky Mountain Re-Source and Re-Use Center

A clearinghouse focusing on a green-minded mountain community

BY ROSEMARY KNERR, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES

Want to remodel the kitchen but don't want to spend a lot of money on custom cabinetry? Need to replace a door or a window, or maybe you just need a small piece of trim or crown molding to finish the bedroom remodel? Jeanine Adams, Kremmling — Account #700014002

Did you just replace your dishwasher or range with an Energy Star appliance, but the old one was still in good working order? Or, maybe the wife wanted new cabinetry in the kitchen but the cabinets you took out were in great condition — just the wrong color. It's unthinkable to just bring old items to the dump, and besides, it's more money out of your pocket to have them hauled off. What do you do?

Tom Pierro, owner of Legacy Builders, sees all of this as an opportunity to help members of our community afford to retrofit and remodel without paying top dollar for good materials and at the same time promote waste reduction. "Rocky Mountain Re-Source and Re-Use Center is a new building materials clearinghouse with the focus on our uniquely green-minded mountain community," Pierro said.

Coming from Pierro's own Legacy showroom are material leftovers from custom projects that can still be used by someone and shouldn't be hauled off to the dump; blocks of wood, balusters, crown molding, storm doors and even good appliances that were replaced with new appliances on recent kitchen makeovers.

Maybe you need one cabinet door for the vanity in the bathroom or a piece of

trim to frame something — whatever the need, I bet you'll find just the right piece, the right door, the right building material at a fraction of what you would pay anywhere else.

If you recently remodeled your home and have building materials left over, why pay dump fees when the left-over material can be put to good use? Someone who can't afford top dollar makeovers would really appreciate the savings.

The clearinghouse is a great resource for materials needed for school projects — blocks of wood, framing. The students just have to be creative. It's a place where the craftsman who needs a block of wood for artistic carvings can find just the right piece. It's an endless resource for the creative person.

"Our aim is to provide opportunities within the local community to conserve natural resources and promote waste reduction," Adam Dill, Rocky Mountain Re-Source's man-in-charge, said.

Rocky Mountain Re-Source will accept donations of your new or used items, in



Tom Pierro (left) and Adam Dill examine some of their stock.



A sampling of the store inventory shows a range of items.

good condition, and will even arrange for pick-up so you don't have to haul them off. This clearinghouse will handle everything from windows to interior and exterior doors, appliances and even sinks, faucets and landscaping materials.

Check out the new clearinghouse — it's a center that makes great sense. Be sure to call for more information or inquire about pickup services within Grand County. All items being received must be approved by a staff member during business hours.

Rocky Mountain Re-Source and Re-Use Center is located at 19 Ten Mile Drive in Granby. Business hours are: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday. Call and ask for Adam Dill at 970-531-7932 or email him at adill@legacyc wd.com.

WIN \$5 OFF YOUR BILL

You could win \$5 off your electric bill if your name and account number is one of the four names hidden on pages 5-8 of this magazine. You have until the end of the month on the front of the magazine to call Mountain Parks Electric at 970-887-3378 to claim your prize.



In Our Neighborhood – July 2010

Granby

July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 — Farmers Market every Friday, 3-7 p.m., in downtown Granby between Ian's Bakery and Brickhouse 40.

July 2-3 — Granby Library Community Annual Book Sale at the Granby Library. Preview of books on July 2 sponsored by Friends of the Library, 5-7 p.m. Entry fee is \$5. Community sale July 3, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and there is no entry fee. For more information, contact Penny Hamilton at drpenny@earthlink.com.

July 3 — Community Pancake Breakfast and Fly-in Event at Granby Airport; 7-11 a.m.; \$6 adults; \$3 children; door prizes; silent auction to raise aviation scholarships. Contact Jerry Tietsma at 970-531-9641.

July 4 — Fourth of July Celebration. Parade begins at 11 a.m. Theme is "Trains, Planes & Automobiles." Contact the Granby Chamber of Commerce.

