

Rural electrification marks 75 years of light in Lincoln County

I've always loved a well-worn joke among lineworkers. It goes, "If they sent a lineman to the moon, there wouldn't be a dark side."

Our line crews are known for their ability to maintain electric systems, extend distribution lines to growing communities and fix trouble spots during storms. Despite these accomplishments, few linemen these days have experienced the wonder of providing power to a family for the very first time.

But in 1935 and the years to follow, there were many people in our community who experienced the wonder of electricity for the very first time. You see, not that long ago, we — your local power company — helped bring life to our rural communities as we built power lines to the homes and farms of those who lived in the county areas.

In a history book titled "The Next Greatest Thing," it is written:

"Lights were coming on all over rural America. The first magic glow of the naked bulb was witnessed then — and is recalled today — with a sense of awe.

"The night the lights came on' is often recorded as a high moment in the lives of America's rural

families: an important date, ranking with marriages and births as a day to cherish."

This year, Fayetteville Public Utilities celebrates 75 years of rural electrification in Lincoln County. This year also marks the county's 200th anniversary as we celebrate our bicentennial.



Britt Dye
CEO and General Manager,
Fayetteville Public Utilities

As a community, we have much to celebrate!

There's a sort of nostalgia as we remember our past and how things used to be before electricity changed lives. Some of you experienced firsthand the "day the lights came on." And I'm sure those are still fond memories. When we remember how much more difficult everyday tasks like washing, cooking, milking and farming once were, I believe we can all agree that electricity changed our lives for the better.

When we consider all the advancements in medicine, technology, communication and travel, we realize that these would not be possible if it weren't for electricity.

It is our great honor to have been a part of this community for so long and to have provided you and your family with electricity — that wonderful thing that makes our daily lives more convenient, more productive and safer in many ways.

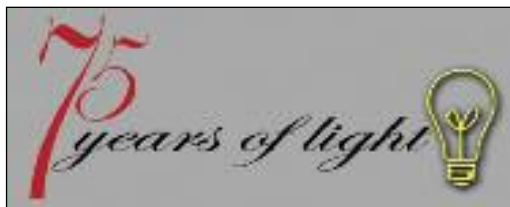
As we celebrate 75 years of rural electrification in Lincoln County and

across our nation, I will always remember the story of the land-buyer for the Tennessee Valley Authority who

was traveling a country road at dusk in the early 1940s. He came upon the farmer of a newly electrified farm. Sitting on a little knoll overlooking his farm, he gazed down at his house, barn and smokehouse, all ablaze with light.

The TVA man could not help but notice

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Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dispatch Hours:
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the look of special wonder in the farmer's face, enthralled at the scene below. About a week later the TVA man attended the church to which this farmer belonged. During the service, the farmer got up to express his spiritual condition, giving witness thusly: "Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on Earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house."

No one could have said it better.

Electricity has done so much to improve our lives over the years, and as we celebrate this milestone, I want to extend my appreciation to the men and women who worked at FPU years ago and those who work here now. They have dedicated their lives to improving conditions in this community through providing you and your family with electricity.

Thank you for a job well done for 75 years!



Beware of dangerous cross-connections

What do you think the chances are that you have a connection to Fayetteville Public Utilities' distribution water system that could threaten public safety? Although you most likely don't THINK your connection could be dangerous, it's possible that it is.

One of the many threats to our drinking water supply is known as a cross-connection. A cross-connection is the point at which a nondrinking water substance can possibly come in contact with drinking water. Connections as seemingly innocent as a sprinkler system, hot tub or ornamental pond can easily enable contaminants to enter potable (drinking) water lines via backflow. Customers install potential cross-connections like these and other water-using equipment every day, but they are often unaware of the potential danger that lurks in the pipes as a result.

Backflow, caused by backsiphonage and/or backpressure, is the unwanted reverse flow of nonpotable water back into a water system. Backflow can allow bacteria, chemicals or physical contaminants to enter the water system if cross-connections are uncontrolled.

