


Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections

New things are happening, so stay tuned

New-Mac Electric began with new operating software for its computer systems at the start of the calendar year. While that has brought about many positive changes that might not be apparent to customers, in the future, some long-awaited changes will be taking place.

In the near future, we will be receiving electronic payments from third-party vendors – meaning if your bank or financial institution offers automatic bill payment

options, you will be able to use that service to pay your electric bill. When setting up that option, please be careful to accurately reference your New-Mac account number in order to assure the co-op receives your payment.

Customers also need to be aware that we will soon be electronically depositing all checks we receive. This means customers need to be certain the necessary funds are in their bank account when writing a check

for their electric bill, as the turnaround time for checks clearing will be minimized.

Also, in the months to come, we will be able to receive payments via the Internet. This is a service we have been working to provide to our customers, and with the new operating software in place, we are closing in on making online payments available.

Be watching this newsletter for more updates, as we continue to work to provide customers with the best possible service.

Co-op shows off innovative gadgets at area trade shows

Once again, February and March saw New-Mac Electric at three local trade shows: the HBA Home Show in Joplin, the Business & Industry Review in Neosho, and the McDonald County Expo in Anderson. At each event, New-Mac representatives were happy to visit with customers, answer questions, and listen to how the co-op can best be of service.

As always, New-Mac had on hand all kinds of information for conserving energy around the home. Also, consistent with the tradition, New-Mac showcased technological and practical advancements in energy efficiency.

Products and gadgets on display in the New-Mac booth included:

Solar motion-sensored LED security lights: These lights provide their own energy through small solar panels and are an easy install with no wiring involved.

Insulation made from denim: Made from recycled blue jeans, this product is certainly “green” and is available in batt



Tom Bower (at left) and Linda Crosby (above) were two of the New-Mac employees visiting with customers at area trade shows this past month.

form. It also comes with foil backing as a radiant barrier.

Portable LED night lights: Ideal for a child’s room or for camping, these durable light-weight saucers recharge on their base during the day and provide just enough light at night.

LED reading light/flashlight: This LED light can serve as a lamp or flashlight with a portable lamp head.

Solar USB device chargers: Perfect for that camping trip; you can let the sun charge your cell phone.

Insulated siding: This vinyl siding comes in a variety of colors and is already


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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Please play it safe during Kite Month

April is National Kite Month, and as you enjoy this recreation, New-Mac Electric encourages all to keep safety in mind.

The windy days of spring provide ideal kite flying conditions, however these gusts can bring about risks if kite-flyers fail to use sound judgment.

Kite safety begins with the selection of a good location, such as an open field away from power lines. Kites should always be kept a lengthy distance from power lines – since they often stray from their intended course. If your kite does come in contact with power lines, let go of it immediately! Never attempt to retrieve a kite that is tangled in power lines.

However, there's more to kite safety than simply avoiding power lines. Kites should never be flown in stormy weather. Always fly kites made of wood, paper or plastic – never use metal when making a kite, and only use dry string.

Remember, an enjoyable day of kite flying is a safe one.

Mulch available

Just in time for spring landscaping, New-Mac Electric has mulch available for \$5 per scoop. Anyone interested should call the Neosho office (451-1515) and ask for Susan or Tobey so arrangements can be made to assist you.

Another  on the lines 

Group's books and pictures offer insight into area's history

Sure, if you're researching a national landmark, you will run across all kinds of resources, but what if you're interested in the area maybe a mile or two down the road? Well, if you live in Newton County, chances are you'll find plenty of information for that as well, thanks to the Shoal Creek Heritage Preservation Committee.

The Shoal Creek Heritage Preservation Committee started out as the Neosho Historic Preservation Group approximately 20 years ago. However, a decade later, they found their focus expanding and chose the current name based on the fact that Shoal Creek meanders across much of the county.

According to the group's president, Larry James, the group's mission is "to help preserve as much history of Newton County as we can." If you'd like to tap into this information, you can do so while at the same time supporting the group in its future efforts of history preservation. Among the undertakings of the group has been the compilation of books abounding in vintage photographs and writings about the area's past. Largely, it is through the sale of these books (available Jon's Pharmacy and Neosho Gift, Etc., in Neosho) that the committee has funds for its various endeavors.

It's easy to see how the group's recent books would detail aspects of the lives of those living in the rural areas served by New-Mac Electric.

One book is entitled "Lofty Places," and it may well feature a loft (or past loft) in your neck of the woods. It is a history of the barns in Newton County. The work is full of photos and stories of farm structures, ranging from the mid-1900s back into the late 1800s.

