

For Members Only



Issue 162

The Oak Brook Club

February 2009

Is This My Electric Bill or My Share of the National Debt?

Recently the management office has been receiving numerous complaints from owners with regards to the high cost of their electric bills this winter. The pain appears to be spread evenly as these calls have come from residents in every Association.

There are a couple of things that need to be considered when looking at your most recent electrical bill:

- According to Tom Skilling, WGN weather forecaster, this has been the 10th coldest winter (through January 27th) in the 140 years of keeping records for weather in the Chicago area. And February isn't looking like any day at the beach.
- Earlier this year, Commonwealth Edison received a rate increase. Management is working with Jerry Wolin and the Citizens Utility Board to determine if the new rate structure is correct. We expect to report further on this increase in the March Newsletter when we have completed our investigation. It is important when reviewing your bills to separate usage from the dollar amount of the bill. Some residents who are on the budget payment plan with ComEd are finding additional billings to make up for underpayment during the year.



We can't change the weather and getting ComEd to back off a rate increase may be just as difficult. But there are some common sense things that you can do to reduce usage and therefore reduce future electrical bills during this unusually cold winter. These include:

- Have your furnace serviced to be sure that is clean and operating efficiently. Dirty filters and broken thermostats may result in inefficient operation of the furnace.
- Check to be sure that your fireplace damper is in the fully closed position and seated properly. There have been a number of instances where the maintenance staff has found fireplace dampers ajar or in some cases wide open. This of course will allow cold air to infiltrate into the room, creating the need for more heat and higher electrical bills.
- Check for drafts around doors and windows to be sure that they are sealed tight. Add weather-strip around window and doors to eliminate cold air infiltration.
- Energy experts agree that using a programmable thermostat is a great way to reduce energy consumption. A programmable thermostat allows for lower room temperatures at night when everyone is sleeping, or during the day when everyone is off to work or gone for the day.
- Do not use the fireplace to help heat up the unit. Fireplaces are considered energy losers as they use your warm heated air for combustion and send it up the chimney.

If you are experiencing extremely high electrical bills, and feel you have taken all the necessary precautions listed above, please contact the Oak Brook Club management office. We will be happy to work with you to see if we can diagnose any other problems.

MOVIE NIGHT

Announcing the first movie night of the year:
FEBRUARY 4, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Clubhouse Lower Level

Bring your own refreshments & beverage

Please call Bev Lenell by **February 3** at (630) 279-7123 if you plan to attend.

Save the Date!!

Future movie nights
to come on the
first Wednesday
night of the month.



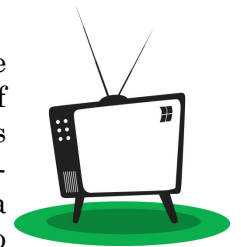
Television Digital Conversion: Are You Ready? Yes You Are!

This article is basically a recap of an article which ran back in 2008. Its purpose is to remind you that because you receive cable programming services, there is no need for you to purchase a DTV converter box or a new high definition television set (HDTV). Comcast cable will continue to breakdown the digital signal sent by the broadcast companies to an analog signal, which will allow your analog television sets to receive the signal.

Therefore, there is no need to rush out and buy a new HDTV, unless you want to watch the Super Bowl game in glorious high definition. And if you do, you have a few neighbors who would like to be invited to your Super Bowl party. You can insist that they bring the snacks.

Seriously though, there is no need for you to purchase a new high definition television or a converter box before February 17th. Comcast will continue to provide an analog signal for suburban residential customers in DuPage County. Bottom line, all of your analog TVs will continue to work just fine after February 17th.

Some residents have asked: If they purchase a high definition television, will they be able to receive the high-definition television broadcast? The short answer is: only if you rent a digital converter box from Comcast. The long answer is: some television sets with special receivers may be able to tune in local (channels 2, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 32) high-definition programming in the channel range of 187 through 192. However, there are a limited number of television sets sold with this capability. So if you want to enter into the high-definition era, you need to first purchase a high-definition television set and then rent a high-definition box from Comcast.



However, if you are still utilizing analog television sets, relax and continue to enjoy. Just a final note, if you decide to move ahead and purchase a high-definition set for the Super Bowl, please give me a call. I have no plans at this point.

REMEMBER

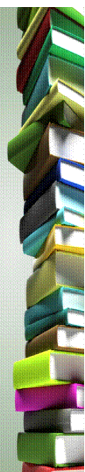
All residents need to have a land line for security system use and lobby door access.

Phone lines through an internet provider like Comcast will not allow your phone line to perform the necessary functions mentioned above.

What You Need to Know about Phones

- The National Do Not Call Registry allows you to limit the telemarketing calls you receive. To register your phone number online, visit www.donotcall.gov. By phone, call 1-888-382-1222. Note: you can only register the number you are calling from.
- Instead of using 411 as a directory service, which can cost up to \$2 a call, try these free directory assistance services: **1-800-YellowPages** (residential) and **1-800-goog411** or **1-800-555-Tell** (business directory).
- AT&T's basic Voice Mail service may be more expensive than you think. In addition to \$10/month charges, you pay a phone-call charge for every message left in your voice mail box and every call to retrieve your messages. What's the alternative? Use an answering machine or cell phone to take your messages.
- If you pay for a \$6.99/month Linebacker charge, do you know what you are getting for your money? Linebacker is an expensive, completely OPTIONAL insurance plan for the phone wires inside your home. Very few ever use this service, as problems with your inside phone wires are extremely rare - occurring on average only once about every 20-30 years. Dropping this service can save \$84 a year.

