

# Energy conservation is back in style

It looks like energy conservation is back in style. There's nothing like rising fuel prices to make us think harder about when and how we use energy.

Last year's hurricane season has taken its toll on some of the nation's systems for reaching, refining and transporting our oil and gas supplies. In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, television news shows carried images of vehicles lined up at gas stations and plastic bags on pump handles.

Demand for petroleum products continues to rise against a supply that sometimes cannot meet it entirely. So we have seen prices rise at the gas pump, which affects any goods and services whose delivery relies on transportation by cars and trucks, trains and planes, even fishing boats. All of us also are seeing prices rise for the fuels that run appliances and systems in our homes, farms and businesses.

These dynamics naturally cause us to adjust and manage our personal use of energy as best we can.

But energy conservation never went out of style in our business. Not a month goes by when this publication doesn't print something on how to conserve energy: tips for watching and controlling the operation of heat pumps and water heaters, how to plug energy leaks in homes, how to judge the efficiency of appliances, how to build or renovate buildings that require minimal energy consumption.

As the price of energy fluctuates, and as the technology of appliances and vehicles changes accordingly, electric

co-ops will continue to pay attention to smart energy use.

Why? It just makes sense. It makes sense to consumer-members, considering that you own the utility that supplies your electric power. It's in your interest to make sure your own plans — and, by

extension, those of the co-op — include conservative ways of using electricity and all other forms of energy you pay for.

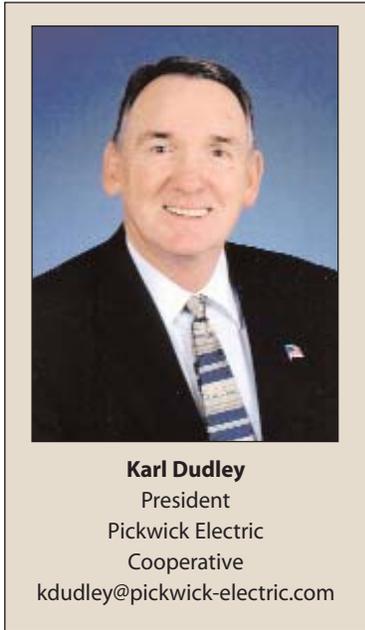
Pickwick Electric and TVA have been involved for many years in supporting research and testing technology designed to conserve energy and enhance service reliability.

Whether it's larger customers who are always looking for ways to improve energy management or the residential member

who wants advice on the smartest, most efficient appliances, we offer services that can help you use energy wisely.

Some of us remember when the nation's highway speed limit was lowered to 55 mph. Others may also remember the "oil embargo" of the 1970s, popularity of wood-burning stoves and furnaces and President Carter's plea to turn the thermostat down a few degrees in winter and up a few degrees in summer.

We're not likely to see a return to those specific events and trends, but we are likely to see a stronger emphasis on conserving energy, not only in our own consumption practices, but also in how industry designs and manufactures vehicles, buildings, community infrastructure and appliances. Such a trend can only benefit everyone.

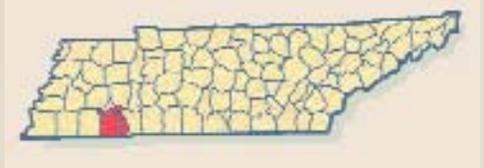


**Karl Dudley**  
President  
Pickwick Electric  
Cooperative  
kdudley@pickwick-electric.com



## Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Serving members in all of  
McNairy County and  
portions of Chester,  
Hardeman and Hardin  
counties in Tennessee and  
Alcorn and Tishomingo  
counties in Mississippi



530 Mulberry Avenue

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone Numbers:

(731) 645-3411

(731) 632-3333

(800) 372-8258

Web site:

[www.pickwick-electric.com](http://www.pickwick-electric.com)

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



## Smith and Moore receive promotions

**E**ric Smith was promoted to assistant storekeeper on Oct. 24, just two weeks after beginning his employment with PEC as a utility man.

Eric and his wife, the former Lisa Maxedon, live in Selmer and have one son, Riley Cade, who was born on July 1, 2005.

Before joining PEC, Eric worked for Diversified Refrigeration Incorporated (DRI) in Selmer for five years.

Eric was born in McNairy County and moved to Dyersburg with his parents in 1990. He is a graduate of Dyer County High School where he played baseball. He took courses at Dyersburg State Community College.

The Smith family attends Mt. Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church where Eric serves as an elder.

Derek Blake Moore was promoted to utility man on Nov. 7. Derek came to work at the cooperative on June 24, working with the right-of-way crew. Prior to coming to PEC, he worked at DRI in Selmer.



