



Chimney Rock News



Choice is Local Control

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March, 2022

Manager Memos -by Alvin Harimon

Dear Consumer,

Well, March is here which means spring is right around the corner, we have had very nice weather so far for a Nebraska winter and have been able to complete some of the projects in our work plan a little ahead of schedule. We still have some system improvement things we would like to get finished before irrigation season gets into full swing.

As March gets started there are two holidays that I relate to as the 1st is Fat Tuesday and the 2nd is Old Stuff Day (of which I am both) then on the 4th is Employee Appreciation Day and I can relate to that also as Chimney Rock has some of the finest employees around from our office staff to our whole line crew, I appreciate everyone here and the great job that they do. Also on the 4th is the World Day of Prayer where you can pray you do not have to participate in National Dentist Day on the 6th. On the 9th is Get Over It Day, the 10th is Popcorn Lover's Day and the 12th is Girl Scout Day. The 13th is a day I do not like as Daylight Savings Time begins, and on the 17th is Saint Patrick's Day, on the 20th is Alien Abduction Day and the first day of Spring, and on the 22nd are two holidays that go together as it is National Goof Off Day and As Young As You Feel Day, and the 23rd is National Puppy Day. The 26th is Live Long and Prosper Day and Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, on the 28th is Weed Appreciation Day (????), on the 30th is Take a Walk in the Park Day and Turkey Neck Soup Day.

At Chimney Rock March will be a busier than usual as we will be ending our yearly audit and undergoing a rate study here and also have a couple of our board members on the Tri-State Generation and Transmission rate review committee. As I always add here at the end, remember our phones are answered 24/7 so if you need us or see something that is or could become a problem please let us know. As things ramp up on the farm be careful and have a great spring.

Energy Efficiency Credits

Energy Efficiency Credits are available on electric motors, electric heating, electric hot water heaters, Energy Star appliances and LED lights. Must be new installations only. and submitted within 90 days.

Certain standards of efficiency must be met to qualify depending on the type of electric equipment installed.

Some of the credits include:

- *Electric water heaters - \$50/unit
- *Heat pumps-\$150-\$500/ton
15 SEER Minimum
- *Electric motors 10-500 hp \$8/hp
- *Energy Star Appliances (refrig, freezer, clothes or dish washer and clothes dryers)\$30-\$90
- *Induction Cooktops 30" or larger, must be replacing gas
- *LED lights - lesser of 1/2 cost of lights or \$8 per lamp, 500 Lumens or greater
- *Electric trimmer, chainsaw, or pruner, electric blower or lawn-mower - 25% of cost, up to \$150
- *Whole House Fans - \$100
- *Smart Thermostats - \$25

Receipts are generally required. Chimney Rock also contributes to some of the credit.

Please contact our office for information on requirements and credit amounts at 586-1824.



Surge Protection 101

A power surge is an unexpected increase in voltage, and it can occur from a variety of sources. Regardless of the cause, power surges can do major damage to electronic devices and equipment in your home.

One of the most common causes of a power surge is lightning. When lightning strikes an electrical system, the excess current must be channeled somewhere—unfortunately in many cases, it's sent through a home. Your best bet is to unplug all unused devices and electronics during severe thunderstorms.

Another common cause of power surges is electrical overload. This happens when devices or appliances are plugged into an outlet that can't handle the required amount of voltage, or if multiple devices are plugged into one outlet through an extension cord. If you're experiencing power surges due to electrical overload, it's time to call a qualified electrician to evaluate your home's circuits and electrical needs.

Faulty wiring in a home can also cause power surges. Damaged or exposed wires can cause spikes in voltage, creating a potentially dangerous situation. If you notice signs of faulty wiring, like visible burns on outlets, buzzing sounds from outlets or frequently tripped circuit breakers, your home may be due for electrical wiring repairs and updates.


Surges can also occur after a power outage. Sometimes, when electricity is being restored and reconnected, it's common to experience a quick surge in current. It's best to unplug sensitive electronics during the outage—then wait to plug them back in after power is fully restored.

