

System improvements planned for future growth

# Taking a proactive approach

With residential growth and larger electric, water, sewer and natural gas demands in our area, Fayetteville Public Utilities is taking a proactive approach to preparing for the future needs of our utility customers.

We are looking at every avenue to make our entire system more efficient and reliable while providing the high standard of utility services our customers need and expect from FPU.

Some months ago, our electric and substation crews began the work to upgrade the Industrial Substation to accommodate customer growth and commercial customer expansions in the Industrial Park and to ensure reliability to the residential areas now served by the Industrial Substation.

To upgrade the station, an additional 13-kilovolt transformer was installed in line with the current structure. Electric three-phase service along Highways 50 and 64 required upgrading, not only for the highway expansion project but also to accommodate the growing electric needs in these areas.

With these upgrades, FPU can now serve a large portion of customers from the Industrial Substation who were previously served from the Brogan Substation located inside Fayetteville city limits.

Ongoing system improvements continue to be discussed for the FPU water and sewer system, mainly in the Tanyard Branch Basin, which includes parts of northwest and southwest city residential areas, Laten Bottom area off Lewisburg Highway and some sewer lines along South Huntsville Highway. Currently, FPU is working with our state legislature to arrange a partial lift of the moratorium.

In addition to state support, we have applied for a \$450,000 grant through the Community Development Block Grant to help offset some of the expense of these system improvements and service expansions.



**Britt Dye**  
CEO/General  
Manager,  
Fayetteville Public  
Utilities

FPU's natural gas service continues to be one of the most reliable forms of fuel available. We're looking to increase our natural gas load this year because of our system reliability and the benefits of FPU's affordable, quality gas equipment and easy payment plans.

Our cable and Internet service continues to grow at a steady pace with our May 1 customer count at 3,185. We continue small service expansions to new subdivisions and residential areas in the southern region of Lincoln County where our fiber trunk line is already installed.

Also in the telecommunications department, we continue to weigh our options for new technology. Currently, FPU technicians are testing wireless Internet capabilities in select areas as we search for ways to more easily provide service to rural areas in Lincoln County with less of a financial investment than fiber lines pose.

As technology improves and becomes more readily available to meet the needs of our customers, FPU will continue researching the best solution for all of us in each area of utility service.

It's easy to overlook what we truly do for this community. Our jobs are not just about keeping the lights on, the water flowing and so on. What we do keeps your home, your place of work in operation 24/7.

It's our job to make sure that you have those utilities when and where you need them at affordable rates and in limitless supplies. This is why we strive for system improvements.



Electric • Water/Sewer • Natural Gas • Cable/Internet

408 College St. W.  
P.O. Box 120  
Fayetteville, TN 37334

(931) 433-1522  
Toll-free: 1-800-379-2534

**Office Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Dispatch Hours**  
Seven days a week  
7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.  
24-hour emergency response

To make doing business with FPU more convenient, we offer the following services:

- Bank Draft
- Level Billing
- Project Help
- Delayed Payment
- Surge Protectors
- Security Lights
- Electric and Natural Gas Grills
- Natural Gas Space Heaters, Logs and Mantel Kits
- Dial-Up Internet Service
- Cable TV and High-Speed Internet Access

**Call the FPU Customer Service Department for details at (931) 433-1522.**



# Grilling season is here!

## See what FPU has to offer on Broilmaster natural gas grills

**Y**ou don't have to be a master chef to appreciate Broilmaster's impressive list of gourmet grilling features. Many features come standard with the grill models we offer at Fayetteville Public Utilities. Other features may be added to your grill as options.

Standard features include push-button electronic ignitor, dual control knobs, cast iron cooking grids with a lifetime warranty, aluminum grill body castings with a lifetime warranty, stainless steel bowtie burner with a lifetime warranty and retractable stainless steel warming rack.

One of the most unique features of the T3 and D3 models of Broilmaster grills is the optional patented Smoker Shutter that, with one easy pull of the lever, converts your grill instantly into an indirect cooker for roasting, slow-cooking, baking and more.

The dual stainless steel burners disperse flames evenly for 40,000 British thermal units (Btus) of cooking power. The grill surface offers 695 square inches of cooking area and can be adjusted to three different cooking positions.

Best of all, it's fueled by FPU's natural gas\*. You always have the fuel available to cook when you need it! You'll no longer have to refill a propane tank or purchase charcoal and lighter fluid. With natural gas, your grill is ready to cook when you are.

Also, each Broilmaster grill comes with a free cookbook as an added bonus!

To make purchasing your Broilmaster grill convenient, FPU can arrange for monthly installments. At the time of purchase, you pay 25 percent of the total purchase price. The remainder of your balance is added in equal payments to the next three months of your FPU natural gas billing, interest-free. Buying a natural gas grill has never been more affordable!

Come by today and take a look at our Broilmaster natural gas grills on display year-round at the FPU showroom located at 408 College St. W. We're open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Take home a new natural gas grill and let the grilling season begin!