**Eric Smith**



**Derek Moore**

Derek lives in Selmer and is a 2004 graduate of McNairy Central High School. He attends Chewalla Baptist Church and enjoys hunting, fishing and working outside.

## Maxedon earns NATE certification

**B**ob Maxedon, owner of Maxedon Electric and Plumbing, became the fifth heating and cooling contractor on Pickwick Electric/TVA's Quality Contractor Network (QCN) listing to earn the North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certification as a service technician for air-conditioning equipment and systems. Other contractors in the Pickwick Electric service area that have earned NATE certification are Armour Brothers Heating and Air of Selmer, Sid Burks Heating and Air of Adamsville, Harbin Heating and Air of Counce and Danny Roberts Heating and Air of Selmer.

NATE is an independent, third-party organization that develops and promotes excellence in the installation and service of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment by recog-

nizing high-quality industry technicians through voluntary testing and certification.

To earn NATE certification, a technician must pass both a core and a specialty exam with a grade of 70 or higher on each. There are 50 questions on the core test and 100 on the specialty test. The exam reflects a consensus industry opinion on what the average technician should know in order to effectively install and service heating and air-conditioning equipment and systems. Maxedon took the test in Waverly on Nov. 2, 2005.

NATE certification is a requirement of TVA, and all current QCN members must obtain certification and submit documentation of certification by January 2007. It is the only nationwide certification program accepted by the entire HVAC industry, contractors, manufacturers and the Air Conditioning Contractors of America.



**Bob Maxedon**



**Owners Willard and Polina Summers always greet visitors with a smile at Chinquapin Hill.**

## Chinquapin Hill Bed and Breakfast

*A peaceful place to relax*

Just off Highway 57 in the Eastview Community, you can find a quiet little resting place known as Chinquapin Hill Bed and Breakfast. Chinquapin Hill is nestled among 225 acres of wooded land that is owned and operated by Willard Summers and his Russian-born wife, Polina.

The Chenault family, early settlers of McNairy County, built the original portion of the home more than 150 years ago using yellow poplar and chestnut woods. Willard Summers purchased the home in 1965 and added the second floor. With the new addition to the home, its size increased to almost 8,600 square feet, including six porches and a patio. Just this year the Summerses decided to turn their beautiful home into a bed and breakfast.

After making this decision, the couple set out to find an appropriate name. As they glanced at the old oak tree near the north entrance, the story of “Brer Rabbit and the Tar

Baby” came to mind. In the story, Brer Fox lived in an old dead Chinquapin oak tree on Chinquapin Hill. Thus came the name chinquapin Hill Bed and Breakfast. In the future, the Summerses plan to add wooden-carved figures of Brer Rabbit, Brer Bear and Brer Fox near the old oak tree.

Recently, Summers applied for Historical Preservation status with the U.S. and state historical preservation societies. This decision was based on the fact that a member of the Chenault Family was the leader of The Flying Tigers in World War II. Although this process can take up to two years, they hope to be approved soon.

Chinquapin Hill Bed and Breakfast has five guest rooms available. Each room has its own name: the Star Light Room, from which you can gaze at the stars on a clear night; the Western Wagon Wheel Room, which has a wagon wheel light fixture hanging from the ceiling; the Wohnkuche

Room, German meaning “folks who like to have easy access to the kitchen;” the Sandrock Room; and the Upstairs Room. Each spacious room has a king-size bed, a sitting area and a private bath. Some of the rooms feature the warmth of a gas- or wood-burning fireplace and a whirlpool tub.

“We feature the largest bedrooms on the average of any bed and breakfast in the USA,” Willard Summers says. “We based this on our viewing of other bed and breakfast Web sites.”

As guests walk the long hallway of Chinquapin Hill, they will find a piano and a bookcase filled with a wide variety of reading materials. Here guests can pause for a moment and enjoy the leisure of reading or playing the piano, if they are musically inclined.

To the side of the dining area, a beautiful solid walnut wood staircase leads to the spacious guest rooms and porches that run the entire length of the upstairs.

The large porches give guests an overall view of the beautiful wooded area that surrounds the home. You can sit here for hours relaxing, reading or socializing with other guests. In addition, there is an outdoor patio where guests can enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee.

Each morning guests are awakened to the aroma of a delicious breakfast being prepared for them in the dining area. It includes fresh coffee and teas, breads, cheese, sausage and fresh fruits and vegetables. If guests want to prepare their own meals, the kitchen is available.

When asked what he wanted to accomplish, Summers says his goal is to provide a feeling of a home away from home and make each guest as comfortable as possible. He

believes that most bed and breakfast travelers are usually looking for relaxation, quietness and serenity.

Not only can you savor nature at its best at Chinquapin Hill, you can also enjoy hiking, horseback-riding or carriage rides. Russian or German language lessons, taught by the Summerses, are also available.

