



## A 'labor of love'

If you are downtown Ripley early in the morning, you've probably seen Downtown Development Executive Director Lee Johnston tooling around the square on a mission.

Actually, he said, he's hard to miss. He's standing on the back of a bright orange golf cart dancing to "60s on 6" on Sirius radio. With him is a 25-gallon water tank. A water wand is in his hands. His mission is to thoroughly water the 30 hanging baskets of flowers that brighten up the square.

It's not exactly an early morning task that he signed up for. But it *was* his idea last year to ask members of the general public to commit \$200 to sponsor the purchase of a basket, brackets, dirt and plants.

"I told them if they paid for it, I'd take care of them," Johnston said. "I was hoping that somebody or some group would jump and offer to water them."

When no one came forward, it became his job. And when the weather got hotter, it became a daily, two-hour task. "I give my wife, Dawn, the opportunity to water them on Saturdays and if I am out of town," he said.

Since he is color blind, Dawn also arranged and potted the plants at the beginning of this summer's growing season.

He's really not complaining, though. "I love the flowers and even talk to them a little bit. It's a labor of love."

## Downtown developments this fall

Ripley Downtown Development is hosting three activities this fall.

► The first **Ripley Corn Hole Classic** starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, September 15, and offers four different competitions: 18 years and under, 65 and older, special population and an open event. The double elimination tournament will have two-person teams. Cost is \$10 a person if you register early and \$20 if you register the day of the tournament. Prizes will be awarded.

► "Square" **crows** once again will adorn the courthouse square the whole month of October. Lee Johnston, executive director of Downtown Development, encourages families, churches, organizations and businesses

to pick up a PVC form from him (they're free) and then decorate it as a "square" crow in recycled materials that can withstand the weather. Prizes will be awarded.

► **Trunk 'n Treat** will be on Halloween, October 31. Last year, Johnston had 31 different groups giving out candy to trick or treaters. He is hoping to expand that number. "I want it to be a place where kids can safely celebrate Halloween." He plans a treasure dig in sand that night, too.

To register for each event or for more information, contact Johnston at developripley38063@gmail.com or 731-413-1089. Send in registration money for the Corn Hole Classic to P.O. Box 408, Ripley, 38063.



## Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed...

- Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.
- Monday, October 8, for Columbus Day.
- Thursday, November 22, and Friday, November 23, for Thanksgiving.



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... at [ripleypower.com](http://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.



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# Ripley

POWER AND  
LIGHT COMPANY

Fall 2018



Veterans representing all military services were honored in last year's Veterans Day parade in downtown Ripley.

## We all love a parade! Come downtown November 10 to recognize area veterans



Veterans in Lauderdale County and the surrounding area will be the center of attention during a day of activities on Saturday, November 10.

"We're so proud of our veterans," said Eunice Jenkins, one of the day's organizers and a veteran himself. "They really are patriotic. We appreciate everything they do."

The first activity is a parade in downtown Ripley that starts at 9:30 a.m. The parade will end close to First United Methodist Church, which will host an assembly and then a lunch. The assembly's program will have guest speakers and patriotic music, Jenkins said.

Once again, organizers hope to fill the church with even more attendees than last year when they had a standing-room only crowd.

"We would love to have 1,000 people this year," Jenkins said.

A lunch follows the assembly. The menu depends on how much organizers can raise to cover the cost of food, Jenkins added.

The Lauderdale County Veterans Office estimates that about 1,700 to 1,800 veterans live in the county. It's

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Lauderdale County Veterans Services encourages all veterans to contact its office at 731-635-3005 or the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce at 731-635-9541 with your name, address, phone number and email address so that you can be included in the 2nd Annual Veterans Parade, patriotic program and lunch on Saturday, November 10. Veterans from other counties are also welcome to participate.





## Veterans Services available to help

Lauderdale County veterans who need help getting benefits or finding information can contact the Lauderdale County Veterans Service. Services are provided to all honorably discharged veterans.

