NEWSLINE

ELECTRICITY • WATER • NATURAL GAS • WASTEWATER • TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FORT VALLEY UTILITY COMMISSION

Since 1891

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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.

June 2016
Editor: Cathy Johnson

Happy Retirement

Fort Valley Utility Commission
would like to recognize
Joe Harvey
for 44 years of outstanding service.
Joe has served as the Foreman for our
Meter Department.

Angie Luna (Director of Operations) and Craig Mims (General Manager/ CEO) present Joe Harvey with a

Visit our updated website www.fvutil.com

FVUC Attends ECG Economic Development Summit

Commissioners from Fort Valley Utility Commission attended the Annual ECG Economic Development Summit at Jekyll Island during the month of April. The Economic Development Summit presents an opportunity for ECG Communities to learn from experts as well as each other and discuss economic development strategies and tactics. The objective of the Summit is to offer realistic and obtainable solutions to economic development challenges in each and every community. ECG offers statewide Economic Development efforts which allow them to be a full partner with all communities across the state of Georgia and this has proven to be a valuable asset because it allows communities to discuss with each other various challenges they face and how they are overcoming them. Chairman Dollie Horton was one of the two Commissioners that attended the ED Summit and she had an opportunity to speak with leaders in Economic Development around the state. The goal is to implement economic development strategies learned from the ED Summit into our own economic development initiatives. As an ECG community, they are committed to developing and promoting our community through marketing and sales, and professional development services in which some implementation strategies were demonstrated at the ED Summit. Their Economic and Community Development services work in conjunction between prospective businesses looking to locate in Georgia and the ideal site to meet their needs; This has made Georgia the #1 state for doing business. These efforts lead to community development and economic growth across the community, the region, and the State of Georgia by exposing the perfect location for any business. ECG is beneficial to the Utility Commission as well as the community in that they serve as a liaison between prospective businesses and Fort Valley. The Utility Commission and ECG has worked together in the past, and will continue to work very closely on ways to bring and keep business in our area.

economic development summit
ECG

And the Winners are ...

Charlia Williams

The Utility Commission wants to thank the customers who submitted responses to the March 2016 edition of the Newsline's ***Fun Spot*** and ***Spot Me*** contests. A random drawing was held from all of the submittals and Ms. Charlia Williams and Dr. Kendrick Mathews both received a $25.00 gift card to a local grocery store.

Note: The "Spot Me" photo in the March 2016 edition was located at Everett Square.

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

The Implementation and Training of FVUC Employees on Hiperweb

April 25 through April 29, ECG conducted a training at Fort Valley Utility Commission to get all Utility Commission employees up to speed on Hiperweb. Hiperweb is an inventory and work order system. It is designed to support intertwining departmental functions and produce results that support key performance indicators. The various tools within Hiperweb are designed to improve customer service, enhance performance, reduce cost and improve efficiencies. Before the training that was conducted in April, the Utility Commissions' gas department was the only department utilizing Hiperweb's work order module. Hiperweb is not intended to replace any system that we are currently using, instead, it is to be used in conjunction with our current ASI systems.

Hiperweb will essentially streamline the Utility Commissions work order system for all departments, and create a historical database for each customer and the services we provide. Employees of the Utility Commission will also gain more control and accountability over their daily work orders. Information pertaining to the status of work orders and any relevant details concerning services performed by the Utility Commission at any specific address will be readily available. Since information will be shared freely, Hiperweb will largely improve internal communication across each department and provide real time information on work performed at particular locations or addresses. Like stated previously, the Utility Commission will be utilizing Hiperweb in all of the operation departments (gas, water, wastewater, electric, telecom), customer service, administrative departments, finance, and billing in hopes of reorganizing our purchase order system and providing a more efficient way of approving purchase orders. The best part of the entire process is that hiperweb is a web-based system, which means it is accessible from anywhere employees have an internet connection. This means there will be better communication across all relevant departments for after-hour emergencies and power outages.

Fort Valley Utility Commission employees greeted customers and handed out conservation tips in Downtown Fort Valley on June 4 at the 2016 Peach Festival. A special thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth.

Fort Valley Utility Commission
Water Quality Update

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is aware that our customers may have become more concerned with water quality issues in response to recent news regarding the water quality issue in Flint, Michigan. We would like to ensure our customers that our drinking water is safe and continuously monitored to ensure the safety of our water for all of our customers. The men and women of the Fort Valley Utility Commission work extremely hard for the safety and comfort of all of our customers.

