

A Tale of Energizing Somers

By Flo Brodley

I love living in Heritage Hills, except during the winters, because that's when my chills get chilled, my feet need warm booties and my hands wear gloves inside as well as outside the house.

For those who don't know, most units in Heritage Hills were built on concrete slabs in the 70s and 80s when insulation meant pink fiberglass and windows and doors were glass within metal surrounds. Of course, that meant that summers inside my home were cool, but I did not look forward to the other seasons.

One by one, the windows and doors were replaced, thermal curtains dotted the bedroom walls and carpets covered the floors. Things were better, but I could still feel cold air seeping into the house, particularly onto my feet.

Thanks to EnergizeNY/Somers, I decided to have the free home energy audit done. I was amazed to see the blower door in action and the meticulous way every area of every room was surveyed, using the infrared camera. Wanting to know everything, I followed the guys around, from room to room, asked a myriad of questions and got serious answers. One of the main reasons for contemplating having the work done was the New York State certification of the building professionals hired, and another was the addition of an independent contractor to ensure that I would be saving money while getting energy savings, as well.

Jon Davey, of Healthy Homes, sat down with me and the report, going over each picture, sparkling with red and blue colors, and charts that explained their findings and recommendations. How amazed I was to find an extraordinary amount of air leakage around the hi-hat lights I had all through the ceilings in the house! I was not amazed to see the colors indicating seepage between the wall and floor boards. Apparently, no caulking had been applied and my feet had been aware of that story. So, I decided to have all of the recommended changes done to retrofit my home.

Two months ago, amidst my kitchen renovation, the exterior wall was opened and I saw the old pink insulation that was going to be removed. An unexpected gift was the additional removal of a dead mouse hidden among the fibers, as well as other gifts from whatever animals had wintered over in my attic. I refuse to think about what I had been breathing in all those years.

Jon's crew had the pleasure of removing all of the old insulation in such a neat and clean way, I wouldn't had known they were there had I not been there taking pictures. I'm now looking forward to a much cleaner, warmer winter season, thanks to the home energy audit that was done through EnergizeNY/Somers!