NEWSLINE

ELECTRICITY • WATER • NATURAL GAS • WASTEWATER • TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FORT VALLEY UTILITY COMMISSION

Since 1891

500 Anthoine Street Fort Valley GA 31030 478-825-7701 478-825-7704 FAX

www.fvutil.com

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook

After hours: Call 478-825-5482

CALL BEFORE YOUR DIG: 811 or 800-282-7411

Elected Commissioners

Dollie Horton Chairman

Bob Hunnicutt Vice Chairman

JoAnn Dankel Linda Johnson Mayor Barbara B. Williams

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



March 2016 Editor: Cathy Johnson

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Fort Valley Utility Commission would like to recognize

Zeke Harvey

for 45 years of outstanding service. Zeke has served as the Meter Department ,Warehouse, and Fleet Superintendent.

Visit our updated website www.fvutil.com



The City of Fort Valley

E Fort Valley Utility Commission Superheroes are Teaming Up For A Spectacular RELAY PINK-OUT



All Proceeds Will Benefit Peach County's Relay for Life When: April 16th at 7:00PM Where: American Legion Post #76 1212 Peach Parkway

Music By: J Styles Entertainment

Donation of \$20 includes Ticket Entrance & Pink Laces

Table Sponsorship Available\$200 includes:\$4 Tickets with Reserved Table SeatingRecognition in all future Print MediaRecognition on City of Fort Valley & FVUC Social Media AccountsBanner Recognition at Pink-Out DanceVisual Recognition at Pink-Out Dance Tables & Relay for Life Event TablesFOR TICKETS/INFORMATION CONTACT:MARTHA MCAFEE: 825-8261, MMCAFEE@FORTVALLEYGA.ORGOR PENNY BURCH: 825-7701, PBURCH@FVUTIL.COM





And the Winners are ...

The Utility Commission wants to thank the customers who submitted responses to the October 2015 edition of the Newsline's *Fun Spot* and *Spot Me* contests. A random drawing was held from all of the submittals and Ms. Ava Ross and Ms. Mary Harrison both received a \$25.00 gift card to a local grocery store.

Note: The "Spot Me" photo in the October 2015 edition was

the sign for Citizens Bank.

Remember, you have to enter to win so look for this edition's contests and submit your entry before the deadline.

APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

This message is brought to you by Fort Valley Utility Commission as a part of our Public Awareness Program. For additional information regarding this message, call 478-825-7701.

An Important Message About Damage Prevention Prior to Excavating

This message is brought to you by **Fort Valley Utility Commission**. There are thousands of dig-in damage incidents in the United States every year. Striking an underground pipeline may lead to expensive fines, serious injury or death. Gas pipelines are built with safety and reliability as top priorities. Over the past 20 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%. Natural gas leaks do happen and may result in fire, explosion, and/or asphyxiation. Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak.

It's a bad smell. That's good!

<u>Some of the signs of a gas leak</u> 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:

- <u>Leave</u> the area immediately; <u>Do Not</u> congregate around natural gas facilities.
- <u>Call</u> 478-825-7701 or 911 from a neighboring home or business
- <u>Never</u> turn on or off switches, open or close garage doors, use a flashlight or phone/cellphone in the presence of the gas smell, as these devices may be a source of ignition, causing an explosion.
- <u>Stay</u> in a safe location until the Emergency Responder arrives and gives you clearance to return to the area.



Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

Survey and Mark – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.

Call Before You Dig - 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the chance of injury and unneeded expense. It is the law in Georgia.

Wait! Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.

Respect the Marks! Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.

Dig – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 18-inches of each side of the locate marks. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area – especially when using mechanized equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

If your equipment contacts a gas line:

- **Leave** the equipment; jumping clear and shuffling away **DO NOT** turn off the engine.
- Warn other and leave the area quickly.
- **<u>Do Not operate</u>** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas or try to fold over plastic pipelines.
- Leave the <u>excavation open.</u>
- If gas is escaping the pipeline, **call 911**, then **Fort Valley Utility Commission at 478-825-7701** If the line is nicked, scraped, gouged, dented or otherwise damaged but not leaking, call **Fort Valley Utility Commission** at **478-825-7701**; these may appear to be minor but can lead to future leaks if not properly repaired.



Natural gas is America's most popular home heating fuel and is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants. Natural gas is efficient, clean, reliable, and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources. Natural gas flows through a network of underground main lines that serve approximately **3891** customers in our system. These main lines are typically 2-inch in diameter and 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.



Angie Luna, Director of Operations & Connie Tucker, Gas Superintendent received a 10-Year Service Recognition Award from the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia as one of the 25 Charter Cities for the inception of the Subscribed Regulatory Compliance Service. Fort Valley Utility Commission was one of the Municipal Utility providers who made it possible for MGAG to put together this very valuable program that provides key services and assistance to municipal providers of natural gas service.



- Please take a moment in the next month to make sure ______has up to date contact information for your account.
- Our Pink-Out party is April 16th at 7:00pm. It will be held at
- If you smell gas, or just think you have a leak, ______ the area immediately.



Note:

Bring or mail your entry to the Utility Commission office by May 25, 2016. You may enter either or both contests, but will only be eligible to win once per calendar year. A drawing from all submissions will be made for a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local business for each contest. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number on your entry. Utility Commission employees and their family members are

not eligible to participate.

NEWSLINE

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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)

Holiday Information

The Utility Commission will be closed **May 30** in observance of **Memorial Day.**

CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER



Please take a moment in the next month to make sure Customer Service has up to date contact information for your account. We offer automated payment reminders but find that some numbers on file are no longer in service.

Fort Valley Utility Commission respects your privacy and we will never sell, rent, lease or give away your information (name, address, email, etc.) to any third party. Nor will we send you unsolicited emails.