

# Warm Thoughts and Cool Ideas



Wisconsin Rapids / Marshfield / Stevens Point  
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Fall 2014

Issue 57

## Congratulations



Pictured:  
Ricky (L) &  
Chris (R).  
Not pictured:  
April

## Ricky & April Salazar!

**They won a FREE air conditioner!  
Plus they tied the knot  
this summer,  
double congratulations!**

## Buy a Furnace or a Boiler and get a WE Energies Gift Card!

Purchase a furnace between October 10 and December 12, 2014 and we'll pay part of your energy bill!

### Here's how it works:

Buy a 97% modulating furnace, get a \$200 Gift Card.  
Buy a 96% variable speed furnace, get a \$100 Gift Card.  
Buy a 96% standard furnace, get a \$50 Gift Card.

All Boiler purchases will receive a \$100 Gift Card.

Plus, you may be eligible for *WI Focus on Energy Cash Back Instant Rewards* of up to \$250!



Not applicable to contracts signed before October 10, 2014 or after December 12, 2014. Installations must be completed by December 31, 2014. Please allow 2-4 weeks for WE Energies gift card to arrive after payment in full is received.

## Fall Tips

This article will help you find strategies to help you **save energy during the cool fall and cold winter months**. Some of the tips below are free and can be used on a daily basis to increase your savings; others are simple and inexpensive actions you can take to ensure maximum savings through the winter. If you haven't already, **conduct an energy assessment with Tri-City Refrigeration** to find out where you can save the most, and consider making a larger investment for long-term energy savings.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HEAT FROM THE SUN

Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

### COVER DRAFTY WINDOWS

Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

### ADJUST THE TEMPERATURE

When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 5° for eight hours and save on your heating and cooling bills. A **programmable thermostat** can make it easy to set back your temperature. For more information check out, [https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr\\_thermostats\\_guidelines](https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr_thermostats_guidelines).

### FIND AND SEAL LEAKS

Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

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## To Cover, or not to cover, that is the question!

Now that fall is right around the corner and we start thinking about furnaces instead of air conditioning, we are asked the question, “Should I cover my AC?”

**Don't just cover it, protect it.** Unless you have a heat pump unit. Do not cover a heat pump, because if it's covered and it comes on, it could damage the compressor.

Now what should you protect it with? Ideally, you'd have an AC cover that's made for your unit, kind of like Goldilocks, not too big, not too small... it'll fit just right. This good, quality one is \$74 + tax and can even come in **custom colors to match your siding**. They are custom ordered based on your model of condensing unit and **delivered to your door** from the manufacturer.

### Other DIY options include:

- using a tarp material that you bungee on but *please* leave about 3-4" around the bottom visible. This allows the unit to breathe. Please, not on a heat pump.
- if you don't use a tarp, a piece of plywood and a brick will protect the top from falling debris (icicles, pine needles, leaves, etc.). Again, not on a heat pump.

So yes, please protect your AC unit. **Another tip is to turn off your condensing unit for the winter either** at the breaker panel or disconnect outside. Just in case the system malfunctions and tries to turn your condensing unit on when it's below zero—it could severely damage your compressor. Just remember to turn it back on in spring! If you're unsure, please let us know and we can take care of it when we do your heating tune-up.

**Happy Anniversary** to those celebrating another year together and **Happy Birthday** to those blowing out the candles!



*Enjoy your day!*



### Special thank you to Ed and Barbara H.

for treating our team to yet another wonderful surprise... we appreciate your gesture and we all say **thank you** for your patronage and look forward to serving you for many years to come. Thank you!!!!

## RECIPE CORNER

### TANGY BEEF CHILI



### Ingredients

- 1 pound **ground beef**
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 can (15 ounces) Ranch Style beans (pinto beans in seasoned tomato sauce)
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces *each*) no-salt-added diced tomatoes, undrained
- 4 teaspoons chili powder
- 1-1/4 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 6 wedges The Laughing Cow light blue cheese

### Directions

1. In a large saucepan, cook the beef, green pepper and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain.
2. Stir in the beans, tomatoes, chili powder, cumin and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until flavors are blended. Top with cheese.

<http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/tangy-beef-chili#ixzz3Ezo4SRRv>

## Warm Hearts & Helping Hands

We love our community so for every furnace or boiler purchased before December 12, 2014 we will make a **\$25 donation to The South Wood County Food Pantry (SWEPS)** and **\$25 to the Wood County Department of Social Services to help families in need this Christmas season.**

### Food Drive!

Donate non-perishable food items and receive **\$10 off gift card for your next service from us OR we can pay it forward on your behalf with a donation to Wood County department of Social Services!** Call 715-423-5840 or 715-387-4000 to schedule your tune-up today!



