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Volume XI — Fall 2014



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MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance".

On the Cover:

Sunset at Taylorville Airport, Taylorville, Illinois
taken by Luke McLeod, husband of Heather McLeod, IRWA
Membership Services Assistant.

Water Ways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Our website is www.ilrwa.org. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwadb@ilrwa.org.



Find us under Illinois Rural Water Association

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Nothing Stays the Same

by Don Craig,
IRWA Deputy Director

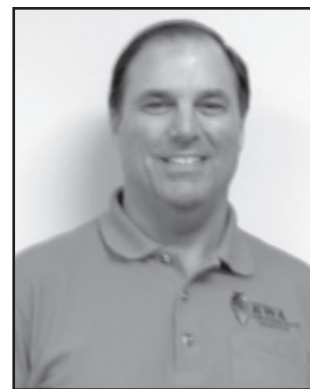
One thing I've always said through these many years of working within the Rural Water Association is that there are always changes, whether good or bad. I've seen changes in utilities and their personnel happen many, many times through that period. And, it has happened with IRWA as well.

Last January, our southern Circuit Rider for many years, Pat Gammill, had to stop working due to health related issues that kept her from being able to do the job she has loved for over 14 years. As much as she hated to do so, Pat sought medical relief to take care of her physical problems, because she could no longer endure the pain she was suffering. Unfortunately, she is still dealing with those issues to some degree, and is

working with her doctors to reduce and hopefully eliminate the causes of those.

Pat worked throughout southern Illinois, and through those years, she developed a very good rapport with many operators, managers, and clerical staff within the utilities she assisted. Her way of helping those systems in need, was just plain and simple... and very down to earth. She never tried to project herself as knowing it all, or being better than those she worked so diligently with in the field. Rather, she 'just did her job' in seeing that rural water systems in her region, were receiving the best one-on-one technical assistance she could give. And, she also gave recommendations to system personnel, administrators, and board members to use in making their final decisions in helping their system run more efficiently and effectively. Also, her ability to get letters from systems she had helped through the years was always good... it was a testament to her true assistance to hundreds of systems during her time with IRWA. And, Pat's public relations in the field, at conferences, and other areas was always a positive for helping to develop new members and retain ones already on board.

All our staff members are "ambassadors" for IRWA and its continued respect...in their contacts in the field, through our office, at conferences, training sessions, and all other venues. Each has varying personalities and ways of handling their job responsibilities and public relations,



but all do well in their own way. Pat was a good example of that, in her time with IRWA. She is missed by the Association and all of those system personnel, vendors, and agencies in the region she worked in, as well as many others across the state. We at IRWA...and I personally...wish Pat the best, and hope that her health continues to improve.

And, there are more changes coming down the road. Bill Dowell, who is our Wastewater Tech in the northern half of Illinois, will be retiring from IRWA at the end of October. He is just shy of having worked ten years for the Association, and just like Pat, he has been a valuable asset to our organization.

Bill is probably one of the most 'organized' individuals I have come across in my lifetime. He is a living testament to a motto that I have preached for many years... Plan your work, and work your plan. Always willing to help and be a team player, Bill never says never. Well, at least I haven't witnessed it yet. Ha! But honestly, he has always been diligent in doing his job for IRWA, and is one of those people that are there

continued on page 5

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Nothing Stays the Same

continued from page 4

when you need him. Bill is a very intellectual human being, and has passed his knowledge in the wastewater and water field, on to hundreds of various system staff through the nearly ten years he has been with IRWA. And, he has earned the respect of many, many system and government personnel throughout the state, while working for the organization. And, without question, he has earned

mine, and I wish him the best in his upcoming retirement.

Once Bill retires, Evan Jones will be assuming his duties as the Wastewater Tech in the northern region. And, also beginning in November, the Circuit Rider position in the southern region will be filled by newly hired Roger Noe of Wayne City. We thank Evan for moving into that position for now, and also

welcome Roger aboard, and wish him the best in his new endeavor with IRWA.

