



Power Facts

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

March 2009

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That's the sound of a leaky hot water faucet. Hour after hour. Day after day. Month after month.

You may not think it's a big deal. But according to experts, a dripping faucet can waste over 100 gallons of hot water a month. Plus the electricity required to heat it. The total can be as much as \$25 a year. While that may not seem like much, every little bit helps--not to mention you could be saving precious resources for the future.

So, if you've got a drippy faucet in your home, put a stop to it. Have it repaired, and quit pouring hard-earned money down the drain.



Spring is Just Around the Corner.



Put away the winter gear, and step out into the spring season. Whether you're working or playing, however, please be cautious about how you use electricity outdoors.

- If your work requires a ladder, use a wooden or fiberglass one.
- When using power tools outdoors, use only extension cords approved for outdoor use.
- Children should not be allowed in your work area; your power tools and other equipment may be too tempting for curious youngsters.
- Teach the kids not to fly kites and model airplanes near power lines; caution them not to climb trees that could have limbs growing into power lines.

Contact us for more tips on how you can step into spring safety and sensibly. A little caution will ensure that you safely enjoy fun in the sun.

Strawberry-Banana Salad

- 1 package (6 oz.) strawberry gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 packages (10 oz. each) frozen sweetened, sliced strawberries, partially thawed
- 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple (undrained)
- 1 cup mashed firm bananas (about 3 medium)
- ½ to ¾ cup chopped walnuts
- 2 cups (16 oz) sour cream
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

In a bowl, dissolve gelatin in water. Stir in strawberries, pineapple, bananas, and nuts. Pour half of the mixture into a 13" X 9" dish. Refrigerate for one hour or until set. Set aside the remaining gelatin mixture. Combine the sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Spread over the firm gelatin. Spoon remaining gelatin mixture over top. Chill overnight.

Yield: 12-15 servings.

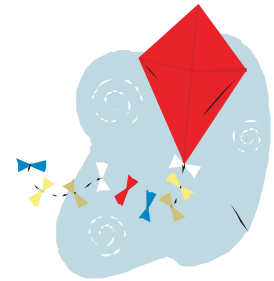
This recipe was submitted by Audrey Tuck of Pittsville. She says, "I love to cook and do a lot of cooking to give to the sick and to friends. This recipe is real good."



Fly Safely

Teach your children these simple rules to make their kite-flying days safer:

- Fly kites in open areas, away from power lines.
- If making a kite, do not use metal in your kite's construction or to weigh down the tail.
- Use dry string—never wire.
- If a kite snags on a power line, leave it there and call us.



- Never climb trees with electric lines passing through them to retrieve a snagged kite.
- Never fly a kite in wet or stormy weather.
- Always use good sense and good judgment when flying a kite.

Cool Down Your Energy Costs With an Air Conditioner Tune-Up

Tuning up your air-conditioning system is one spring-cleaning chore that can save lots of money. Here are some do-it-yourself tips:

- Change the filter monthly.
- Make sure ducts in a central air conditioning system are sealed and insulated.
- Vacuum air vents to remove dirt and dust buildup.
- Weather-seal around room air conditioners.

You may also want to call a professional heating and cooling contractor for a complete check-up to keep your air conditioner running as efficiently—and at the least cost—as possible.