



# The ERPUD Underground

*"Fuel for Thought"*

Winter 2003  
Published Quarterly

Elk River Public Utility District – "Your Hometown Natural Gas Provider Since 1955."  
217 South Jackson Street • Phone 931 455-9311 • Fax 931 455-3187 • www.erpud.com

## Seasons Greetings!

*From Your Friends and Neighbors at  
Elk River Public Utility District*

*Wishing You the Joy and Warmth of Family  
and Friends This Holiday Season.*

*Thank You For Making Us  
Your Energy Provider of Choice*

*We Look Forward to the Opportunity  
To Serve You Now and in the Future!*

*"Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1955"*

**Thank you for choosing Natural Gas!**

### **INSIDE.....**

**Winter home  
safety tips**

**Natural gas  
advantages**

**Natural Gas  
Prices**

**Energy  
conservation  
tips**

**Construction  
Updates**

**Winter Checklist  
for heaters**

**Recipe**



### **Maximize your Savings!**

If your current usage is residential and for heat only, you can qualify for our lower year-round rate by having a year-round appliance installed.

**Natural Gas Appliances =**

- \* **Greater Efficiency**
- \* **Cleaner Environment**
- \* **Dependability &**
- \* **Reduced Energy Costs**

### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE Participate in Project HELP**

You may add \$1.00 (or more) to your monthly bill to assist those in need of financial assistance with their energy bills. The Good Samaritan Program distributes your voluntary contributions to this project to people in our community. Won't you please consider this opportunity to help those who are less fortunate than others? Thank you so much for your consideration. Please call our office for details.

### **Please Come See Our Float!**

Our employees are in the holiday spirit in a big way. They have been working on a float this year to participate in the Tullahoma and Cowan Christmas parades.

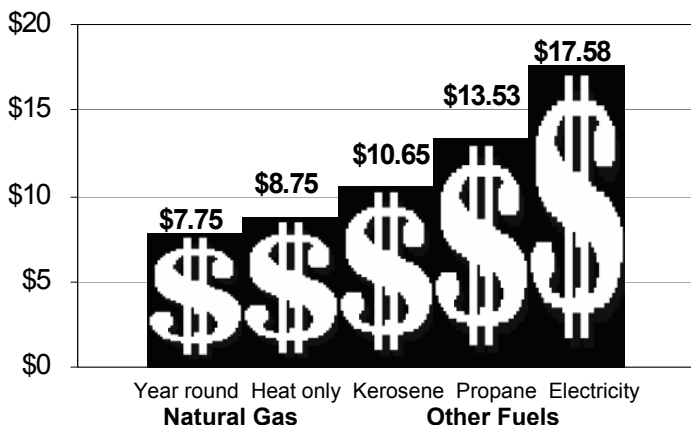
These events are always great fun for the entire family and we look forward to seeing you there!

# Winter Home Safety Tips

According to the National Fire Protection Association, December, January and February are the leading months for U.S. home fires and home fire deaths.

- ☑ Maintain a 36" clearance around all heating devices including fireplaces.
- ☑ Use only the fuel recommended for your heater.
- ☑ Never leave children or pets unsupervised around heaters or open flames.
- ☑ Never place clothes close to or on a heater to dry.
- ☑ Store gasoline and other flammable liquids away from open flame or heat in an approved container that is clearly marked as to its contents.
- ☑ Purchase heaters that have been listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- ☑ Follow manufacturer's instructions for installation, maintenance, ventilation and use.
- ☑ Do not attempt to heat your home with range burners, ovens, or outdoor grills.
- ☑ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly. Replace batteries as needed.

**Energy Cost Comparison per Million BTU**



## NATURAL GAS PRICES

Energy analysts predict increases across the board for all types of energy including electricity, propane, kerosene, and natural gas.

At ERPUD we work very hard to keep your natural gas rates as economical as possible. In fact, our base rates have not changed since October 1, 2000. The only change in our customer's cost has been the Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA). This is the portion of the rate which varies monthly based on the actual wellhead cost of gas. The wellhead prices for natural gas are determined by a variety of free market factors including weather, storage, supply, demand, etc.

Although we may experience a small increase in natural gas prices this year, we expect to maintain our considerable price advantage over competing energy sources.