FPU's Water Department takes every precaution possible to prevent cross-connection backflow from entering our distribution system. Our cross-connection control program ensures that customers eliminate cross-connections whenever possible and control connections that can't be eliminated by installing Department of Health-approved backflow preventers.

Cross-connection prevention devices are inexpensive and can be found at your local hardware store. FPU strongly recommends that you install these devices on your garden hoses, livestock water connections and more.

Please help us keep your drinking water safe. Just a few steps now can prevent problems later.

Call Fayetteville Public Utilities today at 931-433-1522 if you have questions about backflow or cross-connection safety.

Cross-connection examples

- Wash basins and service sinks
- Hose bibbs
- Irrigation sprinkler systems
- Auxiliary water supplies
- Laboratory and aspirator equipment
- Photo-developing equipment
- Processing tanks
- Boilers
- Water-recirculating systems
- Swimming pools
- Solar heat systems
- Fire sprinkler systems

Heat pump financing program helps improve energy efficiency



We all want to save our pennies, even when it comes to how much we spend on utilities. We try a variety of methods of practicing energy efficiency to help lower our monthly bills. Some energy-efficient practices have larger and quicker paybacks than others.

One of the most important energy-efficiency choices you'll ever make is how to heat and cool your home. Today, many people spend half of their energy dollars making their homes comfortable. But when you install an energy-efficient electric or dual-fuel heat pump — one that meets all of the *energy right*[®] guidelines — you can greatly reduce that figure. And you'll spend the hottest summer days and the coldest winter nights in complete comfort.

What is an electric heat pump?

An electric heat pump is a double-duty system that cools and heats your home. During the summer, the heat pump operates as an air conditioner — heat is removed from the air inside your home and ejected outside. All that remains is cool, dehumidified air. In the winter, the process is reversed. The heat pump moves heat from the outside air inside, warming your home.

What is a dual-fuel heat pump?

The dual-fuel heat pump is actually two systems in one — an electric heat pump and a natural gas furnace. In this area of the country, where temperatures are typically above freezing and we enjoy some of the nation's lowest electric rates, an electric heat pump is the most efficient way to heat and cool your home. However, on those days of the year when the temperature drops below freezing, the gas furnace provides the heat to maximize the comfort level inside your home. When the two systems work together in a dual-fuel heat pump, you enjoy the benefits of both.

How does the financing program work?

Our heat pump financing program offers you up to 10 years to repay your loan for the purchase and installation of a new heating and cooling system. If you qualify for financing through the Tennessee Valley Authority, your monthly payments are added to your Fayetteville Public Utilities bills and repaid each month as you pay your regular monthly bill. At the present time, TVA is offering 8-percent interest-rate financing on standard heat pumps and 6-percent interest-rate financing on advanced heating and cooling systems rated at 15 SEER or greater. To see if you qualify, please come by our office and pick up a financing application or call us at 433-1522. We'll be happy to mail the information to you. Once you've met the financing criteria and completed the next application step, you'll be given a list of heat pump contractors who are part of our Quality Contractor Network to begin your installation.

What should you consider when selecting a new heating and cooling system?

There are many models of heat pumps from which to choose. There are also a few things to remember before deciding on which is best for you. First, consider the cost. The more efficient the heat pump, the higher the purchase price will be — but the more you'll save on operational costs. Second, consider the warranty. All heat pumps come with a warranty, and they can be quite different from one brand to another. Get the one that fits your needs. Third, consider the size of the unit. To work best, a heat pump has to match your home's heating and cooling needs. An undersized unit won't adequately cool your home, while an oversized unit won't dehumidify properly and can make your home drafty. These are considerations that your Quality Contractor Network members can help decide for you through our heat pump financing program.

