

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC NAMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER

The Mountain Parks Electric Board of Directors selected Mark Johnston as its new general manager. Johnston, formerly Municipal Light & Power's (ML&P's) general manager in Anchorage, Alaska, succeeded Tom Sifers on April 22.

"Mark's background and proven leadership will be an immediate asset to Mountain Parks Electric and its consumer-members," said Jeff Hauck, president of MPE's board of directors. "It's no secret that the electric industry is currently in a state of transition. Generation is becoming more renewable. Electric vehicles are becoming more commonplace. And consumer interface with the electric grid is increasing. You don't have to look somewhere else to see that. It's happening right here. We believe that Mark is the right person to lead us forward as the industry continues to evolve."

Johnston comes to MPE with 24 years of experience in senior finance positions. He was appointed as the ML&P general manager in August of 2015 after working there two years as chief financial officer. ML&P provides electric service to more

than 30,000 customers in Anchorage, Alaska's most populous city.

Prior to his employment at ML&P, Johnston worked as a senior vice president of insurance operations for Alaska USA Insurance Brokers, as a consultant for rate filings and company valuations, and as the vice president of central operations for the Alaska Public Utilities Commission. He also served on the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education and worked for the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He earned his bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Nevada.

"I appreciate the board's confidence in selecting me as the new general manager. It's truly an honor. I look forward to working with the fine people of Mountain Parks Electric and its members in the days ahead."

— Mark Johnston



MARK JOHNSTON

Johnston will become only the seventh general manager in MPE's 73-year history. He succeeds Tom Sifers, who was appointed general manager in 2015 after working 18 years as MPE's chief financial officer and 21 years at an electric cooperative in Missouri.

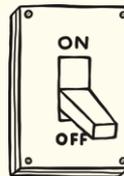
"It is not easy for me to say goodbye," said Sifers, though he looks forward to spending more time with family in retirement. "The thing I enjoyed most about working for Mountain Parks Electric all these years is its community support — everything from cancer fundraisers, to college scholarships, to developing local renewable energy projects, to supporting local chambers of commerce, to returning millions of dollars of profits to our consumer-members, to supporting school athletic and drivers ed programs, county fairs and 4-H programs and on and on. It's rewarding to have been just a small part of an organization that gives so much back to the community."

PET OF THE MONTH



LOUIS

French bulldog, owned by Kimberly Smith



WAYS TO SAVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN BILLING SUPERVISOR

SUMMER TURN OFFS

Energy-saving tips

To help save on your electric bill this summer, remember to turn off these things when frozen water pipes are no longer a concern:

- Heat tape on your roof or pipes
- Water tank heaters for livestock
- Electric space heaters *John Ashcroft, ACCT 20070045*



LED Lighting Retrofit Rebate

MPE Power Use Advisor Chris Michalowski presents a \$2,598 LED lighting retrofit rebate check to Lt. Jed Henry of the East Grand County Fire Protection District 4. MPE's energy efficiency rebates are made possible by its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission. More rebate information can be found at mpei.com/content/energy-efficiency-rebates.



Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.

Want More Ways to Save on Your Electric Bill?

BY CHRIS MICHALOWSKI, POWER USE ADVISOR

What's the first thing you think of when you hear the words "energy storage?" Is it Elon Musk and his Tesla Powerwall or a cutting-edge electric vehicle to grid program? Not me. Believe it or not, I think of water heaters. Did you know that, if you have an electric water heater, you currently own one of the most affordable energy storage solutions on the market today? Tank-style electric water heaters can be programmed to act like a battery: You can store energy as hot water when electricity prices are low and use that hot water later when electricity prices are higher. This is significant, since water heating is the second largest energy-consuming activity in most homes, second only to heating and air-conditioning. *Sharon Silva, ACCT 20031012*

Most industry experts say that energy storage will play an increasing role as the utility grid evolves. I agree. That's why MPE is now looking for consumer-members with electric water heaters who want to participate in a cutting-edge pilot project.

MPE's smart water heater pilot project will use a Wi-Fi-enabled device similar to a Nest thermostat. Once installed, the device "grid-enables" your water heater and saves you money by heating your water more efficiently. MPE will also benefit from this technology in two important ways: by using a higher percentage of renewable energy to heat



Electric tank-style water heaters and Wi-Fi could qualify you for a MPE pilot program aimed at higher efficiency.

INTERESTED?

MPE is looking for 20 homes within its service area that have electric tank-style water heaters and available Wi-Fi. MPE will provide the pilot Aquanta devices for free in exchange for occasional control during typical peak hours (5:30-10 p.m., Monday-Saturday). MPE's goal is to implement this control so that you don't even know it's happening and are not inconvenienced. MPE will analyze the results for a year and obtain participants' feedback about their experience. If interested, email Chris at cmichalowski@mpei.com or call 970-887-7027 for more details.

your water (outside of evening hours) and by heating your water more during times when electricity is less expensive (again, outside of evening hours).

