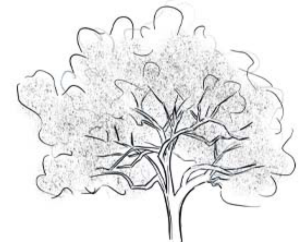




Gardens of Oak Hollow

A SMALL COMMUNITY WITH A BIG HEART

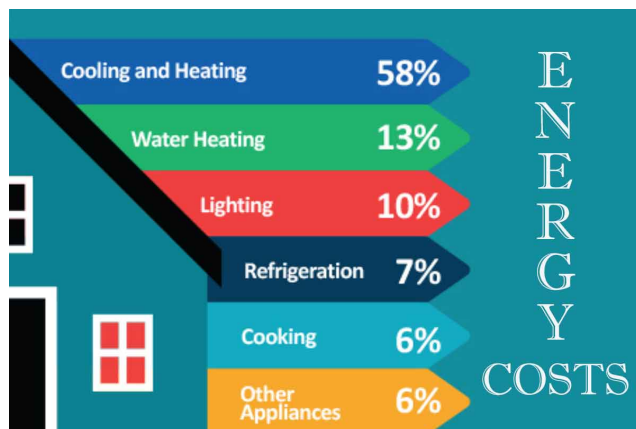
Neighborly News



Number 064

27 June 2023

Energy Saving Tips



Boy, the summer of 2023 is already shaping up to be HOT!!

Now seems like a good time to review a few energy saving tips. So here are just a few hints from the CPS Energy website.

Air Conditioning

- Use fans. They make a room feel 4° to 6° cooler.
- Run your ceiling fan blades in a counter-clockwise direction (looking up at fan.)
- Close blinds or drapes on windows that get direct sunlight. Shade your outside AC units or condensers.
- Set your air conditioning to be 5° warmer when you're gone for more than 4 hours.
- Avoid setting thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you return. It will not cool your home down any faster and it wastes energy.

- Keep your thermostat within a 20-degree margin of the outside temperature. If the difference between the outside temperature and your thermostat setting is more than 20 degrees then your air conditioner will run non-stop!
- Limit use of vent fans above your stove and bathroom because they pull in hot outside air, making your AC work harder.
- Have your system inspected by a licensed and bonded professional at least twice a year, spring and fall.

Water Heating

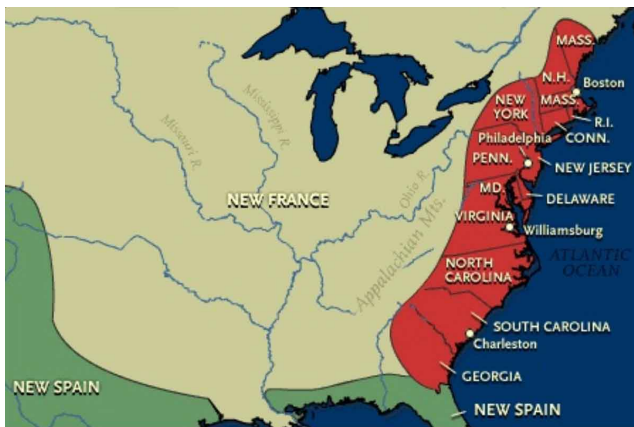
- Take short showers or shallow baths.
- Use cold water as much as possible when using a dishwasher or washing machine.
- Buy a high-efficiency washing machine when you need a new washer.
- Recommended water heater setting for our area is 120 degrees. Also check the unit for possible leaks.
- Wrap an old water heater with an insulation jacket to decrease its heat loss. Insulating the water pipes also can help.
- Don't leave hot water running when shaving or rinsing dishes. This reduces the amount of energy to heat the water.
- Wait to wash dishes and clothes until you have a full load.

Lighting

- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.

- Using a small light when reading is more efficient than brightly lighting an entire room.
- Keep your light bulbs clean & free from dust.
- CFLs and LEDs are great for use in outdoor lighting fixtures that are sometimes left on for a long time and may be exposed to weather.

Fight For Independence



Next week, we celebrate Independence Day. This is a great time to reflect on how and why the Colonies fought for their independence from England.

The Revolutionary war (1775-1783) was not a sudden decision by the American colonies, but actually started after more than a decade of events.

French and Indian War (1754-1763)

First, the war was not mainly between the French and the Indians. The war was between France and England for the control of settling North America. The British had established many colonies along the east coast. The French had controlled the territory around the Great Lakes, up the Mississippi River, and further inland from the coast.

The French and the British made allies with different Indian tribes. Many French soldiers, British soldiers, and Native Americans died for who would control this land. England won that war. The war was very costly in money, resources, and man power. Since the war was fought for the people in the colonies, England had tried to pass a lot of the cost of the war to the people living in the colonies by raising taxes.

Extreme tensions between the colonies and Britain that developed shortly after the French and Indian War in 1763.

