

New Jersey Natural Gas Meetings

From the SLV Board of Trustees

On January 7, 2020, almost 250 residents gathered to hear presentations by New Jersey Natural Gas to bring natural gas service to SLV. If NJNG decides to proceed with the project, our community would be among the last condo communities in Monmouth County to offer this utility. Several NJNG representatives were on hand to discuss how an installation could benefit residents through lower energy bills and increased reliability. NJNG offers financing and/or rebates to those who open an account, as well as assistance advice for those on restricted incomes.

Some residents expressed support while others expressed opposition to the project. Residents need to remember that, like all utilities, NJNG has a blanket easement (a legal type of permission) in our Master Deed to lay gas mains throughout SLV. The Board of Trustees will vote on whether to convert to natural gas for heating and to generate power in the Clubhouse, gatehouse, and maintenance buildings. **Each owner** must decide whether or not to open an account with NJNG and purchase one or more natural gas appliances, e.g., stove, furnace, or hot water heater. Residents may also choose to convert a current woodburning fireplace to a gas fireplace.

Important points:

- **No one** needs to switch to gas.
- There is **no charge** to any owner or the Association for not signing up for natural gas.
- There is **no charge** to bring gas to the exterior of a unit.
- Once a line is run from the street to a unit, an owner choosing gas must hire a licensed professional to do the work inside the unit. ARC paperwork is required.
- NJNG will fully restore any common roadways, sidewalks, etc. disturbed in the process.

When the *Chatterbox* went to press in mid-January, the BOT had not made a decision about powering common areas with natural gas. One important consideration is that natural gas would permit the Clubhouse to be used as an emergency comfort area (providing heat, a/c, and charging stations) if the community loses electric power. Natural gas would also allow individual owners to purchase automatic generators for their units for use during a JCP&L outage.

Because of the various sizes and many styles of units, individual pricing is difficult to estimate for conversion of appliances or monthly savings. Owners are encouraged to have licensed HVAC contractors (for heating) or licensed plumbers (for appliances) give cost and savings estimates based on a visit to the unit. For other information, please refer to the materials sent by NJNG in the fall of 2019.