Items may be given to your service technician or dropped off at our offices at 3019 State Hwy 73, Wis. Rapids. Donations accepted until December 12, 2014.

# FALL TIPS, CONTINUED...

## **MAINTAIN YOUR HEATING SYSTEMS**

Schedule service for your **heating system**. All manufacturers recommend routine maintenance, this is your annual tune-up. Just because it's running, doesn't mean it's operating at peak efficiency. Just like an oil change on your car, your furnace needs annual TLC too. Check or replace your furnace filter once a month or as needed.

## **REDUCE HEAT LOSS FROM THE FIREPLACE**

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- If you do use the fireplace, install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warm air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

## **LOWER YOUR WATER HEATING COSTS**

Water heating can account for 14% to 25% of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

## **LOWER YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTING COSTS**

Use light-emitting diode -- or "LED" -- holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays. Find manufacturers and brands of ENERGY STAR®-qualified decorative light strings.

Source: <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips>

## **Important Dates to Remember!**



October 13—Columbus Day  
(no mail service)

October 18—Sweetest Day

October 28—Make a Difference Day

October 31—Halloween

November 2—Daylight Savings Ends

November 3—Sandwich Day

November 4—Election day, exercise your right to vote!

November 11—Veteran's Day—Please thank a Veteran.

Thank you Chris & Vern!

November 17—World Peace Day

November 27—Thanksgiving

December 7—Pearl Harbor Day

December 7—Teacher Appreciation Day

December 17—Hanukkah

December 17—Bake Cookies Day (yum!)

December 25—Merry Christmas!

January 1—Happy New Year!



## **Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Read all About it!!!!!!**

**Congratulations to Chris and Kim** on their engagement! Chris is our Comfort Consultant.

**Happy anniversary to...**

**Kevin & Brenda!** Kevin is one of our service technician experts.

**Scott & Brenda!** Scott is one of our service technicians, he's our install/service manager and Vice-President.

**Mark & Ann!** Mark is our lead installer and sheet metal fabricator/installer extraordinaire.

**Karl & Stephanie!** Karl is one of our service technician experts.

**Happy work anniversary to Mark, Andrea, Karl and Jim!** Mark has been an important part of our team for 26 years, as well as Andrea for 15 years, Karl for 6 years and Jim for 1 year.

**Happy Birthday to Sue** (Construction Coordinator), **Scott**, and **Andrea** (President/General Manager)!



**TRI-CITY**

REFRIGERATION  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

*We're Not Comfortable Until You Are!*

202 S Chestnut #774, Marshfield WI 54449

3019 State Hwy 73

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

## Monthly Raffle Winners:

As a thank you for completing our online surveys, we select one random winner each month. If you share your email address with us, you'll receive an email with links directly to the sites, so you simply have to click and complete. These lucky winners won a \$25 Gift Card!

### May/June/July/Aug/Sept winners:

Bruce G., Ed H., Lacey A.,  
Karen F., Warren M.

Congratulations and THANK YOU!!!

## In this issue...

- Oldest Air Conditioner Contest Winner!
- Fall Tips
- Buy a furnace or boiler and get a WE Energies gift card
- To Cover or not to Cover, that is the question!
- Recipe corner
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- Food Drive

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## Fall Reminder Checklist:

- Check and change batteries (if needed) in Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Alarms.
- Check your furnace's air filter and schedule your tune-up.
- Get the snow blower tuned up and ready to go.
- Clean up the yard for fall.
- Cover your Air Conditioner.



## ***JUST FOR GRINS***

At a prestigious university, there is a clear hierarchy that outlines how long one was to wait for a class to begin if the professor doesn't show up. A full professor is rated fifteen minutes; an associate only ten. A mere instructor was expected to be on time, if not early. This system worked only one way, however, and students were afforded no such grace.

It was to be expected, therefore, that one professor, the foremost authority in his field by his own admission, would register distinct annoyance when a student, just out of military service, was late for class for the third morning running.

"Tell me," the professor began, "exactly what did they say in the Army when you sauntered in late like this?"

"Well," mused the unperturbed young man, "first they saluted, and then they asked, 'How are you this morning, sir?'"