

NEWSLINE

ELECTRICITY • WATER • NATURAL GAS • WASTEWATER • TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Fort Valley

Utility Commission

Since 1891

500 Anthoine Street

Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

(478) 825-7701

(478) 825-7704 FAX

www.fvutil.com

After hours: (478) 825-5482

Follow Us



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Elected Commissioners

Dollie Horton

Chairman

Bob Hunnicutt

Vice Chairman

Alre' Horton

Linda Johnson

Mayor Barbara B. Williams

The Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Fort Valley City Hall.



February 2018

Editor: Martha McAfee

Commission and Economic Development Opportunities

Economic growth is key to thriving and prosperous businesses. For this reason, the Fort Valley Utility Commission continues to take measures to help facilitate economic development in the Central Georgia area. “In order to grow our system and stabilize our finances, economic growth will play a major role. These opportunities may not always occur within the city limits but if it economically feasible for us to serve them, the Commission is poised to bring in new customers,” stated the Commission’s General Manager/CEO Craig Mims.

In addition to providing Electric, Water, Wastewater, Gas, and Telecom services to customers inside of the city limits of Fort Valley, the Commission is also the utility provider to approximately sixty percent of Peach County, the sole gas supplier in Crawford County and extends water service to parts of Macon County. Two of the Commission’s current top service users are located outside of the boundaries of Peach County. “We never lose sight of the fact that the City of Fort Valley proper is our backbone but our expanded service areas also help us keep our residential rates among some of the lowest in the state,” further stated Mims.

Communities that wish to experience economic growth continuously seek ways to be better prepared for prospective businesses. A history of providing quality services with high reliability, proper planning, and partnerships with other agencies are key to landing new businesses. The Commission has those assets, and to stay ahead of the curve the Commission is also an active participant in the I-75 Corridor Council which works to develop and promote economic growth, community development, educational opportunities and enhance quality of life along the I-75 corridor for the citizens of Middle Georgia. The Commission is also considering participation in a new initiative called EDGE Development. This program is sponsored by Electric Cities of Georgia, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia, University



of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and Hometown Connections.

EDGE
DEVELOPMENT
Your Community. Your Advantage.

EDGE Development combines visionary thinking with application-based training and community tailored planning.

From the General Manager's Desk.....



Fort Valley Utility Commission Assets

There are several definitions for the term **assets**. **Assets** are often defined as those things that are owned by a company and which have current and future economic value that can be measured and expressed in dollars. These include items such as buildings, vehicles, cash, investments, and inventory and are typically reported on the company's balance sheet. **Assets** can also be valuable items that cannot be measured in dollars such as **customers** and **employees**.

Commission Balance Sheet Assets: The most recent audited financial statements for the Commission are for the fiscal year 2016. This report shows total assets of the Commission of almost \$47.5 million dollars. Over \$31.3 million or 66% of these assets are capital assets which mostly consists of buildings, vehicles, water and sewer pipes, electric and natural gas lines, and other infrastructure. Approximately \$6.5 million of the assets are inventory items or have a restricted use. \$9.7 million or around 1% of the Commission's assets are cash or investments. The Commission's annual budget for FY 2016 was \$22.5 million.

