



Electric Dispatch

November 2005 A newsletter to inform the customers of Roseville Electric



green Roseville

Get Ready. Get Set. Our New Green Energy Program Is Coming!

(Pssst...sign up early and get the first month free!)

Starting in 2006, Roseville Electric will be introducing an improved Green Energy Program, Green Roseville, to its residential and business customers. Details will soon be available on our Web site at www.RosevilleElectric.org. Sign up early on our Web site or by calling 79-POWER (797-6937) and receive the green energy portion of your first monthly bill free of charge.

It's easy, it's good for the environment—and the first month is free. Ready... Set... Go green!



Reliable Energy - Dependable Service

Excitement Builds for New **Utility Education Center**

The current "Utility and Resource Education Center" name may not sound exciting, but the new center promises to be full of ideas, innovations, and inspiration for our community. Groundbreaking took place in August 2005 and construction is now underway on what will be an education hub for the best new ideas in using natural resources wisely. When completed in late 2006, the center will give children and adults the chance to see the latest in building and landscape design and the newest technologies available for lowering our monthly utility costs and protecting our environment through wise use of natural resources.

A joint effort of Roseville Electric, Environmental Utilities and Parks, Recreation and Libraries, the center will be located within the same building as the new Mahany Library. To ensure the center provides useful value to our community, the city hired LORD Cultural Resources Planning & Management Inc., one of the world's foremost designers of museums, galleries, science and nature centers and exhibitions.

Naming the new center became a community challenge during the month of September when the City sponsored a contest to give the center a catchier identity. The winning name was not available at this printing, but will be posted on our Web site at www.RosevilleElectric.org when it is announced.

Individuals and businesses who want to help make the center a regional showpiece for resource-wise ideas can participate through our sponsorship program. To find out more about the types and levels of sponsorship available, contact Martin Bailey at 774-5617.

Free Trees and Tree Pruning Clinic!

Your final chance to attend a 2005 Shade Tree Program community meeting happens November 9, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at Adelante High School, 350 Atlantic Street. Those who attend get up to three high-quality shade trees at no charge and assistance on proper tree and site selection for maximum shade. Reservations are not required.

In addition to giving away free shade trees to Roseville residents and businesses, Roseville's Shade Tree Program offers winter tree pruning clinics. The first one takes place January 21 at Woodbridge School. Call the Shade Tree Calendar at 774-5647 extension 2 or email shadetree@roseville.ca.us for more information.



The Shade Tree Program community meeting happens November 9, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at Adelante High School, 350 Atlantic Street.



Heat Pump Efficiency: Pump it Up this Winter

Heat pumps are the most efficient way to electrically heat your home and if properly cared for, heat pumps can be cost competitive with furnaces that burn natural gas. A heat pump simply moves heat by pulling it from the outside air and pumping it into your home. That's the reverse of your air conditioning system, which pulls heat from inside your home and moves it outside.

Heat pumps operate best when outside air temperatures are 40° or warmer because there is more heat in the air to extract. Below 40°, heat pumps may require a supplemental system to generate enough heat, such as heat coils that warm the air. Because temperatures rarely dip into the 30s for long, Roseville provides a good climate for unassisted heat pump operation.

Getting the most out of your heat pump

In a U.S. Department of Energy fact sheet on heat pumps (available at

www.eere.energy.gov), a recent study by Energy Star™ shows the important steps that will help ensure your heat pump operates at maximum efficiency:

- Clean or change air filters every two to six months.
- Have your heat pump professionally serviced at the start of each cold season. Service should include measuring and verifying correct refrigerant levels and air flow; testing the duct system for leaks and obstructions; cleaning outside air coils, blower fan blades, and registers; checking and repairing electrical connections, motors and belts; applying lubricants to motors; and verifying proper thermostat operation. Every two to four years, service should include cleaning the condenser coils and condensate pan.
- Provide ample airflow. Ideal duct systems have a return register in each room. Since most homes have only one or two air return registers, make sure they are free of dirt and debris that can block air passage.

- Keep plant life and debris away from the outside unit.
- Use a programmable thermostat to prevent erratic operations. Heat pumps work less efficiently when turned on and off frequently.
- Winterize your home with weather stripping, caulking and insulation to keep cool air out and warm air in.

Repair or replace?

If your current heat pump is starting to show signs of wear or it is more than ten years old, consider replacing it with one of today's higher-efficiency models. Heat pump technology has come a long way in the past ten years, providing energy savings that can help cover the replacement cost by lowering monthly bills. Roseville Electric also offers generous rebate incentives to help offset the cost of a new high-efficiency system. For rebate information, see the residential rebate section of www.RosevilleElectric.org or call 774-5110.

The Ho-Ho-Holidays Are Here!

As he has for the past eight years, Santa Claus will be traveling through our neighborhoods this December, spreading good cheer and candy canes to children of all ages. Santa expressed delight that Roseville Electric and other City of Roseville employees have volunteered to help out during his nighttime parades. Though the elves wanted to come, they regretfully declined, so that they can meet unexpected production quotas resulting from "Santa Knows" reports projecting 2005 to be a banner year for numbers of good children. Pressure in the electronics manufacturing division due to slower-than-expected retraining of doll clothes tailors and wooden toy builders was also cited. After some shuffling of their pointy-toed slippers, the elves agreed to let city employees have a little fun being Santa's helpers.

Santa also agreed it would best if he allowed Roseville Electric's float to carry his sleigh through the neighborhoods. As happens so often during pre-holiday festivities, the reindeer have been prancing and dancing too much and are under strict orders to keep their feet on the tundra until the Big Night. Since Rudolph with his nose so bright will not be here to guide Santa's sleigh those nights, Roseville's Police and Fire Departments are stepping in with promises to deliver a light show that will make Rudolph proud. Rudolph's nose flashed so brightly when he heard the news, Santa had to replace it with a new compact fluorescent nose, which will quickly pay for itself in energy savings and lasts up to ten times longer than standard incandescent noses. Roseville's Neighborhood Santa generally visits during the first two weeks in December. To find out when he will be in your neighborhood, call the Community Bulletin Board at 774-5842 after Thanksgiving. The bulletin board will also have updates on any weather-related schedule changes. Information on routes and schedules will also be available on the city's Web site at www.roseville.ca.us.



Storm Safety Tips

Hurricane Katrina reminded us all to respect nature's fury and take proper precautions to protect our lives and property. Though our winter storms are mild in comparison to hurricanes, it is still important to follow these electrical safety tips:

Stay away from downed power lines. A line that has fallen may be dangerously charged with electricity. If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1.

Stay away from puddles or pools near a downed power line. Water becomes electrified when in contact with electricity.

If a power line falls on your car, stay inside the car and do not touch the door or handles. If you see someone in a car that a power line has fallen on—stay away and call 9-1-1.

If you see a tree branch touching a power line, call us at 79-POWER (797-6937); we'll come trim it for free.

Winter also means holiday decorations and lighting, which can pose threats to safety. To ensure your home is safe this season, take a few moments to review Roseville Electric's "Holiday Safety Tips" at www.RosevilleElectric.org.

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FIND US ON THE WEB: WWW.ROSEVILLEELECTRIC.ORG



Have a Question?

If you have an energy-related question or want to know about an energy-efficiency technology or product, let us know. You can reach us by emailing rosevilleelectric@roseville.ca.us or by calling 79-POWER (797-6937).