

FPU progressing with sewer lift station rehab, treatment plant upgrades

Much progress has been made in Phase I of Fayetteville Public Utilities' upgrades to our water and sewer system. Once restricted from adding new customer service lines to public sewer in those areas affected by the moratorium, FPU began an aggressive plan to improve conditions of our sewer system by securing the needed funding and developing a plan for repair and upgrade of our sewer system.

Phase I funding included a grant of \$705,000 and loan of \$3.5 million from Rural Development and a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant for a total of \$4.655 million.

You may recall that in December 2008, FPU had received a full lifting of the moratorium placed on the Laten Bottom Lift Station — the sewer lift station that serves the northeastern parts of our city. This lift station received installation of a new wet well, two new variable speed, submergeable pumps rated at 1,400 gallons per minute (gpm), a new generator to supply backup power for operation, new controls and a new 14-foot force main to deliver wastewater to the treatment plant. With all these upgrades, the Laten Bottom station has a maximum capacity of pumping 2 million gallons of wastewater per day.

In June and July, work was being completed on the Liberty, Pitts and Hardees Lift Stations to upgrade these stations and enhance service in the areas served along the Huntsville Highway.

At right is a look at the Hardees Lift Station upgrades. Once the wet well is completed, it will resemble the one at Pitts Lift Station.



Britt Dye
CEO and General Manager,
Fayetteville Public Utilities

The improvements to the Hardees, Pitts and Liberty Lift stations will add 40 percent to 50 percent more capacity to better serve customers in those areas and serve future growth. Prior to the planned improvements, Liberty Road Lift Station pumping capacity was rated at 180 gpm. After the two new pumps were installed, the station can pump 300 gpm. The Pitts Lift Station previously had a capacity of 300 gpm. With upgrades, the system is now able to pump 450 gpm. And the Hardees Lift Station previously pumped up to 400 gpm; with upgrades it will handle up to 600 gpm.

Each of these new lift stations is designed to allow for improved operation and more convenient access for employees as they regularly check the stations and data recordings.



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At all stations, new wet wells, pumps and above-ground control panels and monitoring equipment have been installed.

Prior to the improvements, FPU sewer maintenance employees had to scale down the wet well tanks to read and monitor the controls, turn off valves, etc. Not only was this procedure inconvenient, it also had the potential to become a safety hazard with aged equipment and facilities. When these tanks and lift stations were installed 40 years ago, this was the best design and technology available. However, with today's upgrades, employees have a safer environment in which to work, and data can be obtained and controls operated easily and more accurately.

Included in the lift station upgrades are plans to link each of the new stations to our Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The SCADA will give information about any operational alarms that need to be checked, and it will also relay daily flow information to our office.

The Phase I upgrades have taken nearly two years to complete, but with our aggressive approach, we're ready to move forward.

In June, we received approval of the Fayetteville Board of Mayor and Aldermen of a bond issuance of \$4.98 million to finance Phase II, which includes our water system upgrades and extensions. Phase II would also include upgrades of the Teal Hollow Water Treatment Plant and the Elk River Water Treatment Plant. FPU had previously been approved for \$4.9 million in loans at 3.75 percent and \$1.437 million in grants for Phase II through Rural Development. With the city's approval



Shown clockwise from top left are the old Pitts Lift Station and wet well, upgrades to the Liberty and Pitts Lift Stations and a close look at the new electronic control panels installed for better operation of the stations.

of the bond to secure the assistance from Rural Development, FPU can move forward with its plans to upgrade our water facility.

The main Elk River facility was built some 70 years ago. The last upgrades to the main treatment plant date back to the 1960s and again in the 1980s, but with more stringent requirements for drinking water, the Fayetteville treatment facility is in need of upgrade again to continue supplying the needs of our customers.

Natural gas line safety inspection under way

In June, FPU's natural gas department contracted with LISCO Inc. to inspect our system for possible gas leaks in our distribution lines that span approximately 246 miles across Fayetteville and Lincoln County.

It may look a bit strange, but the truck from LISCO that you see at right is equipped with sensitive gas leak detection devices and has been roaming our territory to ensure safety. The truck was driven by LISCO's Mike Waid, who was accompanied by FPU's natural gas department representative Jimmy Medley.

According to Randall Griner, superintendent of the natural gas department, FPU also conducts its own system inspection on an annual basis as part of FPU's ongoing efforts to provide safe, reliable natural gas service to our customers.

Testing by LISCO began on June 8 and is expected to take several weeks to complete.



It is important that FPU maintain the safety of its natural gas distribution line, but it is equally important for our customers to also be aware of the location of privately owned gas service lines that extend from FPU's line in to your home. The maintenance and safety of these privately owned gas lines are the customer's responsibility. Please remember to use the "Call Before You Dig" hotline at 800-351-1111, or simply dial **811**, to schedule a professional locate of underground utility lines **before** you start to dig.