"I assist with claims processing for getting benefits for any service-connected injury, illness or disease while on active duty," said Veterans Service Officer Ronnie Elder, as he began to list the many ways he helps veterans and their spouses.

"We are here to help eligible veterans and their dependents file claims for compensation, pensions, VA medical care, educational benefits, employment opportunities, homelessness, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabili-

tation, employment opportunities, and burial and memorial benefits."

Elder also assists veterans in retrieving their military and medical service records.

Elder works part-time. His office is in the old Lauderdale County Health Department at 200 Roy Crain Rd. in Ripley. His hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday.

He can also be reached by phone at 731-635-3005, by email at [reldecso@lctngov.com](mailto:reldecso@lctngov.com) or by fax at 731-635-0860.



The Exchange Club sponsors the Field of Flags.

## We all love a parade!

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hard to know because there isn't one place to go to get an exact count, Jenkins said.

Veterans who want to participate in the day's activities are asked to register with the Veterans Office at 731-635-3005 or the Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce at 731-635-9541. Veterans can also register a guest.



### Patriotic cotton

A cotton bale along U.S. 51 gave simple advice: Pray. Vote. With the primary election in August over, Election Day on Tuesday, November 6, will decide races for several offices, including the Tennessee Legislature, Tennessee governor and U.S. Senator and Representative. Do vote!

### 2019 Ripley Power and Light Calendar

We're already gathering dates for the 2019 calendar. If the public is invited to an event you have scheduled in 2019, send your information to Tracy Sellers at [tsellers@ripleypower.com](mailto:tsellers@ripleypower.com) by November 1.

Our rebate program makes it easier to live in an energy-efficient home and save money on your electric bill

Act now for savings this winter



### eScore rebates at Ripley Power and Light

Upgrade	Rebate	Limitations
Air Sealing	\$200	One time only
Attic Insulation	\$250	One time only
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$200	No limit
Conventional Electric Water Heater (primary heat source from non-electric to electric)	\$500	No limit
Heat Pump* • Ducted System • Non-Ducted System	\$250	No limit
Geothermal Heat Pump*	\$500	No limit
Mini-Split* (primary heat source from non-electric to electric)	\$400	No limit
Dual Fuel Heat Pump*	\$250	No limit
Dual Fuel Heat Pump* (primary heat source from non-electric to electric)	\$500	No limit
Air Source Heat Pump* (primary heat source from non-electric to electric)	\$1,000	No limit
Central Air Conditioning*	\$0	No limit
Tune-up for Existing Heat Pump or Central Air-Conditioning System	\$15	One rebate per year
Duct System	\$200	One time per system

\* Must replace existing units.

All upgrades must meet eScore Program Standards effective on installation date. Please inform your Quality Contractor Network member you are participating in eScore before work begins. Rebates will be sent by check to the address where upgrades occur.

If your heating system is aging or inefficient, TVA and Ripley Power and Light Company have some offers that are hard to refuse.

If you switch from gas heat to an energy-efficient electric heat pump, you can get a \$1,000 rebate. If you are upgrading an existing electric heating system to a new heat pump, you can get up to \$500 in cash.

Rebates to switch from gas water heating to an electric water heater are as much as \$500, depending on what you pay for the water heater.

The rebates are part of TVA's eScore program – an in-home, energy-saving program that provides a simple path to make your home energy efficient. The chart at right shows the rebates for energy-efficient improvements you can make to your home.

To sweeten the deal, Ripley offers financing for major improvements with payments on your monthly electric bill.

Heat pumps are good choices for homes in the Ripley area because they work efficiently to provide an even, cool temperature during the summer and an even warm temperature in cold weather.

To be eligible for an eScore rebate, homeowners must have the work done through one of our approved contractors. They are:

- Flatt Heating and Air Conditioning, Newbern, 731-627-2581
- Heglar Plumbing & Electric Co., Humboldt, 731-784-3642
- Quality Service Heating and Air, Ripley, 731-635-3452
- Windle Heating and Air Conditioning, Dyersburg, 731-285-7970

For more information about eScore or heat pumps, visit the Save Energy, Save Money section of [www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com).