

Pepco Golf Event Helps Local Families Pay Energy Bills

Many deserving families struggling with high energy bills got help this winter from a new source. Proceeds from Pepco's 2006 Golf Classic were distributed to needy families through three local charities. The money was used to help keep the heat on and the lights burning.

As government resources become stretched, those less fortunate are turning to charities for help coping with higher energy prices.

"The grant has allowed us to provide emergency financial assistance to help persons across the city pay their utility bills," said Maudine R. Cooper, president and CEO, Greater Washington Urban League. "We applaud Pepco for making this grant that allows us to help people before their service is disconnected."

The other charities benefiting from the tournament were the Community Ministry of Montgomery County and United Communities Against Poverty, Prince George's County.

Pepco is building on the success of the first golf outing, which netted more than \$140,000. Plans are under way to hold the second annual event on September 17 at The Country Club at Woodmore in Mitchellville. This year's event also will feature a tennis tournament for added excitement.

The utility currently is soliciting for corporate sponsorship opportunities, hoping to make this year's tournament even more successful than the first.



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PEPCO NEWS FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LEGISLATORS

Community *focus*

A Letter from Therese Yewell



I am pleased to report that over the past six months Pepco has made great strides in reducing the backlog of Prince George's County streetlights needing repair. This effort was possible thanks to county leaders and the many customers who responded to last year's special edition of *Community Focus* on streetlight maintenance. Please see page 2 for more information about this program.

Pepco is testing a new hybrid bucket truck that uses electricity to reduce noise and pollution. Page 2 has that story.

Proceeds from last year's Golf Classic is helping many county residents pay heating bills this winter. Planning for this year's event is under way. Turn to page 4 for that article.

I hope you find this edition of Community Focus informative. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

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Maintaining the Environment while Maintaining Power Lines

As part of its environmental management program, Pepco has added a hybrid bucket truck to its overhead maintenance fleet in Rockville. Pepco and manufacturer Easton Industries will evaluate its performance over the next 12 months as part of a pilot program.

Pepco is one of just 14 utilities across the country that currently has this type of hybrid vehicle. If the testing proves successful, Pepco will consider adding more hybrids to its fleet.

The 42-foot truck will produce significantly less emissions. The utility bucket can be operated in an electric-only mode with the engine off. This feature not only reduces emissions, but it eliminates engine noise while workers maintain utility equipment.

Pepco Reduces Backlog of Streetlight Repairs

In January 2006, a special issue of *Community Focus* provided Montgomery County residents information on how to report streetlight outages throughout the county. Since then, our crews have been hard at work replacing bulbs and repairing light fixtures.

With the help of local government officials and concerned citizens, Pepco has made great progress on streetlight repairs. Pepco repaired 4,880 streetlights in Montgomery County in 2006.

We know there is more to be done, but our work is gaining momentum. Pepco is considering new programs and technologies that will make it easier to

report outages. We hope you are pleased with our progress as we continue to improve the process.

Maryland Recognizes Pepco Program for Reducing Fire Deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office has recognized the Emergency Services Partnership Program of Pepco and its sister utility, Delmarva Power, along with other organizations, in helping reduce the number of statewide fire deaths in 2006 to the lowest level since 1975.

In 2006 there was an 18 percent drop in fire deaths when compared to 2005 which had 73 deaths. And, there was a dramatic 32 percent drop from the 88 fire deaths which occurred during 2004.

Pepco and Delmarva Power have both worked with the Fire Marshal's Office, as well as other fire officials, to help contribute to this effort. Over the past six years, the two utilities have donated 7,860 standard smoke alarms and 200 special needs smoke alarms to local Maryland fire departments.

"We appreciate Pepco's and Delmarva Power's continued support, and use this Emergency Services Partnership Program as an example to other representatives in private industry," said Maryland State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard. "The task of helping Marylanders prepare themselves to survive a home fire is not a sprint—it is a marathon. Your continued support has been one part of our success over the past several years."

Art Gallery Celebrates African-American Artists

Pepco's Edison Place Art Gallery was proud to host an exhibit of major African-American artists in February. Entitled "Holding Our Own," the exhibit included more than 60 pieces from the private collections of members of The Collectors Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.

Works on display were from such renowned artists as Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence. The exhibit mainly featured pieces from the 1980s and 90s, however there were works from almost every 20th Century decade – including an 1895 portrait of Frederick Douglass by Daniel Freeman.

Several school groups toured the exhibit as part of their celebration of Black History Month. The Washington Post featured the exhibit in an article by reporter Michael O'Sullivan.



Visitors to the Edison Place Art Gallery view a wall hanging on canvas by local artist James Phillips

Cook Up Energy Savings in the Kitchen

Saving energy in the kitchen is easy. Check out these low-cost, no-cost tips that will reduce consumption and help you save on your energy bill.

- Use cold water rather than hot to operate your food disposal.
- Never boil water in an uncovered pan.
- Turn off the oven 5-to-10 minutes before cooking time is up and use the trapped heat to finish the cooking.
- Avoid opening the oven door repeatedly to check food that is cooking.
- Make sure door seals on your refrigerator are airtight.
- Be sure your dishwasher is full but not overloaded when you use it.

For more energy-saving tips, log on to www.pepco.com.



Income Tax Credits Help Working Families

Low and moderate income families may benefit from two substantial tax credits – the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit.

Families may qualify for the federal and state EITC if in 2006 they:

- were raising one child and earned less than \$32,001 (or less than \$34,001, if married)
- were raising two or more children and earned less than \$36,348 (or less than \$38,348, if married)
- had no children, and earned less than \$12,120 (\$14,120, if married) and were between the ages of 25 and 64.

Families who earned more than \$11,300 in 2006 may also be eligible for the refundable Child Tax Credit on their federal tax return. You may be eligible for free tax preparation if your income was below \$38,000.

For information on the EITC and free tax preparation, call 1-800-492-0618.

Indoor Electrical Safety

The following tips will help you use electricity in a safe manner around your home:

- Never use an electrical appliance, on a wet surface, while you are wet or standing in water, or where it may fall into water.
- Do not run electrical cords through water or wet surfaces. Take special care when using electrical trimmers and cutters so that they do not damage cords.
- Unplug electric appliances before repairing or cleaning.
- Do not stick any object other than an electrical plug into an outlet, and if you have small children in your home make sure outlets not in use are covered with childproof plastic covers.
- Use only appliances with the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) symbol.
- Keep electrical cords out from under rugs and heavy furniture.
- Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords.
- Do not overload outlets with too many lights, appliances or other electrical equipment.
- Use bulbs that are the proper wattage for your light fixtures and lamps.
- Know the location of the breaker box in your home and the proper switch to flip in case it becomes necessary to shut off the power in your home.
- Replace circuit breakers and fuses with the correct sized device.
- Unless you are absolutely certain that you can make an electrical repair safely, call a qualified electrician.
- Protect yourself and your family by having your home electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician or licensed electrical inspector every few years.