



TIDINGS in this issue

Winter Thermostat Advice

Tidings Tips: Holiday Safety

CARE With Your Participation

Beaches Energy Services applauds artists living and working in our unique community. In 2012, each issue of *Tidings* featured artwork chosen for its ability to depict "The Art of Conservation" and our quality of life here at the beaches. December's featured work is an acrylic painting on board entitled "Transportation Beaches Style" by local artist, Ellen Jones. To view more of her work, visit www.Joypeace3art.com. Read more about the entire Collection by visiting www.beachesenergy.com.



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Ride the Green Wave

Building relationships and partnerships with our customers

along with individual contributions made by residents and businesses, Beaches Energy Services remains committed to doing our part to assure the Beaches community continues to be an inviting, welcoming and environmentally friendly place to live now and for future generations. *Living daily with awareness and an appreciation of our unique environment is an art. We wish each and every one of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!*



Tidings Tips: Keeping Your Holidays Safe

The holiday season is busy and full of many distractions and departures from your routine. These tips should help you to stay alert to possible safety hazards and enjoy a safe and happy holiday this year.

- Avoid injuries by using proper step stools or ladders when installing decorations outside or on your tree.
- Most residential fires happen during the winter months. Never leave fireplaces, stoves or candles unattended.
- Keep a smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector in your home and test them once a month, replacing the batteries twice a year.
- Use only UL listed holiday lights, and carefully inspect them for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets or excessive kinking or wear before decorating with them.
- Don't link more than three light strands unless directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Periodically check the wires, as they should never be warm to the touch. Never leave unattended lights on.
- LED lights allow you to plug more lights together with little or no heat.
- Use only nonflammable decorations, and never block exits with tree or holiday decorative installations.
- Avoid using lit candles. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles which can look, smell and feel like real candles.



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	November	December
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$75.57	\$75.57
Power cost adjustment	\$44.84	\$44.84
Total	\$124.91	\$124.91

Thermostat Settings in Winter

Florida's mild temperatures rarely dip below freezing, but when they do, here are some tips to help your thermostat maintain indoor temperatures and keep energy bills lower.

- Thermostats should not be located near windows or kitchens. Do not put any heat source, such as lamps, near a thermostat.
- "Set it and forget it". We recommend 68 degrees during winter months. When raising the setting on a heat pump, remember only to change the setting in 2 degree increments to avoid engaging the heat strips.
- At bedtime, reduce your setting down by 2-3 degrees.
- When going out of town for the weekend or extended periods of time, lower the setting to 55 degrees during winter months.
- Lowering the setting from 68 to 65 degrees while you sleep reduces the run time of your heating unit up to 15 percent.

Beaches Energy Services CARE Program

Occasionally, elderly, disabled or low-income members of our community are simply unable to pay their utility bill because of a sudden or temporary financial crisis. The Beaches Energy Services CARE Program is designed to help until they can sort out their situations. The CARE Program depends on your assistance to make it work. We encourage our customers in Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley to donate a small amount each month to the CARE Program. It is easy to donate and be a friend. Simply complete a sign-up form available on our website to voluntarily contribute a monthly amount. Beaches Energy Services will match all contributions, doubling the impact of your generosity.

Conservation Minded Holiday Gift Ideas

Do the people on your holiday gift list have enough neckties, fruitcake and nutcrackers? Here are some gift ideas that keep conservation in mind and allow recipients to appreciate the thought as well.

- Crank it up! Dynamo/crank and solar powered radio, USB charger and flashlights are available from \$20 - \$60.
- LED flashlights and light strings add festive ambient lighting year round, and use only a fraction of the energy of standard lighting.
- Go reusable! Convert to using reusable shopping and tote bags, and refillable water bottles made of stainless steel or BPA free plastic.
- Shop locally from merchants in your community, especially by purchasing items made or grown locally, saving the fuel spent on shipping items long distances.
- Give a charitable gift in honor of someone instead of purchasing more things.