Lofty Places

Barns of Newton County, Missouri



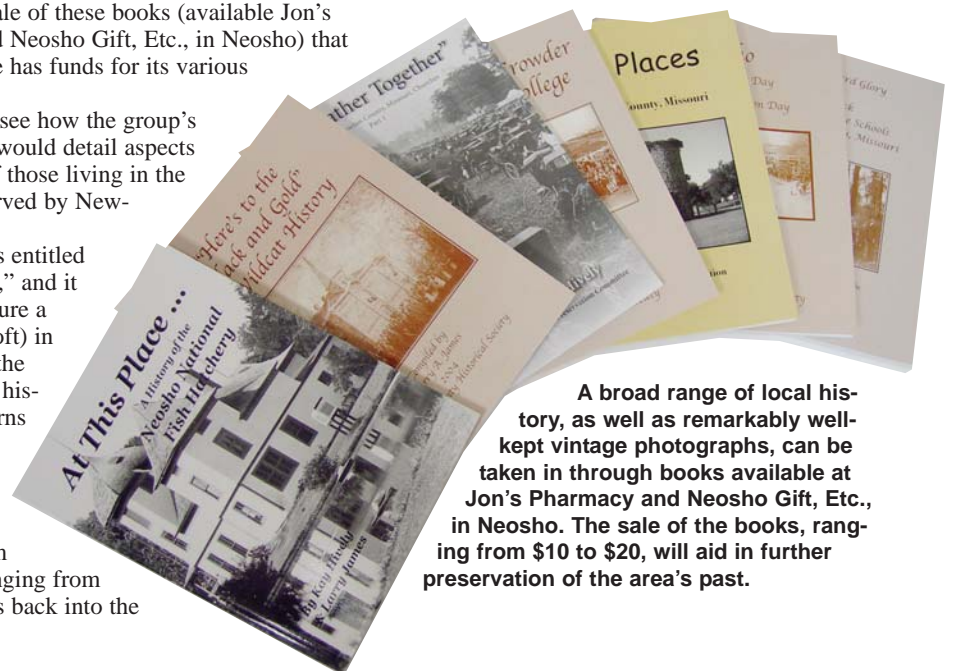
A project of
Shoal Creek Heritage Preservation
Newton County, Missouri
2008

"Lofty Places" features nearly 100 barns, some of which might be right down the road from you.

While the barn book likely would have "a direct relevance," according to James, to country folks, so would the most recent effort of the committee. "We Gather Together" is a history of churches of Newton County, many of which are (or were) located outside of town.

The church book was put together by James and Kay Hively, and it definitely goes back a few years.

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A broad range of local history, as well as remarkably well-kept vintage photographs, can be taken in through books available at Jon's Pharmacy and Neosho Gift, Etc., in Neosho. The sale of the books, ranging from \$10 to \$20, will aid in further preservation of the area's past.

History

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“If your church started before 1878, then it is included,” said James.

Like the barn book, it is packed with old photos and stories of the church houses of long ago. Certainly, with the cutoff date being in the 19th century, there’s plenty of potential for a second volume. Sure enough, one is in the works, which will feature congregations started more recently, as well as a few more pre-1878 churches that have since been discovered.

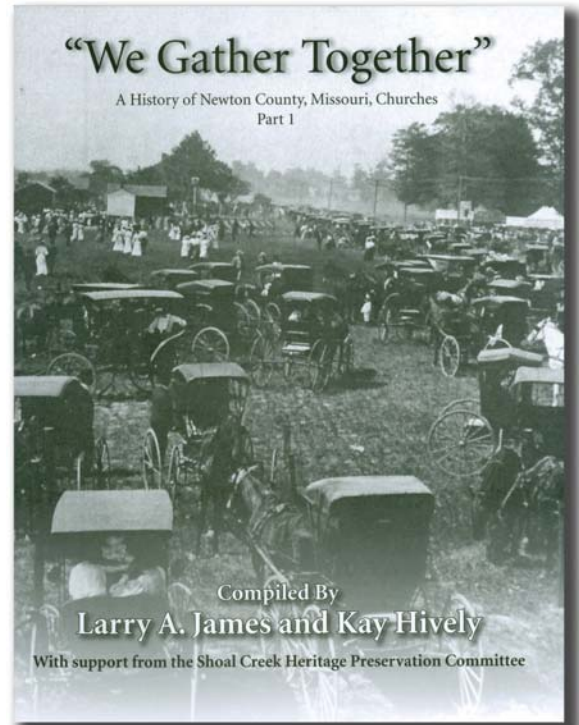
James is particularly proud of the quality of the photos in the book, and he knows a few things about old pics, with more than 6,000 historic photos of the area in his collection.

