



Current

News from Floresville Electric Light & Power System

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FELPS Offers Several Easy Ways to Pay

Automatic Payment Plans Save Time and Money

You can save time and money by taking advantage of easy ways to pay your electric bill rather than writing a check and mailing or taking it to the FELPS office. These convenient payment options include:

- **Automatic charge to your credit or debit card.** When you authorize FELPS to charge your electric bill to your credit or debit card, the payment will be made automatically on the due date.
- **Automatic bank draft.** Designate a bank account that FELPS will automatically draft on the due date. Then you simply write the amount in your check book.
- **Pay online.** Make your check or credit card payment online 24 hours a day at www.felps.us.
- **By phone.** Make your check or credit card payment 24 hours a day by phone (unattended on the automated system).

- **By phone.** Make your check or credit card payment by phone with a customer service representative by calling 830-216-7000, sub-option 1.

If you prefer to write a check, however, you can get the payment to FELPS in one of the following ways:

- **In person.** Make a payment by cash, check or credit card during regular business hours at the FELPS Main Office, 1400 Fourth Street in Floresville.
- **Drive Through.** Drop your payment in the convenient box in the drive area at the FELPS Main Office.
- **Mail** your payment to FELPS, P.O. Box 218, Floresville, TX 78114, in the self-addressed envelope that is enclosed with your bill.
- **Pay at collection agencies.** Locations include all HEB and WalMart stores and the Poth and Stockdale city halls.

For customers who need help paying their electric bills, the Helping Hands Program comes to the rescue. The program allows customers to contribute their “spare change” to a fund that provides energy assistance.

FELPS rounds your bill amount up to the nearest dollar and this difference is added to the Helping Hands Fund. FELPS then works with the Community Council of South Central Texas, the organization that handles applications for assistance.

Customers may opt out of contributing to the Helping Hands Fund by calling the FELPS office at 830-216-7000, sub-option 1.

FELPS Briefs

- The FELPS office will close at noon on Oct. 13 to allow access to the Peanut Festival booths and parking for emergency service personnel. The office also will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday on Oct. 9. Regular hours will resume on Oct. 10 at 8 a.m.
- Please note that the FELPS office will be closed on Nov. 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Theft of electricity is a crime. To save customers money, FELPS will begin prosecuting persons who steal electricity.
- You can receive your FELPS bill by e-mail in addition to receiving it by regular mail or you can get it only by e-mail, if you wish. Sign up for the e-mail option on the FELPS Web site, www.felps.us, under the “E-Notifications” link located on the “My Account” tab.
- The 73rd annual Floresville Peanut Festival kicks off on Oct. 10 with the Goober Games. Look for the complete schedule of activities on the Internet at www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org.

Longest Serving Employee Retires

Cecil Moseley, the longest serving employee in the utility’s history, retired on March 16, after exactly 48 years of service at Floresville Electric Light & Power System.

When he began work in 1969 at the age of 19, he earned 50 cents an hour, barely \$1,000 per year, as a member of the pole crew. During his career, he also served as a purchasing agent and warehouse manager from 1974-2016. Last year, he completed special assignments in vegetation management and inspection.

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When Moseley began his career, FELPS had existed only 26 years and had 4,546 customers, compared with more than 15,400 today. He served under five general managers and numerous Board members.

As an indication of Moseley's dedication, General Manager Dwain Duke told the story of his coming to work two hours early to crush ice used by the crews, contractors and local community before he began his regular work day at 8 a.m. During the annual Peanut Festival, he came to work even earlier, because of the great demand for ice.

Public Power Benefits Communities

With rates that are among the lowest compared with other comparable utilities, Floresville Electric Light and Power System helps you save money on electricity, because it is a public power utility. Established in February 1943, FELPS is one of the nearly 2,000 public power utilities throughout the country that are owned by the communities they serve.

These municipal utilities provide electricity at reasonable rates because they serve the interests of the community rather than stockholders. American Public Power Week, celebrated in October, recognizes the important role of municipal utilities, such as FELPS, in the development of their communities.

Besides offering low rates, FELPS also transfers 3 percent of the system's gross electric sales revenue to the governments of the owner cities: Floresville, Stockdale and Poth. In addition, the utility pays 2.5 percent of gross electric sales within the city limits of LaVernia and 2 percent to Falls City as franchise fees. These transfers add to the cities' budgets and help keep property taxes lower than they would be otherwise.

The availability of safe, reliable and low-cost electricity is a major factor in this area's ability to attract businesses and to help them prosper, thus providing jobs.

Generators Require Safety Considerations

The FELPS goal is to provide you with low-cost, safe and reliable electricity 24 hours a day, every day and our track record is excellent. However, sometimes storms and other circumstances can create brief power outages. Some customers have purchased portable, back-up generators to supply power during outages.

If you have a portable generator or are thinking about buying one, safety is an important consideration. Improperly installed or operated portable generators can cause severe injury or even death.

Portable generators can be used in a variety of ways depending on the size of the unit. Large, or whole-house, generators may be connected directly to your home electric system to power all your household needs. Smaller units may be used to power a few appliances.

If you connect your appliances to the portable generator, use the appropriately sized electrical extension cord. Be sure the cord is in good condition, with no exposed wires.

If you want to connect the generator to your home electrical system, call a certified electrician, since this job requires a professional. Disconnect switches must be installed and then you must use them to isolate your home from the power grid when you operate your generator. Connecting a generator improperly to your home electric system can "back-feed" electricity into the FELPS lines and injure field employees.

Keep the portable generator outside in a well-ventilated area, since generators can produce carbon monoxide. And keep fuels stored safely, since gasoline and diesel fuels are flammable and poisonous.

Look Ahead to Winter Preparations for Savings

It's hard to think about winter when the temperatures feel like summer, but now is the time to begin preparations for the heating season. Start now so you'll be ready when the first blast of cold air arrives.

- Service the furnace so it operates well and is clean. Properly functioning, clean equipment saves you money on your utility bill, because the furnace is more efficient.
- Purchase a supply of air filters, so you can change them at least once a month during the heating season.
- Check for air leaks around windows, doors and pipes; then seal any leaks with caulk and weatherstripping.
- Check the attic insulation and maintain approximately 10 inches for a rating of R-30. Insulation can be installed from rolls or loose insulation can be blown into the attic.
- Resist the temptation to cover the rotating vents on your roof. These vents circulate air to reduce attic moisture and are necessary both in winter and summer.
- Consider getting a programmable thermostat so you can reduce the temperature at night and while you are gone for an extended time.



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.