

Paul Revere Village

Millbury, Massachusetts

Winter Savings:

Five things to do to save some cold cash

Given the recent downturn in our economy many PRVA members are likely looking for ways to save some money this winter. Here are some things that you can do that will help you save a few dollars.

Links to each of these are provided at the end of this article.

1. Get an Energy Audit- MassSAVE is a great program which you can utilize to reduce your energy bills. They offer a home energy assessment to help you determine what areas to focus on. They also offer information on obtaining rebates for the installation of qualified ENERGY STAR® equipment and products.

2. Monitor appliance energy usage- Even when appliances are 'off' most still use energy in a

standby or sleep mode. The largest offenders are items such as large screen TVs and computers. Find which appliances are using the most energy by using a monitor such as the 'Kill A Watt'. This device plugs into your wall and monitors the energy usage of any device plugged into it. Knowing how much electricity a device uses may help you to save money.

3. Use a Smart Power Strip- Smart power strips will turn off power to outlets when it detects that a device plugged into a special monitoring outlet is turned off. This is great for use with a TV and surround sound system. Simply plug the TV into the monitoring outlet of the power strip and when the TV is turned off the power strip will

PRVA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Paul Revere Village Association Annual Meeting was held on October 29th at the Grafton Elementary School. A quorum of homeowners and proxies was met at 7:02pm. President Fred Stevens addressed the homeowners, reviewing maintenance and improvements completed in the past year. Treasurer Eric Hatcher explained the 2008/2009 budget and reviewed the balance sheet and profit/loss submitted by our accountant Steven Richer, which are posted on our web site PaulRevereVillage.com.

The current Board was re-elected and the condo fee will remain at \$170.00.

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Dates of Note:

- General Election - 4 Nov
- Veterans Day - 11 Nov
- Thanksgiving Day - 27 Nov



Recycling for Nov:

- Paper - Nov 12, 26
- Recyclables - Nov 5, 19

Don't Forget to Vote!

Tuesday, November 4th

Poll Hours: **7 am - 8 pm**

Millbury Memorial High School
12 Martin Street, Millbury



WINTER SAVINGS (CONTINUED)

turn off power to the receiver and DVD player. Not having those items on when the TV is off can save you money.

4. Get Tuned Up -

Nobody likes going to the mechanic, but keeping your car in tip top running shape will save you money. Not only will you likely avoid expensive repairs were something on your car to fail unexpectedly, but you will reap the benefits of improved gas mileage. Along with the tune up take some time to check your the air pressure of your tires. Cold air causes gases

to contract which means you'll see a drop in your tire pressure as the outside temperature falls. Improperly inflated tires will result in poorer fuel economy and also cause added wear necessitating that you replace your tires sooner.

5. Think Different-

Home heating accounts for most people's energy usage in the winter. Considering the high cost of electricity consider switching to an alternative heating system such as a wood pellet stove. Don't let the rising costs of wood pellets scare you

away; they are still cheaper than using electricity for heating. Also, consider the use of programmable thermostats for when you do use your electric heat. You can receive significant saving through the use of programmable thermostats. I had mine installed as part of an energy audit for free.

If you have other energy saving tips that you would like to share I invite you to post them to the discussion board on the Paul Revere Website.

<http://www.paulreverevillage.com>

MassSAVE:

<http://www.masssave.com>

Kill A Watt reviews:

<http://www.getrichslowly.org/blog/2006/12/04/review-kill-a-watt-electricity-usage-monitor/>
http://the-gadgeteer.com/review/kill_a_watt_electric_usage_monitor_review

Smart Power Strip reviews:

<http://www.metaefficient.com/power-saving-devices/review-smart-power-strips.html>
<http://fivepercent.us/2008/04/28/review-smart-strip-saves-160-to-570-of-electricity-per-month/>

Automotive Tune Up savings:

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.shtml>

Pellet Stoves:

<http://www.paulreverevillage.com/Community/woodpellet.html>

Programmable Thermostats:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr_thermostats

TURNING OFF YOUR OUTSIDE WATER FAUCET

With the weather getting colder now is good time to turn off your outside water faucet. It is an easy thing to do, but many people have forgotten to do this. It can lead to your water pipe freezing, bursting and leaking. Apart from the cost to repair the pipe you could suffer some expensive water damage.

It is the responsibility of each owner to turn off their outside water faucet; any damage that results from failure to turn off the faucet is the owner's responsibility.

Here is a step by step guide to turning off your outside water faucet.

1. Locate your water faucet shutoff valve. Mine is located in my basement above the drop ceiling. It's about four feet in from the basement door. If you have a finished basement with a

drop ceiling you'll need to get a step ladder and move a ceiling tile or two to locate it. It will look like the photo below.



2. Turn off the shutoff valve. Make sure the valve is fully closed (turn clockwise to close), but don't over-tighten the shutoff valve.

3. Go outside and open your outside water faucet.

4. Go back inside and using a small pair of pliers open the small air relief port located under the body of the shutoff

valve. You don't have to fully remove the cap, just loosen it enough to allow air to enter. As you loosen the cap of the air relief port you will likely hear a rush of air entering the valve as the water in the pipe between the shutoff valve and the outside faucet drains.

5. Allow about one minute for the water to fully drain from the pipe.

6. Close the air relief port by tightening the cap.

7. Go outside and close the faucet valve. This will prevent cold air from intruding into the pipe.

This entire operation can be easily be done in under ten minutes. Don't let your water pipe freeze for the lack of a ten minute investment.

BE CREATIVE - GET PUBLISHED - CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRVA NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE

This is an invitation for all to participate in future installments of this newsletter. This newsletter is intended to be for and by the members of the Paul Revere Village Community. That means it should contain content from people other than just myself and the board members. Feel free to pass on special recipes, stories, trip reports, shopping or

household tips. Just about anything is open for inclusion in the newsletter.

If anyone wants to try their hand at writing a monthly column on some topic I'd be happy to make room for your material.

Also, if you have any announcements you would like to

have entered into the newsletter and placed on the website, you are welcome to send me those too.



Send your material to me at:
webmaster@paulreverevillage.com

ZUCCHINI NUT BREAD

This is a great bread to have on hand. It's great for breakfast, brunch or a mid-afternoon snack with coffee.

Ingredients

- 2 cups finely grated zucchini (about 2 zucchini)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat two 4 1/2 inch by 8 1/2 inch loaf pans with nonstick spray, line with parchment paper, and spray paper.

Combine zucchini, sugars, oil, and eggs in a large bowl and mix until combined. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Fold in nuts and extract. Divide batter between loaf pans. Bake until a tester inserted in the middle of each loaf comes out clean, about 1 hour 10 minutes. Cool 10 minutes on wire rack. Invert, and remove parchment paper. Cool completely on rack.

MONTHLY MINUTE WITH MAUREEN

Thanksgiving will be here in a few weeks. This Thanksgiving I am giving thanks to all of my family. I am blessed with such a wonderful extended family. I grew up thinking that everyone must see his or her aunts, uncles, and cousins all the time. Once I grew up, I realized it's not true. So, that's what I am thankful for this Thanksgiving. My aunts and uncles are in their 80's now. I see them getting slower and having more and more health issues. I'm not sure what my family will be like without them, but I know that I will always be thankful for knowing them. I know that I am a better person because of them. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!



~Maureen

NOVEMBER WORD SEARCH

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- turkey
- stuffing
- pumpkins
- cranberry
- thanksgiving
- football
- homecoming
- family
- parades
- feast
- pilgrims
- cornucopia
- mayflower
- Plymouth
- harvest
- sleep
- November
- fall
- pie