Please be aware that LISCO personnel may need access to your yard, but not to your home. LISCO personnel can be identified by the company logo on their trucks and uniforms. They

may also be accompanied by an FPU employee to ensure safety.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call FPU at 433-1522.

Arney and Lawson honored by FPU and board

Two members of the Fayetteville Public Utilities board of directors were recognized for their dedication to the system at the June board meeting. Marshall Arney, board chairman, and Micky Lawson, board vice chairman, are leaving the board and were presented plaques from FPU in appreciation for their service. Each also received official House Joint Resolutions signed by State Rep. Curt Cobb, Speaker of the House of Representatives Kent Williams, Speaker of the Senate Ron Ramsey and Gov. Phil Bredesen.

Arney began serving on the Fayetteville Electric System board in September 2000. He remained on the board until FES, Fayetteville Gas System and Fayetteville Water and Sewer System merged to form Fayetteville Public Utilities in 2002. At that time, he became a member of the Fayetteville Public Utilities board.

Arney was elected vice chairman of the Fayetteville Public Utilities board in November 2004, and in July of 2007, he was elected chairman. While serving on the board, Arney was appointed to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association board of trustees. He also completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director program in September 2002.

Lawson originally served on the Fayetteville Gas System board of directors beginning in October 1999, and when the gas, water and electric utilities consolidated, he was appointed to the new Fayetteville Public Utilities board as an advisory member. In July 2003, Lawson was appointed as a voting member of the FPU board.

In March 2005, he completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director program and two years later was elected vice-chairman of the FPU board.

Lawson was appointed to the American Public Gas Association's Public Gas Policy Council in January 2008.

"Both Mr. Arney and Mr. Lawson have demonstrated commitment, integrity and impeccable leadership while serving on



Micky Lawson, left, and Marshall Arney receive distinguished honors recognizing their service to the FPU board.

our board," says Britt Dye, Fayetteville Public Utilities CEO and general manager. "They have supported this community, this board and this utility without wavering. We are very grateful for the many years of service each of them has given to us.

"They, along with the other members of the FPU board, have helped guide Fayetteville Public Utilities through our 'growing' years to become a consolidated utility, through major system upgrades to ensure reliability and through advancing technology to provide better service to our customers. We sincerely thank Mr. Arney and Mr. Lawson for all they have done for the employees of Fayetteville Public Utilities and for the residents of this community."

The Fayetteville Board of Mayor and Aldermen has appointed two new members to the FPU board to replace Arney and Lawson. They are Linda Schoenrock and William Hurd. Schoenrock is a newcomer to the Fayetteville Public Utilities board, but Hurd previously served on the FPU board from 2001 to 2007.

Missed it on FPU's cable Channel 6? Watch it online anytime!

If you miss a night of local programming on Fayetteville Public Utilities' Channel 6, no worries! Now you have a new way to watch FPU's local cable Channel 6 programming!

FPU is now airing its shows online so that FPU cable subscribers and our noncable customers can see what's happening in Fayetteville and Lincoln County. And if you miss a night of programming or travel out of town, you can connect to FPU's Channel 6 programming using any high-speed Internet provider, wired or wireless, and still be able to view your local programming.

If you have Internet service from FPU or any other high-speed cable service provider, visit FPU's Web site at www.fpu-tn.com and click on the Channel 6 icon. You'll be able to watch local programming *live*, or click the menu button and select a program from the on-demand listing. (And if you forget FPU's Web address, just type in www.fputv.com — it will take you right to the programs, too!)

FPU's local programming has become a trusted source of community information and education as Channel 6 brings monthly broadcasts of the Fayetteville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, Lincoln County Commission meetings, City Planning Commission meetings and more. We also include community events in the online selection like the Shop Fayetteville First program, Dairy Day and Memorial Day celebrations and more. Check the Channel 6 online broadcasts regularly as FPU makes frequent updates to the selection.

Exciting things are happening with FPU's cable TV and Internet service! **Remember** ... it's all from your friends at Fayetteville Public Utilities!



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*Prices include FPU's digital phone service, Budget Basic cable package and 3meg Internet service. Prices do not include taxes.

**Prices include FPU's digital phone service and Budget Basic cable package. Prices do not include taxes.

GIS mapping provides accuracy in utility infrastructure, design

Since Fayetteville Public Utilities enhanced its reliance on digital mapping and its use of a new geographic information system (GIS), it has brought the utility into 21st-century technology.

"The Trimble Utility Center and GIS system are helping us conduct business more efficiently and have critical geographical and customer information ready at all times," says Britt Dye, FPU CEO and general manager. "With accurate mapping and utility data, we will be able to make better engineering decisions based on more accurate and detailed information. We can improve on system reliability and also on the quality of the services we deliver to our customers."