Overview of Lead and Copper Corrosion Prevention and Monitoring

Fort Valley Utility Commission Water System draws all of our water from six ground water wells and feeds the system at three collection points.
The Commission treats the water and sends it to the Water System's distribution plant to be delivered to homes and businesses in Peach County.

Sources of Lead and Copper:

The primary source of lead and copper in a drinking water system is from private plumbing systems including the service line from the meter and the piping inside homes (copper piping with solder containing lead or a lead based service line). FVUC's water transmission system contains no lead piping or connections. FVUC Water System's distribution system contains trace amounts of lead in solder on older pipes and brass fittings used at system meters. Since 2015 FVUC has used only lead-free brass fittings and continues to proactively replace aging pipe in our system.
Lead soldering of copper water pipes was banned in Georgia in 1985, but some homes still contain these plumbing systems. Per federal regulation, FVUC tests locations with these "at-risk" plumbing systems to ensure our corrosion control technique is effective.

Corrosion Control Techniques:

To protect water consumers from lead and copper contamination that could occur from their home plumbing systems, public water systems are required to use "optimized corrosion control" techniques under the Lead and Copper Rule. These techniques include treating the drinking water to reduce its ability to carry lead and copper from the plumbing system to the faucet.

Sample Collection, Optimization and Monitoring:

FVUC complies with the lead and copper monitoring requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lead and Copper Rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act. We report to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). We conduct regular testing to tell us whether we are maintaining optimized corrosion control to prevent lead and copper from leaching out of pipes:

– Daily, we test for water quality parameters at each treatment plant that indicate whether the water is corrosive of customer plumbing systems.

– Water quality testing is also conducted at 25 sample sites throughout The Commission's service area each spring and another 25 sites each fall.

– At the treatment plants, 6 times per 24 hour period samples are taken to monitor pH levels, which ensure optimization of the corrosion control strategy at all times.

Because of low levels of lead and copper historically found in the service area (and an associated low level of risk for lead and copper contamination), FVUC is required to submit samples collected at customer taps to the state only once every three years. The next round of sampling is scheduled for Fall 2016.

What should I know about Lead in Drinking Water?

Age of the home

In Peach County and surrounding areas the most likely source of trace amounts of lead would be from private home plumbing systems, including the service line from the meter to the home and internal plumbing. Fort Valley Utility Commission's corrosion control protocol minimizes the potential for these metals to leach into drinking water.

- Homes built prior to 1970 have a greater chance of having partial lead plumbing or galvanized service lines where lead may have accumulated in the corrosion of the pipe.
- Many homes built prior to the late 1980s may have lead solder connecting copper pipes.
- Homes built after 1985 have significantly less potential for the presence of lead.
- Newer homes with brass fixtures installed before 2015 could contain minute amounts of lead.

For more information on the history of lead plumbing and regulations, visit:

http://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule#rule-history

Identifying lead service lines:

In an older home, if a portion of your plumbing is visible, you may be able to determine whether you have lead water service lines:

- Lead lines are metallic and appear light grey in color.
- They are not magnetic.
- They may be gently scratched with a key. (Be careful not to pierce the pipe.)

You can also review records for your home to see whether the plumbing has been updated and replaced since the home was built. A plumber may be able to determine if you have lead plumbing serving your home.

For more information on lead in the home, visit: http://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposureslead#testdw

Best practices to minimize potential exposure to lead in drinking water

There are a few best practices that can help to lessen chances of ingesting trace amounts of lead from drinking water:

Consume only cold water directly from the faucet. Hot tap water can increase the potential for lead and other metals to leach into drinking water from the home plumbing system. (Heating cold water does not release any lead.)

If the water has been sitting in the pipes in your home for longer than 6 hours allow the water to run a few minutes before consuming. Turn on the cold water tap and wait for the temperature to change.

Periodically clean out the aerators (screens on the faucet). These screens can trap sediment and debris over an extended period of time. They easily twist off and can be cleaned or replaced.

Getting your water tested.

If you are concerned about the presence of lead in your drinking water, there are two certified labs that can test it. The test for lead and copper ranges from $35-$40, depending on the number of samples submitted. Please contact them for more information and proper sample collection protocol.