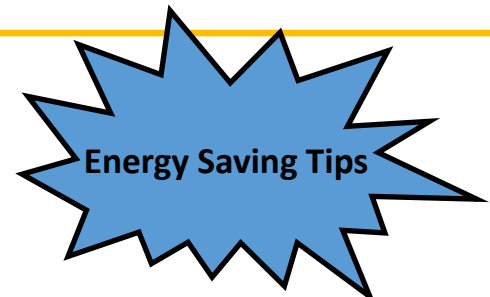
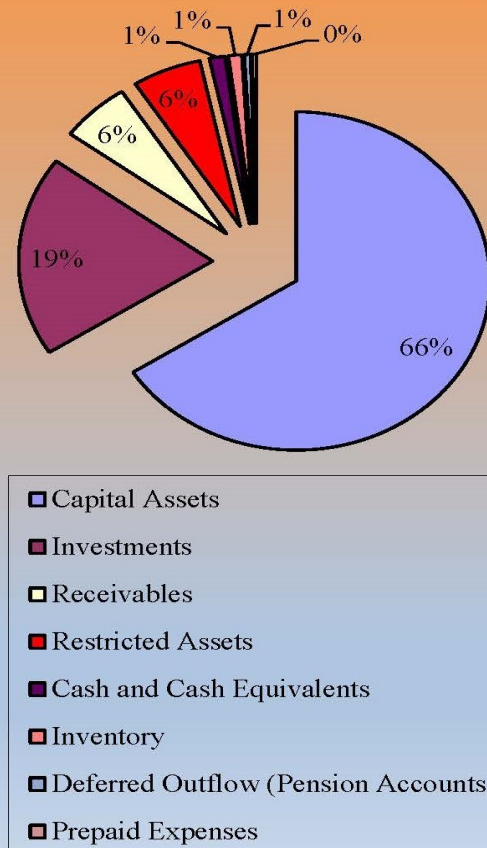
Employees: A very important asset of the Commission is a team of employees who, without their hard work and dedication, we could not function. Our team currently consists of 49 employees with a combined total of 670 years of service. In 2016, the United States Department of Labor reported that the average tenure of an employee is 4.2 years. The average tenure of our employees is 13.6 years which is indicative of our low turnover rate. We pride ourselves in providing a work environment that supports our employees in their professional development and we work diligently to maintain a positive work environment with high expectations of performance.

"Only 1% of the Commission's assets are cash or investments."

Customers: Without you, our customers, we would not exist. We currently serve 2,911 gas accounts, 4,639 electric, 4,500 water/wastewater, and in addition to our internal telecom customers, we serve 95 external customers. **YOU** are our primary focus. We constantly seek ways to enhance the quality and reliability of our service to you. Whether it is upgrading infrastructure, improving technology, or exposing our employees to quality training, our mission is to provide quality service to all of our customers at the best possible rates.

THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR GREATEST ASSET!

Commission Assets by Category



Fire Place Flue: Close the damper when the fire is out. Leaving the damper open when the fire is extinguished can draw out conditioned air and increase energy bills by 15% more.

Air Leaks: A typical home has a half a mile of cracks and gaps around windows, doors, and edges where walls and floors meet! You can purchase supplies from your local home store to fix this problem. Don't miss the gap around the door or panel that leads to your attic. Fix it with foam weather-stripping.

Clothes Washer: Try to wash most clothes in cold water and always rinse cold. You may save hundreds of dollars on water heating each year. Try to dry clothes on a cooler setting, too. And keep that lint trap clean!

Furnace: Change the air filter regularly—once a month in the heating season. Buy multi-packs of replacement filters so you will always have one on hand.

The Switch: Turn lights, appliances, and electronics off when they are not in use. To charge electronics, use a power strip with an on/off switch so that you can leave cords plugged in without wasting energy.

Entrance: Find energy savings before you even step inside. Change your outside lights to energy-saving CFL or LED lamps. Add a photo sensor, and the light will automatically come on to welcome you after dark.

Find out how you can make your whole house more energy efficient—the building, insulation, heating and cooling system, appliances, electronics, and more. Check out the Energy Star website at EnergyStar.gov.



Fort Valley Utility Commission On-Bill Financing Program

Having your furnace or another major home appliance go out is a stressful situation! It's one of those events that households hardly ever plan for and often means using dollars that were saved for a vacation or another special purpose on a new appliance. Fort Valley Utility Commission can help you through this situation with our Main Street On-Bill Finance Program. This program can be used to finance the purchase and installation of new natural gas appliances by simply adding a small monthly payment to your utility bill.



LOAN TERMS UP TO 60 MONTHS

The Main Street Finance Program offers a variety of financing options, including zero percent interest and the freedom to choose your own loan term, up to 60 months! Loans are available for qualified natural gas appliances including most residential natural gas home appliances. Payments are easily and conveniently added to your monthly utility bill.

If you're interested in learning more about this program or taking advantage of the benefits it offers, contact us at 478-825-7701.

SWITCH TO NATURAL GAS AND SAVE

Not a natural gas customer? Did you know you can save more than \$250 year by switching from electric to natural gas water heating? A natural gas tankless water heater will provide even more savings! Natural gas water heaters also give your more hot water in less time because they recover so much faster than an electric water heater. With a natural gas tankless water heater you never run out of hot water!

