



TIDINGS in this issue

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2013 BEACHES COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS: Introducing Mable Bass, a gifted and caring educator and long-time volunteer tutor at the Rhoda L. Martin Cultural Center after school program.

After teaching for over 34 years in our community, Mable truly believes that no child should ever be left behind. By encouraging every child to try harder, they experience success, building self-confidence and brighter futures.

Read more about our Beaches Community Champions at www.beachesenergy.com.



BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

Sharing Skills for Success With Youth In Our Beaches Community

Mable Bass taught gifted students and those needing help in math for over 34 years in the Jacksonville Beach public schools. She takes a special delight in helping students realize that hard work and persistence will help them succeed. After helping to begin the Rhoda L. Martin Cultural Heritage Center, Mrs. Bass began working with the Great Leaps reading and math programs in 2007 for area children. Students consistently improved by two grade levels after participating. The program director says Mrs. Bass never misses a day, and does anything asked of her, including playing Santa for the children during the holidays. Beaches Energy appreciates the patient efforts of Mable Bass, who helps ensure success for our community's youth.



Tidings Tips: Keep Cool In Your Kitchen!

As temperatures increase during the summer months, stay cool while working in the kitchen and save energy in your home at the same time with these tips:

- Prep all of your food at once before you turn on the heat and begin to cook. Your oven and stovetop will run for less time.
- Cover your pots so that you can turn down the burner and get the same cooking power.
- Avoid leaving refrigerator doors open for long periods.
- Turn off the heat drying cycle on your dishwasher and let the dishes air-dry at room temperature.
- Use your slow cooker whenever possible.
- Instead of using your oven, try a more efficient countertop toaster oven.
- Cook outside using your grill and enjoy the outdoors.

Use Cold Water to Save Energy

Water heating accounts for about 18% of your home energy bill, meaning that you can significantly reduce the cost of your energy bill monthly by substituting cold water. Use these tips to keep your electric bill low:

- Use cold water when using your garbage disposal.
- Select the cold wash cycle for your laundry. It helps the colors last longer and keeps fabrics stronger.
- Use cold water to rinse your dishes.
- Install low-flow showerheads on all showers and faucet aerators to help reduce your hot water use.



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	April	May
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

Preventing Outages and Interruptions

Lightning, wind, and heavy rain can be constant challenges to keeping the electricity on. Beaches Energy's conversion to underground power lines and the storm-hardening program helps us overcome these challenges. Our employees are dedicated to maintaining constant electric service you can rely on. Should you ever need to report an outage or trouble with your utility service, Beaches Energy Services provides a 24-hour emergency line at 904-247-6171.



Preparing a Family Disaster Plan: a Wise Choice

As hurricane season approaches, along with the strong thunderstorms of summer, it's important to discuss hazards that can affect your family, and to know your home's vulnerability when it comes to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Here are some steps to help prepare your family:

- Review your personal emergency plan with your family.
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In some circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home, but a shelter in your community. Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet your family.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so every family member has a single point of contact.
- Prepare a plan for what to do if you must evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Check your insurance coverage – flood damage is not usually covered by standard homeowner's insurance.
- Use a battery operated NOAA weather radio. Remember to change the batteries every year, at the beginning of summer.
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes if you get the chance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit. You can download a printable copy of recommendations for stocking your family's Disaster Supply Kit at beachesenergy.com/disaster-kit/.



Conservation Tip: When leaving your home for a vacation for more than a few days, shut off the circuit breaker to the water heater. This will reduce your water heating cost.