



# Caretaker

## Tips For Fall Time Change

### Sustainable Safety and Money Saving Steps to Take This Weekend!

Time again to change those clocks! Next Sunday (November 3<sup>rd</sup>) at 2:00 am we “fall back” to 1:00 am as Daylight Savings Time ends for 2019. As long as you’re making changes around the house, try a few more from our “Caretaker” staff that will keep you safer, save you money (and frustration) and save the planet as well:

1. **CHANGE ALL YOUR CLOCKS!** Of course... But don’t forget the ones that aren’t on the wall: stove, microwave, coffee pot, your car...
2. **THERMOSTAT** – If you have a programmable type (if you don’t, get one - they save money!), check that it updates automatically... Some won’t. **Kim Melander, our Energy Director** says while you’re “at the ‘stat”, check that your heat settings are at the lowest comfortable temperature setting. 67 to 69 degrees is still comfortable if you’re dressed OK, and programming 55-60 when no one’s home is your biggest savings tip! Kim says every degree lower during than you used to keep temperature set is 5% off your heating bill!
3. **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** – This is also a great time to check that these “life-savers” devices are fully charged. Check the gauge if yours has one; an expiration date may be stamped on ones that don’t. **Don’t have a fire extinguisher? GET SOME.** They cost A LOT less than fire damage! **Mike Johnson, our Safety and Security Director** recommends at least THREE to FOUR: kitchen, garage, bedroom and a second floor if you have one.
4. **SMOKE DETECTORS** – **Mike** suggests you replace the batteries in all units in your home’s detectors this weekend. Test the unit after the new battery goes in. This is one device you want to be “ever-ready”. Again, **more than one detector is recommended**. Info at: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/fire-and-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms>
5. **CEILING FANS** – **Kim** says if you have these, it’s time to turn the switch on the side of the fan UP toward the ceiling. This reverses the blades direction for the winter, blowing hot air off the ceiling, down the walls and toward your toes! THIS SAVES MONEY.
6. **OUTSIDE LIGHTS** – **Remember: it’s gonna get dark early!** **Mike** says check and adjust outside lights for safety, and replace dim, broken bulbs. Got flashlights? Load fresh batteries and **always carry one for personal safety!**
7. **SCAN YOUR COMPUTER:** **John James, our Technology Director** says now’s a good time to run a full virus and malware scan on your computer, especially if it doesn’t do this



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automatically. Even if it does, go ahead and scan. It's also a good time to clean up/delete old files and programs to keep your processor running "up to speed".

8. **TUNE UP HVAC SYSTEM** – Now's the perfect time to call for a maintenance check on your unit. Kim and Donnie Hill, our **Lead HVAC Mechanic**, say checking refrigerant levels, cleaning coils and other actions can save you an expensive mid-winter breakdown, and save lots of dollars off your heating bill also! At the very least, this is a great time to change your air filter(s). Save money and breathe better!

9. **"GRILL UP"** – If you're done with the propane grill, take this time to preserve and "put it up" properly. Clean and cover it if it stays outside. If it's going indoors or in the garage, valve off and disconnect the tank, cap or seal the outlet and store the tank outside and/or away from the house. On the grill itself, bag or cover and tape the regulator valve to keep insects from nesting over the winter. Forgetting this can cause indoor gas leaks, fires next spring, or worse...

*Compiled by "The CARETAKERS" of the  
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