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Show Holiday Spirit With The CARE Program

Keep Your Home Safe This Holiday

Photo is from the collection of the Beaches Museum & History Park.



BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

Celebrating The Beaches' Legacy and Its Promising Future.

For more than a century, on the northern end of a barrier island along Florida's First Coast, our community has been valued by residents who understand how unique and special this environment is. Beaches Energy Services invites our customers to continue practicing conservation of energy and natural resources as we enjoy the holidays and approach the beginning of a new year.

Tidings Tips: Keep Saving Energy This Winter

- **Change your HVAC filters every month.** This helps units run more efficiently and keeps the air in your household cleaner.
- **Lower the temperature.** During the winter when you are home set your thermostat to 68° or lower. When you leave, lower your thermostat 2 to 3 degrees for savings. When adjusting the thermostat back up, remember: only 2-degree increments at a time to avoid engaging the costly electric heat strips.
- **Selecting products with the ENERGY STAR® label** can save you 5-25% in operating costs over time.
- **Use a padded draft stopper** to keep drafts from entering or heated air exiting under exterior doors. The U.S. Department of Energy says 11 percent of a home's heat loss is through doors and windows. (These make thoughtful gift items, too.)
- **Turn cooking surface units off a few minutes before food is done** on electric stovetops, since the burner is slow to cool and cooking continues.
- **Allow hot dishes to cool** before they're put into the refrigerator.



Show Your CARE During The Holidays!

At times, elderly, disabled or low-income members of our Beaches community are simply unable to pay their utility bill because of a sudden or temporary financial crisis. Beaches Energy Services' CARE Program is designed to help until they can sort out their situations. The CARE Program depends on your help to make it work. This holiday season, 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's easy to be a friend and donate by completing a simple sign-up form, which you can download from www.beachesenergy.com. Beaches Energy Services will match all contributions, doubling the impact of your generosity.



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	November	December
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$76.57	\$76.57
Power cost adjustment	\$42.84	\$42.84
Total	\$123.91	\$123.91

Keep Your Home Safe This Holiday Season

Consider safety at every step when preparing your home and family for happy gatherings. Here are some things to do when preparing your home to glitter and glow this holiday season:

- 1. Flameless is safest.** Avoid using candles by switching to battery-operated flameless candles. Many clever LED flickering flameless candles deliver the same ambience as candles, with no worries.
- 2. Tree position is important.** Place your indoor tree away from fireplaces, the traffic flow and doorways. Heaters cause cut trees to dry out, so keep the stand filled with water. Use only non-combustible or flame retardant materials to trim your tree.
- 3. Test your lights.** Always test electronic decorations and light strings. Only use those with UL labeling, and only use outside decorations intended for use outdoors! Discard and replace strings with frayed or damaged wiring or plugs. Energy-efficient LED light strings shine cooler and brighter than standard strings, and last for many years.
- 4. Don't overload.** It's best to use surge protectors when plugging in multiple light strands, but never plug more than three standard sized light sets per single extension cord. Never pull lights out by the wires, but always by the plug.
- 5. Turn everything off before bedtime.** Turn off all holiday lights of any kind – inside and out – before retiring at night.



Be Safe Around Natural Gas

Beaches Energy wants our customers to know how to recognize and report natural gas leaks. Be aware of the signs of a gas leak, such as the distinctive, rotten egg-like odor of natural gas. If you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air LEAVE immediately and then **Call 9-1-1! DO NOT** touch anything electrical before you leave and **DO NOT** use a phone. **DO NOT** smoke, turn appliances or lights on or off, or operate any vehicle or equipment that could create a spark. Beaches Energy Services is available 24-hours a day to respond to natural gas emergencies. To find out if natural gas service is available in your area, call us at **904-247-6241**.

Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig!

Excavation work, including digging in your own yard, is the most common cause of natural gas emergencies. Before excavation of any kind – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs – **state law requires that you call 811** so all utility lines can be professionally marked prior to digging. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. It's the law. For more information, visit www.callsunshine.com.