Finally, there is no doubt, that our organization misses Pat for all she did to help build IRWA, just as we will miss having Bill in the field as one of our staff members and his contributions to the Association as well. But, unfortunately, time rolls on... and nothing stays the same. 💧

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2014–2015 Tentative Training Schedule



November 6, 2014	Aledo	Distribution System O & M/Proper Reporting Procedures	Water
November 13, 2014	Warsaw	Plant Process Control and System O & M	Water
December 3, 2014	Mason City	System Operation & Maintenance	Water
January 21, 2015	Oakland	J.U.L.L.E. Program Update	Water
January 22, 2015	Macon	J.U.L.L.E. Program Update	Water
April 8, 2015	Riverton	System O & M / How to do all that Paperwork	Water
May 29, 2015	Wenona	Wastewater A to Z	Wastewater

***THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE. OUR WEBSITE (WWW.ILRWA.ORG) WILL REFLECT THE LATEST CHANGES AS WELL AS CURRENT TRAINING TO REGISTER FOR. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 217-287-2115 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

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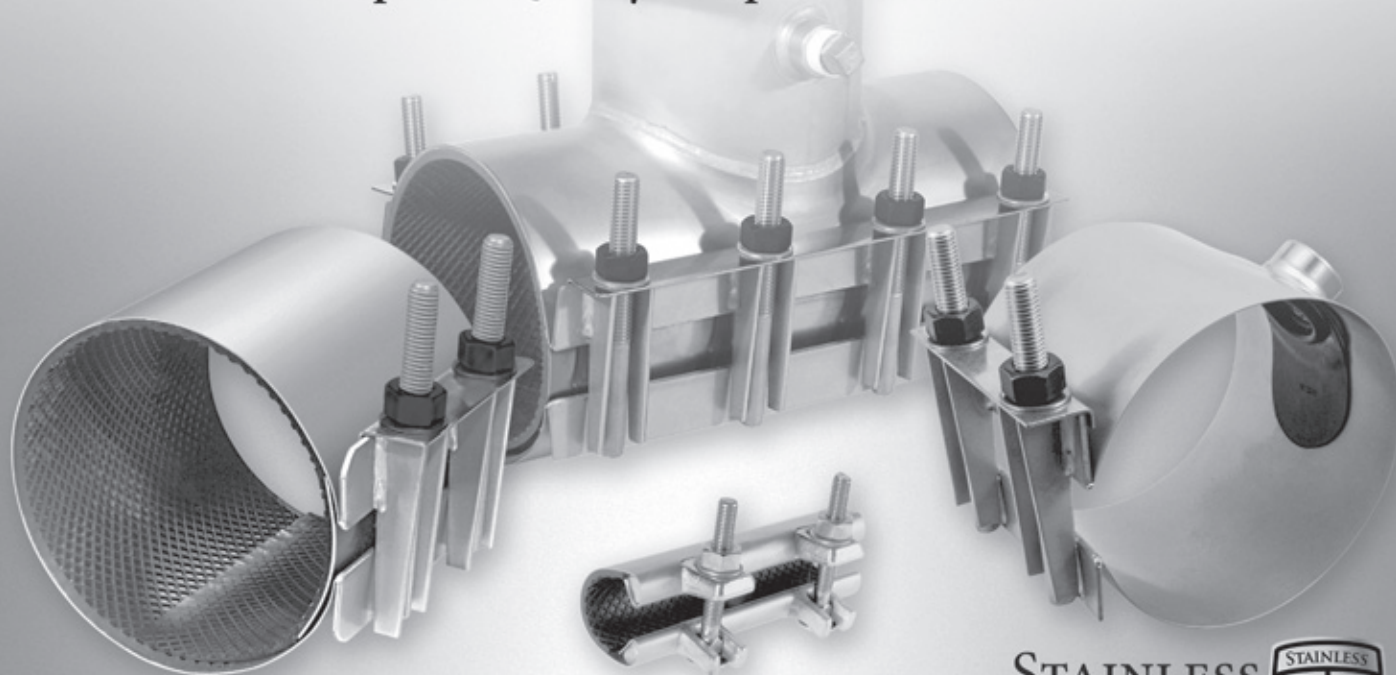
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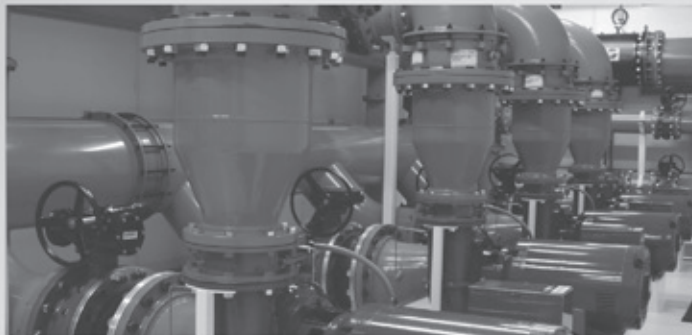


