

Water, sewer services enhanced by system improvements

Over the past couple of years, Fayetteville Public Utilities has made significant improvements to our water and wastewater systems — all to the benefit of our customers and the future of this utility.

Let's first look at those projects completed last year. In 2009, FPU built three new remote lift stations: Hardees, Pitts and Liberty. Each station received a larger pumping capability to service those respective areas.

At the water treatment facility, we now have a lab computer and a touch-screen panel on the wall that are connected to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, or SCADA. With this equipment, we are able to monitor tank levels from our plant and dispatch center. Prior to the SCADA connection, three of those tanks had never had automated monitoring devices. Monitoring for those tanks was done by visually and manually checking water levels at each location.

Over the past year, we have made dozens of improvements — from concrete repairs to equipment upgrades and replacements — to both the water and sewer treatment facilities.

Already this year we have completed sewer line upgrades in the Laten Bottom and Tanyard Branch areas. The Laten Bottom project required replacement of approximately 3,800 feet of sewer line along Second Avenue and connecting streets. The Tanyard Branch project, which was partly funded by the Community Development Block Grant, included replacement of approximately 2,800 feet of sewer line crossing South Main Avenue and stretching down parts of Lincoln and Mulberry Avenues.

The Industrial Park Lift Station is currently being upgraded. This work includes a new wet well and pumps and redesign of the station.

A new main lift station that has been constructed at the FPU Wastewater Treatment Plant includes a new 18-inch

force main, new wet well and new electrical equipment for plant operation.

Other improvements to our Wastewater Treatment Plant include replacing the existing aerator system with four new 50-horsepower aerators and four new 25-horsepower aerators.



Britt Dye
 CEO and General Manager,
 Fayetteville Public Utilities

We have just recently begun the design stage of the new Water Treatment Plant facility, which is expected to take up to three years to complete. Construction will be under close supervision so it will not interfere with the current plant operation and our customers' drinking water supply.

All that we've accomplished over the past few years has been under strict guidelines established by state regulations. Whether large or small, projects for our water and sewer treatment must meet tough state regulations as the bar is raised for water quality across the state.

System improvements are always for the benefit of our customers.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during those days we worked in your neighborhood. At times it was necessary to interrupt your water service. At other times, we had to close a section of your street to do our work safely. We realize the inconvenience that some of this work may have caused you, and we want to say thank you for your understanding.

We still have many hurdles to clear in the new fiscal year, but the system improvements already completed are helping to bring our water and sewer system to the appropriate quality standards.

As we put our plans in place for the new budget year, please know that we have many additional upgrades that must be made to our system to continue providing a safe water supply and wastewater treatment for Fayetteville and Lincoln County.

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

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FPU water chosen best-tasting in region

Fayetteville Public Utilities' Water Department has won the Best-Tasting Water Contest for Region 6 held recently in Fayetteville at the American Development Corporation.

"I am proud to see the employees of our Water Treatment Plant win this award," says Britt Dye, Fayetteville Public Utilities CEO and general manager. "These employees have worked hard to produce quality drinking water for this community."

The contest is held annually by the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD) to recognize quality water production in the 11 regions of the state served by the association.

Representing FPU's Water Department were David Posey, Matt Haney and Mike Rozar. Other department employees not present for the contest are Lee Bean, Adam Denton, and Todd McAlister.

Winners in each region will be entered in the statewide contest to determine the Best-Tasting Water in Tennessee. This contest will be held at TAUD's Annual Conference in Murfreesboro this month. The statewide winner of the contest will go on to the national contest, The Great American Water Taste Test, to be held in Washington, D.C., as part of the National Rural Water Association's Rural Water Rally event.

Region 6 includes 11 water utilities: Fayetteville Public Utilities, Lincoln County Board of Public Utilities, Bedford County Utility District, Consolidated Utility District, the City of Spring Hill, Duck River Utility Commission, Lewisburg Water Department, Town of Woodbury, Winchester Water, the City of Cowan, and Murfreesboro Water and Sewer.

