

Rochelle News-Leader

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E-EDITION LAST UPDATED: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 12:25:47 PM

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Editorial



Find ways to lower utility bills this season

Posted: Friday, Sep 26th, 2008
 BY: Rep. Robert Pritchard

UTILITY companies are warning consumers that winter heating fuel and electricity could be 13 to 25 percent higher than last year, so it's not too early to start looking for ways to cut heating costs. Among the ideas to reduce utility usage and costs are:

Change furnace filters monthly, set back temperature settings especially when not at home, seal air leaks around doors and windows, disconnect unused electrical devices, consider a new high-efficiency furnace and install energy efficient light bulbs.

I have joined with the Citizens' Utility Board to distribute a limited supply of 60-watt energy efficient light bulbs. The bulbs are guaranteed to last nine years and save \$47 on energy costs. Limit one bulb per resident and bulbs will be distributed at my office (2600 DeKalb Ave, Sycamore), at the Rochelle City Clerk's office or Sandwich City Hall.

Seminar

improves driving, cuts costs

The DeKalb County Farm Bureau and I will sponsor our annual Defensive Driving Course on Sept. 24 and 25 at the Farm Bureau Building in Sycamore. Citizens 55 years or older are encouraged to attend the 8 hours of instruction from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day.

The program will be taught by safety expert Doug Sommer who covers defensive driving tips, provides video of driving situations and reviews driver license exam material. Those who complete the program will be eligible for a discount on their automobile insurance.

The \$25 fee for the Defensive Driving Course covers the cost of instruction materials and lunches. Space is limited so make reservations today by calling the DeKalb County Farm Bureau at 815-758-6361.

Illinois Natural History Survey turns 150

I remember walking past the Natural History Survey building at the University of Illinois during my college days and wondering what the occupants did.

Since 1858, the INHS has investigated the diversity, life histories and ecology of the plants and animals of the state, and made its information available to the public. With a staff of over 200 scientists and technicians, INHS is recognized as one of the premier natural history surveys in the nation.

You can visit some of the 9 million collections by internet at www.inhs.uiuc.edu and learn more about their 150th celebration.

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