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New Training Opportunities in the Upcoming Year

by Phil Donelson,
IRWA Training & Marketing Director

Well I don't know about you, but I can't remember the last time I was mowing green grass in September. It is pretty nice after the brutal winter we had last year, so I will not complain about yard work well into November if it comes to that! None of us are looking forward to the cold, but I am looking forward to some of the training developments coming later this fall and throughout the winter with the IRWA training division.

As we enter into fall we have a new program that will be co-sponsored by the IEPA, ISAWWA, and of course IRWA. Several of the details are not finalized yet, but there are many things I can tell you. Here is what I know and want to make you aware of. There will be a series of classes offered dealing with water loss and water audits. The IEPA is supporting this program and will be funding a large portion of the sessions. IRWA & ISAWWA will be providing the training and hosting the sessions at locations all around the state. Soon you will be able to find all the details about classes near you on the 2 association's websites.

At this point IRWA has scheduled approximately 20 training classes of 6 hours each, between November and March. Our territory will be I-80 south,

and the ISAWWA will be covering from I-80 north. We are really looking forward to offering you, our members, this valuable training which will not only be a great opportunity to examine how to better perform water audits, but it will show you how to use a tool that will encompass many of the variables that allow for potential loss in your system. Hopefully we can help you discover ways to save your valuable resources such as time, money, and of course your water!

On another note, the 2nd annual Fall Administrative Conference is coming soon! Please look in this publication for registration material as well as the agenda for this year's event! If you are unfamiliar with the conference, it is a full day of speakers on Thursday, and a half day on Friday concluding by noon. The focus of this conference is on the administrative staff, board members, city officials, and any other clerical staff who works for municipalities or water systems. Since they were such great hosts last year, we will be returning to East Peoria and the Par-a-Dice Hotel and Casino again this year. The dates are November 20-21, 2014. We really hope you will check it out and plan to attend!

Lastly, I want to thank you for all



the ideas and topics you have offered up over the last year or two. Please keep the suggestions coming. It helps me know what speakers and topics you are interested in and what you need training on. If you have a vendor out there who may want to speak and has a subject matter of interest, point me in their direction and I will see if we can match up to speak in your area.

Email - donelson@ilrwa.org

Cell - 217-820-1560

Thanks again to all of you who support the training we do, whether it is through speaking or attending as a student, thanks and let us know what we can do to make it better, see ya soon in class!! 💧



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FALL

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CANDYCORN
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COOL WEATHER
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FIRESIDE
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HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HAY BALES
HOMECOMING
HOT CHOCOLATE
LONG JEANS
MIGRATION
OCTOBER

PUMPKIN CARVING
PUMPKINS
RAINY
RED LEAVES
SCARE
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SHORTER DAYS
SNEEZING
SUNFLOWERS
SWEATSHIRTS
TRICK OR TREATING
WINDY
WITCH
YELLOW LEAVES

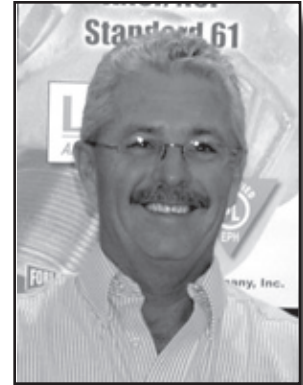
Village of Milledgeville, Illinois

by Gale Moore,
IRWA Circuit Rider

Milledgeville is located an hour from Rockford and the Quad Cities in Carroll County. After a mill was built in 1834, people began to settle in “Old Town” and after the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad put a track through “New Town”, Milledgeville began to grow. Business opportunities increased, people could travel easier and Milledgeville opened itself to the outside world. The town pump was located in the center of town and families hand pumped water for drinking and household purposes plus a large tank provided water for the animals. Milledgeville serves a population of approximately 1,000 with 520 service connections. They have two wells, one located close to the treatment plant that produces 550 gallons per minute and the other being pumped thru a ten inch water

main close to one half of a mile at 350 gallons per minute. Both wells utilize line shaft turbines and average 90,000 gallons per day and carry approximately 60 psi in the distribution system.

