

October 2019 | Washington • Idaho



Ready for winter?

Avista partners with local community action agencies throughout our service territory to help qualified residents save on heating expenses by weatherizing their homes at no cost. After eligibility is determined by the agency, an energy audit is performed to determine what upgrades need to be completed to make the home more energy efficient, comfortable, and safe.

To find out more, please visit myavista.com/assistance or call us at (800) 227-9187 for your local agency's telephone number.



Home on the (Free) Range

Natural gas heat delivers comfort and luxury to dog boarding

On a recent sunny day, Shih Tzu Mozart is being introduced to dachshund Dash, poodle mix Buster, beagle Bailey, and mixed-breed Reilly. The happy crew of dogs are enjoying play time in the large yard at Free Range Boarding, romping in the grass, playing chase, and engaging in some get-to-know-you sniffing.

Free Range Boarding is the kind of farm you envisioned your beloved dog visiting as a child, with lots of open space to run and play surrounded by the rolling hills of the Palouse. It's not your typical kennel.

Owner Amy Fumetti-Levine designed Free Range Boarding as a dog bed-and-breakfast. There are no cages here. Dogs have their own suites, and play together in one of three large yards. The staff-to-dog ratio never exceeds 1 employee to 15 dogs. It's a new concept for the Spokane area, and, although only open since June 1, Free Range Boarding is already attracting clients from as far as North Idaho.

Free Range is an Avista natural gas customer, and they are all about comfort. "It's basically a luxury dog hotel," said Fumetti-Levine. "It's modeled on European standards."

Located just off the Palouse Highway, the barn-like boardinghouse has an old fashioned vibe. But step inside and this cozy home-away-from-home is high-tech. Each room offers a 24-hour webcam for doting fur baby parents to check in on their pups. A state-of-the-art air handling system features continuous air exchange to prevent illness and keep the facility smelling fresh. Sound-dampening insulation in each suite prevents dogs from being stressed out by the sounds of their neighbors.

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The 18 suites named after different trees (aspen, alder, willow, etc.) feature one-of-a-kind watercolor dog portraits, raised cot beds, and doggie-level windows. Up to three dogs from the same family can stay in a room. Extra services include cuddle time sessions, frozen treats, and tuck-in service.

All dogs must pass health and behavior screenings to make sure they will be comfortable at Free Range Boarding and are able to socialize with other animals. Even so, dogs are further divided into play groups that take into account size and temperament.

“Even though they are all great dogs, they have different play styles and may not all mix,” said Fumetti-Levine.

In addition to boarding, Free Range offers dog training and limited grooming services.

Learn more about the comforts of natural gas heat for your home—and your pet’s home-away-from-home—at myAvista.com/naturalgas. And you can learn more about Free Range at: freerangeboarding.com.

It’s that time of year again Sweater weather is here

Here in the northwest, October marks the beginning of fall. The sun becomes scarce and we pull out our sweaters. Many of us haven’t touched our thermostats yet, but we’re often surprised—and even confused—when we open our energy bills.

During colder months, home heating can account for 40% to 60% of our monthly energy bills. Our heating systems begin firing up in the colder overnight hours to keep us comfortable as we sleep—easy to forget when we’re not awake to notice.

Here are a few things you can do to gain some energy savings this season:

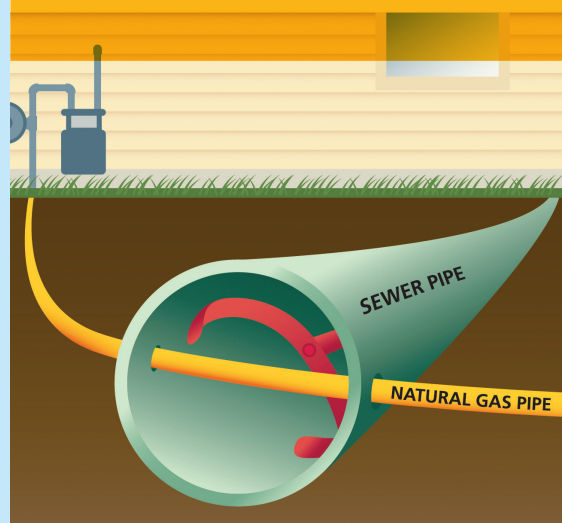
- Check your thermostat. Reducing the temperature by just three degrees can result in approximately 10 percent energy savings.
- Set your water heater at no more than 120 degrees. As the ground begins to cool off, the water coming into our homes gets much colder and our water heaters have to use more energy to produce hot water. Water heating can account for nearly 14% of our monthly energy bills.
- Consider swapping out older incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs for new, energy efficient LEDs. LEDs use far less energy and can put out even brighter light than other lighting options.

While we may not be able to control the changing weather, we can take steps to control our energy use. To prepare your home for the coming months and avoid surprises on your heating bill, visit myavista.com/winterbill.

October is National Energy Awareness Month

Energy conservation is good for all of us. Using energy wisely can help reduce costs and conserve our natural resources. And, no matter where you live—a house, apartment, manufactured home—there are many steps you can take to cut down your energy consumption.

Visit myavista.com/tips to find energy-savings advice to help you, including tips, how-to videos, an online Energy Use Guide and more.



Sewer safety



Natural gas pipelines may be located dangerously close to sewer lines. The

next time you clean out a sewer line with a roter device, take immediate action if you encounter any of the following signs:

- Bubbles rising through standing water or in the toilet bowl.
- Blowing or hissing sound and evidence of dead vegetation.
- A strong natural gas odor at the cleanout or inside the building served by the sewer line.

If these signs are present, stop what you are doing, and:

- Have everyone immediately evacuate the premise, and leave the building’s door open.
- Do not turn on or off any light switches, or use other sources for ignition.
- From a safe distance, call 911 and Avista at (800) 227-9187 for immediate assistance.

If you sense or see an obstruction in the line, call Avista at (800) 227-9187 for immediate assistance to ensure that a gas line has not been damaged. There is no charge for this service.

Connect With Us

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