

NEW BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Elizabeth Kuechenmeister moved to Orleans from Connecticut in the fall of 2007 with her husband, Karl, a retired media executive. They chose Orleans, she said, because of its beauty and its town center, adding that it is challenging to decipher a new town and learn how its government works. "Participating with the Orleans Citizens Forum gives me an opportunity to learn more about Orleans in forums that are non partisan," she added.

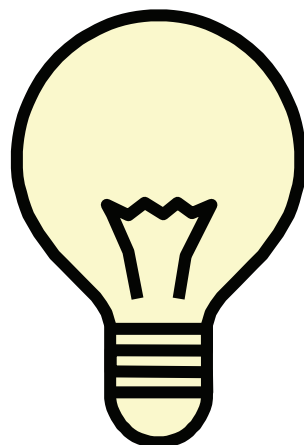
Elizabeth has also been appointed to the Orleans Cultural Council by the Board of Selectmen. She is a member of the Cape Cod Hospital Auxiliary, Orleans Conservation Trust, Orleans Pond Coalition, Friends of Rock Harbor and Sea Call Farm, in addition to numerous other Orleans organizations.

During her 25 years in Connecticut she served on the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission, Representative Town Meeting, and was town coordinator for Congressman Christopher Shays.

Active with Special Olympics Connecticut, Elizabeth served as local chair for the Penguin Plunge for nine years. She was named a Special Olympics "Unsung Hero," and is a member of the Shriver Society for long serving volunteers. She is a graduate of Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY.

Elizabeth and Karl have a son and a daughter: 1st Lt. Karl Kuechenmeister, a West Point graduate, is a Ranger with the the 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, GA. Britt is a senior at Boston University, School of Visual Arts.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!
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For 2010
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FORUMS, CANDIDATES'
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And
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We're on the Web
www.OrleansCitizensForum.org

PO Box 142
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The Orleans Citizens Forum informs Orleans citizens about issues important to the quality of life in our town and encourages broader participation in town affairs.

OCF is a 100% volunteer run organization that depends on its membership fees in order to bring the issues we all care about most to the forefront of our lives. OCF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Board Members

- Past President— Ed Maas
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President's Report: Lighting Our Way to Energy Efficiency

If you were a cartoon reader in years past, you may recall that when a clever idea popped into a character's mind, a light bulb appeared in the dialogue balloon above his head. That image popped into my mind the other day as I changed the bulb in my kitchen light fixture. I depend on this light more than any other in my home; it logs many hours in the "on" mode, especially during our long, light-deprived winters. The light bulb I removed had been installed nearly four years ago, when I moved into my newly remodeled home. At the time I had spent the extra bucks for a compact fluorescent bulb, somewhat dubious about its longevity, as promised on the package. I'm now a believer; a light bulb that lasts nearly four years more than meets my definition of "long life." Now my entire home boasts compact fluorescents, installed at no cost, thanks to a recent energy audit.

Read on in this issue of the *Observer* to learn how to sign up for a home energy assessment, get rebates on installing "Energy Star" rated programmable thermostats and refrigerators, and purchase "smart" surge protectors. Find out how to re-set your ceiling fan for the winter months (so the warm air doesn't float up there where you can't feel it). We've included more home energy saving tips and useful websites, along with *The Cape Codder* write-up on our fall Energy Forum.

In 2009, we presented two forums on energy. As we look ahead to 2010, examples of possible forum topics include regionalization, in one or more of its many forms, and tick-borne diseases. We're also most interested in your suggestions for future forum topics --if a light bulb should pop up above your head, please send your ideas to me at ecdelima@comcast.net.

We welcome our newest Board member, Elizabeth Kuechenmeister, who has already become an important contributor to our team. Her photographs of the October 20 forum appear in this issue.

Finally, as always, we remind you that we're an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization. Your tax-deductible membership dues and contributions make possible our forums, candidates' nights, and this twice-yearly newsletter. A pre-addressed dues envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Elizabeth de Lima,
President



Bob Donath, Citizens' Forum vice president-treasurer, speaks as program moderator.



Elizabeth de Lima, Citizens' Forum president, shares a laugh with Ed Maas, past president and a speaker at the event.

It's easy being green, says Cape Light Compact

By Rich Eldred, The Cape Codder
(photos by Elizabeth Kuechenmeister, OCF)

ORLEANS - Vampires have never been more popular in books, movies, television, and you can be sure, all around your home.

Our modern marvel high tech devices – televisions, stoves, radios, DVD players and all sorts of plebian machines – never shut off. They suck electricity from your walls day and night.

Short circuit those vampires, **Kevin Galligan** of Cape Light Compact advised during Tuesday night's Orleans Citizens Forum on "How to Cut Your Electricity Bill."

The Compact conducts energy audits of homes and recommends or prioritizes energy-saving solutions based on its findings. The Compact provides rebates of up to 75 percent on installations and appliances, free energy efficient compact fluorescent lights, commercial and industrial retrofits and various incentives to save on power. The audit takes from one to two hours.