With needed upgrades from hydro pneumatic tanks to an elevated water tower, the new 250,000 gallon tower was put on line in 2009. In 2010, the new pump house and some water main extensions was put on line. Improvements that were made to their water system, and The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s regulations, Milledgeville went from a “Chlorine Exempt” to a chlorinated facility with the system carrying a 1.0 free chlorine residual, plus addition of fluoride.



Milledgeville’s operators Greg Miller and Jeff Hackbarth operate a very well run plant and distribution system which allowed them to be nominated last year for Illinois Rural Water Association plant of the year. Congratulations! 💧



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2nd Annual Fall Administrative Conference

November 20th & 21st, 2014

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Sessions and Topics



Featured Sessions

"The Impact of Healthcare Reform on Illinois Municipalities"

Brian Jablonski from CBIZ Benefits and Insurance will discuss updates and new information regarding how the new laws will directly affect municipalities. There will be a Q & A session so your specific issues can be addressed as well.

"An update of Risk Management and Insurance Issues "

Keith Dobrolinsky, Vice President of the Assurance Agency will update you on current and emerging risk management issues facing Illinois municipalities. He will review ways to reduce your public entity's overall exposures and cost of risk as well.

"Setting up Municipal Websites"

IRWA has established a new relationship to help our members in creating and managing municipal websites. This will be an overview and discussion on the issues that are involved in setting up and maintaining a municipal website.

"Electronic Records Management and Storage"

Robert Boots with the Illinois State Archives will go over electronic records management and storage. He will discuss when a record is a record and when it is just reference material. There will also be a brief recap on the Local Records Act.

"Going Paperless, TIFF Districts, and a brief review of water service disconnect procedures and policies"

Michael Antoline, from the Law Office of Michael Antoline, will be going over legal procedures for "going paperless". His second topic will be issues involved in setting up TIFF districts for small communities. Also-back by popular demand- Michael will offer some time for Q & A to discuss policies and procedures for water service disconnection.

"Overview of MS Excel"

Selena Elledge with Sikich will be covering basic functions and tricks when working with MS Excel. She will talk about basic and advanced features of this popular application with time included for Q & A.

"FOIA, Recording public meetings, and the Open Meetings Act"

Chris Boggs, AAG, Assistant Public Access Counselor from the Illinois Attorneys General's Office will talk about the Freedom of Information Act, The Open Meetings Act, and recording public meetings. We have rolled several hot topics into one speaker. We anticipate a great session of Q & A and will try to cover specific issues you may have.

Conference Agenda

<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Nov. 20th, 2014</u>
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Registration and Welcome
8:30 -9:15 a.m.	CBIZ Benefits and Insurance - Healthcare Reform update
9:15 -9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30 -10:15 a.m.	Assurance-Risk Management
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 -11:15 a.m.	Municipal Websites
11:15-11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30-noon p.m.	Additional Q & A -time from morning sessions
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided
1:00-1:45 p.m.	Secretary Of State- Electronic Records
1:45-2:00 p.m.	Break
2:00-2:45 p.m.	Going paperless, TIFF districts
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00-4:15 p.m.	TIFF districts and Water Disconnect
4:30-6:00 p.m.	Hospitality Reception
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Nov. 21st, 2014</u>
8:30 -9:15 a.m.	Sikich- MS Excel overview with Q & A
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30- 10:15 a.m.	Attorney General's Office-FOIA, recording public records (cont.)
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Break
10:30-11:15 a.m.	Attorney General's Office-(cont.) re- cording public records and the Open Meeting's Act
11:15 -11:30 a.m.	Final Break
11:30 -12:00 p.m.	Drawings and Recap



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Registration Hours:

Thursday, Nov., 20, 2014 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Registration and badges are required for all conference attendees.