*\*Must have natural gas service to operate these grills. Visit our showroom and see our display of electric grills, too!*



**Optional stands, carts and side tables are available through special order.**

### Marinated Grilled Rib Eye Steak (4-6 servings)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2½ to 3 pounds of rib eye steak
- ½ cup soy sauce
- ½ cup of sliced green onions
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 garlic cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon coarse salt

In a large plastic bag, combine all ingredients except meat. Seal bag and shake well to mix. Insert meat into bag and shake to coat. Marinate meat in refrigerator overnight.

Place steak on natural gas grill over medium-high heat. Place directly on grid and cook with lid open. Turn steak occasionally until it reaches desired degree of doneness. Serve with your favorite side dishes and enjoy!

*Electric Cooperatives: Where Tradition Powers Today***Six winners selected for Washington Youth Tour**

**From left are Britt Dye, FPU CEO/general manager; Gina Warren, FPU public information specialist; students Rachel Sisk, Savannah Quick, Rachel Powelson, Owen Jackson, Nicholas Bolte and Matthew Paul; Wilma Muse, Lincoln County High School guidance counselor; and Jim Stewart, Lincoln County High School principal.**

Six Lincoln County High School juniors have been named winners of the Fayetteville Public Utilities Short Story Writing Contest. As the grand prize, the top four winners will attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour, an expense-paid trip to our nation's capital in June. The two third-place winners serve as alternates for the tour. The six winners were also awarded savings bonds from FPU and were congratulated in person by FPU CEO/General Manager Britt Dye.

The winners are Rachel Powelson and Owen Jackson, first place; Nicholas Bolte and Savannah Quick, second place; and Matthew Paul and Rachel Sisk, third place.

This year's short story theme was "Electric Cooperatives: Where Tradition Powers Today." Students were encouraged to think of how their hometown, locally-owned electric system continues to provide quality, affordable service based on the values and principles the electric cooperatives established many years ago.

"The writing contest is more than another classroom assignment for the junior classes," says Gina Warren, FPU's public information specialist. "It gives students an opportunity to learn about the way we operate as a small, hometown utility bringing not only the core utilities but also technology and advanced services to our communities."

The Washington Youth Tour is a week-long tour of Washington, D.C., and provides youth a memorable trip to our nation's capital. While in D.C., they will visit all the national memorials and monuments, pay visits to Monticello and Mount Vernon, attend a Potomac Nationals minor league baseball game, visit with Congressional leaders and enjoy a VIP tour of the Capitol.

"Each year, students attending the Youth Tour tell us that it's 'truly a trip of a lifetime!'" says Warren.

Rachel is the daughter of Bill and Connie Powelson. Owen is the son of Mark and Terri Jackson. Savannah is the daughter of Laine and Terry Quick. Nicholas is the son of Christopher and Betty Bolte. Rachel is the daughter of Nicky and Maudean Sisk. Matthew is the son of Penny Paul.

The 2007 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 8-14.

The top-scoring story written by Rachel Powelson will compete on a statewide level for college scholarships sponsored by Tennessee's electric cooperatives. Statewide stories are vying for college scholarships in the amounts of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000. Winners of the state competition will be announced later in June.

FPU congratulates all our winners, and we wish them much continued success. Rachel Powelson's winning story appears on page 20 of this issue.

# FPU reinstates TVA's *energy right* program

Back by popular demand, Fayetteville Public Utilities has reinstated the *energy right* program through the Tennessee Valley Authority. The *energy right* program offers new-home builders and FPU customers energy-efficiency assistance, services and advice to help save energy consumption and monthly costs for heating, cooling and appliance use.

“Five years ago, we discontinued our participation in the *energy right* programs in efforts to become more fuel-neutral following utility consolidation,” says Britt Dye, FPU CEO/general manager. “The main purpose of the *energy right* program is to encourage energy efficiency across the Tennessee Valley. Our goal in bringing the program back is to offer energy-efficient advice and assistance to benefit all our customers, not necessarily to encourage customers to choose one type of heating fuel over another.”

All FPU customers are encouraged to take the do-it-yourself Home *e*-Valuation Energy Audit by visiting [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com) and clicking on the energy audit link. From here, you can complete your home's energy audit online for quick results. In just a couple of days, you'll receive a personalized, professional report on how you can make your home and appliances more energy-efficient.

No computer? No problem! Just drop by the FPU Administration Office and pick up a request form for the paper version of the Home *e*-Valuation Energy Audit. In a few weeks, you'll receive the audit in the mail. Complete the booklet and mail it back; postage is prepaid. Your results will be mailed to your home to help you get started on improvements.

The Home *e*-Valuation Energy Audit is a free service offered by FPU and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The audit asks you questions about your home construction, insula-

tion, heating and cooling, appliances, lighting and water-heating. The results will show you detailed information about where most of your energy dollars are spent and how you can improve the efficiency of your home and appliances.

To find out more about becoming energy-right, visit [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com), click on the Energy Depot and use the Energy Calculator to see how much you spend, on average, for certain appliances in the home. You can compute both your annual kilowatt usage and total spending on electricity based on current FPU rates.

