

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



*from*  
**Pickwick Electric  
Cooperative**  
*Celebrating  
75 Years*



# MAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!





**Billy Surratt**

## PEC welcomes board member Billy Surratt

Stantonville contractor Billy Surratt has been elected to succeed Dean Glidewell, who passed away in August, as District 6 director for Pickwick Electric Cooperative.

At an Oct. 19 special meeting at the Marty Community Center in Adamsville, Surratt emerged as winner of a three-man race to fill Mr. Glidewell's unexpired term. Other candidates for the position

were William Ray Jones and Steve Tidwell.

Surratt and his wife, Joyce, live in Stantonville, where he owns and operates Billy Surratt Contractors Inc.

In his spare time, he collects antique John Deere tractors and enjoys motorcycle-riding.

PEC extends a warm welcome to its newest director from District 6.

## Use your space heater safely

Many people turn to space heaters — both electric models and those powered by kerosene or even wood — as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with space heaters. More than 300 people die in these fires. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people annually receive hospital emergency care for burn injuries connected with space heaters.

Space heater hazards stem not just from fires caused by contact with or close proximity to heating elements. They also include fires started by flammable fuels used in the heaters, defective wiring in the appliance and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or an incomplete combustion of fuels.

Here are some tips for using your electric space heater safely:

- Keep the heater at least three feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture or bedspreads.
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).



- Buy a heater that can handle the area that you want to heat.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater on.
- Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
- Do not use a heater in a bathroom — it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.
- Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.
- Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.
- Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.
- Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

For additional safety tips on using space heaters that use wood or kerosene, visit the CPSC's website at [www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/463.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/463.html).

*Source: The Consumer Product Safety Commission*



## Cool off your winter energy bill

**Y**ou've budgeted for holiday gifts, meals, maybe a vacation — and with money tight, that doesn't leave much room for home energy-efficiency upgrades. Does that mean you're powerless to lower your electric bill? Not at all. Keep your energy bill cool this winter with these tips and tricks:

- **Drape delivery:** Are you using your curtains to capture heat? Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.
- **Thermostat:** Set your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower if comfortable).
- **Got tape?** Though not as durable as foam, rubber, or vinyl, you can use nonporous tape (first-aid cloth tape, for example) to keep cold air from squeezing into your home. Tape is good for blocking corners and irregular cracks and can be used at the top and bottom of window sashes, door frames, attic hatches and inoperable windows. Reinforce with staples if needed.
- **Fan it up:** Run ceiling paddle fans on low and reverse the rotation to pull air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.
- **Free vents:** Your heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.
- **Garage drain:** Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.
- **Rug relief:** Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.
- **Cool food:** Don't make your fridge work too hard. Clean coils every year, and set the temperature

between 34 degrees to 37 degrees; leave the freezer between zero and 5 degrees. Keep the freezer full — frozen food helps your freezer stay cool. When cooking, keep lids on pots and let hot food cool off before placing it in the refrigerator.

- **Hot savings:** Heating water accounts for 12 percent of your home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees. For households with only one or two members, 115 degrees works.

There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. When you're not watching TV or using lights, computers, and other electronics, turn them off. Lower your room temperatures a bit and wear a sweater to stay warm or place an extra blanket on the bed at night. Find more ways to save at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

When decorating, remember that outdoor “icicle” lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (light-emitting diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours.

*Source: Alliance to Save Energy*

# PEC employees receive service awards

Congratulations to 14 PEC employees who received service awards during 2010. They have a combined 210 years of service.



**Karl Dudley**  
40 years



**Larry Hall**  
25 years



**Terry Pearson**  
25 years



**Donna Kennedy**  
20 years



**David Tacker**  
20 years



**Jerry Boyette**  
15 years



**Brad Howell**  
10 years



**Joey Lawson**  
10 years



**Tina McDuffy**  
10 years



**Tony Smith**  
10 years



**Sharon Wicker**  
10 years



**Robert Davis**  
Five years



**Logan Doyle**  
Five years



**Derek Moore**  
Five years

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays Thursday, Dec. 23; Friday, Dec. 24; and Friday, Dec. 31. Should you need assistance, standby crews will be available during this time.