



News from Floresville Electric Light & Power System

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FELPS Board of Trustees Includes Two New Members

The Floresville Electric Light and Power System Board of Trustees will have two new members, including the new Floresville mayor.

Cecelia (Cissy) Gonzalez-Dippel was elected mayor of Floresville and will serve on the Board of Trustees while in that office. The city of Floresville will name a representative to the rotating position previously held by Larry Stavinoha representing the city of Poth. The term for that member will extend until Dec. 31, 2020.

The advisory member position for Falls City remains open.

The Board of Trustees includes five voting members and two non-voting advisory members who set policy and approve expenditures and allocation of revenue for FELPS. All Board members serve four-year terms except for the mayor of Floresville.

FELPS Offers Easy Bill Paying

Start your year right by signing up for an easy way to pay your electric bill. FELPS offers residential customers two convenient automatic payment methods that ensure you won't ever face late fees. Whether you're at home or away when the bill comes due, it will be paid automatically.

You can sign up to have your electric bill paid automatically with your credit card. FELPS will set up your electric account to draft your credit card on the due date of each month. FELPS accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover.

Another automatic payment method, the bank draft program, allows your bill amount to be deducted automatically from the designated checking or savings account each month.

In both cases, you will receive your regular statement showing the bill amount, so you can record it. To sign up, call the FELPS office at 830-216-7000 and select sub-option 1. Or you can complete the form for the bank draft program online at www.felps.us.

Current Board members and their term expiration dates include:

- Cecelia Gonzalez-Dippel, Mayor of Floresville
Serves during term as Mayor
- Vernon R. Lamback, City of Stockdale
December 31, 2017
- Ignacio Vasquez, City of Floresville
December 31, 2018
- Mark Moczygemba, City of Poth
December 31, 2019
- Member to be named, City of Floresville
December 31, 2020

Advisory Members and their term expiration dates include:

- Sharon Tanneberger, City of La Vernia
December 31, 2017
- Vacant, City of Falls City
December 31, 2019

FELPS Briefs

- Please note that the FELPS office will be closed on Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and on Feb. 20 for Presidents' Day. Regular hours will resume at 8 a.m. on Tuesday following each holiday.
- To report outages, including on holidays and after business hours (Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), please call 830-216-7000 and select sub-option 2.
- Consider paying your electric bill the easy way with the bank draft program. Call Customer Service or complete the form online.
- Mark your calendar for the La Vernia Livestock Show on March 2-4.

Replacing conventional bulbs with LEDs can help you save on your electric bill. Residential LEDs use at least 75 percent less energy and they last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

If you are replacing a light fixture, consider an LED fixture for energy savings and bright light output.

Use Automated Phone System for Easy Outage Reporting

The FELPS automated telephone system allows you to direct your calls for assistance with an outage, whether during or after regular business hours. Just call 830-216-7000 and select sub-option 2 to report a problem with your electric service.

When you call, you will need to provide the telephone number on your account, your meter number or your complete five-digit account number and three-digit sub.

As they strive to provide excellent service, FELPS employees focus particular attention on restoring service. Regardless of how well an electric system is built and maintained, outages can occur because of weather changes, the vast service area and varmint infiltration.

When the dispatcher becomes aware of an outage, a trouble crew is sent—often before most customers call. The crew's primary purpose is to locate the cause of the outage and make the necessary repairs to restore service.

If you need to know the nature of an outage or wish to voice your opinion, please call during normal business hours after the outage has been repaired. The staff will be better able to answer your questions after the rush of restoring service.

Plug into Safety

Some of the holiday gifts you received may require extension cords to reach an electrical outlet. Fire safety experts suggest you choose an extension cord carefully.

- Check the extension cord's wattage to be sure it meets the power demands for the appliance, tool or toy you are using. If the wattage isn't great enough for your usage, purchase a more heavy-duty cord.
- Try to avoid using extension cords for tools and appliances with large motors or heating elements, such as coffee makers and vacuum cleaners. These appliances use a large amount of electricity so they can easily overload an extension cord.
- Give your extension cord the touch test. If it is warm, unplug it and use one with a higher wattage.
- For large users of electricity and for appliances that will be used frequently, consider adding electric outlets instead of using extension cords. And never use an extension cord with an appliance that causes a circuit overload.

Cold Air Comes Calling

Cold air can stealthily seep into your house or business around the electrical outlets and light switch plates. To stop the unwanted flow of air, install foam gaskets under the plastic covers.

The inexpensive foam gaskets are available at most hardware stores and are easy to install by simply removing the plate with a screwdriver, placing the foam piece around the outlet or switch and then replacing the plate.

The reduced flow of air will make your surroundings more comfortable and save money on your utility bill. The gaskets serve the same function in the summer by keeping out warm air.

Saving Money by Degrees

The temperature at which you can be comfortable varies with your activity level and the time of day. In the winter, set the thermostat at 65-68 degrees during the day when your home is occupied, but change it to 60 degrees at night or when your home is empty.

Every degree can save you money. A daily overnight change of 10 degrees can save more than 10 percent on your heating bill.

Check the accuracy of your thermostat too. Place a precise columnar thermometer next to the thermostat and compare the readings. If they vary more than two degrees, replace the thermostat, since even a small error adds to heating and cooling costs.

Even if your thermostat is accurate, you may want to consider installing a digital programmable thermostat. These can be set to turn the temperature down at night or when your home is unoccupied and then to return to normal temperatures automatically at times you select.

For other ways to save on your heating costs:

- Ensure that the temperature near your thermostat is consistent with other areas of your home. Cold drafts or warm lamps nearby can result in an inaccurate reading, reducing your comfort while increasing your energy use.
- Never set the thermostat beyond the temperature you want. The system won't heat any faster, but you will use more energy.
- Keep the heating system clean and well-maintained for maximum efficiency.



Contacting FELPS

Floresville Electric Light and Power System

1400 Fourth Street, P.O. Box 218, Floresville, TX 78114

www.felps.us Twitter: @FELPS_Electric Facebook: www.facebook.com/FELPS.OnLine

Phone: (830) 216-7000 • Fax (830) 393-0362

Business hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

After 5 p.m.: (830) 216-7000 (for outages, press sub-option 2)

The Floresville Electric Light and Power System Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. in the utility offices, 1400 Fourth Street, Floresville.