

## Solar Electricity in Lee's Summit

By Merle Bowers

When Joe Hoffman and Keith Bennett first met at Vatterott College, their only goal was to become electricians. After graduation and deciding to go into business together, their true "spark" of inspiration (their words, trust me!) was to focus on solar and alternative energy.

They are the owners of K & J Solar Electric in Lee's Summit. Bennett, a master electrician, and Hoffman, a licensed journeyman, formed their company two years ago. Their mission is to assist people in "becoming their own utility company." For now, they are able to perform traditional electrical work and to assist the utility consumer in finding ways that they can hand over less of their

money to the utility companies. "If it has wires in, on or around it, we do it!" Hoffman comments.

As the name of their company suggests, solar electricity is their true passion. "Solar is more viable than wind around this area. Wind needs more wide open space," Bennett remarks. K & J Solar Electric has systems they offer that will pay for themselves in 10 years. Bennett and Hoffman wish to stress that "it is a mis-

conception of solar energy that you have to switch over completely; you can do so in small stages which are much more economical for the consumer."

While the solar and wind energy portion of their business is still small, they also offer traditional electrical service. Their current specialty is checking electrical efficiency in a home or business setting. Often their assistance is able to save the consumer considerably on their monthly utility bill.



*Joe Hoffman of K & J Solar Electric makes final adjustments to a solar unit on a home.*

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