For the contest, each utility submits water samples collected from the utility's distribution system by state-certified operators at its water treatment plant. Samples are collected 24 to 48 hours prior to the contest from customers' taps and must be free of any type of filter, water softener or other treatment device.

During the tasting contest, water samples from the utilities are judged in three categories: taste, clarity and bouquet.

Judges for the Region 6 contest were Sherry Glass of the Columbia

Environmental Field Office, Linda Justice of the Duck River Agency, Marshall County Mayor Joe Liggett, Joe Young of WYTM-FM radio and Lincoln County Mayor Peggy Bevels.

"We at Fayetteville Public Utilities would like to thank everyone at American Development Corporation for hosting the quarterly TAUD regional meeting and water-tasting event," says Dye.



Judges for the regional contest are, from left, seated, Joe Liggett, Peggy Bevels, Sherry Glass, Joe Young and Linda Justice. Standing: FPU's Water Department representatives David Posey, Matt Haney and Mike Rozar.

FPU saves water, sewer ratepayers nearly \$600,000 in Highway 64 East relocation project

Good news came in April as Fayetteville Public Utilities officials received word that nearly \$600,000 had been saved after reconciling billing differences on the U.S. 64 Highway widening project.

"We just couldn't accept the differences in the dollar figures quoted for the water and wastewater line relocations as compared to the plans outlined for the job," says Britt Dye, FPU CEO and general manager.

After FPU officials spent months reviewing and studying the plans for the line relocations with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the project was found to have several discrepancies in the quantities of line and services to be relocated.

"We wanted to be sure we got what we paid for," says Dye. "Upon checking the work and comparing the materials needed for the highway job, we discovered some things that needed to be adjusted. TDOT has worked very, very well with us during this process, and now we are both satisfied that the work, and the billing thereof, is correct."

Construction costs on the leg of the 64 Highway project were initially billed at \$2,779,870. After discrepancies were noted and costs adjusted, the final billing came to \$2,183,553 — a savings of \$596,317.

This savings will now be used to fund additional capital projects for the water and wastewater system that are considered to be priority.

Green Schools Program offered to city and county

Fayetteville Public Utilities and the Tennessee Valley Authority have presented both city and county school systems information about the new Green Schools Program — a pilot initiative designed to save energy and money for the schools while enhancing students’ understanding of energy efficiency.

“The Green Schools Program helps students understand the importance of energy efficiency and how simple actions on their part make a difference,” says Britt Dye, FPU CEO and general manager. “The program will also help students and teachers become more aware of the link between energy efficiency and the environment.”

Green Schools is offered by the national Alliance to Save Energy, based in Washington, D.C.

TVA representatives will offer training and provide instructional materials for local school systems. They will learn how to help their students, or “energy patrols,” create customized conservation plans for their schools and find ways to build school-wide energy awareness that students could carry home and into the community. Throughout the year, each school receives information on its monthly energy use to determine if its measures are having an impact on its overall energy use.



According to Pat Haynes, FPU key accounts representative, those local schools initially enlisted in the Green Schools Program are Blanche Elementary, Lincoln County High, Ninth Grade Academy, Fayetteville Junior High and Fayetteville Intermediate.

Across the state, as student groups made presentations on their Green School results, some wrote and sang songs encouraging energy-efficient behavior in their schools. Others conducted interviews for school TV channels, made audit reports, prepared science fair-style projects or put together energy conservation PowerPoint presentations.

Schools across the nation have realized energy cost savings of 5 percent to 15 percent from their participation in the Green Schools program.

Haynes said that students who help form the energy patrols can remind teachers and classmates to turn off lights, power strips, computers and other equipment when not being used. In the process, they are learning how adjusting thermostats by just 1 or 2 degrees can save money and conserve energy.

More information about Green Schools is available at www.ase.org/section/program/greenschl.

FPU begins Student Utility Board

At the March meeting of the Fayetteville Public Utilities Board of directors, the utility received approval to create a Student Utility Board (SUB) to begin with the 2010-2011 school year.

This new youth program will include a seven-member committee patterned after the existing student advisory boards, but FPU’s student board will focus on utility operations and services provided to the community by the utility.

