

NHEC Recognized as EPA Energy Star Partner

Press release

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) and a collaborative of other New Hampshire utilities with a 2013 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award for outstanding contributions to energy efficiency services and information.

NHEC is part of a collaborative of four New Hampshire electric utilities (NHEC, PSNH, Liberty Utilities, Unitil) that provides a wide range of energy efficiency programs for New Hampshire residents and businesses under the NHSaves brand name. For its part in providing energy efficiency programs and solutions to its members, NHEC was recognized at an awards ceremony held March 26 in Washington, DC.

NHEC and the collaborative were honored specifically for the delivery of the Home Performance with Energy Star program and the Energy Star Homes program. Since its start in 2009, the Home Performance with Energy Star program has weatherized more than 2,000 New Hampshire homes and saved more than 42 million lifetime kilowatt-hours of electricity and 956,000 lifetime MMBTUs from oil, natural gas, kerosene, coal, and

wood.

NHEC and the collaborative have also helped more than 6,000 new homes achieve the Energy Star certification for energy efficiency since 2002. Based on US Census data, more than one in three new New Hampshire homes earn the Energy Star label. Over the past 10 years, the New Hampshire Energy Star Homes Program has been the driving force behind the Energy Star Home market share growing from 2% in 2002-2003 to 36% of new homes built in 2011.

The Energy Star Partner of the Year Awards for Energy Efficiency Program Delivery are selected from the nearly 20,000 organizations that participate in the Energy Star program. Energy Star was introduced by the US EPA in 1992 as a partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Over the last 20 years with help from Energy Star, American families and businesses have saved more than \$230 billion on utility bills and prevented more than 1.8 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

NHEC is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving 83,000 homes and businesses in New Hampshire.

Patriot Inn at Danbury Targets Grand Opening in June

Former Inn at Danbury will take on historical theme

Press release

It was *Newhart* that inspired Bill Kennedy to be an innkeeper and it was his looming retirement from the military after 29 years as a Security Policeman that started his quest for an inn. Linda and Bill Kennedy found the perfect opportunity in Danbury where they plan to open a gift shop and specialized bed and breakfast in the coming months.

Bill's crusade to find an inn began with an internet search in 2007 to find inns for sale in the New England area but when the Inn at Danbury with its German Cuisine popped up for sale at \$895,000, Bill knew it might be some time before he found one in his price range and that was available when he retired. To gauge the market Bill put the Inn at Danbury in his favorites list and monitored the drop in price hoping to use it as a baseline. What he never expected, was this inn would continue to drop and was bank-owned by the time he retired. A few lucky events occurred and they moved in November of 2011.

Bill and Linda are social, and this is a great venue to interact with people, but they also realize that this requires a big commitment of time and money. The inn suffered some neglect and still re-

quires some major renovations to get it ready. They are undaunted as they make the necessary renovations leading to the target opening in June. Currently the Inn is occupied by them, their two Weimaraners, a Shi Tzu, and two cats. They are visited quite regularly by some of their 14 siblings or local and military friends.

They changed the name to The Patriot Inn at Danbury, capitalizing on Bill's appreciation for history, and they are mulling several new names for the restaurant/bar when that opens. Linda set her sights on another passion: She will open a gift and thrift shop which is an extension of their current on-line business and previous collectibles business where they operated/owned Sports Fan-Attic in North Hampton. The first phase will be the gift shop, followed by the opening of the themed rooms for functions such as corporate retreats, weddings, reunions, or group functions. The inn is currently equipped with six themed (Victorian, Rose, African Journey, European Gasthaus, Wild West, and Victory) ready rooms. They plan to push this to 11 rooms by the fall. The third phase will be to open the restaurant/bar and swimming pool to guests.

There were many furnishings left with the inn, but Linda and Bill have accumulated many antiques during his military travel, and they are busy placing and reorganizing based on the period of the furniture, which ranges from 1880 to Art Deco pieces of the 1920s and '30s. With his interest in history, Bill wants to maintain the period atmosphere and is considering holding period events such as revolutionary, civil war, and World War II balls or reenactments. There is plenty of work ahead, and much of this is still a dream. Bill admits he also has other professional ambitions such as teaching, coaching, and mentoring, because he is not quite sure what his calling is. His love of children, the elderly, animals, and people in general could sway him into another professional venue. Another run for Governor or political office? He doesn't rule it out, but for now his focus is on the Patriot Inn at Danbury!



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