the citizens **Connection**

March 2014

Save Money with Energy Efficiency Rebates

Amidst bitter cold temperatures in January and February, Citizens Energy Group delivered the highest amount of natural gas to customers in a decade. This increase in consumption resulted in higher natural gas bills.

For customers struggling to pay bills, Citizens offers flexible payment arrangements and financial assistance. Energy efficiency rebates can also save customers money. Choosing energy efficient equipment and making home efficiency improvements has never been easier, thanks to Citizens Energy Savers Residential Rebate Program. Please see the table below for a list of requirements and residential rebates. Visit CitizensEnergySavers.com for eligibility requirements and ways to apply.

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Natural gas equipment rebates	Rebate	
Natural gas boiler, ≥ 90% AFUE	\$300	
Natural gas furnace, ≥ 92% to ≥ 95% AFUE	\$150- \$250	
Programmable thermostats	\$20	

Insulation and duct sealing rebates	Rebate
Attic insulation, With \leq R-11 initial and \geq R-38 final	40% of the cost up to \$450
Wall insulation, With \leq R-5 initial and R-13 final	40% of the cost up to \$450
Duct sealing	Total cost up to \$400

Don't Wait On Hold, Contact Us Online

As a result of higher January and February gas bills, the Citizens Customer Service Call Center is experiencing an extremely high call volume with extended wait times. In order to avoid waiting on the phone, Citizens would like to remind customers about the Contact Us section of our website. By filling out the online form, customers will be contacted in the order we receive each request. The most severe and time sensitive concerns will be addressed first. Please note, Citizens places the highest priority on inquires involving natural gas disconnection.



Scan the QR code above to be directed to the Contact Us page.

March 15 Ends State Moratorium on Utility Disconnections

The state moratorium on utility disconnection ends Saturday, March 15. The moratorium, in effect between December 1 and March 15 of each year, protects customers who qualify for the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) from having gas service disconnected for non-payment. Since this is a heating assistance program, EAP customers are still subject to disconnection of water/wastewater services during the moratorium. Customers not receiving EAP funds are subject to disconnection for non-payment throughout the year.

For those customers who are behind on bills, Citizens is offering flexible payment arrangements, including weekly and bi-weekly payment plans. To make arrangements before service is disconnected, please call us at 924-3311 or use the Contact Us section of our website.





Conserve Water During Fix a Leak Week

Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. You can do your part to conserve water during the sixth annual Fix a Leak Week March 17 through 23, sponsored by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program.

Correcting household leaks can save homeowners an average of more than 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water in a typical backyard swimming pool. Finding and fixing leaks around the home can be as simple as check, twist and replace:

- **Check** toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank; wait a few minutes and see if color appears in the bowl before you flush. If it does, there is a leak.
- Twist on a new WaterSense labeled faucet aerator or showerhead, and tighten hose and pipe connections.
- **Replace** fixtures if necessary with WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20% less water and perform as well or better than standard models.



For more information about Fix a Leak Week, visit http://www.epa.gov/watersense.

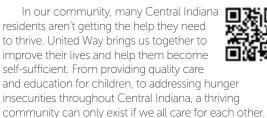
Help Your Neighbors in Need by Donating to the United Way





After a long, cold winter, hints of spring are finally upon us. It's time to shake off the snowflakes and come out of hibernation. So many things on the to-do list: Plan your garden. Tune up the lawn mower. Replace the patio furniture you accidentally left outside all winter!

But as your list continues to grow, be sure one to-do in particular is not left off – **helping your neighbors in need**.



So as spring rolls around and you begin tackling that to-do list, be sure to add United Way to the top. By doing so, you will surely see the significant impact you have on our community. Help us take these final steps to reach our community goal by making your gift at **uwci.org/give** or scan the QR code above.

Vegetable Soup

From Dottie's Kitchen, Indianapolis City Market



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:

Aujus Mix ¹/₂ medium head cabbage (chopped) 2 cups peas 2 cups lima beans 2 cups green beans 2 cups corn 2 cups corn 2 cups carrots 1 large onion (chopped) 1 cup celery (chopped) 8 white potatoes (peeled and diced) 6 tablespoons garlic powder 28 ounce can diced tomatoes 1 can tomato juice Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Mix the Aujus according to directions on container. Add all the vegetables and tomato juice to the pot with the Aujus. Season with garlic, salt and pepper. Simmer for several hours so all the flavors can

blend together. Fresh vegetables are the best but frozen vegetables will work also. Makes about two gallons.

