

Reliable Propane Customer-Link Newsletter

Providing You With a Warm Home & Plenty of Hot Water

Winter 2009

Boy, Oh Boy, Oh Boy!

This spring, Donna and I will be become grandparents for the first time. Our daughter, Ellie and her husband David, are having a boy in March and our daughter, Mindy, and her husband Andy, are having twin boys in May. Three boys!

Becoming grandparents reminded me of the story I read recently of a second grader who wrote the following report after visiting his grandparents in Florida during Christmas vacation.

"They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now. They do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool, too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And they eat the same thing every night - early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll



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house. The ones who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck."

When he gets older, he said, "I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren."

Congratulations, Ellie and Mindy!



Babies' First Sonogram Pictures reveal that they look like their father

Ken's Corner



Dear Friend and Customer,

Our son, Daniel, has always enjoyed teasing his older sisters. But our oldest daughter, Ellie, is so animated in her fearful reactions to snakes and spiders that she seems to get the brunt of it. Not too long ago, Daniel seemed to have run out of things to tease her about so I offered my services. Ellie's number one fear is of spiders so I suggested that

Dan put his small bug cage on her bed so she would see it when she came home from school. The cage looks like a can of soup cut in half, laid on its side, kind of like a Quonset hut. The roof is screened in and has a door with a latch. I suggested that he put the empty cage on her bed with the door ajar and place the following note on the kitchen counter: "Ellie, check out the huge spider in the bug cage on your bed. Signed, Daniel."

She slowly entered the room to find that the spider had apparently slipped one of his long arms through the door and lifted the latch to escape and was somewhere in the bedroom, waiting for the right moment to bite her.

Not knowing what our utility bills are going to be each month is a little like having a spider lurking in the room, ready to strike when we aren't paying attention. Most of us don't like surprises like that, but by choosing one of our payment plans, such as our Budget/Level Pay or our Comfort Plus Plan, it will take the "bite" out of energy bills because you know what the payment will be and when it will be needed. And if you like, we can even arrange to have the funds automatically transferred directly from your account.

Ellie washed her hair twice a day and did her homework with a flyswatter in her hand for a week before we told her that there never was a spider in the cage. Boys!

We really do enjoy what we do!

Sincerely,

Ken Albrecht
President, *Reliable Propane*

Reliable Propane

10140 County Road
Clarence Center, NY 14032

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Mail from our Customers!

We recently received a note from one of our new customers in Lockport. John had set the tank and then tested the gas system to make sure that there were no leaks. He noticed that the "simmer" settings on the kitchen stove were too high, so he made the adjustments which only took a couple of minutes.

While he was packing up, he noticed that the brake lights on the customer's pick up truck wouldn't go out. He said that he was familiar with the problem and asked if he could try to fix it. The customer wrote, "...With a little oil, that problem was solved as well."

Thanks for letting us know how we are doing!

Simple Caesar Dressing

Donna surprised us one night by putting this dressing on our salad. Some Caesar dressings almost taste fishy, but guests are asking for the recipe of this one. Try it, and let us know what you think!

3 cloves garlic, minced	1 tsp. Dijon mustard
3/4 c. mayonnaise	1 T. lemon juice
3 T. parmesan cheese	salt and pepper to taste
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	5 anchovies (optional)

Combine garlic with mayo; add other ingredients, but we don't put the anchovies in. Refrigerate until it's time to serve. Serve over Romaine lettuce. Enjoy!

Appliance Safety-Furnace Vents



John Ganschow,
Service Manager

When the snow is falling and the wind is blowing, it is a good idea to check the area around your furnace vents. Modern furnaces vent out the side of your home and are susceptible to being clogged with snow and ice. If you need a service call, set aside those leftover Christmas cookies and I'll be over. They make great dunkers!

Reliable: National Recognition

Our company was recently featured in the November 2008 issue of our national trade magazine, "LP Gas," listed under Companies to Watch. The article highlighted our newsletter that we mail to several thousand families, three times a year. We have been writing and printing our own newsletters since 2002. Our daughters, Mindy and Marissa, assist with its creation and of course, Donna has the final say on what stories I am allowed to use. Someone asked her during our open house if all of the stories that we write are true. She responded, "They sure are."



Wonders of Nature

A feature provided by team member and faithful bird-watcher, Garner Light, who provides some of the latest news on the best sights and sounds of nature right here in WNY.



Bluebird feeding

In severe cold, Bluebirds will huddle together in nest boxes and males will start choosing nesting boxes as early as February. By keeping your nesting boxes clean, you increase the chance of a successful season.

Feeder birds that are here in winter include Cardinals, Blue Jays, Chickadees and Mourning Doves. Sunflower seeds are the best choice for feed. Unusual winter visitors are Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and White Winged Crossbills. You can use a bird guidebook or the Internet to see what these birds look like. For current bird reports in WNY, check this website: <http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/GENE.html>.

For information on field trips and other free outdoor family activities at local nature preserves, e-mail me at home: garnerlight@hotmail.com or call me here at the office.

Garner Light