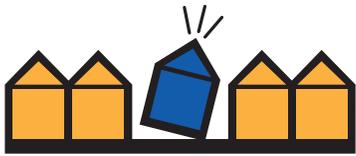


WHAT'S NEW?

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Featured Article: "Oh the Difference a Little More Time Can Make!"

The DOE asked to restart the process of establishing new furnace efficiency standards.

By Gene Sullivan – President, New Concepts Management

Since the beginning of time, we have always dreamed and fantasized about being able to fly. Who hasn't seen or chuckled at those old news reels showing someone's imagination as people raced to create that first magical flying machine.

But let me ask you; are sincerity and good intentions the only requirements needed in order to see success?

It was under the vision, leadership, and administration of President William McKinley (1897-1901) that our government was dedicating large sums of money in order to make sure that the first person to fly; would be an American. It was during this time period that many people with great sincerity and the best and most noble intentions, attempted to fly, but, oh the difference a little more time made in understanding and seeing success.

standards, would have the unintended consequences of driving consumers in this current economy to using other sources such as electric base board heat, which while much less costly to install, relies on another fuel, coal.

A Federal Regulatory Agency such as the DOE is mandated with a deliberate process of not only identifying a problem and drawing an initial analysis, but more importantly, they are charged with the responsibility to seek out public input, not only by the professionals who understand that industry, but by those who would be affected by it as well.

It appeared that in the DOE's haste and intention to provide a more eco-friendly world, they did not believe that seeking out public input was a necessary step to come to their conclusions. It was because of this, that the U.S. Court of Appeals determined that the Department of Energy would have to vacate the new rule, in order to restart the whole process of establishing new furnace efficiency standards.

What were some of those compelling arguments by the American Public Gas Association?

First of all, it was noted that the United States leads the world (even slightly ahead of China) in the use of coal to produce electricity. The APGA further stated that the demands for increased electricity would cause the cost of this non-renewable, fast depleting resource to go up even much higher.

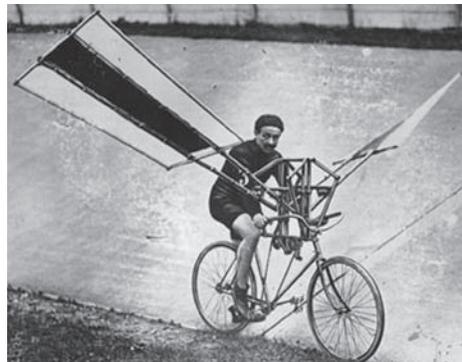
It was also noted that the average plant using coal produces currently 170 pounds of mercury a year. 1/70 of a teaspoon of mercury found in a 50 acre lake is enough to make the fish in that lake, unsafe to eat.

Further an average electrical plant run by coal generates approximately 3,700,000 tons of carbon dioxide every year; that same plant also creates about 10,000 tons of sulfur dioxide which is known to create acid rain.

This is all even before pointing out the undue burden a regulation such as this would have on the cost to consumers, especially to those living in HOAs.

Older furnaces, it was noted vent through a flue on the roof. Higher efficiency

(continued on page 2)



Early attempt at flying circa 1900



Wilbur Wright at Kitty Hawk, NC – Dec. 17, 1903

Just this last month at the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) took on the Department of Energy (DOE) in a lawsuit arguing that the new regulation slated for May, 1 2013 requiring new furnace efficiency standards would put a costly burden on consumers that would have the potential to drive many consumers to heat their homes with other, less-efficient fuels.

The APGA contended that the "fast-tracked" procedures being used by the DOE to establish these new efficiency

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“Oh the Difference a Little More Time Can Make!”

(continued from page 1)

furnaces require a sidewall vent because of the demands for oxygen to run. This in turn makes it difficult to install such a furnace in an HOA because not only is space limited, but, as was the case with T.V. dishes in the 90's, HOA's also must determine issues with architectural consistency, as well as, who is responsible for maintenance when a new hole is punched through a common element such as siding.

It was also noted that in many two-story homes, a furnace can also be found in the attic, and because this type of high efficiency furnace also produces condensate, this can freeze in colder weather, causing further damage in those attics.

The most compelling argument of all; was the APGA pointing out that most of their information about the impact on the environment, came from the DOE. Therefore, this new ruling would actually cause greater problems than it would solve.

Therefore it is always good to keep in mind, that in any important decision; even the best of intentions, and the demands to act now, never take the place of deliberate and thoughtful investigation and debate. ■

Parking Violation in Russia.



"And you thought parking rules were tough in your HOA....."

Do you have a humorous picture, a funny story? Share it with us, and if it is published, win a \$25 gift card from Target.

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Free On Line Webinars – For February and March!

Classes run between 30-60 minutes. You can register anytime right up to the start of any seminar by going to www.webinar.com. Select the “Join a webinar” button; and you will be guided through the registration process. To register you will need to supply your e-mail address and identify the seminar you wish to join by typing in the 9 digit I.D. # assigned to each class below. Here are our upcoming offerings:

“What to Watch at the Legislature” – Wed. February 27, 2013 from 7-8 p.m. I.D. #546689422. It seems like the legislature is always tinkering with this thing called a Homeowner’s Association. What bills have been introduced this year that we need to watch? A look at the 2013 Session. – Instructor Gene Sullivan, President of New Concepts Management.

“Ethical Challenges Facing the Board Today” – Tues. March 5, 2013 from 7-8 p.m. I.D. #565903966. Serving on any homeowner board carries with it a large responsibility. Learn how to avoid the “little” compromises that can end up being the big issues later. What are the best policies that every HOA board should be practicing? – Instructor Paul Roth, Executive Vice President of New Concepts Management.

“How to Run Effective Board Meetings” – Thurs. April 4, 2013 from 7-8 p.m. I.D. # 562339438. What are the causes that keep meetings long and ineffective? Join Toni as she explains the bad habits and time “wasters” that are the root cause to long boring or divisive meetings. – Instructor Paul Roth, Executive Vice President of New Concepts Management.

“Discrimination and Fair Housing Laws - it’s not just for Landlords” – Mon. April 22, 2013 from 7-8 p.m. I.D. #725987670. Many of the cases tried in the area of discrimination & fair housing today are not the blatant acts of hateful people, but the insensitivity of those who do not understand how to communicate. Special attention will be focused on understanding how both culture and custom play in effective communication. – Instructor Gene Sullivan, President of New Concepts Management. ■

Home Savings Store

Resources, products and services available at special pricing for our homeowners and subscribers. To take part in any of these specific offerings, please contact our Home Savings Store Coordinator Lori Madson at 952-224-2663 and ask her for full details.

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Mortgage Network

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simply put you into something in order to make a sale. He spends the time to counsel you to see what makes the best sense.

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Rental Management Services

Your preference was to sell, but your home isn't moving. That new job is calling, and you don't want to walk away from your equity. What do you do? Call New Concepts. We can give you peace of mind knowing your property is being watched closely, and the renters aren't getting you in hot water with the Board or your neighbors. ■