

## Drumright learns about Smart Meters from OG&E

July 27, 2012

At Friday's Drumright Rotary Club meeting, Rotarian, Ron Dyer, introduced his guest, Chuck Mitchell, with OG&E. Chuck lives in Sapulpa and has been with OG&E for twenty-eight years, with eight years in his current position as Manager of Community Affairs.

OG&E has been in business for one-hundred and ten years and serves two-hundred and seventy communities in Oklahoma and Arkansas. It was the recipient of the 2011 Utility of the Year Award.

Chuck discussed the new smart meters that are being installed and some other features that customers of OG&E may not be aware of.



L - R: Chuch Mitchell, Ron Dyer

Drumright is the most recent community to receive the new smart meters. The installation began the first week of July and should be completed within the next few weeks. OG&E has been slowly making the switch to the new smart meters since 2010. Starting in Norman, OK, one-hundred, eighty-four thousand meters were installed; followed by three-hundred fourteen thousand meters in 2011. By the end of 2012 two-hundred, ninety-nine thousand additional meters will be installed.

Smart meters provide an efficient way to service customers. By automating, OG&E employees will be aware of outages at the same time as the customer and will be able to respond quicker. New accounts will be available sooner and many other benefits to both the company and the consumer exist.

The smart meters do not look very different from the old meters. However, they communicate on a secured two-way wireless connection and will send actual usage, alleviating the need to estimate usage.

One of the benefits of the new smart meters is the control the consumer has over their electric use. Once the smart meter is operational, consumers can sign up online at [www.oge.com](http://www.oge.com) and have access to information regarding usage, billing estimates, hourly cost break downs, etc.

OG&E also offers Variable Peak Pricing. OG&E will install a free Smart Thermostat which can help consumers save even more money during peak hours when electricity costs more to produce. With the Variable Peak Pricing, consumers can receive an advanced pricing notification of the cost during peak usage hours. Of course for those consumers that do not want to take advantage of the Variable

Peak Pricing, there will still be a Time of Use program, which is the current pricing method – a set rate for time of usage.

OG&E understands that change can be unsettling and that is why Chuck is taking this time to address various groups in Drumright and answer any questions. If you would like Chuck to come to your group, or if you have any questions, please contact him at 918-227-6232.

Thank you, Chuck, for taking your time to answer our questions and assisting Drumright with this exciting transition.

Our other guests were Don Breadon, Rotarian from Traverse City, MI, and Greg Roberts of Drumright.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Jane Frazier, and her guest Leslie Umfleet with Random Acts of Purpose.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our website [www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary](http://www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary).

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian