

# pilotLight

**YOUR** natural gas newsletter from Jo-Carroll Energy

*Affordable. Reliable.*

*... Energy for your home.*



This year, Oct. 6-12, was designated as Public Natural Gas Week, and as a cooperative we celebrate all month long during October Co-op Month.

We use this time to educate our members about the benefits of having a cooperative utility in addition to promoting the overall benefits of natural gas for your fueling and heating needs.

Did you know there are about 1,300 natural gas utilities in the United States? Many of these are small, comprised of a few hundred to a few thousand customers - or in our case, members. Despite their size they, like Jo-Carroll Energy, have a huge impact on the communities they serve by providing clean, affordable and efficient natural gas.

Having a cooperative utility has some benefits, for example:

- We're not for profit. We are locally owned and controlled - that helps ensure rates remain competitive and affordable.
- Decisions regarding your energy needs are made locally - instead of by some distant corporation.
- Cooperatives are accountable to the members they serve.
- Lastly, the cooperative plays a valuable role in helping broaden our tax base and helps local dollars stay at home.

We're here for you and your family, and invite you to join us this month as we celebrate natural gas and the cooperative spirit.

## Celebrating the Power of Cooperative Membership

### MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**  
Savanna Office  
103 Chicago Ave.

**Thursday, Oct. 10**  
Albany Village Park  
Route 84 and Albany Road

**Tuesday, Oct. 15**  
East Dubuque Library  
122 Wisconsin Ave.

**Thursday, Oct. 17**  
Geneseo Office  
1004 S. Chicago St.

**Friday, Oct. 18**  
Elizabeth Headquarters  
793 U.S. Route 20 West

All events from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Free Lunch  
Activities for the whole family  
Win a bill credit or other gift!  
Meet Penelope and CFL Charlie



**Jo-Carroll Energy**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®

(800) 858-5522  
Emergencies and outages call

800.927.5254



Crews work to relocate the natural gas line through the maintenance yard at the co-op's Savanna office.



## NATURAL GAS CREWS MAKE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Jo-Carroll Energy natural gas crews along with contractor J&R are working to relocate the line from the marina and through the maintenance yard at the cooperative's Savanna office.

The line serving the business district is being upgraded to 60 pounds, so that it matches the rest of the system and will provide a better supply in the downtown area.

The crews also installed a new cathodic protection system, which helps keep the steel line from rusting.

In other projects, the cooperative:

- ✓ is finishing replacement of 5,000 feet of steel line with plastic in Erie. One-inch main is being upgraded to two-inch plastic and is replacing all steel services on that section to plastic.
- ✓ is painting Savanna gate station in Sabula, Iowa

## Natural gas rate increase

Effective with bills mailed in September 2012, the monthly facility charge for Jo-Carroll Energy natural gas members increased by \$2 per month.

The facility charge is the fixed monthly charge on the member's bill. The change is just \$2 and does not fluctuate with how much natural gas is used. The facility charge is what helps Jo-Carroll Energy pay for the costs associated with bringing natural gas to you. Even when members use little or no energy, we still have expenses to keep it ready and reliable when it is needed.

The facility charges helps cover a variety of expenses such as the costs of pipelines, metering devices and other equipment. Other costs of doing business such as accounting, billing and associated activities are also covered through the facility charge.

This is the third phase of adjustments to the natural gas charges that started in 2012.

RATE NUMBER	NEW FACILITY CHARGE
42, Residential and Farm	\$14.00
43, Small General Service, Commercial or retail	\$19.50
44, Large General Service	\$32.25

*Thank you*

for supporting **Jo-Carroll Energy**. We look forward to continuing to bring safe, reliable natural gas into your homes and businesses.

We also hope you join us in supporting natural gas as a premier energy source for our country.

As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, **natural gas** can help us achieve energy security and build a more competitive economy.

## THE NATURAL CHOICE IS ALSO A SMART CHOICE WITH OUR INCENTIVES!

Did you know, you're eligible for a \$125 incentive if you switch your heating source to natural gas from propane, fuel oil or electricity provided by another utility?

Check out all of our 2013 natural gas incentive program offers:

- Install a new natural gas furnace or boiler and receive a \$125 incentive. **Switch to natural gas from propane, fuel oil or electricity provided by another utility to be eligible for an additional incentive of \$125.** (AFUE must be greater than or equal to 95 percent.)
- Purchase one of the following and receive a \$50 incentive
  - Natural gas water heater (energy factor greater than .67)
  - Natural gas stove
  - Natural gas dryer
- Fuel Switching - Receive a \$25 rebate (per appliance) for switching your water heater, stove or dryer from propane fuel oil or electricity provided by another utility.

Complete information at [www.jocarroll.com](http://www.jocarroll.com)



## Staying safe!

Nothing is more important to Jo-Carroll Energy than the safety of our members and the communities we serve. Because natural gas is odorless, an odor that smells like rotten eggs is added to our natural gas to help detect even the smallest leaks should they occur.

### What to do if you smell gas:

- **LEAVE** the area immediately.
- **CALL** Jo-Carroll Energy at **800.927.5254** from a neighboring home or business.
- **NEVER** turn switches on or off or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas, causing an explosion.