

## Save Money on Utilities

- ✓ Weather strip doors and windows and seal air leaks around pipes and wires that enter/exit the space.
- ✓ Have your furnace cleaned to run more efficiently.
- ✓ Change the air filter on your furnace.
- ✓ Lower the thermostat between 65 and 68 degrees (except for elderly or infants ó 70 degrees), during the day and 58 degrees at night and while your away from home.
- ✓ Use ceiling fans set in reverse.
- ✓ Use your washing machine and dishwasher wisely.
- ✓ Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (these bulbs use ½ the energy of incandescent bulbs).
- ✓ Keep shades and blinds open during the day for solar heat.
- ✓ Install a programmable thermostat to reduce heat in your home when you are away or asleep.
- ✓ Close off unused rooms.
- ✓ **Call MassSAVE for a free energy audit, 1-800-632-8300. Grants are now available for new heating systems and insulation.**



## Heating Safety

### **Portable space heaters need space:**

- A qualified technician should do the installing.
- Vent to the exterior of the building away from obstructions, including bushes and snow drifts.
- Children must be supervised around heaters. Use physical non-combustible barriers to keep small children away.
- Never use an oven as a space heater.
- For portable electric space heaters:
  - Plug into a proper outlet, not an extension cord.
  - Inspect the unit for signs of unusual wear.
  - Unplug unit when leaving room or going to bed.
- Space heaters should be kept 3 feet away from combustible material.
- Make sure to have a working smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector on every floor. Call the Seekonk Fire Department at 508-336-8510 Ext. 0 for questions about placement.

### **Wood burning stoves and fireplaces:**

Use dry, seasoned wood, not artificial logs. Use paper and kindling to start a fire. Liquid fuels are very dangerous. Dispose of ashes in a metal container with lid, away from the house, garage and porch. Have the chimney professionally cleaned once a year. Wood/coal burning stoves and fireplaces should be out when you're asleep.

## **To Cope with Rising Energy Costs...**



## **Emergency Fuel Assistance 2011 - 2012**

Seekonk Human Services  
320 Pleasant Street  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
508-336-8772

## Fuel Assistance Help

**Q.** Will there be help to pay fuel bills this winter?

**A.** Yes. Rising energy prices have prompted concerns among town residents about the cost of heating their homes this winter. The state will offer fuel assistance to households with limited income through Citizens for Citizens Fuel Assistance Program.

## Income Guidelines and Family Size

The amount for fuel assistance this season has not yet been set. The state uses a formula that gives the lowest income households with the highest fuel costs the most benefits. The fuel assistance received through Citizens for Citizens will likely not cover your entire heating costs this winter. Citizens for Citizens Income Guidelines by family size are:

<b>Number of Household Members</b>	<b>Maximum Income</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$31,218</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$40,824</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$50,429</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$60,035</b>

*This application period for fuel assistance grants is November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. There is no priority given to seniors or disabled people, so be sure to apply for fuel aid early in the heating season. Don't wait until your last delivery!*

## Eligibility

Homeowners are eligible for the program, as well as renters. A renter who pays their own heat directly is eligible for fuel assistance. A person whose heat is included in the rent may also qualify. If you are not sure if you qualify, contact the program and ask how your situation will be handled.

The fuel program also has a fast track application process for people who are experiencing a heating crisis, such as utility shut off notice or an empty oil tank. A fuel crisis also includes a person with no heat, for any reason, or someone facing the imminent loss of heat.

If you are eligible for the fuel program, Citizens for Citizens will pay for fuel dealer. This fuel assistance program, known as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), will cover payments for oil, propane, wood or coal, as well as natural gas and electric utilities. For assistance applying for fuel assistance, contact Seekonk Human Services Outreach, 320 Pleasant Street, Seekonk, MA 02771; 508-336-8772,

## Fuel Assistance Application

### **What you will need:**

- Last 4 weeks of pay stubs
- Current 1099s for interest, dividends, or pension
- Copy of your oil, gas, and electric bill
- Mortgage statement, taxes and homeowners insurance bill or verification of insurance
- Rent receipt if you are a renter
- Proof of identity (driver's license or other photo ID)
- All household members must be included on the application as well as their Social Security Numbers

### **If you are on Social Security or SSI**

- Copy of check(s) or bank statement or letter from bank stating how much and from what source you get your income
- Current 1099s

### **If you receive a pension**

- Check stub or current 1099s

## Plan Ahead

If you have less than 1/8 tank of oil kerosene or propane and all other available fuel assistance is used, or if you heat with electricity or gas, do not wait until your service has been terminated. Please call 508-336-8772.