Natural gas furnaces can last longer than electric heat pumps and they deliver heat up to 25% warmer. One those cold winter days a natural gas furnace keeps your home nice and warm! By choosing clean natural gas you're making the best choice for comfort, savings and reliability.



FORT VALLEY UTILTY COMMISSION

478-825-7701
www.fvutil.com

Community Engagement....

Sip, See, Selfies with Santa!



Hours of fun with Santa! Shout out to Harvey's Supermarket for hosting us!

First Place Float Winner (Byron Christmas Parade!)



Holiday Food drives for Chester Food Bank and Feed Center Ministries!



CUSTOMER SERVICE

O
R
D
I
N
E
R

0%
Financing
Available

Need a new NATURAL GAS stove, furnace
or another major home appliance?

Ask Customer Service
about our Main Street On-Bill
Finance Program
478.825.7701



Loan terms up to 60 months
Monthly payment added to your bill



Fort Valley Utility Commission
500 Anthoine St.
PO Box 1529
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Customer Service: 478-825-7701
Please make checks payable to FVUC
Garbage/Trash Inquires: 478-825-2615
Pay your bill online at www.fvutil.com



Scan this QR Code
to pay your
bill online.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Account Number: 012-00123-01 | Cycle: 02 |
| Customer Name: JOHN DOE | |
| Service Address: 123 MAIN ST | |
| Service From: 10/04/2017 | Service To: 11/03/2017 |
| ACCOUNT SUMMARY | |
| Previous Balance: | 125.06 |
| Penalties: | 0.00 |
| Payment / Adjustment: | 0.00 |
| Past Due Balance: | 0.00 |
| Total Current Charge: | 141.88 |
| Total Balances Due: | \$141.88 |
| Due Date: | 11/28/2017 |

| Charge Type | Meter | Previous | Current | Mult | Usage | U/M | Charges |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|------|-------|-----|---------|
| WATER (3 ccf = 2244 gallons) | W12345678 | 82 | 85 | 1 | 3 | ccf | 20.13 |
| ELECTRIC | E2345 | 9399 | 9927 | 1 | 528 | kWh | 56.38 |
| ELEC: POWER COST ADJ. | E2345 | | | | | | 1.21 |
| GAS | G3456 | 2110 | 2141 | 1 | 31 | ccf | 50.70 |
| SECURITY LIGHT | | | | | | | 12.00 |
| 85+ Discount | | | | | | | -6.99 |
| COMBINED TAXES | | | | | | | 8.43 |

| Compare | Ele | Current | Previous | Last Year | Compare | Gas | Current | Previous | Last Year | Compare | Water | Current | Previous | Last Year |
|-----------|------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|
| # of Days | 31 | 30 | 31 | 31 | # of Days | 31 | 30 | 31 | 31 | # of Days | 31 | 30 | 31 | 31 |
| kWh | 528 | 502 | 515 | 515 | ccf | 31 | 32 | 28 | 28 | ccf | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Avg/Day | 17.0 | 16.73 | 16.61 | 16.61 | Avg/Day | 1 | 1.06 | .9 | .9 | Avg/Day | .09 | .1 | .12 | .12 |

Test of the comments section
A Late fee of 5% of bill with \$5 minimum will be applied to each of your accounts not paid by 6PM on the due date



Fort Valley Utility Commission
500 Anthoine St.
PO Box 1529
Fort Valley, GA 31030



*****AUTO**DIGIT 31030
9636513 0563-UTL 306 1 1 1

JOHN DOE
123 MAIN ST
FORT VALLEY GA 31030-4815



| Service Location | Account Number | Cycle No. | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| 123 MAIN ST | 012-00123-01 | 02 | |
| Statement Date | Past Due Amount | Due Date | Total Due |
| 11/27/2017 | 00.00 | 11/28/2017 | \$141.88 |

If Paid After Due Date Amount Due Will Be: 149.95
Late payments may be subject to a 5% administrative fee.

Payments may be made online at www.fvutil.com

Fort Valley Utility Commission
500 Anthoine St.
PO Box 1529
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Get the most out of your workouts by teaming with a group class

EXERCISE IS HARD ENOUGH

Achieving your fitness goals just became fun!