“Students will learn about some of the current issues the utility faces, including renewable energy resources, cost of providing service and changing technology,” says Gina Warren, FPU public information specialist and SUB Committee coordinator.

The SUB will be offered to senior high school students at both Lincoln County High School and Riverside Christian Academy.

The program includes 10 regular monthly meetings at the Fayetteville Public Utilities office, some of which will be field trips to utility work sites, treatment plants and substations. The students will also be given an opportunity to prepare a Channel 6 show featuring information from their schools and promoting upcoming events. Additionally, the students will be involved with community events in which FPU participates throughout the year.

“This new Student Utility Board will be a great community service and a great service to the students as well,” says Britt

Dye, Fayetteville Public Utilities CEO and general manager. “These students are possibly our future community leaders and utility customers. We want them to see from the inside what FPU is and what we do for the community each day. But not only do we plan to share information with these students, we also hope to gain knowledge of how we can better serve them in the years to come. Students will be given an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on what they would like for FPU to offer them as future ratepayers.”

The Student Utility Board program also includes a \$500 college scholarship to be awarded to one of the SUB students based on his or her points earned throughout the months of service. The recipient of the scholarship will be announced in May 2011.

“We look forward to offering such a program to our youth,” says Dye. “Our SUB is be a win-win situation for us, and we are excited about the opportunities that this student group can offer us.”



Local students win writing contest, trip to D.C.

The winners of the 2010 Washington Youth Tour have been announced. This year's winners are Rachel Bray and D.J. Boyd, first place; Haley Watson and Owen Jenkins, second place; and Samantha Sells and Matthew Presley, third place.

Each of the winners was awarded a savings bond from Fayetteville Public Utilities valued from \$50 to \$150. As the grand prize, the top four winners will attend the Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong trip to our nation's capital in June. For more than 40 years, rural electric systems across the nation have sponsored high school students to visit Washington, D.C., and meet their members of Congress.

This year's short story theme was "Electric Cooperatives: Energizing our Communities." Students were asked to think of how their hometown, home-owned electric system reaches out to its community to improve lives. Students wrote about how FPU bridges the gap in customers' needs not only by offering reliable, affordable electricity but by being an active part of this community.

The top-scoring story written by Bray is now competing on a statewide level for college scholarships sponsored by Tennessee's electric cooperatives. Winners of the state competition will be announced later in June. To read Rachel's winning story, visit FPU's website at www.fpu-tn.com and click on "Youth Programs."

FPU congratulates all our winners of the 2010 writing contest, and we thank all of Fayetteville and Lincoln County's junior students for participating!



From left are FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye, Rachel Bray, D.J. Boyd, Haley Watson, Owen Jenkins, Samantha Sells, Matthew Presley, and Lincoln County High School Principal Jim Stewart.

2009 FPU Water Quality Reports mailed to customers

Each year, Fayetteville Public Utilities' Water Department reports to our customers the results of our water-quality testing under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996. This report provides our customers and our community with the scientific data confirming the safety and wholesomeness of the water supplied by FPU's Water Department.

Routine tests are performed each day on water collected across our distribution system to ensure your drinking water is pure. The water we provide meets all chemical, radiological and bacteriological water-quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

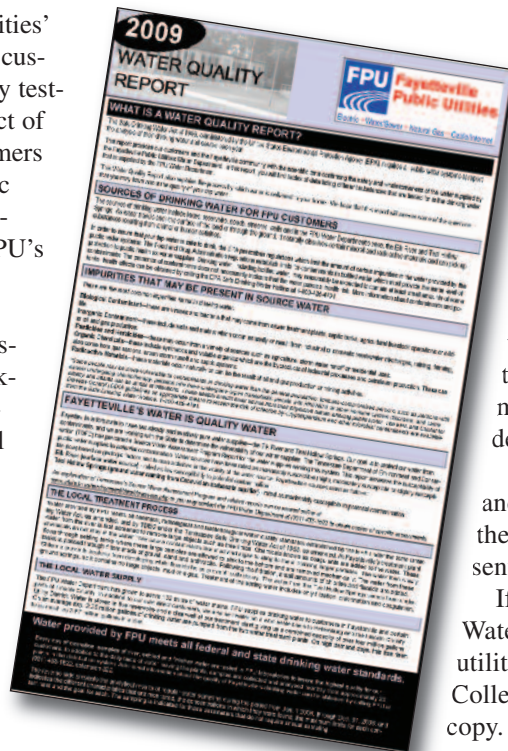
Your FPU water system has grown to 132 miles of water mains. Water is collected from the Elk River, our main source of water, and until recent months, Teal Hollow Springs. Over the

