

# What's Current

## NOVEC

The Powerful Choice

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## Ann Wheeler elected to NOVEC Board of Directors

**Congratulations to Ann Wheeler, who was elected to represent district 4 on the NOVEC Board of Directors, serving the areas of Manassas, Gainesville, and Manassas Park (west of Route 28).**

Wheeler was elected to the NOVEC Board during our annual meeting on September 22. During the meeting, each board candidate was given the opportunity to make a few remarks and Wheeler commented, "I've been impressed by NOVEC's ability to keep pace with the tremendous growth of our area in the past ten years."

Wade House who has served on the NOVEC Board for 11 years representing district 5 (Haymarket, Bull Run and Nokesville) was uncontested for his board position and was re-elected to serve another four-year term.



## Scholarship photo correction



**Megan Henry**

Two of the NOVEC scholarship winner photos in the August *Cooperative Living* magazine were inadvertently mislabeled. The correct photos appear here. You can also view the corrected August 2004 magazine story on our Web site at

[www.novec.com/news.cfm?viewID=33](http://www.novec.com/news.cfm?viewID=33).

We apologize to Megan and Amber and send them our congratulations as well!



**Amber Hurley**

## Nightlight safety tip

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns that fires can start when flammable materials touch a nightlight. For example, if bedding, pillows or toilet paper touch the hot bulb of the nightlight, they can ignite.

### To reduce the chance of fire:

- ☺ Locate nightlights away from beds where the bulb might touch flammable materials.
- ☺ Look for nightlights that bear the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. certified mark (UL), which indicates it has been tested and approved to industry standards.
- ☺ Consider buying nightlights with a mini neon bulb that illuminates at cool temperatures.
- ☺ Routinely check [www.recall.gov](http://www.recall.gov) to be sure your nightlight has not been recalled.



**What:** Operation Round Up (ORU) is NOVEC's community service assistance program, which gathers voluntary contributions from customers enrolled in the program.

**Why:** Your donation to ORU helps the less fortunate stay warm during the winter by working through social services agencies to provide monetary aid to local families needing assistance paying their heating bills. In addition, ORU awards grants to local non-profit charitable organizations during the non-winter months.

A volunteer customer advisory board determines how grant funds will be distributed. NOVEC absorbs all administrative expenses, so 100 percent of money donated goes directly to the fund.

**How:** Customers authorize NOVEC to "round up" their monthly electric bill to the next higher dollar. For example, if your bill is \$69.54, it is rounded up to \$70 and the extra 46¢ goes to ORU.

The amount "rounded up" on your bill averages a total of \$6 per year. Each month, the amount you contribute to ORU is shown on your billing statement. You can also make additional contributions by writing in the extra amount on your billing statement and including this amount with your payment.

**Sign-up today!** You can register for Operation Round Up in two convenient ways:

✓ Send an e-mail to [customerservice@novec.com](mailto:customerservice@novec.com) with your NOVEC account number, name and address.

✓ Call the customer service center at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500.

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## Energy saving tips for computers

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), you can save energy by enabling power management on your computer monitors. Power management allows your monitor to go into a low-power sleep mode. A simple touch of the mouse or keyboard “wakes” the monitor within seconds. Read on for more computer energy saving tips.

### **Turn it off**

☞ Turn off all desktop computers and peripheral devices, including monitors, printers and storage media devices at night and during any prolonged absence. Turning off the equipment at night can cut annual energy costs from \$185 to \$97 per computer.

☞ Computer manufacturers do not recommend leaving machines on. The computer and monitor will last longer if they are shut off at night. Not only is there less wear and tear due to the machine’s own heat, friction and vibration, but a machine switched off is no longer susceptible to power surges and similar hazards.

☞ In addition, if you are going to be away from your computer for thirty minutes or more, turn your monitor off. The monitor is the single most energy-consuming component of your computer system.

### **Use power management**

☞ If you must keep your computer on all day or all night, make sure the power management or energy-saving features are activated. To change the energy settings on a PC, use the power management icon in the control panel. On a Macintosh, you can find these settings in the energy saver control panel. Set your system to turn off your monitor after 5 to 10 minutes, and to put your computer into ‘sleep’ mode after 15 to 20 minutes.

### **Avoid screen savers**

☞ Limit screen-saver use. A screen saver does not save energy. In fact, more often than not, a screen saver not only will draw power for the monitor, but also will keep the CPU from shutting down.

### **When purchasing a new PC**

☞ Purchase flat-screen monitors. They use significantly less energy and are not as hard on the eyes.

☞ Be sure to look for products bearing the “Energy Star” label.



For more energy saving tips, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## After Hurricane Ivan

**The NOVEC right-of-way department helps to foster the delivery of safe and reliable electric service through its tree-trimming program. This program incorporates a three-year tree trimming cycle as well as targeting danger trees and eliminating brush with herbicides.**

These techniques generally eliminate most immediate hazards to the electric delivery system in the form of falling trees and breaking branches. However, when it comes to unpredictable storms such as hurricanes and tornados even our best efforts cannot out weigh Mother Nature’s punishing wrath.

When the tornados created by the aftermath of hurricane Ivan touched down in various parts of our service area on Friday, September 17 it was clear how devastating Mother Nature could be. While clearing fallen wires and broken poles, we examined many of the trees that had

Many of the trees that fell during the tornados, such as these in Loudoun County, were healthy trees that succumbed to the wind. They often blocked our right of way areas, making power restoration difficult.



fallen or been torn apart by the tornados. As expected, we found that the majority of trees affected by this storm were strong, healthy specimens, which just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. No pre-examination or preventative measures would have eliminated the majority of these tree problems.

As a property owner, if you notice changes in the structure of trees on your property which did not fall during the storm but could affect NOVEC’s power lines in the near future, please notify the right-of-way department. We would be happy to come out to make sure these trees are stable. You can reach the right-of-way department at (888) 335-0500, extension 1661 or (703) 392-1661, or send e-mail to [novecrightofway@novec.com](mailto:novecrightofway@novec.com).

**Debris clean up**  
**During major weather related power outages, contract tree crews from NOVEC are required to clear lines and poles only so that crews may re-establish electric service. These crews do not clean up or remove any debris created from this work. Debris clean-up during power outage restoration work is the responsibility of the property owner.**

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