July 9-10 — Royal Rangers & Missionettes annual garage sale benefiting young boys and girls from kindergarten through high school who are learning valuable skills for a successful and significant life. Friday 3-7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Call 970-531-3409, 970-531-4039 or 970-724-1208.

July 31 — Run for a Life at Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA of the Rockies. Race begins at 9 a.m. Check in is 8 a.m. For more information, contact Tracy Trostel at 970-887-3617.

Granby Chamber of Commerce 970-887-2311

Grand Lake

July 4 — Grand Lake Fireworks Extravaganza at the lakefront at dusk. Bingo in the Park sponsored by the Grand Lake Rotary.

July 16-18 — 63rd Annual Buffalo barbecue with entertainment, pancake breakfast, parade and carnival. For more information, contact the Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce at 970-627-3402.

July 23-25 — Independent Sports Club yard sale, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. All proceeds benefit youth in our county. Call 970-627-0247 or 970-531-9307.

Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce 970-627-3402

Kremmling

July 4 — Fire Up the Cliffs – Fourth of July celebration and the annual Mud Shuffle and Calcutta.

July 10 — "Sermon on the Mount: Lessons of Life and Leadership from the Language of the Horse" with Lew Sterret. Middle Park Fairgrounds. For more information contact 970-531-7144 or visit www.sermononthemount.org.

August 6 — Middle Park Fair and Rodeo and Demolition Derby.

Kremmling Chamber of Commerce 970-724-3472

North Park and Walden

July 17 — North Park Day.

July 22-25 — Women's Retriever Field Dog Days.

North Park Chamber of Commerce at 970-723-4600

Winter Park and Fraser

July 2-August 13 — Every Friday night at Sombrero Stables at Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA of the Rockies. Enjoy live entertainment, wagon rides, dinner and games for the kids. Call 970-887-1999.

July 3 — Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, 7 a.m.-noon. Look for the yellow Lions Club trailer in the middle of town; 100% of the proceeds go back to the community.

July 4 — Lions Club Kids Fishing Derby, Fraser Fishing Ponds off Highway 4. Call 970-726-7979.

July 4 — Lance Guterson Fourth of July celebration and fireworks, Fraser Valley Metro Recreation District's ball fields in Fraser. Country western theme. For more information, call 970-726-4118.

July 17-August 7 — Elk Horn Art Gallery presents "Carl Cassler: A Lifetime of Art" in Fraser, 1-6 p.m. Call 970-726-9292.

July 23-25 — Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Fraser Library Urban Community Room, Friday 5-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Contact Fraser Valley Library at 970-726-5689.

July 24-25 — Lions Club Pancake Breakfast all day. Look for the yellow trailer in the middle of Winter Park. Visit <http://www.fraservalleylions.org>.

July 24-25 — 2010 Winter Park Jazz Festival in downtown Winter Park at Hideaway Park. Seven hours of music daily (11 a.m.-6 p.m.), merchandise vendors, food and beer garden in the park. Ticket reservations: Gold Circle package and Plaza party tickets may be purchased at the chamber box office at 800-903-7274, or through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000.

Winter Park and Fraser Chamber of Commerce at 970-726-4118.

Electric Co-op Leaders Visit Washington, D.C. Officials

[Continued from page 5] funding at fiscal year 2010's \$6.5 billion funding level.

Second, the co-ops encouraged Colorado's elected officials to co-sponsor or support HR 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. The bill has bipartisan support and would provide funding to electric cooperatives that could then become low-interest loans to co-op members for energy efficiency improvements.

Third, Colorado's congressional members were asked to co-sponsor or support one of several bills that have been introduced to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from using the Clean Air Act as a vehicle for regulating greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide,

from power plants. Members of Congress were reminded that the CAA was designed for regional emissions and is not designed to handle global emissions. Using the CAA in this way will unnecessarily increase electric bills and damage the economy while not significantly cutting the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. The electric co-ops asked their senators and representatives to enact the emission regulations. This is not the job of the EPA, but of Congress, co-op representatives said.

