# the citizens Connection

February 2014

# **Customers May Receive Estimated Bills in Cases** of Severe Winter Weather

January's storm event paralyzed much of Central Indiana for nearly a week. As safety is a top priority for Citizens employees, our gas and water meter readers were not sent out to read meters Monday, January 6 or Tuesday, January 7. Not only were many roads in Marion County and the surrounding area impassable, meters were buried under snow and ice.

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Severe winter weather at any time could cause similar circumstances and result in some customers receiving estimated bills. While it is always the intention of Citizens to read meters every month and avoid estimates, sometimes circumstances do arise making this goal unattainable. If you have a question about your bill, please call 924-3311. Thank you for your patience and understanding. For more information about how to read your bill, please scan the QR code to the right.



### **Freezing Temps May Impact Bills**

With temperatures at their lowest point in 20 years, Citizens reminds customers February bills could be higher than normal due to increased natural gas consumption during last month's storm event.

On January 6 and 7, Citizens distributed one billion cubic feet of gas, the highest two-day distribution in 20 years. Citizens is able to reliably deliver gas to customers due to 17 billion cubic feet of gas storage capabilities and more than \$300 million of system upgrades completed over the past 30 years.

With nearly half of the winter season remaining, there are still ways customers can decrease their bills. Putting these simple tips into practice can save customers energy and money:

- Set thermostats between 65 and 70 degrees when home and at 60 degrees when away from the house for more than a few hours. Install a programmable thermostat to help regulate temperatures.
- Change or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Furnaces consume less energy when filters are clean.
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close dampers on unused fireplaces.
- If radiators are located near cold walls, place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.
- On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let the sun's warmth in. Close them at night to insulate against cold air outside.

Customers in need of financial assistance or flexible payment arrangements are encouraged to call 924-3311. Read this month's bill insert or scan the QR code for information about cash rebates available for Citizens customers.







### You May Qualify for an Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families. The amount of EITC received is dependent on income, marital status, and number of children.

Number of Children	Individual Filer	Joint Filer	Maximum Credit
0	\$14,590	\$20,020	\$496
1	\$38,511	\$43,941	\$3,305
2	\$43,756	\$49,186	\$5,460
3+	\$46,997	\$52,427	\$6,143



For more information about the Earned Income Tax Credit, scan the QR code above.

## Daylight Saving Time Provides Helpful Reminder



On Sunday March 9, we'll move our clocks forward one hour in observance of Daylight Saving Time. This is also a great time to check the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. Citizens Energy Group urges all customers to have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on all levels of their home and to

establish a home evacuation plan to practice with your family. Customers should exercise caution when using space heaters. More information about smoke alarms is available by scanning the QR code above.



#### Citizens Offers Tax Preparation Assistance

If you need assistance preparing your 2014 taxes, Citizens Energy Group is here to help. Starting the week of February 10, tax preparation assistance will be available Thursdays and Saturdays at our headquarters at 2020 N. Meridian Street. To schedule an appointment, please call 924-3311. Customers should bring:

- Photo ID
- W2 Form
- Social Security Card
- A list of itemized deductions and any supporting paperwork
- A list of charitable contributions and any supporting paperwork

#### Stuffed Chicken Breast with White Wine

From Constantino's Market Place



To see a cooking demonstration of this recipe on Chef's Choice with Citizens Energy Group, go to www.CitizensEnergyGroup.com or scan the QR code.

#### Ingredients:

4, 4oz. Chicken Breasts 2 teaspoons olive oil Half cup dry white wine 2 tablespoons fine chopped parsley

## Filling: 2 teaspoons olive oil

2 cups spinach 1 cup of mushrooms ½ cup diced onions ½ cup Parmesan cheese

#### Directions:

To make the filling, heat the oil in skillet, add onion, cook until translucent. Add mushrooms, cook for 4 minutes. Add spinach, cook until sweated. Take off heat. Cool slightly, and then add cheese. Pound chicken breast until flat. Stuff with filling. Add 2

teaspoons olive oil to pan. Cook chicken until done and caramelized. Deglaze with white wine. Top with parsley and serve immediately. Serve with Sautéed vegetables.



<sup>\*</sup>Citizens is unable to help anyone with a home business.