

# Keep your bill consistent when the weather isn't.

Budget Billing from Farmers Electric Cooperative means you'll know what to expect, so you can plan ahead.



No one likes surprises – especially when it affects your household budget. That's why Farmers EC offers Budget Billing as a payment option to our members. It's a way to plan ahead for the months with greater usage and average those costs throughout the year. It'd be nice if we could do that with the weather, too.

Payments are calculated based on an average of the last 11 months plus your current month.

Every member is eligible with no participation fees to join.

**SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING: 903 455 1715**



# Weather-wise Your Home



by **MARK STUBBS**  
General Manager

We are in the middle of another hot Texas summer and demand for energy is high. One of the least expensive ways to reduce energy consumption is through weatherization.

Weatherization—the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home—can produce an average energy savings

of \$358 per household per year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Here are a few improvements that can help make your home more energy efficient.

## Air Infiltration

- Seal around pipes coming through walls.
- During hot and cold weather, ensure that windows are closed tightly and locked.
- Be sure weatherstripping around doors and windows is tight and doesn't have any cracks.
- When your fireplace is not operating, its damper should be closed tightly, with a sign hanging from the damper handle warning that it is closed.

- Check the ceiling behind the cornice of built-in bookshelves for holes cut during construction.
- Drop-down, disappearing stairways should fit tightly into the ceiling and be carefully weatherstripped.
- Make sure your outside dryer vent door closes when the dryer is not in use. This requires cleaning away lint accumulation periodically.

## Windows

- Tighten and weatherstrip your old windows and add storm windows.
- In hot climates, add solar screening to any west-facing windows that catch a lot of sun late in the day.

Weatherstripping and solar screens are part of the cooperative's energy efficiency rebate program. Members can get a rebate of up to \$100 on weatherstripping and a rebate of up to \$200 on full window solar screens.

**Visit the Rebates & Incentives page at [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop) for complete details and our rebate application. And for more energy saving advice, call 903 455 1715 to schedule a FREE energy audit.**



## POWER NOTE: Supporting Our Community

Over the past several months we have focused on providing information about the cooperative and how to save energy in the pages of this magazine. And we are going to continue to deliver that same sound information because providing education and training to our members is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles.

We've added something new and a little bit different this month, but we think you are going to like it. As you leaf through the pages of this month's magazine, make sure you check out the first installment of our community page. It should be about three pages over.

Here you'll find information about community

events, recipes, holiday closings, and other tidbits.

This month we have a recipe for Eggplant and Zucchini Bake. It calls for two slices of bacon, so I'm sure it's tasty!

Our spotlight event for the month is Hot August Night in Sulphur Springs. This annual event is set for Aug. 12-13 at the Hopkins County Civic Center Fairgrounds and Arena. There's a barbecue cook-off, a firefighter challenge, and a concert. This is sure to be a great event.

Barbecue and concert tickets are available through iTickets.com or by calling 903-885-7639. Proceeds from the event benefit the Hopkins County Volunteer Fire Departments.

We can't print every event in the magazine due to space limitations and print deadlines. But, we are adding a community calendar page to our website and we will update the page on a regular basis. We also will utilize the power of social media and post community event information on our social media channels.

We look forward to hearing about your next community event.

**Want to share the details of your next community event with more than 40,000 Farmers EC members? Email the details to [Event@FarmersElectric.coop](mailto:Event@FarmersElectric.coop).**

# SAVE THE DATE

## 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CO-OP MEETING • OCT 1

### PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS

GRAND PRIZE  
2006 CHEVY  
MALIBU



### SAVE THE DATE ROCKWALL ISD

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
1201 T L TOWNSEND DRIVE, ROCKWALL

REGISTRATION OPENS @ 8AM  
MEETING BEGINS @ 10AM

Members should check their mailboxes in September for their ballots to vote in the election of representatives for the co-op's board of directors. Attendees also will have the chance to win prizes, including the grand prize—a vehicle from the Farmers Electric Co-op fleet. There will also be information booths, goodie bags and refreshments. See you there.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Odds &amp; Ends

Fair, festival, class or show—share your community event with us and we'll help you get the word out with the Farmers EC Community Calendar.

**SEND TO: [event@FarmersElectric.coop](mailto:event@FarmersElectric.coop)**

**POWER TIP****Cooler Cooking and Clean Up in Summer**

Use microwave for cooking when possible.

When cooking on the oven range, use pot lids to help food cook faster.

If you are heating water, use hot tap water instead of cold.

Remember to use the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking. Turn it off after cooking.

Use a slow-cooker instead of simmering foods on the stove.

If rinsing dirty dishes before putting them into the dishwasher, do so with cold water.

Use cold water for garbage disposal.

Only run dishwasher when fully loaded.

Use air-dry cycle instead of heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.

**FEATURED EVENT****Hot August Night**

Aug 12-13 | Sulphur Springs TX

Musical acts Third Day and Steven Curtis Chapman are scheduled to perform at the 10th annual Hot August Night, set for Aug. 12-13 at the Hopkins County Regional Civic Center. All proceeds from the event benefit volunteer firefighters in Hopkins County. Tickets are on sale at [itickets.com](http://itickets.com).

**DID YOU KNOW****GFCIs save lives**

A ground-fault circuit interrupter is a fast-acting breaker designed to shut off power immediately when it senses a break in the current—such as when water comes into contact with the circuit. They are most often found in kitchens, bathrooms, or outdoors in garages and near pools. GFCIs can save a life by preventing electrical shock.

**RECIPE****Eggplant and Zucchini Bake****INGREDIENTS**

- 1 medium eggplant, chopped
- 6 medium zucchini, chopped
- 2 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup rosé wine
- 1/3 cup dry breadcrumbs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 3-quart baking dish.
2. In a saucepan, boil eggplant and zucchini in salted water until tender-crisp, about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside.
3. In a skillet, fry bacon until lightly browned. Add onion and garlic and sauté 15 minutes. Put bacon mixture with vegetables in baking dish, and add salt and pepper.
4. Add wine, breadcrumbs, Parmesan and paprika, and mix well.
5. Bake 40 minutes. Serve warm.

**Energy Efficiency Tip**

Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

**HOLIDAY HOURS**

Offices will be closed for Labor Day Monday, September 5th.