More information will be announced detailing other features of the new *energy right* program offered by FPU in local media. If you have questions about the program or the Home *e*-Valuation Energy Audit, please call FPU at (931) 433-1522.



## Outdoor safety checklist

Think about the exterior environment of your home. What comes to mind? Recreation. Relaxation. Entertainment.

But failure to consider potential electrical hazards could leave you exposed to the possibilities of injury and even death.

Remember that hidden dangers can lurk in the most enjoyable environments. Improperly placed metal ladders that come into contact with overhead power lines can be deadly. The same goes for power cords that accidentally dip into water features or puddles.

To help keep you and your family safe from electrocution and electrical fires, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has created the free, downloadable “Outdoor Electrical Safety Checklist,” available at [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org). The checklist will guide you through simple steps and suggested solutions to ensure that you and your family are safe this summer.



# Electric Cooperatives: Where Tradition Powers Today

By Rachel Powelson, Lincoln County High School

“OK, class,” Mrs. Andrews said sternly. “Recess is over; let’s quiet back down. Now remember, as part of career week, we have been having a different student’s parent come each day to talk to us about his or her job. Today we have with us Tony’s father, Mr. Peterson, from the electric company. Please be quiet and give him your attention.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Andrews,” said Mr. Peterson as he walked to the front of the class. “It sure is a pleasure to come and talk to you all about my job. You know, there are plenty of jobs out there, and I’m sure everyone fits in a different place, but for me, I can’t think of any place I would rather work than at the electric company.”

Before he could go any farther, Tony’s friend, Michael, shouted out, “Do you really climb power poles like Tony said?”

“Well, yes, Michael, occasionally,” Mr. Peterson said with a chuckle. “I maintain the electric lines and poles, but most of the time, I use a cherry-picker truck. I’ll tell you some more about that later, but first I want to tell you about the company I work for.

“The company is called FPU — Fayetteville Public Utilities. Most of your parents probably get their utilities from FPU. It’s actually much more than an electric company: it provides water, sewer and natural gas and was even the first electric cooperative in Tennessee to offer both cable TV and Internet service to its customers.”

A little girl on the front row threw her hand into the air. “Yes?” Mr. Peterson said.

“What’s an electric cooperative?” she asked curiously.

“Well, that’s a good question with a very interesting answer. You see, in the early part of this century, when my grandparents were your age, many people who lived in rural areas couldn’t get electricity at their houses. Electric companies didn’t think it was profitable to run power lines to places with so few potential customers, so the people in those areas had to live without electricity. How many of you live out in the country on farms?” he asked.

Many of the students raised their hands. “Can you imagine having to get up before dawn and do chores without electric lights? Or having to haul wood into the house to fuel your stove?” The children stared at him with wide eyes. “Life out in the country without electricity would be pretty hard.

“That’s where electric cooperatives come in. Cooperatives are companies that are owned and operated by the people that

use them. As members of a cooperative, these people can have access to facilities and services that they could never afford on their own. Working together with each other and the people, electric cooperatives found economically sensible ways to run power lines into remote areas, bringing electricity to all of those poor farmers out there, milking their cows in the dark.”

One of the boys piped up, “My grandpa’s told me stories about when he was a kid, and they didn’t have no ‘lectricity out where he lived, and they had to do all sorts of stuff the ‘old-fashioned’ way. And he said that when they finally got ‘lectricity out there, they were so happy, all the neighbors got together and had a big party to turn on the first light bulb.”

Mr. Peterson laughed, “That’s right; it sure made many people happy when the electric cooperatives finally ran power lines into rural areas. That’s one of the reasons why I love working for FPU: We really care about the people we serve. Every day I get to work to help our community by keeping your electricity up and running. Sometimes I don’t feel like getting up in the middle of the night after a huge storm blows through and knocks out the power, but I do because I know how important it is to get the power back on.

“It all goes back to those traditions that started back in the early 20th century — traditions of putting the customer first. Today, we continue that tradition by providing electricity to our customers at low prices: As of 2004, Tennessee had, on average, the sixth cheapest electricity out of the 50 states. We also know how important it is to stay in touch with the community. That’s why we publish *The Tennessee Magazine*, featuring everything from energy-saving tips to recipes. We also sponsor an essay contest with cash prizes for seventh-graders and another one for 11th-graders, sending four of them on a free trip to Washington, D.C. There is also a ‘Louie the Lightning Bug’ electrical safety video and coloring contest for younger children.”

“Oh!” shouted one of the boys. “A few weeks ago a man came and showed us about a little man named Leon who lit up when he touched the power lines, and sometimes smoke came out of the house.”

“That’s right,” replied Mr. Peterson, “FPU does many things in our schools to educate children about our electric system and electrical safety. Which reminds me, they let me bring a little surprise for you.” The kids grew silent with anticipation.

“Who wants to go outside and see my big cherry-picker truck?” he said excitedly. The children cheered.