

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER



Albert Einstein is widely credited with saying, “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results.” This quote reminds me of the movie “Groundhog Day.” I will admit to having watched this movie multiple times, and I learned an important life lesson from it. The main character, played by Bill Murray, wastes the time he is given, and as a consequence is forced to relive the same day repeatedly. As the movie progresses, he begins to understand that time is a gift and, if used wisely, can positively impact the world.

Interestingly, when it comes to our energy usage, many of us are like the before version of Bill Murray’s character. We want to save money and reduce our usage, but, in many cases, we continue doing the same things expecting a different result. Here are some ideas to help you break that pattern:

SmartHub

Mountain Parks Electric now provides a tool that can help you better understand how and when you use electricity: SmartHub (<https://mpei.smarthub.coop/Login.html>). SmartHub puts this power (no pun intended) in the palm of your hand. The app provides your hourly and daily usage information and allows you to pay your electric bill from your phone. By monitoring your usage, you can make energy improvements and see the change in your electric consumption.



MARK JOHNSTON

Phantom energy

One thing that many people are unaware of is “phantom energy.”

Also called phantom load or idle current, phantom energy is used by appliances and electronics when they are turned off but still plugged in. The average home has 40 electric loads that constantly draw power, such as a television, toaster or coffeemaker. These sleeping devices may account for as much as 10% of household energy use. Ten percent! You can simply unplug these devices and start saving.

Upgrade your thermostat

You can make more simple changes, like installing a programmable or smart thermostat. According to Energy Star, about 45% of a home’s energy is utilized for heating and cooling. Unfortunately, a large portion of that goes to heating or cooling unoccupied spaces. Studies suggest that for every degree you turn your thermostat down, you will use 1% less energy. The savings increase as the difference between inside and outside temperatures increases.

MPE rebates

MPE offers a number of rebates. These rebates can help you install more energy-efficient appliances, water heating, lighting or a heat pump. Here’s a list of our 2020 rebates:

- Energy Star appliance rebates (\$30 – \$90)
- Electric outdoor power equipment (up to \$100)
- Electric water heater replacement (\$50 – \$70)
- Electric water heaters, fuel switching (up to \$250)
- Heat pumps, air- and groundsource (\$250 – \$450 per ton)
- Commercial and residential LED lighting rebates

To qualify for 2020 energy efficiency rebates, you must be an MPE member and submit receipts within four months of purchase. For more information, call us or visit www.mpei.com.

So stop the insanity and let MPE help you plug-in to energy savings (yes pun intended).

WAYS TO SAVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN BILLING SUPERVISOR

Helpful Energy-Saving Resources

Looking for more ways to save on your electric bill? Here's a list of our favorite online resources:

- **Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Program**
www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/leap
- **U.S. Department of Energy**
www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver
- **Touchstone Energy**
www.touchstoneenergy.com/energy-solutions



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.

PET OF THE MONTH



NUTMEG

Hello, my name is Nutmeg!

I am a 1-year-old molted red heeler. I love going camping and fishing along the Colorado River, long walks and playing Frisbee, and I'm a huge cuddler. I love MPE's drive-up window in Granby. The customer service reps there always tell me what a good pup I am and spoil me with treats.

Owner: Sara McGinley

Email your pet photos and pet bio to rtaylor@mpei.com

Chris Risner, ACCT 1020331



Chef Hari Karki

Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

RESTAURANT:

CIAO MONTE FOOD & WINE

Cooper Creek Square, Winter Park

970-363-7366

ciaomonte.com | ciaomontewp@zmail.com

HOURS:

12 – 9 p.m. | 7 days per week

SPECIALTY:

Italian-American food

COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS

Garlic and extra virgin olive oil are key ingredients when cooking Italian cuisine. Saute thinly sliced (not chopped) garlic in EVOO until fragrant and lightly gold. Always add other ingredients afterward.

Linda Dewey:

Chasing Her Colorado Dream

BY ROB TAYLOR

MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

◀ Linda Dewey shapes an original piece of pottery in the back of her store in Granby.

There's a certain grace about Linda Dewey's work. After firing up the potter's wheel in her Granby store, she throws down a lump of glistening clay, cups her hands and leans in. Working her fingers and palms in rhythm, she transforms the spinning mass into a mug, bowl, plate or decorative landscape. On a good day, this takes an hour. Depending on the piece, she might stamp an aspen leaf — one from her own backyard — right into the clay. She sometimes allows herself a moment of silent admiration.

And then the work really begins.

Next, Dewey will "bisque" the pottery in the kiln, wait for the pieces to cool, glaze them in earth tones and colors of her own mixing, re-fire them, cool everything a second time, then, finally, sand the edges. When finished, she arranges her pottery (and a few works of blown glass) on the tables and shelves at Lonesome Stone Pottery. Start to finish, it's a two-week process.

Patrons are unaware of Dewey's exercise in patience, but her craftsmanship is not lost on them. Especially when the morning sunlight spills through her store windows. That's when the glazes dance.

"What's that color?" patrons suddenly want to know. "Did you mix it yourself? How long did it take you? Where do you Mark Young, ACCT 500095006

get your clay?" Dewey replies. "Pottery has a way of inspiring people," she says, nodding. "It is meant to be shared."

Clearly, Dewey loves sharing her Colorado dream.

From trinkets to fibers to crockery

That dream has evolved over two decades. At first, it was simply to move to Colorado. That wasn't difficult. Leaving Indiana in 1995, she and her husband, Marv, relocated to the Front Range, where she found employment as a registered nurse. But it didn't take long for the allure of the mountains to prevail. She soon moved further west, this time to Grand County. After owning and operating the Lonesome Stone Gift Store in Fraser for a few years, she (and

her husband) bought a few acres in Granby. Then life changed again. Shortly thereafter, she was raising alpacas and manufacturing wool.

"I loved those animals," she says, "and loved working the yarn business, but I always wanted to do something creative." After taking a pottery class through the Fraser Valley Recreation Center, she got serious about it. But the only place she had to put her pottery was where she kept alpaca yarn — in her Granby store. And so she sold the herd to a rancher in Steamboat Springs in 2015 and committed to pottery full time.

What's in a name?

When Dewey purchased the Fraser gift shop, she had no idea that the store's name



▶ Linda and Marv Dewey pose in front of one of Lonesome Stone Pottery's many displays.

would travel so well. When she went into yarn manufacturing, she dubbed her new business “Lonesome Stone Yarn, Dye Works and Alpacas” and then transferred the name once more to her pottery store. Though the origin of the term “lonesome stone” isn’t definitive, its transposition appeared in John O’Hara’s 1934 novel *Appointment in Samarra*. In his novel, “stony lonesome” meant, as one might infer, “jail cell.”

It means quite the opposite to Dewey. Whether firing pottery or blowing glass, her dreams are in her own hands. And she has never felt freer.

Lonesome Stone Pottery Studio

TOURS AND GALLERY HOURS
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday

STUDIO LOCATION
946 County Road 60
Granby, CO

CONTACT
970-531-8554
Email: lonesomestone@msn.com
www.lonesomestonepottery.com



February 2020
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov



Cedric Davis, ACCT 1023587

Mountain Parks Electric employees show off an electric ice auger. MPE donated this auger to the 2020 3 Lakes Ice Fishing Tournament in January. Left to right: CSR Sara McGinley, CSR Amanda Haight and CSR Diane Hanick.