Summit Environmental Technologies

3330 Northside Dr

Suite 108

Macon, GA 31210

(800) 278-0140

Prepared June 2016
Water System ID# 2250001

2015 Annual Water Quality Report

Fort Valley Utility Commission Water Quality Excels

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is committed to providing customers with safe, healthy, and reliable supply of high quality drinking water. Water tests conducted over the past year using sophisticated equipment and advanced procedures show that Fort Valley's water continually meets or surpasses state and federal standards for drinking water. This annual water quality report details where our water comes from, what it contains, and other information.

Important Information About the Safety of Your Drinking Water
(A Message from Craig Mims, General Manager)

We are pleased to report to you that the drinking water supplied by the Fort Valley Utility Commission is safe. Drinking water in Fort Valley consistently exceeds safe drinking water health standards. As health scientists learn more about our environment and the effect of substances in the environment on human health, new standards will continue to be set for drinking water. Fort Valley continues to add new technology in order to be able to meet further standards. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. All water sources pass over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials and can pick up substances relating to the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water:

- Biological - may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources
- Inorganic - can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides - may come from agriculture, storm run-off or residential use.
- Organic chemicals - may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off, and septic systems.
- Radioactive materials - can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities.

To ensure tap water is safe to drink, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

Where does our water come from?

The Fort Valley Utility Commission gets its water from the Tuscaloosa aquifer, which is approximately 500 feet below the surface. This aquifer has, so far, provided the City with a safe and dependable supply of water even in the driest years. For information on the Well-Head Protection Plan, contact the Utility Commission's Water Plant at (478) 825-5482.

Treatment Process:

The water is disinfected with chlorine to make it biologically safe. The pH is adjusted by adding sodium hydroxide. Fluoride is added to help prevent dental cavities. Phosphate is added to enhance corrosion control.

What is in our water?

More than 7,500 tests are conducted annually at the Fort Valley Utility Commission's Drinking Water Lab. These tests monitor tap water for micro-organisms, minerals, and organic substances that could cause disease or other adverse health effects. Testing is done for contaminants, including coliform bacteria, metals, nitrates, and pesticides.

The water in the distribution system is tested on a regular basis. Five water system samples are collected each week. A total of twenty samples are tested each month as required by the EPD to ensure that the drinking water is safe for consumption.

The data presented in this report is from the most recent testing done in accordance with State and Federal regulations. **The table on the next page lists only the regulated substances that were found. Our test results are below the levels allowed by EPA in public drinking water.**

Terms and Abbreviations:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement that a water system must follow.
- **N/A:** not applicable
- **PPM:** parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.
- **PPB:** Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000
- **(dw):** Drinking water.
- **(a):** Fluoride is added in treatment to bring the natural level to the EPA optimum of 1 part per million (see definition of PPM).
- **(b):** Water from the treatment plant does not contain lead or copper. However under EPA test protocol, water is tested at the tap. Tap tests show that where a customer may have lead pipes or lead-soldered copper lines, the water is not corrosive. This means the amount of lead or copper absorbed by the water is limited to safe levels.

Drinking Water Analysis

Substances Tested and Detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Amount Detected	Is it safe? (Does it meet standards?)	Probable Source
Fluoride (a)	PPM	4	4	0.84	Yes	Water additive that promotes strong teeth
Copper (b)	PPB	1,300	AL = 1,300	250	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (b)	PPB	0	AL = 15	2.5	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

Substance Tested & Detected	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range of Detection (Report Year)	Is it safe? (Does it meet standards?)	Source
Chlorine	PPM	4	4	0.69	0.46 – 1.12	Yes	Water additive used to disinfect drinking water

Additional Lead Information

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Fort Valley Utility Commission is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a protozoan parasite that is common in source water. Cryptosporidium can cause symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and/or stomach cramps. Cryptosporidium has never been found in the drinking water that goes to your tap.

Notice to Immuno-compromised People

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people (such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune disorders, some older adults and infants) can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about the drinking water from their healthcare providers.

EPA and the Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or www.epa.gov/drink**.**

Additional Testing and Research

The EPA has required the Utility Commission and hundreds of U.S. water systems to participate in a major testing program Information Collection Rule (ICR). The ICR is intended to provide EPA information about the occurrence of chemical by-products used in disinfecting, plus information about disease-causing pathogens (microorganisms). The data on how public water supply systems control the chemical by-products and pathogens will be used to revise drinking water standards.

Additional Information Sources:

Web sites with information about water quality: www.epa.gov/ow www.awwa.org www.gaepd.org www.amwa.net

Please join us in making our decisions.