## The Many Advantages of Natural Gas:

**Dependability** - No Power? No Problem!

**Comfort** – You Stay Warm & Cozy!

**Low Maintenance** - Durable Equipment!

**Economical** - Your best energy buy!

**Environmentally Friendly** - Clean burning!

**Domestically produced in the USA**

## Energy Conservation Tips

Make sure your home is weather tight, seal leaks around doors & windows

Set water heater temperature to 120°F

Check insulation levels in your home

Lower thermostat heat settings where able

Have equipment checked for proper operation

## Cool Temperatures Equal More Usage

An increase in gas usage is to be expected due to cooler fall weather. We all know, when temperatures fall, consumption goes up. Energy conservation helps us all. Don't forget to spend some time reviewing your energy consumption patterns and put energy savings ideas to work for you.

# C onstruction Activity

*Please pardon our progress.*

We are continuously expanding and improving our service area to accommodate the demand for natural gas energy. We install approximately 25-30 miles of main extensions and replacements annually.

## *Clean up*

After a new main or service is installed, you can rest assured that you'll see us again! Weather permitting, we will return within 4 to 6 weeks to perform clean up and restoration of any areas affected by the installation of natural gas lines. Should further settling occur, please feel free to notify us and we'll gladly return!



# Natural Gas Pipeline Projects

## Growing to serve you better! Coffee County

Riley Creek	In Progress
Fredonia Village	In Progress
Flowertown	In Progress

## Franklin County

Roarks Cove	In Progress
Hickory Hollow	in Progress
Wiggins Creek	In Progress

## Weather Effects

Wet fall weather may cause delays in installations and/or yard maintenance.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your patience.

## Winter Checklist for Heaters

If an ERPUD service technician has not checked your equipment for the heating season, make sure your heater is clean and free of dust debris.

If your heater or logs requires a vent system, check your vent or flue and make sure it is clear and not obstructed.

Make sure that combustible materials such as furniture, wood, clothing etc. are not too close to equipment.

Periodic preventive maintenance is the key to long life for your gas equipment.

If in doubt, call ERPUD for assistance.

# Kitchen Creations



## Sweet Potato Casserole

### Ingredients

2 cups sweet potatoes	1½ cups sugar
2 eggs	¾ stick butter
1 cup milk	½ tsp nutmeg
Dash of salt	1 tsp vanilla
½ tsp cinnamon	

### Topping

1 ½ cup crushed corn flakes
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup pecans
1 stick butter

Peel 2 large sweet potatoes. Slice and boil until tender. Add butter and whip with electric mixer. Let cool and add remaining ingredients. Pour into greased casserole and bake at 400 degrees F. for 20 min. Remove from oven and top with corn flake mixture.

Melt butter and combine with crushed corn flakes, pecans and brown sugar. Spread evenly over sweet potatoes and return to oven and bake an additional 15 minutes at 375 degrees F.

Do your home improvements include adding trees and shrubs to your landscape or installing a new fence or pool? If so, please remember to:



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**

**1-800-351-1111**

TENNESSEE ONE -CALL SYSTEM, INC.

**How are we doing?**

Customer satisfaction is our goal. Are you pleased with the service you receive from Elk River Public Utility District?

If you have suggestions for improving our service, we'd like to hear them. Please call, write, or email us with your ideas.

**Dates to Remember:**

Our offices will be on these holidays:

**December 23**

(From 7:30 – 9:00 am)

**December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**

All day

**January 1st**

All day

Please feel free to use our after hours depositories to make your payments.

**As always, our dispatchers are on duty 24 hrs a day to assist you in any natural gas emergency.**

**Billing Due Dates**

**If You Live In: Your Bill Due Date is:**

<b>Manchester / Hillsboro</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Winchester</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>Tullahoma (T-1 / West)</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Cowan / Estill Springs / Decherd</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Tullahoma (T-2 / East)</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Sewanee / University of the South</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>St. Andrews / Industrials</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Interruptible / Metered LP</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>

Please pay on time to avoid penalties and/or interruption of service. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:30. For your convenience, payments may also be made in the after hours depositories or by mail postmarked by the due date.

If payment is not received and no contact is made to our office, cut-offs will occur 3 days after the due date.

**Management**

Mack Hulvey  
*General Manager*

Mike Gundersen  
*Manager of Marketing*

Eddie Moffitt  
*Manager of Operations*

Stacey L. Duckworth  
*Comptroller*

**Commissioners**

John Greeter	Manchester
George Orr	Tullahoma
Cowan Simmons	Winchester

**Smell Gas?**

**Call 455-9311  
or 967-2110**

**Your Safety is  
our Priority**

**24-Hour Emergency Service**

Our trained technicians are available to assist you with natural gas leaks, disturbed or broken gas lines, equipment problems, carbon monoxide calls, and other potential natural gas emergencies that may arise.

**Peace of Mind  
Since 1955**

**24-Hour  
Emergency  
Service**

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*\* Natural Gas, America's Best Energy!*