Pre-Registration:

To pre-register just complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

IRWA

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Taylorville, IL 62568

Or on-line at www.ilrwa.org for credit card or PayPal payments only.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by Nov. 3, 2014

On-Site Registration:

All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the Convention Center. Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.

Cancellation & Refunds:

Refunds are issued only in the event of an emergency or hospitalization. We must have a **written notice of cancellation** to issue a refund.

Hospitality Reception:

Thursday, Nov. 20th, 2014 4:30- 6:00 p.m.

Please join us after the days sessions for refreshments and a good time sure to be had laughing with your peers! It should be a good time to swap stories before going out to dinner. We hope you will join us.



2014 Annual Fall Administrative Conference

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FALL

Find the Fall words



Word Search Answer/Hints

The words below are listed with their starting row and column

APPLE CIDER 12:12	FALL 2:13	PUMPKIN CARVING 5:17
APPLE PIE 17:10	FIRESIDE 2:8	PUMPKINS 10:18
AUTUMN 4:21	FIRST FROST 2:14	RAINY 17:18
BACK TO SCHOOL 20:14	FOOTBALL 22:9	RED LEAVES 9:14
CANDY 16:17	FRIENDS 18:7	SCARE 6:11
CANDY CORN 11:9	FUN 21:22	SCARECROW 1:15
CARAMEL APPLES 23:20	GHOSTS 23:7	SEPTEMBER 23:16
CARVING 22:2	GOBLINS 11:23	SHORTER DAYS 8:3
CINNAMON STICKS 15:17	GOURDS 21:1	SNEEZING 3:5
COATS 1:19	HALLOWEEN 6:9	SUNFLOWERS 15:11
COLOR CHANGE 19:15	HARVEST 16:13	SWEATSHIRTS 19:22
COOL WEATHER 9:8	HAY BALES 23:21	TRICK OR TREATING 4:2
CORN 7:1	HOMECOMING 16:13	WINDY 1:1
COSTUMES 11:21	HOT CHOCOLATE 8:19	WITCH 8:23
DECORATIONS 21:8	LONG JEANS 9:12	YELLOW LEAVES 4:14



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Look for registration materials in December

Game Day Chili Recipe

A simple dish everyone will love!

Make it the day before the game and it's even better!

Ingredients:

4 lbs ground beef (or venison. If you use venison add 1 lb suet.)
3 T vegetable oil
1 large white onion (Chopped)
2 tsp each of salt & pepper (may adjust to your own preference)
2 cans original Rotel (chopped tomato & green chili peppers)
1 can "HUNTS" tomato paste
1 bottle "Spicy V-8" juice
2 pkgs "Chili Man Chili Seasoning" (plus 2 T ground cumin (optional))
1 40 oz can "Brooks Chili Hot Beans"
2 15.5 oz cans "Brooks Chili Mild Beans"
1 quart water (may add more or less depending on how thick you like your chili)
Add additional salt and pepper to taste



Directions:

In large soup pot, sautee onions, salt and pepper in vegetable oil until soft (around 5 min.). Add ground beef and cook until browned. Stir in Rotel and tomato paste until combined, add V-8, Chili Man Seasoning and Cumin then mix well. Add the Beans and water to your desired thickness. Bring to soft boil (about 20 min) and reduce to simmer. Simmer for 1 hour, and salt & pepper to taste and enjoy.

Suggestions: Top with shredded cheddar, raw onions and slilces of pickled jalepeno! Serve with oyster crackers and peanut butter sandwich wedges! 💧



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Is Your Furnace Ready for “Old Man Winter”?

HOW CAN YOU TUNE-UP YOUR FURNACE SYSTEM?

HVAC systems are mechanical, so like all mechanical systems they do need to be maintained. A thorough professional tune up will cost you \$100 or more and is definitely something you should do every few years. However, you can do an annual tune up and maintenance process yourself, and save some of that money.