We encourage and invite public interest and participation in the decision-making that affects drinking water. The Fort Valley Utility Commission holds regularly scheduled meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public and are held at City Hall in downtown Fort Valley located at 204 West Church Street. The Fort Valley Utility Commission business office is open daily except for weekends and holidays. Lobby hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Customer Service telephone number is (478) 825-7701, option 3. The Drinking Water Quality Lab, and emergency after hours, telephone number is (478) 825-5482.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet

Connie Tucker:

Gas Superintendent

Superintendent Tucker can work from his truck just as if he is in his office. The computer allows him to access all information available about a given job; enter, file and print all the relevant findings on the spot.

Connie Tucker is the go to person concerning natural gas service for the Fort Valley Utility Commission. He is proud of his job and proud of the people who help him monitor and service the natural gas usage in the City of Fort Valley, and also in Peach and Crawford Counties.

Safety is the number one goal for the Superintendent. He knows the most important ingredient for safety is training, training and more training. This includes many class-room hours and includes on-the-job training as work progresses. Connie has attended more than 100 training sessions to stay current of gas safety and regulations. "The Commission gives me opportunities and all the training I need - and more - to do the job" says Connie.

This plaque from the University of Georgia certifies that Connie C. Tucker has completed all modules of the Midwest Gas Association Training Program.

Fort Valley born and reared, Connie has served as an employee with the Utility Commission for 21 years. He was hired by Zeke Harvey in 1995 as a summer worker, and worked under Larry Dailey in the Gas Department. He was promoted to Gas Superintendent in 2015.

Connie was instrumental in setting up the use of Hiperweb in the Gas Department. The use of Hiperweb allows the superintendent to have an office in his truck, complete with a computer and printer, allowing him to access all the history about a worksite without contacting the main office. This eliminates unnecessary paper work and associated errors.

Connie cites GM Craig Mims as the one who increased his crew to five and makes it possible for each of them to receive training through MGAG (Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia). When asked what he considers the most important aspect of his position, Connie does not hesitate to say that safety is his number one emphasis. He explains that static electricity around polyethylene pipe can cause explosions if not worked properly.

Educating the public about the use and dangers of natural gas is another vital part of his job. When a leak is called in (recognized by the added odorant) the crew "walks the leak" as they locate where the gas is escaping. "Leaks are classified into three categories - 1, 2 or 3 with 1 demanding immediate action. Categories 2 and 3 have to be repaired within 15 months" the superintendent says. "I treat all leaks as No 1 and take care of them right away. We have never had a violation for repairing leaks" he added.

ECG Bus Tour Makes a Final Stop at Massee Lane Gardens

The ECG Bus Tour carried project managers from around the state throughout Peach County and Fort Valley. They made stops at Georgia Bob's in Byron, Peach Medical Center, Blue Bird, Peach Workforce Development, Fort Valley State University, and a final stop at Massee Lane Gardens. The purpose of the Tour is to show the project managers the spotlights in Fort Valley and Peach County!

General Manager, Craig Mims and Senior VP of External Affairs at ECG, Daryl Ingram.

Governor Nathan Deal Signs HB 767, "Move Over for Lineman Bill"

April 19, 2016 Governor Nathan Deal signed HB 767, the "Move Over for Linemen Bill." The legislation adds utility vehicles and workers to an existing law which requires drivers to "move over" one lane. The law previously applied primarily to stationary law-enforcement vehicles, ambulances, wreckers and garbage trucks. The addition of utility workers to the law will help to ensure safety for linemen who may be working on the roadside at night or following severe weather to repair damaged equipment or restore power for customers. He also proclaimed April as Linemen Appreciation Month in Georgia!

Jason Johnson *(Lineman),* ***Angie Luna*** *(Director Of Operations), and* ***Mike Massengale*** *(Lineman) represented Fort Valley Utility Commission at the Georgia State Capitol for the signing of HB 767 "Move Over for Linemen Bill" by Governor Nathan Deal*

FILL IN THE BLANKS!

- If the water has been sitting in the pipes in your home for longer than ___ hours allow the water to run a _____ before consuming.
- Hiperweb will provide better _____ across all relevant departments for after-hour _____ and _____.
- The Fort Valley Utility Commission gets its water from _____ , which is approximately _____ feet below the surface.

SPOT ME

Identify where in Peach County this is located.

_____

Note:

Bring or mail your entry to the Utility Commission office by August 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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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 **July 4th** in observance of **Independence Day**.

The Fort Valley Utility Commission would like to thank everyone who was able to donate and/or participate in our Relay for Life events!!