

Carbon monoxide detector giveaway

Free to residents of San Carlos Park fire district

Hurricane season officially began June 1 and recent years have shown citizens of San Carlos Park the need to be prepared for such a disaster.

Preparation often involves the purchase of a generator. A generator is convenient and useful when we are left without power during and after a disaster. Yet, it can create hazards for homeowners if not used properly. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless poison gas. It is a component

of the exhaust from a generator engine. Due to this, residents of the San Carlos Park Fire District may pick up a free carbon monoxide

detector, an All Hazards Guide and generator safety tips at any of San Carlos Park Fire District's stations while supplies last. ■

If you go

- >>**Who:** San Carlos Park Fire District
- >>**What:** Carbon Monoxide Detector Giveaway
- >>**When:** Beginning Immediately – while supplies last
- >>**Where:** All San Carlos Park Fire District stations
 Station 3: 19591 Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy.
 Station 2: Island Park Road
 Station 1: Sanibel Blvd.

Tips to save energy this summer

When the weather heats up in Southwest Florida, most residents instinctively turn to their air conditioner for instant relief. However, how you manage your energy usage this summer will have a dramatic effect on your electric bill.

For example, each degree you set your thermostat below 78 degrees will add 8 percent to your cooling costs. There are several alternatives that you can use to keep cool that won't break the bank.

- First, consider using ceiling fans to complement your air conditioner. Ceiling fans create a wind-chill effect on your skin that makes you feel cooler. But, use them wisely—if you leave ceiling fans running in empty rooms, you are wasting electricity.

- Untinted windows offer little resistance to the sun's heat. About 19 percent of the heat that enters your home comes through your windows: consider applying tinting to them.

- You can also block the sun from entering your home by planting trees in your yard to shade the windows that receive the most heat. But be sure to plant trees away from power lines. Also, keep the drapes closed during hot, sunny days.

- Don't forget to keep your air conditioner in tip-top shape by replacing filters once a month, and have your unit serviced every year.

For more information on summertime electric saving tips, contact the Lee County Electric Cooperative at 997-SAVE or visit www.lcec.net. ■

Identity theft prevention workshop

According to Identity Theft Florida, Florida ranks sixth in the nation with the most cases of consumer identity theft. In 2006 alone, more than 17,000 Floridians became victims of identity theft.

In an effort to educate consumers about the importance of protecting their identity, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Central Florida and the Florida Gulf Coast, Inc. is offering the "Identity Theft, Are You at Risk?" workshop, free of charge, on Thursday, June 28, from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The "Identity Theft, Are You at Risk?" workshop teaches facts about identity theft and what consumers can do to minimize their risk of being victimized, covering the following topics:

- Ways to protect yourself from identity theft
- Identity theft warning signs
- What to do if you are a victim of identity theft
- Laws that protect you
- Resources for identity theft

The workshop will be held at Consumer Credit Counseling's Fort Myers location, 12811 Kenwood Lane, Ft. Myers. To make a required reservation, call 1-800-741-7040 and select option 4. ■

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