

January 2020 | Washington • Idaho

Your billing cycle



Did you know one factor that can impact your energy bill is the number of days in your billing cycle?

The number can vary month-to-month, from 27 to 35 days, mainly because of the actual number of days in a month, when weekends and holidays fall, and if your meter was accessible. Having more days in the current bill than the previous month can contribute to a higher bill. Check the back of your Avista bill to find the number of days in your billing cycle.

Learn more about how winter impacts your energy bill at myavista.com/winterbill.



Spokane's cutest cat burglar

No one knows why Snorri turned to a life of crime, but instead of landing him in trouble, Snorri's thieving ways have connected him and his owner to nearby neighbors and animal lovers around the world.

You see, Snorri isn't just any cat burglar. He's a ginger tabby burglar who prowls the West Hills Neighborhood of Spokane in the night on the lookout for shoes, gloves and other odds and ends to steal from neighbors and bring home. He has an Instagram account and YouTube channel to document his booty.

When owner Gabbie Hendel lived in Portland, Snorri's kleptomania caught the attention of news outlets. National Geographic included him in two of its books—"Cat Tales" and "125 Animals that Changed the World"—and ABC featured him in a story on "Good Morning America."

"He's so proud. He'll bring things in the house and announce it at two in the morning," says Hendel, a doctor in residency at Sacred Heart Medical Center.

While Snorri's favorite items to pilfer are flip flops and gloves, he's been known to bring home more exotic loot, including sidewalk chalk and a baby's monkey costume inside the package. At his peak, Snorri brought home at least three items a night and Hendel even had to return shoes with a wheelbarrow. She captured some of his activity with a collar camera.

Most of Hendel's Portland neighbors took it in stride. Children even left notes in shoes they left on their porches in hopes that Snorri would take them and they could claim a selfie with the sweet tabby.

As he's aged, Snorri has slowed down a bit, making cat burglary more of a hobby than a full-time occupation. He didn't steal anything for quite some time after Hendel's move to Spokane, but this past summer he made it known he's not ready to retire, bringing home a pile of work gloves. So far, however, Hendel hasn't discovered who he is stealing from in Spokane.

"I have to warn my Air BNB guests," Hendel says with a laugh.

As for how Snorri became a burglar, perhaps it's because of his name—Snorri Sturluson, after the famous 13th Century Icelandic poet and historian?

Hendel jokes, "One of my friends was like, 'If you name your cat after a Viking, you can expect pillaging.'"

Check out Snorri on Instagram at [@snorrithecat](https://www.instagram.com/snorrithecat) and on YouTube.





When's the last time you replaced your furnace filter?

Regularly changing your furnace filter can greatly improve the efficiency and extend the life of your furnace. But it's a task most of us tend to forget.

We have a great solution to help you remember to change your furnace filter, even if you've got this down like clockwork and you just want the convenience of doorstep delivery.

Join our furnace filter program and we'll send you email reminders every three months. If desired, you can also choose to receive money-saving manufacturer's coupons, or even have new filters conveniently delivered to your door.

There are many great reasons to replace the air filter in your furnace, including creating better operation and extending the life of your furnace, as well as the benefits of reduced energy use and cleaner indoor air quality. You can even save unnecessary expenses that restricted air flow place on your furnace.

Never forget that filter again. Sign up today at myavista.com/changemyfilter.

Downed power lines

It doesn't happen often but damage from high winds, ice and other issues can bring a power line down.

If you ever find a power line that is down on the ground or in a tree or shrub you need to always assume that the power line is still energized or has electricity still flowing through it.

The next steps to take are:

- Stay back at least 50 feet.
- Never touch or attempt to move the line.
- Don't try to use a branch to move the power line as wood does conduct electricity.
- When there's a downed line, always call Avista.

You need to follow those rules even if the line is in contact with someone as the electricity can pass through that person to harm you as well.

The line may look harmless or like it is not energized and you may not see sparks or other signs of power, but the ground around a high voltage line can be dangerous. Electricity can travel through dirt or the ground and when it does, it travels in waves much like the ripples a rock makes when you throw it into a pond. If you stand on separate wave rings, electricity may pass through your body.

If a downed wire touches a metal object like a car, fence or guardrail it too can become energized, so be aware of your surroundings and make sure to stay at least 50 feet away and call 911 and Avista to notify them of the issue.

For more information, visit myavista.com/safety.



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