These pictures also play a major part in a number of other books that James has written and put together in conjunction with the Newton County Historical Society and with the help of others, such as Hively and Sybil Jobe. These publications include “Here’s to the Black and Gold – A Wildcat History,” “From Buzzard Glory To Seed Tick – A History of the Schools In Newton County,” “Neosho – From Armistice Day to Thomas Hart Benton Day,” “From Camp Crowder to Crowder College,” and “At This Place...A History of the Neosho National Fish Hatchery.”

From the books’ proceeds, the Shoal Creek Heritage Preservation Committee has done its part in recognizing those who



The latest work of the Shoal Creek Heritage Preservation Committee’s, at right, involved significant digging into the past, as all the churches featured in the book were started prior to 1878. Above, the group’s president, Larry James, talks about the ongoing work of “We Gather Together – Part 2”.



have preserved history. The group has purchased bronze plaques for all sites in Newton County listed by the National Register of Historic Places, such as the Ritchey Mansion and downtown Neosho. Furthermore, they are always looking to honor those exhibiting a spirit of history preservation or restoration.

“If somebody has a project where they have restored a home or a building ... or any barn or anything, we would love to be able to recognize them,” said James.

If you’d like more information on the Shoal Creek Heritage Preservation Committee, or would like to become involved with the group, contact James at 417-451-3517 or lljames1234@att.net.

Don't miss Safe Kids Day

New-Mac Electric invites kids of all ages to attend Neosho’s 15th Annual Safe Kids Day, scheduled for May 6 in the parking lot of the Newton County Health Department from 3-6 p.m.

Businesses, groups and emergency responders from across the area work together to put on this event, focusing on keeping kids safe. Those attending are exposed to a variety of safety education. Plus, they are sure to come away with a

number of giveaways.

Each year, New-Mac Electric does its part by teaching kids to respect electricity around the home.

In addition to the safety education, each child can have a photo/fingerprint ID made, win door prizes, and play various games.

For more information on Safe Kids Day, contact the Newton County Health Department at (417) 451-3743.

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

CHICKEN & DRESSING CASSEROLE

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Coleen Harrell**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 chicken breasts, cooked & cut up | 1 can onion rings |
| 1 box <i>Stove Top</i> dressing | 1 can cream of chicken soup |
| 1 carton sour cream | garlic powder |

Place chicken in a lightly greased baking dish. Mix sour cream and soup and pour over chicken. Sprinkle a little garlic powder over this. Fix dressing according to directions and spread over top. Put the onion rings on top of this and bake at 350° for 30 min. or until bubbly.

Send your recipe, along with your name and customer number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Rye: If you want to be green, then 'git 'er done'

Everywhere I go people are talking about conservation, energy efficiency and just about anything "green." Well, I say it's about time because your electric cooperatives and I have been teaching you about those things for years.

Regardless of one's thoughts about global warming or cap and trade, I think that all of us would agree that conservation, energy efficiency and going "green" are the right things to do. We work hard every day to help you have the most comfortable house possible and the lowest utility bills feasible.

We honestly believe that we can teach you how to make your existing house as energy efficient as possible. And we know we can show you how to build your new house to be the most energy efficient possible and at a feasible cost. Please understand we want you to have the very best and we are not trying to sell you anything. But understand we don't fix your house nor do we build your house. You have to do it or see that it gets done.

At a "green" conference recently I heard some members of the audience say the government or the utility company should provide the funds for people to fix their houses. Well folks, it is our houses that need improvements and we are the ones who will benefit from making those changes so just "git 'er done" and quit whining.

I guess I had better ease off a little bit by

telling you how we can help you. We have proven through the model home program, sponsored by rural electric cooperatives, that existing houses can be greatly improved and new houses can be built to be energy efficient.

It is interesting to note that all of the 20-plus model homes have operated at less monthly heating and cooling cost than projected. We doubt that it is possible to build a house any more efficient than these houses and we did it by using the available common-sense techniques that we have been teaching for years.

Just ask us and we will be glad to help you do the same. As always, you can call me at my home office at 501-653-7931 or contact your local electric cooperative and we will be glad to point you on your way to making your home energy efficient.

P.S.: Remember, the greenest BTU of all is the one that you don't use. And, yes, the crappie are biting.

Doug Rye is a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show – heard Saturdays at 9 a.m. on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYX 1450 AM. If you would like advice from Doug, call his office at 501-653-7931. To order Doug's videos, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.



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Or visit us on the Web at www.newmac.com.

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Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:
Autowithdrawal Payment
Levelized Billing
Rental Light
Meeting rooms available at both locations
Credit Card Acceptance
Safety Programs (upon request)
Surge Protection
Green Power

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com



○ Innovations

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equipped with foam insulation.

LED artistic visualization cube: This LED cube of lights entertains with numerous lighting sequences and uses almost no energy.

If you would like more information or would like to order any of the items from their distributors, contact New-Mac's member services department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