last few months, the Teal Hollow Springs facility has been closed for system maintenance.

Water taken from these locations is treated at both plants and then stored in five reservoirs and a clearwell at the FPU Water Treatment Plant, which when combined, have a total capacity to hold more than 4 million gallons. On an average day, 2.5 million gallons of drinking water is pumped from the treatment plant to our customers. FPU has pumped as much as 3.21 million gallons on a high-demand day.

Learn more about the operation, filtration and purification of your drinking water in the 2009 Water Quality Report, which will be sent to all FPU water customers this month.

If you do not receive a copy of the 2009 Water Quality Report inserted with your June utility bill, please come by our office at 408 College St. W. at your convenience to pick up a copy.



Gray and Jeans tour state capitol during Summit

Hannah Gray and Matthew Jeans of Fayetteville were among 44 high school juniors representing 22 rural electric systems across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 15-17 in downtown Nashville. Gray is the daughter of Michael and Kim Gray; Jeans is the son of Vickie and Jim Gault and Robert Jeans. Both families live in the Fayetteville Public Utilities service area.

The annual summit teaches how important electric cooperatives and rural electric systems are to Tennessee's rural communities and provides students an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding young leaders attend this year's summit," said Gina Warren, FPU's public information specialist. "Considering the highly competitive and selective process they undergo to earn a spot on the trip, it's no surprise. Local school officials and guidance counselors chose these students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

"The Magic of Leadership" was the theme of the 2010 summit hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide.

"It is encouraging to see such motivated students in our service area," said Britt Dye, CEO and general manager of Fayetteville Public Utilities. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and FPU is privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric systems."

The summit began Monday evening, March 15, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. Get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by utility employees and special guests, including 2009 Miss Tennessee Stefanie Wittler and Tennessee Titans cheerleader Lindsey Roznovsky.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 16 and visited Legislative Plaza to meet their state legislators and sit in on House and

Senate committee meetings. Motivational speaker Lynn Hodges, a former Tennessee Valley Authority employee, gave the keynote address, "The Magic of Choice," before TECA Director of Government Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Phillip Johnson of Pegram. Johnson answered questions submitted by the students, and Callis explained current legislative bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the State Capitol and saw state government in action at the committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic building. Gray and Jeans also met with Lincoln County State Reps. Pat Marsh and George Fraley and Sen. Bill Ketron while on Capitol Hill.

Following the visit to the State Capitol, the group enjoyed leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students attended a Nashville Predators hockey game at Bridgestone Arena followed by a tour of Tennessee's capital city. Finally, the busy day was capped off with an ice cream social.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the vital role they play in the communities they serve. Students got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives from the "Mission Possible" activity. Then they were divided into teams and competed in "M.A.G.I.C." (Mastering A Game of Interactive Cooperation), forming their own co-ops and working together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies — power poles, wire, transformers, meters and trucks. Later, they put together all they'd learned, answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition. Trent Sanders, founder and president of Leaders Across America, brought the three-day event to a close with his address, "Road to Success."

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future community leaders and utility customers — because we want them to understand what makes their local utilities special," said Dye. "We want them to appreciate all their hometown utility provides for their communities and understand why it was so important to form electric co-ops in the first place."



At top, from left, Rep. Pat Marsh, Hannah Gray, Matthew Jeans and Sen. Bill Ketron pose in front of the State Capitol. Above, the Lincoln County students meet Rep. George Fraley.