

Ripley POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Finally, a drive-through at the main office

Construction to begin in early September and take six months to finish

Since 1954, when Ripley Power and Light opened its Ripley office on South Main, customers have had to compete for five parking spots and brave bad weather to get from their vehicles to the building to do business.

No more. Construction is beginning to create a drive-through on the west side of the building and to add more parking places.

“We absolutely are doing this as a convenience to our customers,” said President and CEO Mike Allmand. At certain times of the month, when many people are trying to pay their electric bill, the congestion in front of the building is bad, he said. “We’ve even had accidents.”



Mike Allmand
President and CEO
Ripley Power and
Light Company

The new drive-through will be able to accommodate two vehicles at a time. The drive-through is replacing a small, one-lane road that connects Washington to Main Street.



The drive-through will be able to accommodate two vehicles at a time. It is taking over a one-lane road between Washington and Main streets on the west side of the building. (Renderings provided by TLM Associates.)



The project’s architect is TLM Associates in Jackson. Besides the drive-through, the project includes a remodeling of the building’s front office. Tellers, who are now on the right side as you walk in the building, will be on the left by the drive-through, said Lucy Harrison, Ripley Office Manager.

The construction is expected to be finished by late February or early March.



Octoberfest in Ripley

Quaprotek, which opened a new plant in Ripley and started production in June, is inviting the community to a grand-opening event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 19.

Quaprotek is a German-based company that machines aluminum parts for the automotive industry. It opened its first plant in Germany in 1998 and decided to expand internationally in 2010.

Landing in Ripley at Highland Street and Highway 19 – the company’s fourth plant – was a two-year process of researching and eliminating sites from more than 120 different locations in the United States.

The company invites the Lauderdale County community to help it celebrate the milestone, said Sales Manager Elise Arnold. The event will feature live music, refreshments and traditional Oktoberfest activities.

“We also want to invite everyone in the community to join us in celebrating by wearing their versions of the traditional German outfit, known as Lederhosen for men and Dirndl for women,” Arnold said.

“We look forward to seeing everyone there, and introducing our company and products to the entire community.”



Change your clocks, change your batteries

Don’t forget to fall back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2. Daylight saving time ends as winter approaches.

Change your clocks to one hour behind, giving you an extra hour of sleep that night. And changing your clocks is a good reminder to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.



Ripley Power and Light will be closed ...

- Monday, October 14, Columbus Day
- Thursday-Friday, November 28-29, Thanksgiving holidays
- Tuesday-Wednesday, December 24-25, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- Wednesday, January 1, New Year’s Day



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Pilot program benefits the customer

A pilot program at Ripley Power and Light Company is exploring another way for customers to save money on their electric bills.

The purpose of the pilot project is to make energy use more efficient, said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light.

In normal usage, he explained, any home appliance with a motor in it – such as a refrigerator, air conditioner, washer and dryer – generate “inductive reactance.” In simple terms, this inductive reactance causes the voltage to lag the current or to be out of sync or out of balance and, therefore, inefficient.

It’s energy your appliances can’t use efficiently, but it’s energy for which you are paying, Allmand said.

“You are still using all of the electricity you are paying for, you’re just not doing it efficiently.”

To put this energy in sync, or technically “in phase,” Power and Light installed a device, called an “electric meter optimizer.” The optimizer uses a capacitor to correct the out-of-phase issue between Power and Light’s normal electric meter and the customer’s electric meter in 200 houses in the pilot project.

“We chose homes with high electric usage because those homes would show the most savings,” Allmand said.

Power and Light uses capacitors in industrial settings where large motors create inductive reactance. “We encourage industrial plants to put the capacitor right at the motor to get the most benefit,” he said.

TVA expects its distributors to use power efficiently and penalizes them when they don’t, Allmand said.

But this inefficiency occurs throughout the system. “Instead of putting capacitors on our primary electric lines to make the energy more efficient,” Allmand said, “Power and Light is bringing the efficiency to the residential customer’s level so the customer benefits.”

The customer not only saves money, his or her appliances will last longer because the motors are running more efficiently.

The pilot project started June 1 and will last a year. “We hope by September or October to start seeing a trend, a difference in bills,” Allmand said. If it works, the project would expand, with customers having the option to purchase the electric meter optimizer, he added.

“We are the first not only in the TVA service area to do this, we are the first in the United States. This is the first project in the country to bring the savings to the customer. If everyone in the Tennessee Valley did this, we would all save a lot of money.”

Appliances with motors — vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, washers, dryers and others — create inefficiencies in electric power usage.



A walking trail winds around the park’s perimeter, passing picnic tables, pavilions and swings.

Lauderdale County’s Central Park, a place for play, exercise and community activities

Community leaders in Lauderdale County joined together to create a public park where an abandoned school once stood, and it has become a popular destination for community events.

Lauderdale County Commissioner Dwight Shoemake said the land north of Ripley at 40 Arp Central Road – near Edith-Nankipoo Road – had just been sitting there. He wanted to create something that would benefit residents, and the community came together to establish Central Park.

“I just thought we could put it to some kind of use,” Shoemake said.

Area residents volunteered their time to draw up legal documents, such as incorporation papers, and create a board of directors. They leased the land for \$1 from the county and raised money from residents for the facilities. And about seven years ago, not long after Shoemake became commissioner, Central Park opened.

“We appreciate all the people in the community who helped out,” Shoemake said. “We couldn’t have done it without them.”

Today, the two-acre park has a walking path that loops around the perimeter where the county’s elderly residents frequently exercise, Shoemake said. It also has two pavilions with picnic tables and swings for children.

“People out here have a safe place to go,” Shoemake said.

Residents can reserve the pavilions for free, and they do. It’s not uncommon to see birthday parties or family reunions at Central Park. And the community continues to hold several events throughout the year to raise money for maintenance and improvements, Shoemake said.

“We couldn’t do it without the people in the surrounding communities,” Shoemake said.

“We appreciate all the people in the community who helped out. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

Lauderdale County
Commissioner
Dwight Shoemake

