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FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (Photo by Amy S. Dane)

ENERGY STAR

How the Home MPG program is saving Longmeadow homeowners from the chilling effects of big utility bills

By DAN T. CHASE
Editor

Editor's note: this is the first in an ongoing series of articles outlining several Longmeadow homeowners as they undertake different steps toward improving energy efficiency in their daily life.

LONGMEADOW – Kathleen Lovell laughed as she told Longmeadow News of the many incentives that can be of valuable benefit through the Home MPG program, organized by Mass Save.

“It’s a win, win, win, win, win,” she said. “You just can’t lose.”

Lovell is a member of Transition Longmeadow (read more about them in an upcoming issue), a group in town comprised of individuals who seek the many ways to lighten their carbon footprint. More specifically, she is a member in a workgroup under the aegis of that organization focused on helping to familiarize homeowners with the Home MPG.

Reported in an earlier edition of the Longmeadow News, the Home MPG program was started by Mass Save—a consortium of utility companies in the Bay State. Funds for this program are sourced from the U.S. Department of Energy and the state Department of Environmental Resources. Locally, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has taken over as point people for the eight towns that can benefit—in addition to Longmeadow, Belchertown, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Monson, Palmer, Springfield, and Wilbraham.

This program, “offers homeowners tremendous savings in terms of rebates and incentives,” Lovell said. She herself was an early adopter of Home MPG, and because of this positive interaction, she said that it made her realize others needed to know more. Incentives

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School Committee Votes ‘Yes’ for Online Networking Policy

By DAN T. CHASE
Editor

LONGMEADOW—At the January 14 meeting of the Longmeadow School Committee, a unanimous vote of all in attendance passed the Social Networking and Electronic Communications Policy. Not present were John Fitzgerald and Jennifer

Jester, home with the flu that has stricken 55 percent of Glenbrook Middle School, according to Superintendent Marie Doyle.

“This has been a year and a half in the making,” SC Chair Michael Clark said as he presented the policy for motion and voting. “We have had many meetings with parents, and staff.

We’ve gone to Hyannis and presented it [at the Mass. Association of School Committees]. Before you tonight is what I believe to be a very cohesive policy on social networking and electronic communication.

“Every single comment was taken very, very seriously,” he continued. “We wrestled over a lot of them. We

included a lot of them. We ran it by our attorneys who cut a couple of them out and then put a couple others in.

As all hands voting yes descended, Doyle joked, “Everyone needs a 22 year old chair of their school committee to get this done!” Clark politely corrected that he was 22 when they started, over a year ago.



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