The water heater device that MPE is piloting is called Aquanta. In addition to making your water heater more energy efficient, it also provides some key ancillary features. For instance, by using your smartphone, you can see how much hot water is available in the tank at any given time — a feature that can help you avoid taking unexpected cold showers. There is also a sensor that will automatically send you a text message alert if your water heater starts leaking. Additionally, from your smartphone, you can keep track of exactly how much energy is being used to heat water at any given time.

Hey! Let's Be Careful Out There

MPE offers tips for electrical safety

BY ROB TAYLOR,
MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

The late actor Michael Conrad made a lasting impression on scores of baby boomers and gen Xers. Chances are if you're in your mid-40s or older, you remember him. He appeared in more than 70 television shows and movies from the 1950s to the 1980s, among them "Planet of the Apes," "The Rockford Files" and "Starsky and Hutch." Conrad is probably most beloved for his weekly portrayal of Sgt. Phil Esterhaus on the serial police drama "Hill Street Blues." At the beginning of each episode, Esterhaus gave the daily briefing at the precinct to a room full of officers whose focus often wandered. He did not tolerate their inattention. Though jovial by nature, in a blink, the sarge's demeanor would turn militant when the officers weren't listening.

That's because nothing in his briefing was irrelevant.

He always adjourned the officers with a "Hey!" (sometimes loud enough to jolt you). Then, after pausing and using the silence to its full advantage, he ended with, "Let's be careful out there."

If you missed this segment at the show's beginning — the daily Esterhaus admonition — you missed something special. The officers needed this reminder before hitting the streets. But, surprisingly, the more you watched, the more you realized that so did you. Nearly 40 years later, "Let's be careful

out there," from that sometimes gruff, sometimes vulnerable baritone voice, is the only line from the show that most people recall and genuinely miss.



SAFETY TIPS

DO call an electrician if you have flickering lights. This could be due to loose wiring, which is a potential fire risk.

DON'T remove the third prong from an electric cord to fit it into a two-prong receptacle. The third prong exists to reduce the likelihood of you receiving an electric shock.

DO screw lightbulbs into fixtures or lamps tightly. Loose bulbs can cause shorts or sparks.

DON'T use space heaters in bathrooms. To stay safe, it's always best to keep electric appliances away from water.

DON'T use an electric lawnmower unless the grass is completely dry.

DO make sure that your electric breaker panel fuses are tight. Loose fuses can overheat, creating a potential fire hazard.

DON'T run extension cords under carpets. Covering a cord will not help it stay cool and it could create a fire hazard or a trip hazard.

DO, when replacing fuses in your electric breaker panel, turn off all appliances connected to that circuit.

Conrad's words weren't magic, and yet they were. They bore the same affection marking a father's tone when scolding his kid for not buckling up before driving. We all need that voice in our lives. And every week, during his briefing, Conrad filled that role.

He won two Emmys for his role as Sgt. Phil Esterhaus, the last one only two months before his death. It's difficult to imagine that his signature line wasn't a contributing factor for those Emmy wins. *Louis Arnold, ACCT 20010900*

Esterhaus would have made a fine electric safety coordinator. His message wouldn't even need tweaking. These days, we all pretty much know the benefits of electricity. But it's easy to act like one of those easily distracted Hill Street officers as we go about our daily routines and, just for a second, potentially overlook something vital, even though we know better.

At MPE, we don't want you to forget. So, in honor of the late Michael Conrad and National Electric Safety Month, read through these around-the-house electric safety tips — some of which you may not have considered, at least not in a while. And please, everyone, as the old sarge would still tell you himself if he could: Hey! Let's be careful out there.



Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

NAME: Halley, server

RESTAURANT: **ELEVATION PIZZA**
551 Zerex St., Fraser
970-726-0066
elevationpizzaco.com

HOURS: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday

SPECIALTY: Pizza, pepperoni rolls and calzones

COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS

When proofing pizza dough, be patient. Yeast needs time to fully proof. At elevation, we cold proof our pizza 24 hours in the fridge, then let it come up to room temp before cooking. This ensures that the crust doesn't bubble, is crispy (not doughy) and has excellent flavor.

GET ELEVATION PIZZA'S PEPPERONI ROLLS RECIPE AT: www.mpei.com/ccl_bonus_features



UP TO \$250 WATER HEATER REBATE*

- for switching from gas or propane to electric
- for new construction

*Offer available only to Mountain Parks Electric members installing a 30–55-gallon electric tank-style water heater.

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Contact MPE for more details. (970) 887-3378 | MPEI.COM