

You can relax...

**when you plan ahead
for winter bills**

ENERGY SPOTLIGHT®

November 2009

In this issue:

- Nicor Gas Budget Plan
- Sharing Program "\$5 for 5" Campaign Reminder
- Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- November Natural Gas Cost

nicor
G A S

Before you get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, take a little time to better manage your winter gas costs through our convenient Nicor Gas Budget Plan.

Get with the plan

The Nicor Gas Budget plan provides you with the option to spread out your gas payments throughout the year, giving your budget a break during the winter months, when natural gas usage and bills are normally higher. You can sign up for the plan either online at nicor.com/myaccount or simply pay the Budget Plan amount shown on the payment stub of your bill ... it's that easy.

Your monthly payment is calculated by estimating your gas use and gas prices for the next 12 months. We also take into consideration your current account balance. This total is then divided by 12 to arrive at your monthly payment amount.

From time to time we will reevaluate your Budget Plan payment. We do this to determine if your payment amount is in line with your actual

usage and future gas costs. If an adjustment is needed (either up or down), it is automatically made and will appear on your next bill statement.

You can relax when your bills are well managed. Sign up for the Nicor Gas Budget Plan today!



Sharing Program "\$5 for 5" Campaign continues



Last month we launched our Sharing Program "\$5 for 5" Campaign, asking our customers to commit to helping those in need by donating

\$5 per month for 5 months. We are grateful to those who have given so far, but the program still needs a substantial increase in donations to be sustained throughout the winter.

Administered by The Salvation Army, the Sharing Program provides one-time annual grants of up to \$450 to qualified residential customers, which is used to assist them with paying their natural gas bill. In addition to contributions received, Nicor Gas contributes \$175,000 to the program.

You're not too late to join others in making a \$5 (or more) donation to help ensure those less fortunate will be able to heat their homes this winter. Simply check a contribution option on your bill stub and add the amount to your total bill for the remaining four months of the campaign.

Thank you for your generosity!



Celebrate the season with Brookfield Zoo's 28th Annual Holiday Magic

Coupon must be presented at gate. Buy one Adult or Child General Admission to Brookfield Zoo and get one General Admission of equal or lesser value free. No refunds or exchanges. Not valid with any other promotional offer or package admissions. Coupon may not be sold or duplicated. Parking is not included.

Valid through December 31, 2009.

BROOKFIELD ZOO

Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership



Come celebrate the spirit of the season and create lasting memories during Brookfield Zoo's Holiday Magic...featuring a million twinkling lights, the Wild Lights Spectacular set to music, ice-carving demonstrations, caroling to the animals, and more. While you are at Brookfield Zoo, hop aboard the Nicor-sponsored Motor Safari Trams for a ride through one of the brightest and most festive events in town!

Holiday Magic is open from 4 to 9 p.m. on December 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, and 26-31.

For more information, visit www.czs.org or call (708) 688-8000.

Nicor is a proud sponsor of Brookfield Zoo and the Chicago Zoological Society.

Protect the ones you love with a Carbon Monoxide Detector



Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including natural gas. Those exposed to dangerous levels of CO will experience flu-like symptoms including dizziness, nausea, headache and coughing, irregular heartbeat, pale skin with cherry red lips and ear tips.

A significant contributor to CO poisoning incidents is a poorly maintained furnace. Your furnace should be cleaned and checked annually by a qualified technician to assure it is running efficiently and burning fuel properly.

The best way to prevent CO poisoning is by installing CO detectors in your home. **Illinois law requires that a properly operating CO detector is installed within 15 feet of sleeping areas in all dwellings.** Don't install a detector near your kitchen, garage, or in a room with a furnace, as this might trigger false alarms.

You can avoid the build up of dangerous levels of CO in your home by following these guidelines:

- Never run a combustion engine, such as the one found in your car, portable generator, lawn mower or snow blower, in enclosed areas
- Never leave a fuel-burning portable heater unattended while people sleep
- Never heat your home with your gas range or oven
- Never burn charcoal inside your home or garage
- Be sure to open your chimney flue when you use your fireplace

CO detectors come in plug-in, battery, and hard-wired varieties and are available at your local hardware store. Plug-in and hard-wired models should include a battery backup and all units should be tested twice annually.

Keep your loved ones safe by installing a CO detector today!

November Natural Gas Cost



Every month, Nicor Gas files a gas supply charge with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). It is the price customers pay for gas purchased from Nicor Gas during that month. As a regulated utility, Nicor Gas does not profit from the sale of natural gas. The price we pay for gas is passed on to our customers without markup. Visit nicorgas.com/gascost for energy efficiency tips, historical natural gas price information and home energy audit tools that will help you manage your natural gas usage and keep your costs down.

*At press time, this was the price Nicor Gas filed with the ICC. Under ICC rules, the price may be changed up until the first of the month in which it is effective.

nicor
G A S

©Nicor Gas 2009 All Rights Reserved.

Corporate Communications
P.O. Box 190
Aurora, IL 60507-0190
nicor.com

Questions about your account?
nicor.com/myaccount
1 888 Nicor4u (1 888 642-6748)
customer-care@nicor.com

nicor.com