Aside from unplugging devices when you suspect a power surge, there are two ways you can take additional precautions to protect electronics in your home.

Point-of-use surge protection devices, like power strips, can protect electronics during most surges. Not all power strips include surge protection, so read the packaging label carefully before you buy, and don't overload the power strip with too many devices. You can also install specialized electrical outlets that offer additional surge protection.

Another option is a whole-home surge protector, which can help protect your home from larger, more powerful surges. Whole-home suppressors are connected to your home's service panel and include features like thermal fuses and notification capabilities that indicate when a device has been impacted by a surge. Whole-home surge protection prices vary based on the size of the home and suppressor. Whole-home suppressors should always be connected by a licensed electrician, so consider the cost of installation as well.

Power surges are inevitable, but by unplugging devices when you think a surge may occur and using additional levels of protection like power strips or whole-home suppressors, you can better safeguard your sensitive electronics and devices.



SURGE PROTECTION
Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event

REMEMBER:
Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

Old Home Wiring: Is it Safe?

Anyone who has ever owned an older home has seen the old knob and tube wiring systems or dealt with frayed or torn electric wires. The question is, are older wiring systems a safety hazard?

Over 41,000 home fires each year are caused by faulty electrical wiring, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The Electrical Safety Foundation also estimates that over fifty million U.S. homes don't meet current electrical code safety standards.

While these statistics are alarming, older wiring does not necessarily spell trouble. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) suggests the following key indicators as signs for potential problems with your electrical system.

- Lights dim, or the television picture shrinks when other appliances are turned on.
- Circuit breakers often need resetting, or fuses need frequent replacement.
- Appliances such as toasters or irons don't get as hot as they should, or take a long time to heat up.

Older electrical systems can cause other issues as well. Older homes are not often equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs are designed to protect against electrical hazards in bathrooms and kitchens. A lack of electrical outlets can also lead to frequent use of extension cords, which is associated with an increase in fire hazards.

If you suspect that your home wiring is not up to code or is a safety hazard, have it inspected by a qualified electrical contractor.



Air Fryer Chicken Tenders

1 1/2 lbs chicken tenders
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 1/2 c all-purpose flour
2 1/2 c panko bread crumbs
2 large eggs
1/4 c buttermilk
Cooking spray

Honey Mustard Sauce:

1/3 c mayonnaise
3 tbsp. honey
2 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1/4 tbsp. hot sauce
Pinch of kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Season chicken tenders on both sides with salt & pepper. Place flour and bread crumbs in two separate shallow bowls. In a third bowl, whisk together eggs and buttermilk. Working one at a time, dip chicken in flour, then egg mixture, and bread crumbs.

Working in batches, place chicken tenders in basket of air fryer. Spray tops of chicken with cooking spray and cook at 400 degrees for 5 minutes. Flip chicken over, spray the tops with more cooking spray and cook for 5 minutes.

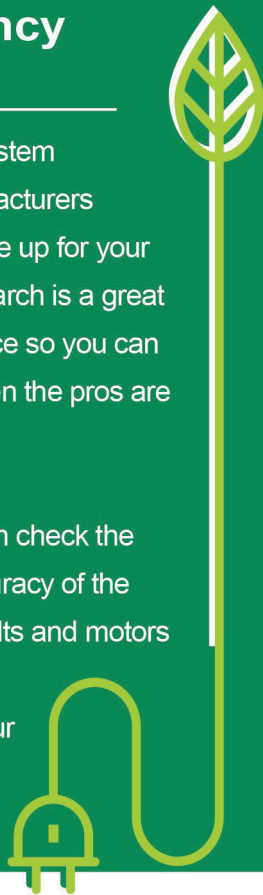
Make sauce, whisk all ingredients together and serve sauce with chicken.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



WHEN USING **POWER TOOLS**

Make sure they are plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

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**During normal office hours
and after hours call:**

(308) 586-1824 or

(877) 773-6300

March Board Meeting:

March 14th - 9:00 am

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.