Seven Events

After the French and Indian War, these seven events are recognized as the main causes to the American Revolution:

1. Stamp Act (March 1765): To pay for the massive debt after the French war, Britain implanted broad reaching taxes on the colonies. This act was to repay Britain for protecting the colonists from the Indians.

2. Townshend Acts (June-July 1767): Taxes on goods imported from Britain. Colonies boycotted British goods and began harassing British Customs Commissioners. The Crowne sent troops to stop the resistance.

3. Boston Massacre (March (1770): Over 200 colonists surrounded seven British troops. The troops fired into the crowd killing three and wounding two others. This action was used as a propaganda campaign for the colonists.

4. Boston Tea Party (December 1773): Even though the Crowne withdrew its forces and repealed most of the Townshend Acts, they did retain taxes on tea and enacted the Tea Act, in an attempt to prop up an unstable British East India Company, giving them favorable treatment under tax

regulations. The colonists were upset and a radical group called Sons of Liberty, dressed as Mohawk Indians, boarded three British ships, and dumped over 90,000 pounds of tea into the harbor. The Crown was furious as many East India Company shareholders lost great wealth.

5. Coercive Acts (March-June 1774):

The laws passed in response to the destruction of the tea by the rebels. The laws closed the Boston Harbor until the colonists paid for their damages, replaced the colony's elected council, and provided broad power to the British military governor, General Thomas Gage. All town meetings were forbidden. The most objectionable law, called the Quartering Act, allowed British military to demand accommodations in unoccupied buildings requiring the colonists to pay for the troops' expenses and feeding. This provision became one of the major grievances cited in the Declaration of Independence.

6. Lexington and Concord (April 1775): A British General, Thomas Gage, led British soldiers to Lexington with plans to capture Sam Adams and John Hancock, who were labeled radical colonial leaders, then proceed to Concord to seize all gunpowder. The Colonists spies learned of the plans. Paul Revere, and others, spread the word of the British plans. Seventy seven colonist militiamen confronted the British soldiers. Even with seven colonists killed, they stopped the British at Concord forcing troops to retreat to Boston. The British lost 73 soldiers with another 174 wounded. 26 were missing in action. This is recognized as the official the start of the Revolutionary War.

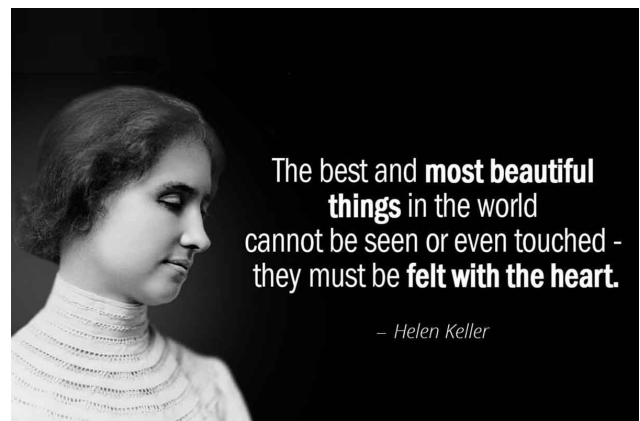
7. British Attacks on Coastal Towns

(October 1775-January 1776): Although the war started at Concord, it was not certain

the southern colonies would fight with the northern colonies. The southerners were dependent upon the English to purchase their goods. The British bombarded and burnt coastal towns which unified the colonies. The burning of Falmouth, Massachusetts shocked General George Washington, who denounce the barbarity. The burning of Norfolk enraged the southern colonies. The burning of these two towns by British troops, unified the colonies to fight for their independence.

(source) Thanks to the San Antonio Sons of the American Revolution Chapter 4 for this article.

Helen Keller Day



Today is a day that celebrates the life and achievements of Helen Keller, a woman who overcame blindness and deafness and became famous in the process.

Miracle Worker Movie

I first learned of Helen Keller with "The Miracle Worker" movie in 1962. Anne Sullivan was called a miracle worker for helping teach Helen, her pupil, how to read and write when no one thought she would learn. So, I have the tendency to view Helen Keller only as the young girl struggling to define her life with severe disabilities.

Education

Helen Keller met famous author Mark Twain at fourteen and they remained friends until he died 16 years later.

Keller would go on to become an author. In 1902, her book, "The Story of my Life" was published and loved by many who took her story to heart. She graduated from Radcliffe College and graduated with honors in 1904, making her the first blind and deaf woman to graduate from college. People were inspired by her resounding spirit to surpass the expectations placed on her because of her disabilities, and it led to advances in public services of the handicapped.

Advocacy

Helen Keller was a fundraiser for the American Foundation for the Blind and an advocate for racial and sexual equality. Sullivan and Keller became a lifelong duo and from 1920 to 1924, they formed a

vaudeville act to entertain, raise money, and educate the public.



In 1936, Keller received the Theodore Roosevelt Distinguished Service Medal. Helen Keller was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

June 1, 1968, Keller died in Easton, Connecticut, at age 87, but her legacy of civil service and a resilient spirit is everlasting. Helen Keller is listed in Time Magazine's 100 most important figures of the 20th century.