

March 2025 | Oregon

Connections

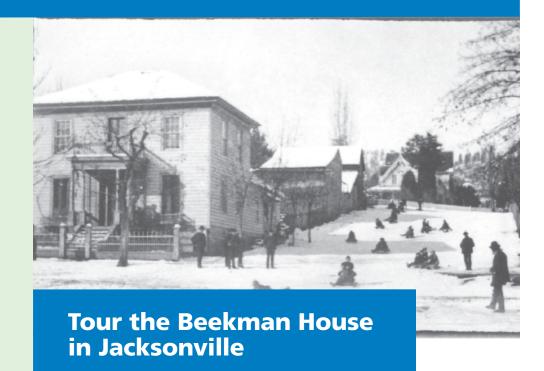
Spring into savings with an energy-efficient home

As spring blooms, it's the perfect time to assess your home's energy efficiency.

Energy Trust of Oregon's online home assessment offers personalized recommendations to help you make impactful improvements — whether it's sealing drafty windows or upgrading appliances. This easy-to-complete assessment can be revisited anytime, ensuring your home stays efficient throughout the year. Embrace the season of growth by visiting energytrust.org/assessment and unlock your home's full energy-saving potential.







How would you like to live without a phone, TV, and even radio?

A permanent change would be a difficult adjustment for most of us, but if you're willing to give it a try for a half hour, then take a tour of daily life in 1900 with Historic Jacksonville Inc.

"We give people the experience of what daily life was like 125 years ago as compared to today," said Carolyn Kingsnorth, president of Historic Jacksonville Inc, a historical preservation organization that recently received grant funding from the Avista Foundation. "We go from room to room in the Beekman House, which is completely furnished with family artifacts, and look at what life was like with no bathrooms, no phone, and none of the conveniences we have today."

C.C. Beekman came to Jacksonville as an express rider in 1853. Three years later, he opened the Beekman Express and in 1863 he opened the Beekman Bank. Those were booming years in Jacksonville because gold had been discovered nearby and thousands of people arrived to seek their luck in the creeks and hills of the Rogue Valley.

"He continued to be an express rider, doing many of the rides himself, and joined Wells Fargo in 1863," Kingsnorth said. "We still have the original safe from 1863 in the bank building."



Predating the bank building — which was built out of wood and is also famous for surviving numerous fires — was Beekman's gold dust office which opened in 1857 and is widely recognized as the first bank north of San Francisco. "That's why we say the Beekman Bank is the oldest financial institution in the Northwest," Kingsnorth said.

Continued on back



Continued from front

Tour the Beekman House in Jacksonville

Beekman was an entrepreneur who invested in real estate and mining but also sold textbooks. He was persuaded to run for Oregon governor — a job he didn't want — so he only made one speech. "Yet he lost by just 70 votes," Kingsnorth said, adding that he served on the school board and paid for the construction of local schools. Beekman operated the bank until his death in 1915. Nothing inside the bank building has changed since his death, making the museum very authentic.

"He was very much a public servant," Kingsnorth said.

Visit historicjacksonville.org for more information.

Know what's below: Excess flow valves

An Excess Flow Valve (EFV) is a device that automatically limits the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is damaged or broken. This



kind of damage can happen during digging or excavation. The EFV is installed underground on the service pipeline that runs between the natural gas main (usually near the street, alley, or easement) and the Avista meter on the customer's property. Typically, the EFV is installed as close as possible to the natural gas main.

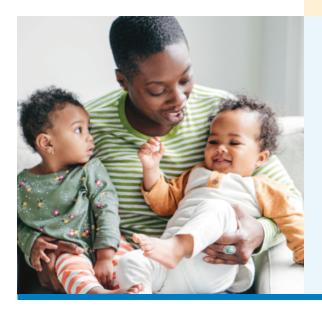
EFVs have been installed on most new and replaced natural gas customer services since 2008. However, since April 2017, existing natural gas customers without an EFV can choose to have one installed at their own request and expense. Installation costs vary due to different conditions in our service area. Customers will be billed for actual labor and materials costs associated with the installation. Estimates for cost and timeframe for construction will be provided as requested on a case-by-case basis. There is no ongoing maintenance cost for the customer.

Whether you have an EFV installed or not, you need to call 811 to have all underground utility lines properly marked at least two business days before starting any digging projects.



Know what's **below. Call** before you dig.

If you would like to pursue having an EFV installed in your service line or find out if you already have an EFV, please call us at (800) 227-9187 or email us at ask@myavista.com.



Need help with your energy bill?

There are lots of reasons why keeping up with your energy bill may be difficult. If you need help or just want to know your options, we're here for you. We team up with local community action agencies to provide billing and payment programs and home energy-saving solutions to eligible customers.

We also offer payment arrangements and options like Comfort Level Billing, to help even or spread out your costs. Even better, our *My Energy Discount* program lowers natural gas bills every month for two years.

Visit myavista.com/ORassistance to see which options are available to you and find out if you qualify for *My Energy Discount*.

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