



# Connected

## Prepare Now for Cooler Temperatures to Come

Fall brings a welcome break from the hot summer temperatures. Now is the perfect time to prepare for the colder temperatures to come. Use the following tips to help make your home warmer, cozier, and more energy-efficient during cold weather.

### Inside your home:

- Have your heating system checked by a certified professional before cold weather arrives.
- Have the chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned by a professional.
- Repair or replace poorly or loose-fitting fireplace dampers; they will allow warm air to escape.
- Clean vents and other heating system components.
- Replace your furnace's filter and continue to replace it regularly throughout the heating season. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to more efficiently regulate temperature.
- Proper attic insulation is essential for keeping your house warm and saving on winter heating bills. See the U.S. Department of Energy's Insulation Fact Sheet for your area's recommended R-value of insulation. And, add or replace attic insulation as necessary.

### Outside your home:

- Make sure that flashing around the chimney and vent pipes are sealed tight.
- Replace worn weather stripping around all doors and windows.
- Caulk around gaps in windows and door glass.
- Consider replacing older windows with newer, more efficient models.

**For more energy-efficient tips, visit [MariettaGA.Gov/759/Energy-Saving-Tips](https://MariettaGA.Gov/759/Energy-Saving-Tips).** 



## What is F.O.G.

F.O.G. stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease and is the number one cause of sewer system blockages. F.O.G. sticks to the walls of your plumbing and the sewer system and can build up over time, eventually blocking your plumbing or the sewer system.

F.O.G. enters the sewer system through your plumbing. Standard entry methods include pouring grease from meats, cooking oils, dairy products, dressings, sauces and marinades down the kitchen sink or toilet and using a garbage disposal to dispose of food scraps. The garbage disposal does not eliminate F.O.G.; it merely chops it into smaller pieces. All F.O.G. and food scraps should be thrown in the trash, not down the drain.


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Follow these four tips to prevent F.O.G. build-up:

- Allow liquids to cool, pour them into a sealable, disposable container, and place them in the trash.
- Use a spatula or a similar utensil to scrape any solid F.O.G. and food particles into the trash.
- Dry with a paper towel and wipe any remaining residue into the trash. Place used paper towels in the trash.
- Use a sink strainer to catch food particles left on dishware and dispose of them in the trash.




**For more information on ways you can help us protect our sewer system, visit [MariettaGA.Gov/539/Conserve-Protect](https://marietta.ga.gov/539/Conserve-Protect).** 

## Budget Billing

When you sign up for our Budget Billing Program, you'll be satisfied knowing your monthly utility bill will be consistent.

To qualify, you must be a Marietta Power and Water residential customer, have been in good standing for 12 months, and commit to the Budget Billing Program for 12 months. Your monthly budget billing amount is based on the average of your actual charges for the last 12 months. This average will be the set amount of your bill every month for 12 consecutive months. On your annual sign-up date (12th bill), your account will be credited for any overpayment made or a charge for the difference owed will be reflected on that bill. The application process is fast and easy.



**To sign up for budget billing, complete the online form on our website. Visit [MariettaGA.Gov/FormCenter/Power-Water-8/Budget-Billing-Application-53](https://marietta.ga.gov/FormCenter/Power-Water-8/Budget-Billing-Application-53). Fill out the form and click submit. If you have any questions about the program, please call Marietta Power and Water's Customer Service Department at (770) 794-5150.** 

## Calendar of Events

### HarvestFest

**Saturday, October 19**

Glover Park in Marietta Square  
9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

#### Event Schedule:

#### HarvestFest Market & Halloween Happenings

**Kid's Festival:** 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The HarvestFest Market draws exhibitors from the southern states, including many local vendors who showcase and sell their handmade arts and crafts.

Halloween Happenings is a kid's festival for children ages 12 and younger. Carnival games, inflatable houses, candy, and other special activities make this a safe and fun fall event.

**Scarecrows on the Square:** 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The annual Scarecrows In The Square competition will be displayed throughout the park during the festival.

**Touch-A-Truck:** 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Many City of Marietta vehicles, such as fire trucks, police cars, tractors, tow trucks, and more, will be displayed for an up-close experience.

**Pie Eating Contest:** 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

A Pie Eating Contest for ages six and up! The City of Marietta will partner with Pie Bar on Marietta Square to bring you the most fun you will ever have eating dessert!

**Costume Contest:** \*2 p.m. until 3 p.m.

Come dressed in your best handmade costume! The contest starts at 2 p.m. at the Glover Park Stage with our littlest contestants. \*Contestants should arrive on the stage at 1:30 p.m. to receive a contestant number.

**For more information about this event, visit [MariettaGA.Gov/1258/HarvestFest](https://marietta.ga.gov/1258/HarvestFest).**

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit [MariettaGA.gov](https://marietta.ga.gov) and click on Calendar of Events.

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