1. First take a look at your furnace. There shouldn't be any black soot or combustion residue on or around the furnace. Next, turn up the thermostat so your furnace comes on. Check the flames in the burner. They should be blue and steady, not yellow or orange and flickering. Soot build-up or yellow flames are an indication of poor combustion, and if you see any signs of either, call a professional technician to fix the problem.
2. Next, turn the thermostat back down and let your furnace cool. For extra safety, turn off the circuit breaker that powers your furnace. When the furnace is cool, remove the sides of your furnace and using a vacuum with a long nozzle, get rid of any dust that may have accumulated. Use a damp rag to clean the blades of the blower fan and any other areas the vacuum couldn't reach. While you've got the sides off, check to see if your blower fan has oil cups at the ends of the central shaft (some are sealed units and don't need oiling). If

there are cups there, give them a few drops of oil.

3. An electric motor and a fan belt drive many blower fans, while some are direct drive and don't use a fan belt. If your blower does have a fan belt, check its condition and tension. The underside should be free of cracks, but over time, age and heat will dry out the rubber belt and cause cracks. If there are cracks in the belt, replace it with one of the same size. Checking the tension of the belt is as simple as pushing down on it. There should be about 1/2 inch of play in a properly adjusted belt. If you have more or less movement than that, adjust the tension by loosening the electric motor mounts and moving the motor to create the proper tension.
4. Reattach the furnace panels, and turn the circuit breaker back on.
5. Finally, changing your furnace filter once a month during heating season is a good maintenance practice. So when you're doing your furnace tune up, get ready for the season by installing a fresh filter.

Now your furnace is ready for “Old Man Winter.”

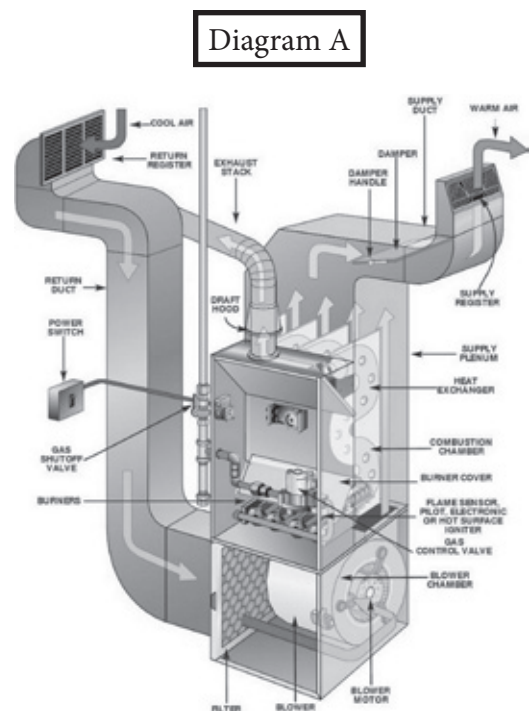
BE SAFE!

Combustion creates Carbon Monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Normally the CO produced by the combustion in your furnace is exhausted up the chimney and

out of your home. However, a furnace that is out of adjustment can leave CO in your home. You can help protect yourself from CO poisoning by installing a Carbon Monoxide detector in your furnace room. If the detector indicates any build up of Carbon Monoxide at any time, have your furnace professionally inspected immediately.

While doing your own tune up will help keep your furnace running efficiently, a professional inspection and tune up every few years is a good investment. The pros are the people who have the skills and equipment to ensure that any parts that might degrade over time are still functioning properly in your furnace. 💧

Below (Diagram A) is of a gas furnace (the most common household furnace), although yours may be different, this will give you a rough idea of where burner, filter and other parts to be maintained are located.



Adventures in Wally (cash) World

by Doug Gorman

I went to Walmart 2 nights ago and had a very fun experience. I was going there for a chocolate cake. Cash in hand and ready to rock. That is it. Chocolate cake. Then....my wife calls me and asks me to check her friend's bridal registry and get a bed set for her that is on her list. So, I automatically start drooling and doing the duuuuuuhhh thing.

Since it is midnight, I ask a cashier where the registry "machine" thing is. She tells me go to the customer service desk and ask. Well, I go over there and stand for 10 minutes and assume it is closed. So after feeling like a total nutcase for 10 minutes, a cleaning guy comes by and says, "they are closed". So obviously smoke starts to come out of my ears. I go to another cashier and ask again and she tells me it is by the jewelry counter! GRRRRRRRRRR!!!!

