

Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed ...

- Monday, December 25, for Christmas
- Monday, January 1, for New Years Day
- Monday, January 15, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 19, for Presidents Day



Pay your bill online and more
... at ripleypower.com

Office Hours & Locations

*We are open 47 hours each week
to serve you better!*

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

You can pay your utility bill at ...

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

*If you have not been receiving your
bills, call our office immediately so
we can verify your mailing address.*



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595
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Skills USA

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the City of Halls. A Little Library provides a public space for people to access books they want to read and drop off other books once read.

The Skills USA students are involved in the entire process, from drawing up the project's specs, to getting the materials, to completing the construction, Davis said.

"They fall in love with accomplishing something."

Many parents are working more than one job these days and don't have the time to teach their children how to use their hands, Davis said.

Davis learned the skills he's teaching by working with his father to custom build and remodel homes. He was volunteering with the school when the school had an opening to teach the Skills USA classes.

"I absolutely love it," Davis said. "I wish I had been doing it all of my life. But then, the other opportunities in my life have helped me become a better teacher."

"We're doing great things," he added. "I'm so excited with this class."



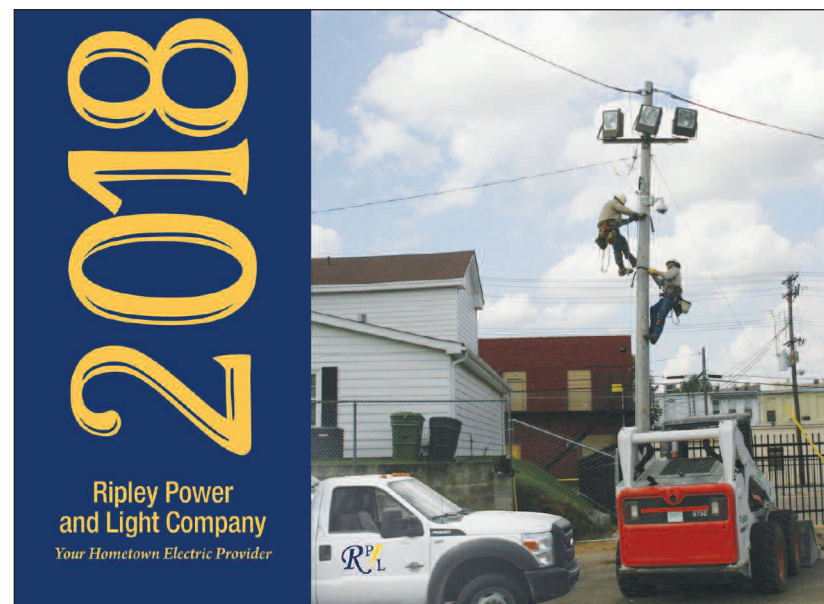
Pictured with the Little Library are, left to right, kneeling, students Houston Dew, Colton Bane, Isaac Bradford and Tristan Doop; and standing, Skills USA teacher Bruce Davis and Ada Nixon Book Club members Lynne Lee, Judy Tyree and Marilyn Poston.

**Proud of your Christmas display? Awed by what your neighbor has done?
Christmas trees and decorations throughout your home?**

Tell us about it by contacting Tracy Sellers at

tsellers@ripleypower.com or 635-2323 by December 16.

**We'll need a name, exact address, and, if possible, a phone number for
contact information. You might just see this in next December's magazine.**



2018 Calendar: *Ripley Power and Light Company's 2018 calendar will be arriving in your mailbox later in December.*

Ripley

**POWER AND
LIGHT COMPANY**

Winter 2017-2018



The International Fellows, above, representing countries from around the world, gather in front of the Bank of Ripley. At right, Angie and Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light Company, stand with the two officers who stayed in their home.

Ripley provides feel of small town America for military officers from around the world



For 28 years, military officers from countries around the world have been spending a few days in Ripley to get a feel for life in an American small town.

The high-ranking officers – colonels, captains, admirals, generals and the like – are enrolled at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., for a year of study. As part of their year of study, they visit other places in the United States, but their trip to Ripley is the only time they stay in people's homes.

The idea to bring the International Fellows to Ripley came from the former Circuit Court Judge Herman Revere. When he found out about the International Fellows and their year of study in

D.C., he thought they should see what small town America is like.

The first year, 12 officers came to Ripley. This year, more than 50 officers arrived in Ripley in late October. They

*Members of the
International Fellows
program spend time in
Ripley to get a feel for
small-town life in America.*

spend two nights here in people's homes. The host family provides one dinner and one breakfast. The purpose

is to give the officers a taste of ordinary American family life.

While in Ripley, the officers visit classrooms, see a mock trial to learn more about our judicial system, visit Fort Pillow State Prison and enjoy a Southern fish fry at the county club.

Circuit Court Judge Joe Walker is now in charge of the visit.

The international officers represent different religions and cultures. Many will become leaders in their own countries. The visit to Ripley has no language barrier, though, because all of the officers speak English.

Ripley residents look forward to the annual visit. "We enjoy doing it," said one participant. "We feel like we're doing something for our country."



Holiday light and music display delights community

When Halloween is over each year, Ronnie York gets out his Christmas lights and holiday displays. His goal is to have as much up as possible by Thanksgiving so he can have his “grand lighting” on Thanksgiving Day.

“I love Christmas lights,” said York, who is self-employed in construction. “It’s a personal passion.”

He and his wife, Kathy, have been putting up lights at their home at 122 Red Bird Rd. for about 10 years. Kathy helps, he said, “but I’m into it a lot more. I keep wanting to expand.”

