

Fairburn Community to celebrate new heating system at 'Pig Day'

Outline Of Need: The heating system for the community building in Fairburn quit working. Without heat, they were going to have to lock the doors for the winter. That meant no place for school functions, no library, no museum, and no place for the community to gather for meetings and social events. Martha Smith, Historical Director, for the Fairburn Community and Historical Society began looking for resources to replace the worn out system with a more energy efficient heating system.

How Rural Development Helped: Martha contacted George Zimmerman with the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) RC&D who assisted her with the application for a USDA Rural Development community facility grant and low interest loan. A partnership was formed with Black Hills Electric who donated a portion of the cove heating system. Martha is pleased with the results. "It proves that when everyone works together good things can happen," said Smith.

The Results: Now, just in time for school to start, the building has a new heating system that is not only functional, but more economical to operate. "We don't have a lot of money" said Smith, "so every dime we can save is important". The non-profit organization raises most of its money at the annual 'Pig Day' potluck fundraiser. This year 'Pig Day' is on Saturday, September 6th at 4:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to come and help celebrate their new heating system. The BBQ pork and beverages are provided. There are games for the kids and an orchestra. "It's just good clean family fun. Come help us celebrate and visit the museum while you're here," chimed Smith. She also talked frankly about what it takes to keep a non-profit organization operating, "It takes dedicated people, successful fundraisers like 'Pig Day', and programs like those provided by Black Hills Electric and USDA's Rural Development and NRCS."

Fairburn may be a small town, but thanks to help from Black Hills Electric and USDA's NRCS and Rural Development, the Fairburn Community and Historical Society can continue to provide educational and social activities year around.

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Pictured at left is Martha Smith, Historical Director, standing in front of a historical display that was recently donated to the museum.