



News from Floresville Electric Light & Power System

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Continued Quality Service Is Goal

FELPS Assesses Infrastructure to Ensure Reliability

FELPS continues assessing infrastructure to ensure reliability for customers. The utility contracted with Osmose Utilities Services for a 10-year program for pole assessments. The work involves inspecting poles for resiliency and decay with a goal of catching problems early to ensure safety and reduce the potential for outages.

The work was originally scheduled to begin in January but will be done in the coming weeks. Pole testing will be done along Highway 181 and Eagle Creek Ranch east to Montesito and in Roemer Lane, Abrego Lake and Shannon Ridge neighborhoods off Highway 181. Work also will include the area from the Eagle Creek Substation on CR 123 along Highway 181 and down CR 120, CR 119 and Bluehill.

Osmose personnel will carry identification and will appreciate customer cooperation in gaining access to FELPS infrastructure.

The FELPS Drone and Data Collection team continues to look for potential issues in infrastructure and vegetation encroachment and to update information on assets to continue delivering reliable service.

The team will fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles better known as drones in the area of FM 775 and east of US Highway 181 North, which includes all of Eagle Creek Estates north into the rural areas outside the Floresville city limits. These routine inspections can be done more safely

and cost effectively by reducing the need to use a bucket truck.

FELPS purchased its first two drones in the fall of 2020 and has since added a third. The drone technology allows staff to save time and money when performing inspection work on facilities. They also can be used to survey new construction sites to help plan the infrastructure to fit the surrounding environment.

During outages, including those caused by storms, drones can be used to identify faults or downed poles so crews can restore power more quickly.

Questions about the work of the drone crew can be addressed by team members in the field or by calling customer service at 830-216-7000, sub-option 1.

Falls City Names Board Representative

The city council of Falls City has named Robert Poore as their representative on the FELPS Board of Trustees. A 45-year resident of the FELPS service area, Poore retired as an educator in the public school system. His professional career also includes service as a State Trooper.

Residing in Falls City for the last 12 years, Poore volunteers with the Falls City Little League and enjoys fishing, hunting, working in his garden and watching his grandchildren at their sports activities.

He and wife Alice have two daughters who, along with their husbands and three grandchildren, all live in Falls City.

Poore will serve as an advisory member until the end of the year, completing the term of Tim Braniff who passed away in late November.

Public Power Provides Benefits

During October, municipal utility systems throughout the U.S., including the Floresville Electric Light & Power System, celebrate Public Power Week to recognize the benefits enjoyed by customers of municipal electric systems.

Established in February 1943, FELPS is one of the nearly

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FELPS Briefs

- The FELPS office 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.
- You can receive your FELPS bill by email in addition to receiving it by regular mail or you can get it only by email, if you wish. Sign up for the email option on the FELPS website, www.felps.us, under the "E-Notifications" link located on the "My Account" tab.

2,000 public power utilities throughout the country. These municipal utilities provide electricity at reasonable rates, because they serve the interests of the community rather than stockholders.

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 percent of gross electric sales within the city limits of Falls City and 2 ½ percent in La Vernia 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.

FELPS Policy for Meter Connection

FELPS reminds customers that when connecting or transferring a meter to an existing account, customer service representatives will update all information for that customer. The information update will include service applications and the driver's license or identification for all responsible persons, as well as a telephone number and email address. A meter cannot be connected or transferred until all requirements are met.

Tips for Saving Electricity to Lower Bills

Energy awareness is important, since we all want to be part of a solution to promote our economy and support our communities, while protecting our resources and environment.

Some simple, effective ways to achieve energy efficiency will help reduce electricity bills throughout the year:

- Turn off lights when not in use or use motion sensors to do it automatically.
- Install a programmable thermostat. A good rule of thumb: Each degree you lower the thermostat in winter or raise it in summer will result in a cost savings of about 1 percent.
- Minimize phantom loads; electronics that are plugged in still consume small amounts of power even if they are not turned on. Use smart power strips to avoid this phantom use.

- Seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weather stripping.
- Maintain proper insulation in attics, walls and floors.
- Use Energy Star rated appliances. Check the yellow label to determine the efficiency and to compare appliances.
- Minimize hot water use to save on water heating costs. Clothes often can be washed in cold water, for example.
- When practical, let clothes air dry rather than using the dryer.

Plan for Tree Planting

When the weather begins to cool, it's time to plant trees so they have growing time before the heat stresses of next summer. Planting trees can cut electric bills significantly, even as they increase the value of your property and enhance its appearance.

The Department of Energy estimates that three trees properly placed around a home can save as much as \$250 in heating and cooling costs each year. That's a big incentive to make an investment that will pay dividends in the future as the trees grow.

Plant trees on the east side to protect from the morning sun, and add trees and shrubbery to block afternoon sun on the west side. In addition to providing shade to the house, landscaping also keeps the ground around the house cooler, so less heat is transferred to the walls.

When planning the placement of trees, consider the areas you wish to shade and the location of overhead power lines. Be certain that as they grow, the trees will not come in contact with overhead lines.

Help FELPS by Reporting Outages

Even during the fall, electrical storms are possible with resulting outages.

You can help by reporting any noticeable damage, such as downed power lines and any sounds you heard. Your report may help pinpoint the cause of the outage, so power can be restored more quickly. Sometimes the cause of an outage isn't readily apparent, so any information provided by customers is appreciated.

Your report can be made by calling FELPS at 830-216-7000, sub-option 2 or by going to the website at www.felps.us and selecting the tab labeled "Report Outage." You also can text an outage message to 55050.

FELPS

Contacting FELPS

187 Highway 97 E., 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.-4:30 p.m. Drive-through closes at 4:15 p.m.

The FELPS Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the utility offices, 187 Highway 97 E., Floresville.