Come Dance Yourself Healthy!!

Utility Commission

500 Anthoine Street, Ft Valley

Every Wednesday 6-7pm

Sponsored by

FREE and open to the public!
Details: Call Martha
478.822.3900

**Come MOVE with us!
FREE!!**

THANK YOU for your continued patience as we work to implement a new finance and billing software program.
Check out our new look bill!



Need energy assistance or want to make a charitable donation to help others? Visit heatga.org



Weatherization

Commission Announces Weatherization Program

Fort Valley Utility Commission is pleased to announce the debut of its new weatherization program. The program is designed to help customers identify and address issues that make homes more energy efficient.

Approximately one half of a household's energy use can be contributed to heating and cooling it and water heating accounts for approximately 18%. This makes these two items alone some of the largest energy expenses in any home. The implementation of this program combined with the newly announced Main Street on Bill Financing program (*see page 4*) will help customers make great strides toward reducing energy usage.

"We are working to put the final pieces in place and anticipate beginning to accept applications in March," said the Commission's General Manager/CEO Craig Mims. The Utility Commissioners set aside funds in the FY 2017 budget to initiate the program.

The first stage of the program is to have an energy audit completed. The audits will be conducted at no cost to the customer. Several Commission employees have received the necessary training to conduct the audits. "To reduce the cost of implementing the program, we wanted to have qualified energy auditors in-house," further stated Mims.

The second phase of the program will be to provide assistance to qualified customers for the purchase and possibly installation of items to help weatherize the home. This will include items such as LED light bulbs, weather strips, caulking, air filters, and insulation. Depending on the magnitude of the project, the items will be installed by Commission employees or by a local contractor.

The implementation of a weatherization program has been on the Commission's plan of action for several years. "We are excited to finally be able to have the resources in place to provide this service to our customers," said Mims.



Natural Gas Safety Awareness

Natural gas, America's most popular home heating fuel, is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants because it is efficient, clean, reliable and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources.

In our community, the *Fort Valley Utility Commission* provides natural gas to more than 3,030 customers through a network of underground distribution lines. Main gas lines, typically 2-inch in diameter, branch into household service lines which are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface. The service lines end at each customer's meter where gas is delivered.

To protect you and others in the community; federal and state government, along with your utility provider have made your safety a high priority. Any time you dig or move earth in any way, you are required to "Call Before You Dig" 48 hours before beginning any digging. When you call **811**, they will contact utility owners who will locate all buried utility lines on your property, so you can safely dig and prevent a potentially hazardous condition. Failure to use the **811** system is a known cause of pipeline accidents. Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, or dirt or dust blowing from the ground, or the smell of rotten eggs.

If you smell gas, or just think you might have a gas leak, leave the area immediately and call the **Fort Valley Utility Commission** at **478-825-7701** or **911** from a neighboring home or business. Never turn on or off switches, open or close garage doors, use a flashlight or phone/cell phone in the presence of the gas smell, as these devices may be a source of ignition, causing an explosion.

Do your part to familiarize yourself and your family with these natural gas safety tips and continue to enjoy the value, comfort and benefits of America's cleanest, most efficient energy source!

This message is brought to you by **Fort Valley Utility Commission** as a public service. For additional information regarding this message, please call **478-825-7701**.

LOOK

Blowing dirt, bubbling in creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green live ones could indicate a leak.

LISTEN

A hissing sound that is near gas lines, any appliances or meters could indicate a leak.

SMELL

If you smell the rotten egg odor there could be a leak.

LEAVE

Leave the area immediately .

TELL

Be sure to tell authorities - Notify 911 or call us at 478-825-7701. A faint odor of gas may mean that a pilot light has gone out and should be relit; however **a strong odor** means you should leave the home at once, go to a neighbor's house and call your local utility or emergency number from there.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

A Day of Service



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” Thank you to the GREAT employees of Carter and Sloope Consulting Engineers! When they decided to perform a day of service in honor of the King Holiday, they reached out to the Commission as a partner. “I was super excited when Princeley Dorfeuille of Carter and Sloope called looking for a service project in Fort Valley,” said the Commission’s Community Engagement Committee Chair Martha

McAfee. “They could have served in Macon or one of the other cities where their offices are located but instead came to Fort Valley.”

