

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner The power of human connections



How 'bout a water?

Nothing beats a cold bottled water from New-Mac Electric at the county fairs



The view from atop the ferris wheel at the Newton County Fair



As always, New-Mac Electric could be found at both the Newton and McDonald County Fairs this past month. While the co-op had LED lights, an electric lawn mower and an abundance of information on display, many fair-goers have found the New-Mac tent the place to be to beat the heat with a cold bottled water, and particularly the youngsters (as seen above and at left) might just come away with a souvenir.



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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Don't forget rebate on window A/C

Credits also available for energy-efficient electric water heaters and qualifying heat pumps

Remember, if the blazing heat finally gets the better of your window air-conditioner this summer, New-Mac Electric can help when you're shopping for a replacement.

New-Mac has a \$50 rebate for customers who purchase an *Energy Star* rated window air-conditioning unit. The rebate will

be given in the form of a credit on your electric bill. Only one rebate is allowed per address, and you must apply for the credit within 90 days of purchase.

Likewise, for customers replacing an electric water heater, a \$50 rebate is available – or for placement in new construc-

See *Rebates*, page 4

Please watch out for school kids

As kids head back to school this month, New-Mac Electric reminds everyone to be careful and keep them safe.

Drivers, please be attentive and look out for children around roadways. Parents, please instruct your kids to look before crossing streets and to stay away from traffic.

Make plans now for New-Mac's annual meeting

Mark your calendars now for New-Mac Electric Cooperative's 2013 Annual Meeting, which will be held October 26 at Crowder College's gymnasium.

Learn about the cooperative's state of affairs, and enjoy the activities, entertainment and lunch that will be provided. Don't miss out on this big day on Oct. 26!

Assistance is available

If you are having a problem paying your New-Mac account, please call us to make arrangements. Please don't disregard paying your bill. There are programs and options (such as budget billing) designed to assist you. So, please give us a call at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
Jasper County
 (417) 781-0352
McDonald County
 (417) 845-6011
Newton County
 (417) 451-2206

Another  on the lines 

Now they will have a home, too

Adoption center nearing completion for Faithful Friends

Ironically, the group that has found homes for hundreds and hundreds has never had a place to call its own, but that will soon change.

It's been a long time coming for Faithful Friends Animals Advocates (FFAA), Inc.. In May of last year, the non-profit organization broke ground for an adoption center, just west of the Interstate 49 overpass on Highway 86 outside of Neosho.

Now, there is a foundation, frame, walls and growing excitement for the volunteers who have been rescuing dogs and cats in need for the past five years.

"There were several people who really cared and saw a need here," said Leanne Williams about the organization, which came into being around her dining room table in May of 2008, when friends gathered to discuss abused, abandoned and neglected animals.

While a facility is anxiously awaited, the FFAA has done much without one, having already placed over 1,000 domestic animals in new homes.

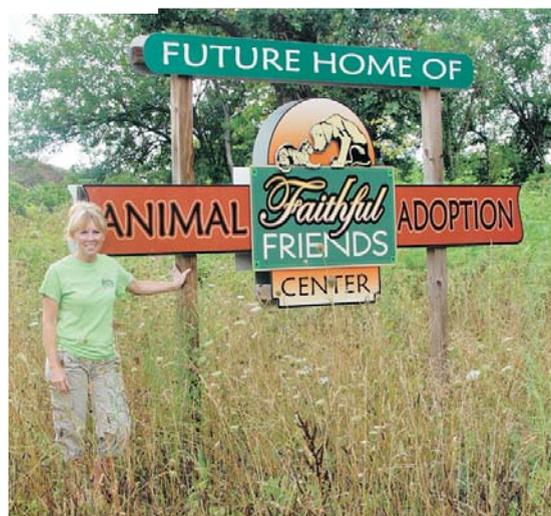
"We have a Faithful Friends office number, and volunteers take turns answering that phone," said Williams.

When the phone rings, the organization does what it can to tend to the animal's needs and find a foster home.

"About every two weeks we trade off. Answering the phone is pretty emotionally taxing and stays quite busy, hearing the stories and trying to decide how we can help, or if we can help, and



Above, Faithful Friends Animal Advocates President Leanne Williams discusses the construction of the new adoption center with supporter Larry Neff. At left, Williams stands next to the sign marking the site of the center, located just west of Neosho on Highway 86. The facility will be able to accommodate approximately 80 animals.



then trying to refer them on to other places if we can't help them. It depends on foster homes availability."