One frequent recommendation is a weather responsive heating system that produces heat according to the ambient weather. The Compact will give a \$100 rebate on it and you can save 5 percent to 10 percent off the bill each month.

There is also a micro combined heat and power system (MicroCHP) that uses excess heat from power production to home heat, hot water production, etc. They can help you install a smart home energy monitoring system that will let your computer know how much energy is being devoured at any time.

"The main driver of energy pricing is fossil fuel costs, natural gas and oil," said Galligan, pointing out how electricity prices track the cost of oil and natural gas. "By lowering our energy use we are lowering our dependence on fossil fuel generation and also helping the environment."

The Compact is offering electricity at 9.89 cents per kilowatt hour through 2011 as a long-term deal, less than the current October market rates around 12.49 cents.

Chris Powicki of the Cape and Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative said he would like to see the Cape chop fossil fuel use in half by 2020 and get all their electricity from renewable sources.

"We have a huge energy footprint relative to other regions," Powicki noted. "Our greenhouse gas emissions (on Cape) exceed large countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have millions of people."

He would like to see plug-in electric hybrid cars.

"We could use green (wind) energy to power the vehicles then we'd have zero emission vehicles," Powicki said. "We need to have behavioral change. Personal behavior is a great starting point for energy change. Plug in, turn off, turn down. Power strips reduce vampire loads. Every house could use some air sealing installation. And one of the key things they can do is call Cape Light Compact."



Kevin Galligan

One person who did is **Ken Rowell** of the renewable/wind energy committee. The Compact installed energy monitoring equipment in his home and translated the usage to his laptop.

"So I could monitor it at any time during the day," he noted.

He installed energy efficient argon gas-filled windows.

"That made a huge difference. We did an energy audit with the CLC and also replaced the storm doors, converted the light bulbs to CFLs and now we're making more of an effort to turn off the lights," Rowell said. "And as we replace appliances we use only Energy Star equipment. We unplugged our cell phone chargers and installed a programmable thermostat."

His kilowatt usage dropped 198 hours in September and is on track to fall 130 in October, and that's on top of adding a well pump for irrigation.

"The smart energy monitor really helped us see the fruits of our efforts," Rowell said.

So far he's saved \$130 in three months.

Ed Maas owns the Orleans Inn, a century-old, not very heat efficient building, at least not until recently. It had an old coal-fired furnace, converted to oil. He consulted the Compact. The furnace was replaced by high efficiency gas heat. Lights and thermostats and fryolators were replaced.



Chris Powicki

"We're a successful business now largely due to them," Maas said. "You have no idea how excited I am when that bill comes in now, to see what the kilowatt hours are – how'd I do? I look back over 13 years and we've saved over a million dollars in utility costs."

Tips For Saving Energy In Your Home

Replace your furnace filter once or twice during the heating season.

During cold weather months, keep the windows clean and curtains open during the day, on the south side of your house; reverse your ceiling fan to run counter-clockwise to re-circulate warmer air that naturally rises to the ceiling.

Install an ENERGY STAR related programmable thermostat. If you leave the Cape for an extended period of time, be sure the fan function on your thermostat is turned to "AUTO" before you leave town. Set thermostat to 55 degrees.

Instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle, use the "no heat" option, if your dishwasher has one; otherwise, air dry the dishes by leaving the door open after the wash and rinse cycles are completed.

Keep your refrigerator's condenser coils clean by vacuuming periodically.

Wash and rinse clothes in cold water whenever possible. Use the "extra spin" option if your washer has one; your clothes will require less time and energy in the dryer.

Pull those plugs! Even when turned off, many electric devices continue to use electricity, sometimes called "phantom load." Flat screen TVs are power hogs.

Plug home electronics such as computers, printers, TVs, DVD players into power strips and turn off when equipment is not in use. Better yet, purchase "smart" power strips that keep power to items that need to stay on, such as digital video recorders (DVRs) and power down nonessential items. Visit www.myenergystar.com or check National Grid's online store.



Kevin Galligan, energy efficiency program manager for Cape Light Compact, encourages forum members to have a home energy audit and use compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Websites For Energy Efficiency

Cape Light Compact:

www.capelightcompact.org, The Cape Light Compact, as administered through Barnstable County, is an inter-municipal regional energy services organization designed to represent and protect consumer interests in a restructured utility industry. Site provides complete information and a monthly consumer information newsletter.

Cape & Islands Go Green Guide, www.cigogreen.org, promotes wise decision-making at the individual level and resource efficiency across local, regional, national, and global scales.

MassSAVE: www.masssave.com is the website linking customers to energy efficiency programs available across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ENERGY STAR® www.energystar.gov is the national program supported by U.S. Dept. of Energy, EPA, program administrators, utilities, manufacturers, retailers and other partners.



Orleans resident Ken Rowell describes how he significantly reduced his energy bills with the assistance of the Cape Light Compact's "Smart Monitoring" program.



Ed Maas, owner of the Orleans Inn and immediate past president of the Orleans Citizens Forum, reports that his business has saved more than a million dollars in energy costs by consulting with Cape Light Compact experts.