I walk over to the counter and find the registry and put in the info and wait for the list to print. Paper gets stuck. I pull it out and it doesn't print so I have to do it again. As I wait for the 1 page I think is printing, it spits out 8 pages! It also takes at least 30 seconds to print each one! I get the pages and then I have to go find this stupid bed set.

I am in a pair of shorts with no pockets and I am holding my keys, wallet, cell and this encyclopedia of a bridal registry. I go across the store (about 2 miles I guess) and search for this bed set. I get to the bed section and of course I have an item # and name for it but no clue whatsoever what it looks

like! I start rummaging through the bed sets (3 aisles of them) and I finally find it. I have already been in wally world for 45 minutes by the way. I find it and now have cell phone, keys, wallet, bed set (with handle woohoo), and my wife calls and tells me we need trash bags.

So, I find the aisle marked trash bags and it is about a mile south from where the bedding was. I go into to the aisle with all of this crap I am carrying and guess what?! No trash bags. I then proceed to find a stocker and ask him where trash bags are. He says, "aisle 13". Guess where aisle 13 is? A mile north next to the bedding section!!!! So I head to aisle 13 and the aisle is blocked so I have to walk half a block to get down the other side to get trash bags. Finally, carrying trash bags, bed set, keys, wallet, and cell I come across a stray cart.

Felt like I just had 100 PIPS sign-ups just fell from the sky! It was sweeeeeeet! Put everything in the cart and started to push and a freaking rock is jammed in the front wheel! I wrestle the rock out and then of course and opposite wheel wobbles. I did not care if it had 2 wheels and a dog house dragging from it...myself and this cart were getting out of this prison no matter what.

I head toward check out and forgot the chocolate cake! No reason to go home if I don't have the chocolate cake. I would be homeless. Remember that is the reason I went there in the first place. Isn't that funny? HAHA. You laugh at my pain. So, I go to get the cake and there

it is. I have never seen a more beautiful cake in my life. I pick it up and.....drop it. No harm no foul. I flip it over and grab another just like it and grab a case of pop on the way to the register.

Since it is now almost 1 AM, they are cleaning the floors and have a little aisle roped off that you are supposed to get a wobbly cart through. It is about 12" wide and I knock over a stand that they had the rope tied to. I pick that up and finally get to check out. Scan everything run my credit card and TA DA! Finished! Wrong!!!

I look at my receipt and was charged for 2 cases of pop instead of 1. At \$4.98 a case that is a good deal but I am not giving away 5 bucks to a multi-billion dollar company. I turn to look for the cashier and *poof* she is gone. Must be related to Copperfield I thought. So, I track her down and she says I can wait for someone to come up and credit my card or grab another case of pop. So knowing how fast I could be at grabbing another case, I took option B. I go to grab a case and the cashier tells the night manager and she OK's it. I grab a case and head for the door like a kid running for the Christmas tree on Christmas morn.

I get to the door and I get stopped and have to show my receipt. They can't help you with anything or have things were they are supposed to be, but hey they know if you grab something. I explain it to him, he sees it on my receipt, but he has to confirm it with the

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Adventures in Wally (cash) World

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manager!!! AHHHHHHHHHHH!!! If I wasn't a humble person, you all would have seen me on Fox news as the man on a rampage in Walmart tearing the store apart. He comes back 5 minutes (not kidding) later. Lets me go. I walk out a free man!

It is now almost 1:30 AM and I cannot find my car. I have been in that !#@\$%\$ store for an hour and a half and forgot 3/4 of my life in that time span.

I get to my car and load up. As I go to close the trunk, I drop the bag holding the cake that I was going to put in the front with me so I did not smash it! I grab the cake which made it through with very minor lacerations and take off like a man buying crap for his wife in Walmart. I get home and vow to never go to Walmart again. (Went back yesterday for veggies).

Murphy's Law my butt!

Walmart's Law now baby!

The moral to this story? Don't give up until you have your cake and eat it too!

About The Author

Doug Gorman, <http://www.workbegone.com>. When you find success in faith, you find success in your life. Just remember your success depends on where your faith is. Success thrives upon failures demise. 💧



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