

Winter Keeps Putting Crimp In Electric Conservation Drive

By Bill White

Last month, the weatherman continued to dash cold water on the campaign to promote electric conservation in Pine Knoll Shores as one means of moving the nation along the path to energy independence. December was the second month in a row in which electric usage was greater than in the corresponding time frame in 2007.

Usage in the last month of 2008, Carteret-Craven Electric Co-op (CCEC) reported, was 2.44 percent higher than in December 2007, averaging 114,327 kilowatt hours per day as opposed to an

average of 111,600 hours per day in the December 2007 period. While an increase in usage was less than desirable as far as the conservation campaign goes, it was noted that the 2.44 percent jump could have been worse in view of

the fact that the weather last month was 12 percent colder than in December 2007. That usage moved up just under 3 percent in the face of a 12 percent jump in temperatures seems to indicate that conservation efforts played a part in keeping the usage increase from being more dramatic.

There are many variables that can affect electric usage, but weather is a prime factor. It appears that the cold waves that put a damper on conservation as 2008 came to an end are playing a similar role at the beginning of 2009. As this is written during the third week of January, indications are that persistent cold snaps are driving electric usage now at about the same pace as in December. If that plays out, another usage increase in the 2 to 3 percent range can be expected during the January period. We'll let you know how things go in the March issue.

Town officials initiated the conservation

campaign last July, calling upon their fellow citizens to help the nation reach the goal of energy independence. They urged all PKS residents to join them in doing the many little things individuals can do to make efficient use of electricity, thereby using to the best advantage sources of energy needed to generate power. Each month an energy tip, provided by CCEC, is published in *The Shoreline*. The "Tip of the Month" for February offers advice on how to capture and retain solar energy in your home and warns against the overuse

of ventilating fans.

Since last August electrical energy usage in PKS has been compared each month against a benchmark established in the corresponding period the year before. Significant savings in electricity were recorded in each of the first

three months, when the weather was a lot more benign. A sharp increase in usage was registered in November when temperatures ran 25 percent colder than in the year before. The cold weather pattern continued to the end of the year, leading to the December 2.44 percent increase in usage.

Despite the two setbacks, the conservation campaign is still on the road to achieving the goal of bringing about a 10 percent reduction in overall usage by next summer. As of the end of December, the overall decrease in usage for the first five months of the drive stood at 16.22 percent, thanks to the significant savings from August through October. With any kind of cooperation from the weather, there should be good things ahead if everyone does their part.

Look on page 21 for a complete list of energy tips.

Timing is Everything

The Shoreline is a monthly publication and as such deals with long lead times. The paper is made up during the last week of the month prior to the month of publication. It is typically processed for mailing during the first week of the month of publication. Depending on the timing, it should reach mailboxes no later than the tenth of the month, usually earlier.

Considering the time constraints imposed by editing, printing and mail handling, if you have an article concerning

an upcoming event that will take place early in the month you should get it into our hands the month before to guard against the possibility of the event having taken place before our readers are made aware of it. It is a good idea to get all articles to us as early as possible so that there is time to edit them and prepare them for publication. Deadlines for getting articles into our hands for the next two monthly issues are published in the streamer at the bottom of page 1 each month.

Need Work?

Believe it or not, applications for full and part-time employment are available from the US Census Bureau to carry out the pre-census operation identified as Address List Development. Positions include address listers, office clerks, recruiting assistants, crew leaders and field operations supervisors.

These jobs begin in spring 2009. They are temporary for both full and part-time employment. They offer flexible

schedules and pay begins at \$8.75 per hour. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, have a valid Social Security number and pass a basic aptitude test. Most jobs require a driver's license and use of a car.

Information about these positions, qualifications needed and applications are available at www.2010censusjobs.com or by calling this toll free number: 1-866-861-2010.

History Place to Repeat Popular Genealogy Talk

Interested in tracking down the roots of your family tree but don't quite know how to get started? Then sign up for the genealogy seminar to be presented at The History Place in Morehead City Saturday, March 14. Genealogist Virginia Brown will introduce you to the mysteries of researching birth, death and court records, clue you in on how to tap into available

resources, and have words of advice on how to organize your findings.

When Ms. Brown presented the seminar January 17, the limited seating went fast. So don't wait to make your reservations call 247-7533 ext. 101 today. The cost is \$20 and that includes morning coffee and lunch.

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