

Energy bill means money for homeowners

Spring is here, and Ms. Green's green thumbs are itching! The right one itches because it's time to garden, and the left one is itching because it's the perfect time to think about saving money by saving energy. Have you seen that billboard on 15-501 heading north to Chapel Hill? The one with the sand pail and beach ball that reminds you to be more energy efficient so you can spend money on your vacation? It's easy to miss, Ms. Green knows, and isn't as to-the-point as Ms. Green would like. In fact, Ms. Green would rather a billboard that was super obvious, like: 'Hey Dummy! Your house is leaking energy, which equals wasted money!', but that probably demonstrates why the Energy Council hasn't hired Ms. Green to write their marketing slogans.

In any case, despite the fact that Ms. Green doesn't find the billboard particularly effective, it makes a legitimate point: saving

money on energy costs frees that money so you can do other things with it. Like go to the beach.

Or, as in Ms. Green's case, pay for both your children's orthodontics at the same time.

Sigh.

But back to the original point: saving money.

Here's current political news about energy efficiency that you have been dying to know. If it happens, it will change this country. It will certainly change Ms. Green's family business. And it will make things better for the children. Save the earth, even. Add jobs! Restore the economy! (Well, one can hope...) And Republicans and Democrats from the



ASK MS. GREEN

House and Senate are making it happen! Drumroll please!

I'm talking about the Cut Energy Bills at Home Act, introduced in the U.S. Senate by Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and Jeff Bingaman, (D-New Mexico.) AND the HOMES (Home Owners Managing Energy) Act, just introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by David McKinley (R- W. Va.) and Peter Welch (D-Vermont).

These are both amazing, amazing pieces of legislation for the home energy efficiency industry. The Cut Energy Bills at Home Act bill would create a new 25e tax credit — the first residential performance-based tax credit given to homeowners who make energy efficiency improvements. The proposed bill would provide performance-based tax credits of up to \$5,000 per project for homeowners who install qualified energy efficiency measures.

The Home Owner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) Act will provide rebates to homeowners who invest in energy

efficiency improvements. Homeowners who demonstrate a 20 percent energy savings will receive a \$2,000 rebate. For every 5 percent in additional energy savings, they can receive another \$1,000 — up to a total of \$8,000 or 50 percent of the project's cost. This program is based on an existing program in Vermont, which has demonstrated its effectiveness and efficiency.

The Republican backers of both these programs focus on the jobs that will be created if they come to pass. Ms. Green loves the idea of job creation! The Democrats are interested in saving the environment. Ms. Green loves saving the environment. Both parties are interested in homeowners saving money through increased energy efficiency, and you know Ms. Green loves that!

Ms. Green is the combined effort of Adrienne and Mark Bashista, co-owners of Home Performance NC, an energy auditing, energy rating, and home weatherization contracting company. They can be reached on the web: www.homeperformancenc.com and by phone: 919.360.1570.

CLAWS FOR A CAUSE

12th Annual
LOBSTER SALE
FUNDRAISER
Order Online
Now—April 29

www.chathamcountytogether.org

Lobster Pickup Day
Saturday, May 5



Triangle Boat Tours on Jordan Lake

By Don Watkins

Triangle Boat Tours welcomes you aboard for guided eco-tours, sunset cruises, and special events on Jordan Lake. Introducing the easy and fun way for your private group (up to 12) to have a unique experience — by boat.

Triangle Boat Tours offers 14 different tours for all ages, ranging from "Eco-Tours" to "Kid's Pirate Birthday Parties" at affordable rates. All ages are welcome. We are based at Crosswinds Marina for your convenience. Best yet, I handle every detail for you so you can focus on fun.

With fish jumping and bald eagles soaring, 180 miles of shoreline to explore, plus no housing or development to spoil the views, guests always return from Jordan Lake feeling refreshed and like they've experienced something special...true quality time. (No 3-hour

drive to the coast either!)

Our 24-foot Bentley pontoon boat provides comfortable lounging for up to 12 guests and has shade over the whole boat. The powerful 90 hp low-emission outboard runs very quietly as it moves us along with a nice breeze, plus emits no exhaust to breathe. It has spotless upholstery, well thought out features and amenities, including all required safety equipment, ensuring that you have a spectacular and safe experience. Ice-cold bottled water and soft drinks are included, and guests are welcome to bring their own food and beverages.

I am a US Coast Guard 100-ton licensed captain with nine years of professional yacht charter experience. My wife Heidi and I were in professional yachting aboard large motor and sailing yachts, private and charter, in



You might spy a bald eagle while on Jordan Lake.

more than 40 countries around the world prior to relocating to North Carolina to settle down to raise our children. Triangle Boat Tours is the only approved tour operator on Jordan Lake and is authorized by the State of North Carolina and Army Corp of Engineers. We provide the best price and service. Boating is our passion and we are committed to sharing its enjoyment with you!

Captain Don Watkins operates Triangle Boat Tours. For information, call 919.585.1488 or visit www.TriangleBoatTours.com.

I Mean Clean!

Ready for Spring Cleaning?
LET US HELP YOU
SPARKLE!

- Prompt and reliable
- Clean your home or business
- Licensed & insured
- Green products available
- Experts at organization; we haul off your trash, recyclables, stuff, and junk
- References and estimates are no problem!
- No job too big or too small

Sarah Pankow (919) 542-1770
pugsrule1015@gmail.com • www.imeanclean.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO

unWINEd's
Grand Opening

SATURDAY, MAY 5

4:00
Ribbon Cutting

4:30-7:30
Parlez Vous Crepe Truck

5:00-8:00
Rhonda Robichaux Band

North Carolina Wines
by the glass or bottle

Come Uncork and Unwind

237 Center Grove Church Rd, Moncure
Open Fri & Sat: 1-9 pm; Sun: 1-6 pm
Available for Special Gatherings, Mon-Thurs

919.548.9384
www.unwinednc.com

DIRECTIONS: 15/501 South toward Sanford. About 5 miles out from Pittsboro, take a right onto Mt View Church Rd, then left onto Center Grove Church Rd.

Rosemary House
BED & BREAKFAST

Gracious, Comfortable
Guest Rooms

76 West Street, historic Pittsboro
888.643.2017 • 919.542.5515
www.rosemary-bb.com
Rosemary...for Friendship and Remembrance

Boat Tours on Jordan Lake!

Guided Tours and Sunset Cruises for Private Groups

Fun, Affordable,
Close By...

BOOK NOW
919-585-1488

TriangleBoatTours.com