The work ethic of the group has indeed made an impression on the community.

"I've never seen a group that has worked so hard and has been so dedicated to try to go out and save the animals," said local businessman Larry Neff.

While the FFAA holds regular fundraisers, an adoption center would merely have been a dream without the support of the community. Neff is one of those supporters. It's a role he's taken on in the last few years, and since that time, the dream has turned into a reality.

"It's been done strictly by businesses and individuals giving cash or in-kind type work," he said.

"We just have received overwhelming support from the community," said Williams. "A few very generous individuals have really stepped up and donated significant amounts to make sure the facility got up and running."

But even before the building started up, there

FFAA

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have been no shortage of costs for the FFAA – again, there’s been at least 1,000 specific costs.

Most of those costs have been covered by those already giving far more than money. The FFAA is made up entirely of volunteers.

“Nobody gets a paycheck. Nobody, including me,” said Williams, who serves as the organization’s president.

“We have had a wonderful group of people who have opened their homes and their hearts to these little guys.”

The number of volunteers has grown significantly from those founding members at Williams’ dining room table, and it’s a good thing. On average, Williams said the FFAA has 25-30 animals in foster care all the time – and has had as many as 45. Recently, FFAA held a fundraiser triathlon and had over 100 volunteers show up to help

Although, animals usually are only with the foster family for a month or so before a permanent home can be found, Williams said it’s hard parting with the new furry friend.

“It’s never easy, but we always have to remember that if we hold on to them, then there’s no room for the next one that’s out there and needs our help.”

And FFAA is thorough in the help it provides. Rescued animals go straight to a veterinarian for vaccinations and a health examination, then are placed in an appropriate foster home. Pictures are taken, and with the help of the foster family, a bio for the dog/cat is written and posted on three or more social media websites.

“We have a great track record of placing our animals,” said Williams. “They’ve gone all over the nation from Washington, to Oregon, to Texas, to Cape Cod, Maine. We’ve had animals go everywhere.”

Of course, when the new facility opens, there’s hope that many won’t be travelling quite so far.

“It will be a happy fun place for people to come and really enjoy being with the animals and getting acquainted and picking out a new family member,” said Williams.

The building will feature a meet-and-greet area, an office, space for obedience training, an area for a veterinarian, separate quarters for sick animals (with its own ventilation system) and some innovative new dog kennels, featuring colorful PVC acrylic panels and indoor/outdoor runs with glass doors, giving the dogs an open view.

The adoption center should accommodate around 80 animals. Tentative plans are for construction to be complete in October, but it will be sometime after that before they are ready to welcome the animals. According to Neff, it will be an immediate benefit to the area.

“We do not have a place in either Newton or McDonald County that has a shelter that takes care of animals. Unfortunately, the ones that have been picked up have been shipped to other places, where they may or may not get adopted,” he said.

Neff appreciates the philosophy of FFAA, which works so hard to find homes for the animals. Also, the adoption center will be a “no-kill” facility.

“I think anybody that has a heart hates to see any animal suffer,” he said. “That’s my attitude and that of the people who have donated heavily to this thing.”



Above, construction is moving right along on the new 4,800 square-foot adoption center. At left, the kennels will feature indoor/outdoor runs, vibrant colors and open views for the dogs.

Neff has shown himself to be a “faithful friend” through his fundraising, and his wife, Peggy, has done so through her service, as she has rescued and cared for several animals. She also serves on the FFAA’s 11-member board of directors.

Williams has owned a bookstore, managed salons for *Petsmart* and ran her own pet salon. But, since that discussion around her table, she has *only* been a “faithful friend.”

“This has been all-consuming,” she said. “I’ve always loved animals, and I kept seeing these poor stray and abandoned animals left on our doorstep. I just wanted something to be done about it.”

She has ... as have the Neffs ... and more than 100 others. Would you like to be a *faithful friend*?

To volunteer, donate or learn more, visit their website, ffaaneosho.org, or give them a call at 417-592-2512.