Finally, the co-op officials reminded Colorado's elected officials of how electric co-ops are different from other utilities. As member-owned, not-for-profit organ-

izations, electric co-ops are focused on keeping rates affordable for our members and not on making a profit for shareholders. Co-ops have fewer members per mile of line and serve in the far reaches of the country. That makes it more expensive to serve these members and means forced increases in rates will hit these members hard.

These were important messages for the co-op representatives to take to Washington. If you want to add your voice to that of MPEI's board and staff, visit www.ourenergy.coop and send a personal message to your representative and to Sens. Bennet and Udall.

Electric Usage and Vacations

Did you ever take a vacation for a week and were surprised your electric bill did not go down? Did you ever find out your electric bill is the around the same amount as your neighbor, even though you are gone all day and your neighbor stays home? Basically, the size of a family and its lifestyle is what determines the amount of energy used and not the quantity of time spent in the home. Brent Getchel, Grand Lake — Account # 500105100

People who are gone all day use greater amounts of electricity in shorter time periods, while the person who stays at home all day spreads it out. For example, there is not much difference in the amount of laundry, household chores and cooking that's required for a family of four — whether they are gone all day or not.

Preparing for a vacation may include extra house cleaning and clothes washing. When the vacationers return, there is a repeat of these activities. The clothes need

to be washed again, and other chores are performed with the aid of electrical appliances.

During cold weather, people tend to think their electric bill will lower if they turn their thermostats down to 55 degrees while they are away for a week or two. But a vacant house at 55 degrees will not use much less energy for heating than an occupied house at 68 degrees. The activity in an occupied house will produce heat, which helps to make a difference.

Also, appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, clocks, heat tape and security lights will continue to operate through automatic controls. If you plan to leave your house for an extended period of time, consider unplugging wherever possible. But remember to drain all water lines if you choose to completely shut everything down. You don't want to run the risk of frozen pipes, well pumps, water heaters and other such things.

SEEK SHELTER WHEN YOU HEAR THUNDER

According to the National Weather Service, lightning kills an average of 62 people each year in the United States. In 2008, 27 people died from a "bolt out of the blue." The majority of these fatalities occurred outside, but caution must be taken indoors as well.

Follow the tips below to keep you and your family safe from lightning this summer:

- Seek shelter immediately if you hear thunder; lightning is not far away.
- Find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows rolled up.
- Do not seek shelter under trees, in picnic or rain structures or in open-frame vehicles. Avoid objects like electric wires or metal fences. Dr. Gregory Jungman, Kremmling — Account # 700013003
- If you cannot find shelter in a building or closed-frame vehicle, keep your feet together and crouch on the ground using the "lightning crouch": keep feet together, squat low, tuck head and cover ears.

BILLING CORNER

When It's Time to Pay Your Bill

- U.S. Postal Service — Your monthly statements include a return envelope.
- Pay by phone — You may call us toll free at 877-887-3378. We accept MasterCard or Visa credit and debit cards.
- Stop by our office — We are located at 321 W. Agate Ave., Granby, CO 80446. Lobby hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Drive-up window hours — Stop by Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Night drop — This is available so you can safely

deposit payments on evenings and weekends. It's right next to the drive-up window.

- Automatic bill payment — Your electric bill payment can be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account every month. It can also be automatically drafted from a MasterCard or Visa credit card. Automatic bill payment participants receive a monthly statement marked "Do Not Pay."

For more information, contact MPEI's billing department at 970-887-3378 or toll-free at 877-887-3378.

How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



1 Ventilate the room.



2 Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.



3 Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.

4 Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.



5 Discard any clothing or bedding that comes in direct contact with broken glass or powder from inside the bulb. Washing tainted items may cause mercury fragments in clothing to contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.

To learn more about CFLs and why you should be careful when cleaning up a broken bulb, visit www.epa.gov.



Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation Institute, YASLY*