Before, FPU's mapping was mainly on paper and was updated in red ink as changes were made to a customer's home service line and as FPU extended its distribution lines during new construction.

For several months, FPU and Trimble worked to gather the raw data and entered such digital information as service and distribution line locations, elevations, roads, streams and rivers along with information relevant to each utility meter location. These mapping coordinates and digitized drawings will be used

to provide exact system information for the FPU engineers for future utility growth and to our servicemen during times of outages.

"The upgrade from paper mapping to digital mapping provides numerous benefits for FPU," says Dye. "Not only do we have more accurate information entered on computer for each utility customer's account, retrieving the information is instant, and it greatly reduces the number of times employees must physically visit the sites.

"Knowing where our existing utility lines are for all departments allows us to prepare for system growth as we can easily see how many homes we can serve in an area without performing a physical 'drive-by' survey of the proposed area. This saves time and money."

"We are all about providing customer service that's second to none," Dye adds. "We are always looking at ways of improving the services we currently offer to our customers and for ways to improve accuracy and add convenience to our daily operations. We expect that the GIS technology will take us several steps forward in doing just that."



Energized youth visit D.C. on 2009 tour

More than 130 students from electric utility service areas across Tennessee added their names in June to the growing list of young leaders who have experienced our nation's capital as part of the Washington Youth Tour.

Katlyn Barnes, Christopher Berg, Shelby Wiser and Jacob Johnson, all from Lincoln County, were awarded a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., for writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Energizing Our Communities," describing how their locally-owned and -operated public utility provides valuable community-building support as well as reliable and affordable service.

The Washington Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric utilities such as Fayetteville Public Utilities, their statewide electric co-op association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for more than 40 years. Each school year, FPU sponsors a short-story contest for high school juniors. Winners are awarded trips to our nation's capital as part of the Washington Youth Tour. This year's whirlwind trip ran June 12-18 and included meetings with elected officials, visits to Washington's popular tourist stops and time to meet winners representing other co-ops across the state.

"This year's Youth Tour was another fantastic trip," said Gina Warren, FPU public information specialist, who served as a chaperone. "We always bring a top-notch group of students to Washington, D.C., and this year was no exception. These future leaders thoroughly enjoyed everything they saw and were model ambassadors representing their families, state and hometown utility system."

On the tour, students saw famous sites including the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. Strolls through the varied museums of the Smithsonian Institution afforded the students opportunities to learn more about science, history and art. Other fun stops included homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, a performance of "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and an evening cruise down the Potomac River.

The Youth Tour also included visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial and the newly opened Pentagon Memorial, which honors those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The Tennessee group marveled at the precision and skill of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon at the Sunset Parade, performed in front of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial's iconic statue re-creating the flag-raising on Iwo Jima.

No trip to Washington, D.C., would be complete without a lesson or two in government and civics. The group was treated to a special after-hours, VIP guided tour of the historic U.S. Capitol by Rep. Lincoln Davis and Rep. Zach Wamp and a meeting on the Capitol steps with Tennessee's senators, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker. Later, Tennessee's House representatives met with their constituents at the Capitol.

Tennessee's Youth Tour delegation also joined other trip winners from across the country for Youth Day on Monday, June 15. More than 1,500 students came together to swap stories of

their Washington experiences. And Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time wheelchair basketball champion,



Clockwise from top, Chris, Shelby, Katlyn and Jacob see the White House; FPU's Gina Warren and Don Counts and the students visit Mt. Vernon; Jacob reads names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and Reps. Wamp and Davis visit with Tennessee's tour group.



returned for this year's program to share his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out."

"The Youth Tour is a valuable program we sponsor to educate our youth," says Britt Dye, FPU CEO and general manager. "Through this and similar educational opportunities made possible by FPU, our future customers experience first-hand how we serve their communities."

Each year, a student is selected to serve as Tennessee's Youth Leadership Council member and spokesperson for Tennessee. This person not only serves as a statewide youth spokesperson through the electric co-ops but also in other capacities throughout the following year offered by NRECA and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. We are proud to announce that Fayetteville's Katlyn Barnes was selected as the Youth Leadership Council representative from Tennessee. She attended NRECA Leadership Training in July in Washington, D.C., and will appear at the TECA annual meeting in Nashville in November and at the NRECA annual meeting in Atlanta in March. Katlyn is the first student from Fayetteville to serve as the YLC representative.

Katlyn is the daughter of Tim and Dora Barnes, Chris is the son of Lesia Berg, Shelby is the daughter of Greg and Danica Wiser and Jacob is the son of Ed and Teresa Johnson.



Katlyn Barnes