Energy Partners' Recipe of the Month:

STRAWBERRY SALAD

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Steven Shaver**

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 lge. box strawberry <i>Jello</i> | 2 bananas (smashed) |
| 1 lge. can crushed pineapple (undrained) | 2 cups boiling water |
| 1 pkg. frozen strawberries (thawed) | 2 small tubs <i>Cool Whip</i> |

Mix all ingredients except *Cool Whip*. Put ½ mixture in 9x13" pan. Put in refrigerator to set. Layer 1 container of *Cool Whip* over *Jello* and pour remainder of unset *Jello* over *Cool Whip*. After set, spread remaining *Cool Whip* to the top.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Cooling off the attic

Based on the comments that I have received from some of our readers, you have enjoyed the last few columns about energy origination and the ways that heat travels from one location to another. I have included some of these same principles in my energy-efficiency presentations, and they have also been well received. So, once again remember that all energy comes from the sun, heat always moves toward cold and moisture always moves toward dry.

In the next few columns, I will discuss how these principles affect the comfort and utility bills of your house. More importantly, we will give solutions.

Since August is usually pretty cotton-picking hot, I thought that we would start with the hottest location in the house, which would be the attic. In my seminars, I often ask, "Where is the hottest place in America on a hot summer day?" Someone may answer, "Death Valley, California."

Well that is a good answer, but many attics are hotter. I then ask them, "Where is the one location that you would not want to put the AC cooling unit or ductwork?" It usually gets really quiet at this time. Someone finally answers, "In the attic."

Well, let me ask you: How would you like to sit in your attic on a hot summer day and try to make homemade ice cream? We would probably keel over before the ice cream was ready. It is now obvious to you that the attic may not be a good place for the AC cooling system. It may also now be obvious to you that a substantial part of your heating and cooling bill is related to the location of the heating and cooling system. So why is the AC unit and ductwork still located in the attic on most of the new houses built in the South? It is mostly because it is more convenient and no one has demanded change.

Studies have shown that ductwork located in attics and ductwork leakage in the attics may be the single biggest waster of residential energy in the South. It is absolutely unbelievable how much energy could be saved if folks sealed the ductwork and made the attic cooler.

Using our energy principles, how did the attic get so hot, and what are the solutions? Of course, it all started at the sun's radiant heat. The heat rays left the sun, traveled through space and headed straight toward Earth.

Some of the rays were absorbed or reflected by the atmosphere and clouds. And some were absorbed into the earth, trees and water, etc. Many of the rays hit the roofs and gable ends of houses. The roofing can get super hot really fast. The hot roof becomes a heat radiator and heats the attic by radiation and convection. All adjacent materials such as insulation, ductwork and framing materials absorb the heat and get hotter and hotter until the rays of the sun are reduced in some way. Much of the heat is absorbed by the insulation, keeping it from reaching the cooler living space, which is good.

Here's some possible solutions to make your attic cooler:



Doug Rye
says ...

1. If the ductwork is in the attic, the best answer, in most cases, is to spray the entire sloped roof decking and gables with foam, which encapsulates the entire attic space. By doing this, there is no longer an attic at all. It is now just an odd-shaped room upstairs and the ductwork is now inside the conditioned space. In this case, the ductwork leakage does not matter as much because it is inside the house anyway.

2. If the ductwork is in the attic but costs prevent you from doing the No. 1 solution, you can do what many others have done in the past: make sure that the ductwork leaks are sealed and add insulation (my preference is cellulose) until you have a total insulation depth of about 13 inches. If possible, cover the ductwork with insulation.

3. Another solution, that you may do yourself, is to properly install a radiant barrier on the bottom or between the sloped roof rafters. This can lower the attic temperature by 20 to 30 degrees on a summer day. Installing or rolling out radiant barrier on top of your existing insulation is not a proper installation method. Doing so will render a negative effect.

4. If your ductwork is not in the attic, you may only need to add cellulose insulation.

Yep, at least one of these solutions will be the answer for you when it is so cotton-picking hot. Call me at the office if you have questions.

Doug Rye is a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show – heard Saturdays at 9 a.m. on KBTN 1420 AM & KQYY 1450 AM. If you would like advice from Doug, call his office at 501-653-7931. To order Doug's videos, call 1-888-Doug-Rye.



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Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

○ Rebates

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tion. To be eligible, the new water heater must have an energy rating of .9 or better.

There are also rebates available for specific high efficiency heat pumps. Dual-fuel or mini-split heat pumps that are at least 16.5 SEER are eligible for a credit of \$150 per ton, and ground-source heat pumps with an EER of 19.1 or better qualify for a rebate of \$300 per ton.

For a full listing of rebate qualifications and necessary forms, click on the "REBATES" link at newmac.com. Or, if you have questions, call the member services department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.