Current room rates, based on two-person occupancy, range from \$120 to \$150 per night, or the whole house may be reserved for weddings, receptions, parties or conferences. Sleeping accommodations are also available for children in their parents’ rooms. At this time, pets are allowed, but only outside. Future plans are to build separate quarters to accommodate pets whose owners want to bring them along on vacation.

At Chinquapin Hill, you will find privacy and seclusion, and yet you are just a few miles away from local attractions such as Big Hill Pond State Park, Shiloh National Military Park and Pickwick Dam and Lake on the Tennessee River.

If you have friends or relatives in other parts of the country who enjoy traveling but are tired of paying high gas prices, then Summers has the solution. Visit West Tennessee and stay five days or more at Chinquapin Hill, and he will pay for the gas, round trip, up to 2,500 miles. Stay 10 days or longer, and Summers will pay for 5,000 miles. All you have to do is save the gas receipts and let them know that you want to take advantage of this offer.

If you are looking for that perfect getaway, visit Chinquapin Hill and have a look for yourself. Enjoy the conversation with the Summerses while you sip on your choice of coffee or raspberry or vanilla tea. Chinquapin Hill is located at 2525 Houston Cemetery Road. Reservations can be made by calling (731) 645-5860, or for more information go to their Web site at [www.bedandbreakfastwesttennessee.com](http://www.bedandbreakfastwesttennessee.com).



**During the fall and winter months, guests can sit for hours enjoying the warmth and comfort of the fireplace.**



**Polina Summers prepares a list of items to pick up for breakfast. While sitting at the table and relaxing, hungry guests can enjoy a tasty breakfast served up by Willard and Polina, with a touch of Russian added upon request.**

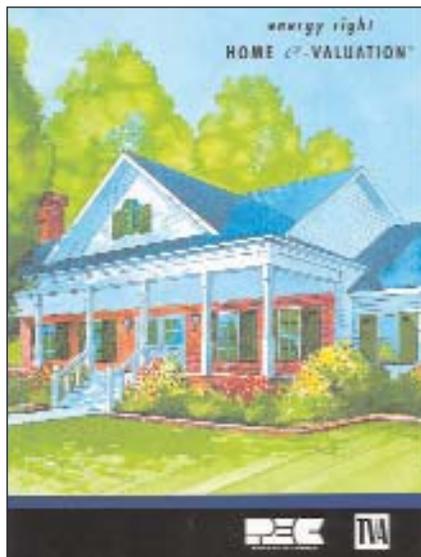


# Complete our free *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation and learn ways to save on your electric bill

To cut your household expenses, you may want to check out the nooks and crannies of your home and complete the *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation. Pickwick Electric and the Tennessee Valley Authority created the *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation service to help identify areas in your home where you can save energy and money.

If you aren't sure whether your home is using energy wisely, this free service offers suggestions on testing your home. Once you have completed the *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation, you'll receive information on simple, economical ways to curb your energy expenses.

The *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation is a four-step process. First, you request a free *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation by calling one of these numbers:



(731) 645-3411, (731) 632-3333 or (800) 372-8258, Ext. 223 or 224.

Second, you receive a questionnaire that asks quick and easy questions about how energy is currently being used in your home. This multiple-choice questionnaire can be completed in 15 to 20 minutes. Next, you mail your completed questionnaire (postage-paid) so your responses can be analyzed. In about two weeks, a personalized report outlining how you can save money and energy will be mailed back to you.

The analysis will provide helpful hints on heating and cooling, lighting, water heating, insulating, using electrical appliances and more. At no

cost to you, this *energy right*<sup>®</sup> Home e-Valuation will help you make your home energy-efficient, lowering your monthly electric bills.

## What to do if you experience a power outage

Power outages don't happen often and usually don't last long. But if one does happen, do you know what to do?

Stay away from downed power lines and broken utilities poles. Please note the location and call us immediately. Even lines that look harmless can be dangerous.

If your power is out, check with your neighbors. If they still have electricity, check your fuses or circuit-breakers. If that doesn't solve the problem, give us a call.

Once you've called us, there's no need to keep calling; your request will be handled as soon as possible. However, if your power is still out once your neighbors' service has been restored, you should call again.

When service is restored, overloaded lines could cause another outage. You can help prevent this by switching off your heating and cooling equipment and other appliances during the outage. Leave a light on so you'll know when service is back on.

Don't keep checking the refrigerator and freezer. Food will keep much longer if the doors are left closed.

Prepare a "lights out" kit: Keep a flashlight, spare fuses and a battery-powered radio handy. Know where the electric service panel for your home is located and how to reset circuit-breakers or replace blown fuses. Make sure your family knows where the kit is and what to do if you are not at home.

