

Harnessing the sun's heat

Dan and Pat McCardell's house faces almost due south. This year, that will help them heat water and stay warm.

The McCardells have lived in the brick home along Kirkwood Pike since the late 1960s. They weathered the fuel crises in the 1970s and 80s by cutting back. This time, as oil prices rose, they decided to find another solution.

"I started looking at wind power, but the air in this area is marginal, even though we're at the highest place in the township," he said. "So I kept looking. I knew there had to be a way to do it."

That way turned out to be solar heat.

Last week, workers from SunLion in Gordonville were mounting four panels on the roof of McCardell's garage.

"We're getting four four-by-10 panels. They're not for making electricity. They're for heat," he explained.

The house is strong enough for the installation.

"The [roof] trusses are 2x8 and 2x10. It may not be feasible to put solar panels on eve-



Dan McCardell stands in front of his house on Kirkwood Pike as workers install four solar panels on the garage roof. The panels will help heat the home and provide domestic hot water.

ry house, but this one is OK. We had a new roof put on recently, and that's a plus, too, since the panels won't have to be removed to allow for a new roof," he said. "And the house faces almost due south. It's only six degrees off."

The panels will connect to three 120-gallon storage tanks in the home's basement.

"That's enough to last three

days if we don't have any sun," McCardell said. "We have hot water baseboard [oil-fired] boiler as a backup."

The oil-fired heater is original to the house but, with
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Bids for tunnel demolition due Oct. 1

Norfolk Southern is moving ahead with its plans to demolish the stone arch underpass over Rt. 222 in Providence

Township. Representatives from the railroad met with prospective contractors at the site Thurs-

day morning, September 18. At that meeting, the railroad set October 1 as the deadline for bids. All work on the project must be completed by December 31, railroad officials

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annual cleanings and upgrades, is as efficient as any on the market, he said. It is set up to provide domestic hot water as well as heat.

The solar system will now provide nearly 100 percent of the home's domestic hot water and should make more than half of the heat the home needs in the winter months.

"They told me it may do more, but that's all they promise. That way, if we get more, we'll be happy," he said.

His research included conversations with real estate agents on how any supplemental system would affect the value of his home.

"Most said that would be a plus when it comes time to list it for sale," he said. "This is something the government should have been looking at in the 1970s."