

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 25 No. 08

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Barnes, Dodge, and Woods Re-elected at 83rd Annual Meeting of Members

Farmers' Electric Cooperative held its 83rd Annual Meeting of members Saturday, July 24, 2021 at the Santa Rosa High School Gym, Santa Rosa, New Mexico with 158 members and their guests present. Board President, Michael West, called the business meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Justin Barnes (District 1 - Clovis), George Dodge, Jr. (District 4 - Santa Rosa), and John (Pat) Woods (District 6 - Broadview/Grady) all ran unopposed and were re-elected by acclamation. Terms for FEC Trustee positions are three years.



Thanks go out to all those in attendance and all the employees who worked to help make the annual meeting a huge success. Employees who worked, (not eligible for annual meeting door prizes), did participate in a separate drawing. The winner, Cristobal Lucero, Lineman from Santa Rosa, will

receive a gift certificate to his favorite restaurant, courtesy of Farmers' Electric. Congratulations Cristobal!

Congratulations also go out to Fred Garza of Fort Sumner for winning this year's grand prize of \$1,000 in free electricity! Two "first-time" attendee prizes, (\$50 energy certificates), were also awarded. A child's grand prize, an 8" Android Tablet was awarded to a lucky young person in attendance. There were a total of 111 prizes awarded to adults and children.

A special "Thank You" goes out to Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools for making us feel so welcome; and the Santa Rosa Middle School Student Council and Selina Martinez for all their help serving the meal to approximately 316 guests. Also, thanks to Audrea Campos and Joseph's Restaurant of Santa Rosa for catering an exceptionally good traditional BBQ lunch.



FEC is the local underwriter of *Ask This Old House*. New episodes can be seen on KENW TV on channel 3-1 (HD) **Saturdays at 11:30 AM. and 1:00 PM;** On 3-2 **Saturdays at 4:00 PM.** Find the library of past episodes here: <https://www.thisoldhouse.com/ask-this-old-house>

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More pictures from FEC's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members



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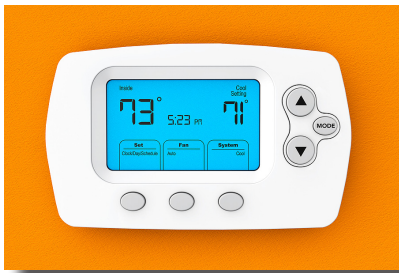
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Energy Efficient Ways to Prepare Your Home for Fall Weather

The summer season is quickly coming to a close and as sad as we are to see it go, we are looking forward to the change of seasons. Fall really is a beautiful time of the year. Follow these tips on how to prepare your home for the colder months ahead all while remaining comfortable and perhaps saving a little money.

How to prepare for autumn energy bills

Program your thermostat:



Instead of raising the thermostat during the cool weather, grab a sweater, light jacket, or vest. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says heating a house

around 1,700 square feet accounts for approximately 65% of your utility bills during the winter. For every degree turned down on the thermostat, you will save about four percent in monthly utility expenses. A great way to cut down on heating expenses is by installing a programmable thermostat. You can control the temperature for cooler when you're at work, sleeping, or on vacation, and automatically heat it up – only when you need it.

To save even more money, if your furnace is over 15 years old, consider replacing it with an energy-efficient model. Remember, heaters are big energy users and the older they are, the harder they work. If you think you're not quite ready to make that investment, make sure and take care of what you have. Get your current system checked out and set a maintenance schedule for at the very least, changing your return air filter. You want to keep it running efficiently, and not draining your money every month.

Check your water heater temperature:

Many water heaters can operate fine at 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Lowering the temperature can also help

increase the lifespan of the heater. For every 10 degrees the water temperature is lowered, you can potentially save about three percent on your utility bill. Wrapping an insulating blanket around your water heater can also save about four percent in water heating costs. A \$20 water heater blanket would pay for itself in about a year. Not a bad investment.

Seal cracks and leaks:

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, sealing leaks around the house may save as little as 5 percent or as much as 30 percent in energy costs. Devoting a day one weekend to caulking and/or weatherstripping your windows and doors will help seal air leaks, which could be a big part of high energy consumption. Obviously, you don't want to pay to heat up the air outside your home., so every little leak you can seal will save you money and it adds up! A home with many leaks that go unchecked is equivalent to leaving

a standard window halfway open which allows your conditioned air to escape. Check to see if there are cracks or leaks around electric outlets, window frames, baseboards, and around pipe inlets too (particularly pay close attention to pipes underneath sinks on exterior walls).



Clear your gutters:

Gutters collect all debris from nearby birds, trees, toys, and general gunk. If water cannot flow through your gutters, water can gather in areas of your roof or basement, cause rusting, and lead to an increased risk of decay, moisture, and leaks. This means cleaning out your gutters a few times a year, especially in the fall. Leaks and moisture in your home as a result of poor water control causes the humidity in your home to rise and makes your home less energy-efficient because now, your heating and cooling systems have to work that much harder to make you comfortable.

Where's Waldo?

Where's Waldo? Ok, maybe that was too easy... How about the pad-mounted transformer? Can you spot it? The rains this summer have really caused the weeds and grass to take off! What was once easy to see, is now a little more difficult.

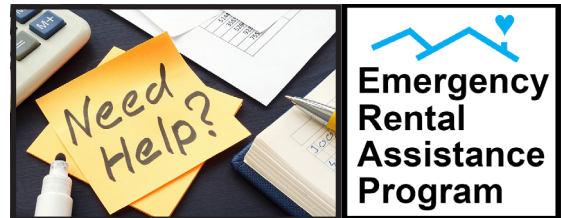


Because some equipment is now harder to see, (might include junction boxes, transformers, and cable/telephone pedestals), it is more important than ever to do a "walk around" before you do any tractor mowing or shredding around your property. It only takes a little bit of time and could sure save you from a lot of grief and danger.

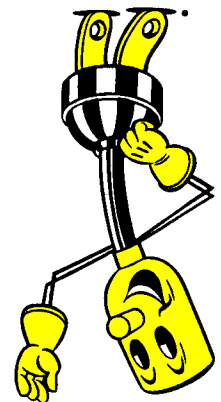
Of course, anywhere there is tall grass, there might be lurking some very undesirable critters such as snakes, skunks, spiders, etc. Again, please be careful when working around this sometimes hidden equipment. Oh, and watch out for Waldo too!

The moratorium on disconnects associated with the New Mexico Health order has ended. If you have an **outstanding balance** with FEC, contact us today to make arrangements to pay. We will be happy to work with you. Call 1-800-445-8541 and ask to speak to someone in the Billing Department.

Attn: Renters!



There is additional "Utility Payment" aid available through the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Under ERAP, New Mexico residents (those that are renters) can apply, with good success, for assistance with delinquent or past due utility payments. The process is fairly "user friendly." Simply contact FEC and we can walk you through the it. Please contact us at **1-800-445-8541** and ask to speak to someone about **Renter Utility Assistance**.



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