Commission employees and Carter and Sloope employees visited the Peach County Senior Citizens Center. Carter and Sloope sponsored the meal and door prizes for the clients and the Commission organized games and provided swag bags. “It was great being at the Center seeing some familiar faces, watching the smiles, and getting big hugs,” further stated McAfee. “We appreciate Princeley and all of the folk at Carter and Sloope who have never hesitated to give back to this community .”



The Senior Citizens Center is located at South Peach Park and is maintained and operated by the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency. For more information, contact Imojean Mobley, Director at 478.822.1144.



Just For Fun!

Wastewater Terminology

G R E A S E S C L Y J K N R B H R N A E
 A P E D F I A O Y V O O A E U P O O E G
 S I K T R O O K G C I V S F D L Q I R A
 I S R B B P Z R G T L O M F N T P T A K
 F R E E S B O K A I B E E U Y O J P T C
 I D E S T U O R D F Z L Q B M A Z R I O
 C S E T T C T F K L L I F K C A B O O L
 A C E F A L A R L C H E M I C A L S N B
 T D A M I W A B I O D E G R A D A B L E
 I B S F Y M D U D I C A E C C C C A K A
 O I O A H Z D N H I T C A M F G A J F F
 N I U C V E N Y U T V L U U U F U H C L
 B T N C N X W E C O I E Q L X L I K A U
 R E X S D Y M V Q B R S R O A Q S L M S
 B D I F F U S E R U P G S S P T K I N H
 N T F N O I T A L U G A O C I A I D O I
 Y H L A N P T N E M E L E P L O F O W N
 B Z U T K I K H H V H R H I Q M N E N G
 Q A M G O K V I B E G E N N X T T S X O
 I J E N Y F Y Y J B N E E X R B Q K T G

ABSORPTION
 ACID
 AERATION
 ALKALINE
 BACKFILL
 BACTERIA
 BENCHMARK
 BIODEGRADABLE
 BIOFILTRATION
 BLOCKAGE
 BUFFER
 CALIBRATION
 CESSPOOL
 CHEMICALS
 COAGULATION
 CYCLE
 DEBRIS
 DENSITY
 DIFFUSER
 DIVERSION
 ELEMENT
 EMULSION
 ENZYMES
 FLOCCULATION
 FLUME
 FLUSHING
 GASIFICATION
 GREASE
 GROUNDWATER
 GROUT

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- At the end of FY 16, the Fort Valley Utility Commission had total assets of almost _____ dollars..
- To facilitate Economic Development Opportunities, the Commission participates in the _____ Council and plan to participate in a new initiative called _____.
- The Commission and the company of _____ joined together for a Martin Luther King, Jr. day of service at the Peach Co Senior Citizens Center.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Mail or drop your entry by the Utility Commission office by March 30, 2018, to be eligible to win a \$25 gift certificate to a local business. Utility Commission employees and family members are not eligible to participate.

New Faces Around the Commission



Al Horton , Commissioner



Roderick Jones, Lineman Apprentice



Tyler Kennedy , Gas Operator

Congratulations and THANK YOU for your service!



Jimmy Hammock
Lineman
5 years of service



Joseph Rodgers
Equipment Operator
20 years of service



Erin Jones
Water Department Foreman
20 years of service



Coleman Leslie
Equipment Operator
20 years of service

Water Heating

Water heating probably accounts for 10 to 15% of your total energy use. This is partly due to the equipment itself, and to water use habits. If you have an old water heater, consider replacing it. When purchasing new, ask the company about energy efficiency because they may try to sell you what they have in stock if you don't ask. There are several options such as the standard hot water heater with a super insulated storage tank, tankless "on demand" water heaters, and heat pumps with storage tank. Compare prices as well as energy saving statistics before you purchase.

NEWSLINE

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Fort Valley GA 31030

Emergency Service

Nights and Weekends
478-825-5482

Office Hours

8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday
(6:00 pm on Payment Due Dates ONLY)

Contest Winners



Lena M. Rumph



Josephine Ross



**Next time this could
be YOU!!
(See Page 10)**