(Information courtesy of Citizens Utility Board)



Have you seen the updated library in the Clubhouse?

All the books are now organized alphabetically and easy to find!

A special thanks for this service to Lucille Raimonde, Marie Beckmann, Josephine Gregorio, Cathy Dahlstrand, Sue Rossi, and Barbara Latini

Orientation to Exercise Equipment

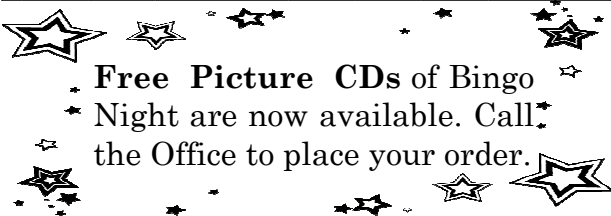
The Ultorian Women’s Club is sponsoring a **FREE** orientation to our new exercise equipment. All residents are welcome to come on one of two dates:

Tuesday, February 17th at 2:00 pm

OR

Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 pm.

The class will be taught by Ms. Michelle Schumacher, who will focus on appropriate use of the equipment as well as principles of safe exercise. Each class will be approximately 1 hour and will be held in the Clubhouse Exercise Room. Class sizes are limited to 12 people in each class, so make your reservation now! Call Bridget Dowling for reservations at (630)530-5306.



Free Picture CDs of Bingo Night are now available. Call the Office to place your order.

BINGO BASH

What a Blast! Seventy-four of us had a wonderful time at this year’s Pizza/Bingo party sponsored by the Ultorian Women’s Club on Friday evening, January 23rd.

We started off the evening with a delicious supper that included a choice of four different kinds of pizza and three salads from Aurelios. Dessert consisted of brownie bites and gourmet cookies.

As for the bingo, I didn’t win any prizes but many of us did – including two people who won two prizes each– the McEneaneys and Pat D’Allesandro. (Please, may I request those same cards for next year’s party?) Not only were there monetary awards given out, but the Antonios, Proyces, and Wolins gave personal donations as well. All of these donations were greatly appreciated.

A number of people deserve to be recognized for their contributions in making this night a huge success. To our resident callers - Jeff Kennedy, Norm Silverstein, and Jerry Wolin, who are always a huge hit – thank you! I’m certain that you appreciated the new Bingo Machine from the Ultorian Women’s Club. At least you could see the numbers on the balls more clearly this year and didn’t have to struggle with a screw driver and twisty ties to keep the machine functioning! And to our three bartenders, Bob Antonio, Fred Balluff, and Tom Sittner – great job, well done.

A big thank you as well to Cathy Dahlstrand for creating the clever balloon centerpieces, and to Susan Collins for making the cute name tags.

Last, but not least, kudos to co-chairs Fran Balluff, Cathy Dahlstrand, and Betsy Schumacher, as well as Jane Gagnon, Program Chairman. They were assisted by lots of men and women who made set-up and clean-up so much easier. (You all know who you are – thanks!!!)

Our appreciation to all of you – guests and helpers – who made this year’s Bingo Party so special.

**ULTORIAN WOMEN’S CLUB
ADVANCED NOTICES**

ITALIAN NIGHT



Featuring **DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT** by

PETER OPRISKO

(Chicago’s own Frank Sinatra)

All Oak Brook Club Residents are Invited

FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 20, 2009
Details to follow.

**FOR ULTORIAN WOMEN’S CLUB
MEMBERS ONLY**

BREAKFAST

followed by

BARBARA RINELLA



presenting one of her **World-Famous Book Reviews**

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 23, 2009**

Please note the new date!!

Watch for more information.

The Ultorian Women's Club

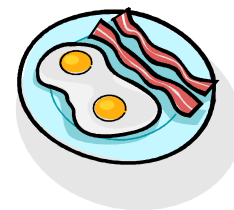
We are anticipating a banner year!

February – No Event

March 20th, 2009 – Friday Evening – Italian Night

April 23rd, 2009 – Thursday Morning Breakfast –
Barbara Rinella and a Book Review

May 20th, 2009 – Wednesday Afternoon – Annual Meeting



Mark these dates on your calendar and watch for more information to come!

Happy 200th Birthday Lincoln!!

In the words of William Lee Miller: "It is curious truth – is it not? – that an unschooled 19th Century American politician named Abraham Lincoln, from the raw frontier villages of Illinois and Indiana, has turned out to be among the most revered of the human beings who have ever walked this earth. Curious – and perhaps a little moving, if you think about it. Except for religious figures, he has had few superiors on the short list of the most admired, and the even shorter list of the most loved, of humankind."

PARKING SPACES FOR RENT

A resident in Club 5 has 1 parking space available for rent.

If interested, please call (630)789-8460.

Another resident in Club 5 has 1 parking space available for rent.

If interested, please call (630)782-1949.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

**The Oak Brook Club
Oak Brook Club Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523**



The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart. Helen Keller