The display of lights, Santa, reindeer, elves, trees, arches, angels, Christmas figures, candles, snowmen and nativity fill their yard. They’ve created most of the wooden displays themselves.

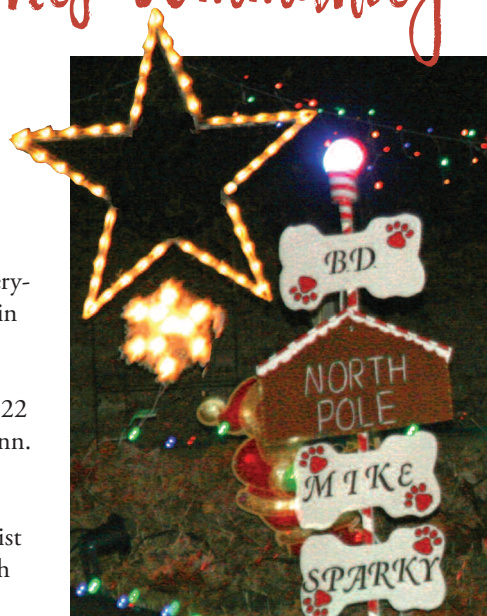
All 21,000 lights in his yard are energy-saving LED lights, York said. “My electric bill is only about \$14 to

\$15 more. That shows how well LED lights work.”

A computer program turns the lights on and off each night and plays Christmas music from a local radio station.

“The computer takes care of everything,” York said. “I can go out, sit in the yard and just enjoy it.”

Ronnie and Kathy York live at 122 Red Bird Rd. To get there, take Tenn. Highway 19 from Ripley towards Brownsville. After you pass Durhamville Road and Elam Baptist Church on the right, you will reach Red Bird Road on your right.



This year decorate with LED Christmas lights

If you have buying more Christmas lights on your to-do list, you probably should consider buying LED lights over the traditional incandescent ones.

Ronnie York, the homeowner featured in our Christmas decorating story, above, uses LED lights and finds he saves money each year on his energy bill.

Electric incandescent lights, which replaced the more hazardous, burning candles to decorate the family tree, were kings of the Christmas tree for many decades.

A new technology – LED lights – is now replacing incandescent lighting. LEDs use diodes to emit light; incandescents create light by using filaments.

Depending on where you shop, LED lights can cost roughly twice as much as traditional lights. They also use up to 90 percent less en-

ergy. Over several years, the energy savings will more than cover the extra cost of the lights.

More reasons to buy LED

LED lights last up to 10 times longer than incandescent lights, meaning you won’t be shopping for new Christmas lights each season. (Unless, of course, you are expanding your holiday display.)

Incandescent lights are hot to the touch; LED lights are cool and safer. (Christmas tree fires kill an average of 14 people each year.)

LED lights are more durable. They have no filaments to burn out and no bulbs to replace. LED lights are made of plastic, so they don’t break and shatter.

You’ll have more flexibility with your Christmas display. LED lights come in many different colors and shapes, allowing you to customize your holiday display. Since they use less electricity, you can string more light sets together and use fewer electric outlets and extension cords.

Because they use less energy and are more durable, LED lights also are kinder to the environment.

Skills USA class prepares Halls High School students for the workforce

When students in Bruce Davis’s class graduate from Halls High School, they have both the soft skills and some practical skills to immediately enter the work force.

Davis teaches a three-year Skills USA class. It’s part of a national program that partners students, teachers and industry to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Nationally, about 390,000 students from middle school to college are enrolled each year.

The emphasis at Halls High School is on carpentry and learning how to use wood tools in partnership with Marvin Windows and Doors, which manufactures premier windows and doors.

Skills USA took the place of the VICA program a few years ago, Davis said.

During the first year of the three-year program at Halls High School, students learn soft skills, such as what makes a good employee, how to apply for jobs and how to safely use carpentry/wood tools, Davis said.

The next two years, as they sharpen their carpentry skills, they’re earning dual enrollment credit for high school and also for a production technology certificate from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

Marvin Windows and Doors invites each of them to interview for a job at the plant right after graduation. In the program’s seven years, Marvin Windows and Doors has hired about 16 to 18 of his students, Davis said.

Other graduates of his program go on to college or other technical schools armed with the knowledge that they can successfully accomplish what they want to do.

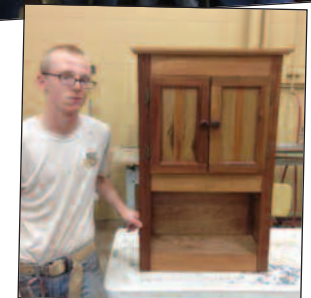
Students in the class learn how to make objects with wood. Besides working on projects for themselves, friends and family members, they’ve also completed projects throughout the community.

This includes benches for the Lauderdale County Fair, a 20- by 30-foot pergola and outdoor classroom at Halls High School, a 24- by 30-foot garage to store lawn mowers and other equipment, a front porch on the FFA barn and a 16- by 20-foot covered pavilion outside the gym for cooking during basketball season.

They partnered with Cole Harris, an Eagle Scout, to build a 12- by 30-foot pavilion at Halls City Park.

One of the students’ favorite projects was making wooden snowmen for the high school’s special needs students.

In conjunction with the Ada Nixon Book Club, students built a Little Library for downtown Ripley and are building a second Little Library for



Halls High School students in the Skills USA class work on wood projects for themselves and their community.

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