While saving pennies on our utility bills is important, your comfort is equally important. That's the purpose of our financing program. We want to help you get the most from your heating and cooling dollars! So call us at 931-433-1522 or visit our office at 408 College St. W. to get more information about the heat pump financing program.

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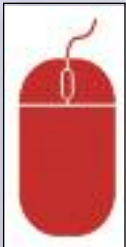
In our Triple Play, you get basic cable (channels 2-22), high-speed cable Internet and digital phone service — all from one company at prices beginning at \$87.85* per month. Not only do you get competitive pricing with our Triple Play, you also get friendly customer service and 24-hour emergency service seven days a week.

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CABLE TV

Our basic cable TV offers you quality programming with channels 2 through 22. You get Channel 6, our local programming channel, and you also get all of the Huntsville, Ala., and Nashville networks. In the basic cable package, you also get an up-to-date TV Guide channel, WAMY, WGN, The Weather Channel, WTBS and ESPN News. If basic cable isn't enough, we also offer 79 channels in our Basic Plus package, many quality digital channels, 26 premium movie channels, 29 high-definition channels and three premium HD movie channels! Select the cable package that's best for you and your family!**



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It's all you've ever wanted from one service provider! Give us a call at FPU, 931-433-1522, and get our Triple Play today!

**Does not include taxes and fees.*

***Additional monthly charges apply for cable and Internet services above the basic packages.*

REMINDER to our CUSTOMERS

The fuel cost adjustment (FCA) charge on your utility bill now changes monthly rather than quarterly. Please take note of the FCA charge on each month's billing as Fayetteville Public Utilities will not be able to publish the changes of the adjustment in *The Tennessee Magazine* due to the more frequent adjustment schedule. You will, however, be able to view the monthly FCA charges on our Web site, fpu-tn.com, under the listing for rates. If you have questions, please call our Customer Service Department at 931-433-1522.

FPU honors employees' years of service

At the end of 2009, Fayetteville Public Utilities honored 20 of its employees who reached milestones in their employment with the utility. Their years of service, totaling 315 years combined, were celebrated with plaques of appreciation and applause from fellow employees.

Gania Langston was recognized for 40 years of service to FPU, most of those years spent at the Fayetteville Gas System prior to utility consolidation in 2002. Gania was presented a pewter serving tray inscribed with her years of service.

Others receiving service awards were:

LaDonna Thrasher, Jennifer Locker, Elmy Woods and A.J. Russell, five years of service; Teresa Gentry, Stephen Reese, Missy Neely, Jared Pierce and Drew Cline, 10 years; Mellea Bradford, Lee Smith and Shelia Jones, 15 years; Troy Doud, Rose Mole and Mike Buntley, 20 years; and Jamie Rozar, Tommy Hampton, Lewis Steelman and Greg Wicks, 25 years.

"These employees have dedicated a total of 315 years not only to their jobs but to the customers of FPU who live and work in this community," says Britt Dye, FPU CEO/general manager. "So many of our employees not only serve the community while at work, but they also serve by volunteering their time and talents to many civic organizations, charities, church groups, youth sports, children's activities and more."

"Fayetteville and Lincoln County residents have been supportive of us at FPU, and we are glad to have an opportunity to continue serving this community to the best of our ability. We appreciate each of our employees for their service to Fayetteville and Lincoln County."



Above is Gania Langston, 40-year award recipient, with Britt Dye, FPU CEO. At left, from top, are FPU's five- and 10-year award recipients. At right, from top, are FPU's 15-, 20- and 25-year recipients.



Radon in Tennessee: The only way to know is to test!

You can't see, smell or taste radon gas. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer. In the United States, 20,000 people die each year from radon-induced lung cancer. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than 70 percent of Tennessee's population lives in high-risk and moderate-risk radon areas (nearly 50 percent of the population lives in high-risk areas). It is important for everyone in Tennessee to test their homes for radon. Call the Radon Hotline at 1-800-232-1139 or e-mail TDEC.Radon@tn.gov for your FREE radon test kit.