

Tennessee CONNECTIONS

FALL 2025 | CUSTOMER FOCUSED ⚡ COMMUNITY DRIVEN

Small Business Uplift

Energy efficiency
courtesy of TVA

Page 4-5



ALSO
INSIDE

A Coloring Contest
for Public Power Week
Page 20

Veterans Day
Celebrating those
who served
Page 21

Squarecrows dot the
Lauderdale County
Courthouse lawn in
October. PHOTO
COURTESY OF
CAMERON BRASFIELD



Small Business Uplift!

TVA helps local businesses become more energy efficient

Ten local businesses received a boost in their energy efficiency, courtesy of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Small Business Uplift program.

The businesses were chosen to receive free energy-related upgrades and resources.

"It was a blessing," said Janet Ray, who owns the Hen House with her husband, Travis. They received two energy-efficient freezers, which were needed to store food for the restaurant.

To be selected, the businesses had to be locally owned and be located in a building that was at least 10 years old and had no renovations in the past two years. Ideally, the store space was less than 10,000 square feet, but it couldn't exceed 20,000 square feet.

"We were excited that 10 of our local businesses received the upgrades so they could lower their energy costs," said Mike

"Our upgrades came at a critical time."

— AMY ELDER,
MAYO'S FLOWER SHOP

Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light Company. "The purpose of the program was to improve working conditions, boost sustainability and help our region prosper. Small businesses are the backbone of our community."

Ripley Power and Light buys its electricity from TVA.

The businesses are ...

■ Mayo's Flower Shop, owned by Amy Elder and her uncle, William Elder, 101 S. Church St., Halls. The shop has new LED lighting and an energy-efficient HVAC system and refrigerator.

■ Halls Funeral Home, owned by Ty Brasfield, 109 S. Church St., Ripley. The funeral home received an HVAC system and had some of its lighting upgraded to LED.

■ Brooks Harris Optometry Clinic, 190 S. Washington St., Ripley. The clinic's lighting was upgraded to LEDs, and a new energy-efficient HVAC system was installed.

■ The Hall of Heroes, a gaming store owned by David Cannon, 126 N. Jefferson St., Ripley. All lighting was upgraded to LED.

■ Dazzles Hair Salon, owned by Melissa Drumwright, 119 W. Jackson Ave., Ripley. Dazzles received a 15-SEER HVAC system with a programmable thermostat.

■ Fish's Wing Shack, owned by Cory Turnery, 326 Washington St., Ripley. The restaurant received energy-efficient chest freezers, two-door freezer and refrigerator.

■ Hen House, a diner owned by Janet Ray, 248 Washington St., Ripley. The diner has a new Energy Star-rated chest freezer.

■ Kissell's Kitchen, owned by Darin Kissell, 137 W. Jackson Ave., Ripley. The restaurant received an energy-efficient chest freezer, refrigerator and HVAC System.

■ Emilee's, a restaurant owned by Trina Burks, 815 U.S. 51, Ripley. Lighting was upgraded to LED. The restaurant also received an HVAC system.

■ Mont's Flower Shop, owned by Angela Thurmond, 321 Cleveland St., Ripley. Mont's received an Energy Star-rated refrigerator and two energy-efficient HVAC systems.

"Our upgrades came at a critical time," said Amy Elder, Mayo's Flower Shop owner.



Emilee's restaurant, above, and Kissell's Kitchen, below, were chosen for TVA's Small Business Uplift program.





First the store weathered the COVID-19 pandemic and now Elder finds that with the uncertain economy, people aren't spending their disposable income on flowers.

The lighting was needed to correct a broken ballast, and the new cooler keeps flowers fresh. Mayo's Flower Shop, in operation since 1969, sells cut flowers, silks, flower arrangements and other gifts.

"We're very fortunate to be in a community that was able to offer this for us," Elder said. ■

Mont's Flower Shop, above; Fish's Wing Shack, below left; and the Hall of Heroes, a gaming store; are lowering their electric bills with energy-efficient upgrades from Tennessee Valley Authority.



'Efficient, safe, reliable, affordable electricity'

Community-owned, not-for-profit public power utilities such as Ripley Power and Light Company serve 54 million Americans who live in 2,000 small towns and large cities across the United States.

Public Power Week, Oct. 5-11, celebrates reliable, low-cost electricity provided by public power utilities. They invest in their communities and support local commerce and jobs.

Ripley Power and Light is celebrating the week with a coloring contest. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to enter the contest by creatively coloring a page representing public power.

Each grade has a designated coloring sheet. All represent this year's theme of "2,000 Utilities. One Purpose." A winner from each grade will receive a \$50 Visa gift card and be featured in the next issue of Tennessee Connections magazine.

The coloring sheets and entry form can be picked up at our Ripley office, 150 S. Main St., and Halls office, 409 S. Church St. You can also download PDFs of the form and coloring sheets at ripleypower.com.

Each child can submit only one entry. The coloring sheet and entry form can be mailed or dropped off at our Ripley and Halls

offices through Friday, Oct. 10.

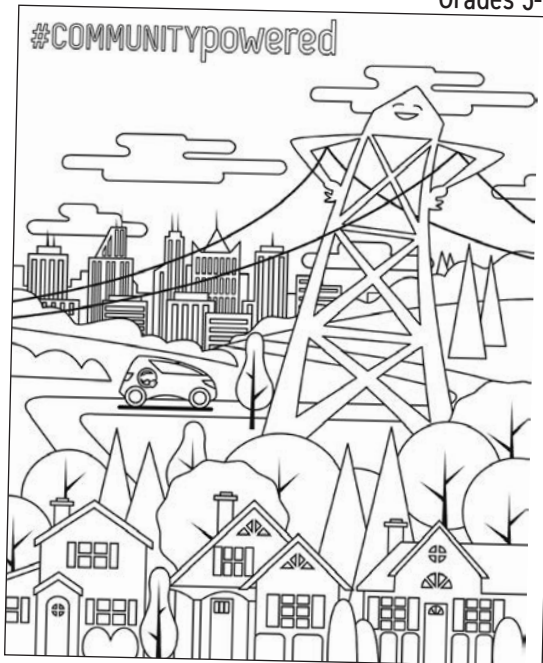
Winners will be announced the week of Oct. 13 and notified by email.

"Through the Public Power Coloring Contest, we wish to engage students and the community in a way that will enhance interest and understanding of the role that efficient, safe, reliable, and affordable electricity plays in powering our community," said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light.

The annual Public Power Week is sponsored by the American Public Power Association. ■



Grades 5-6

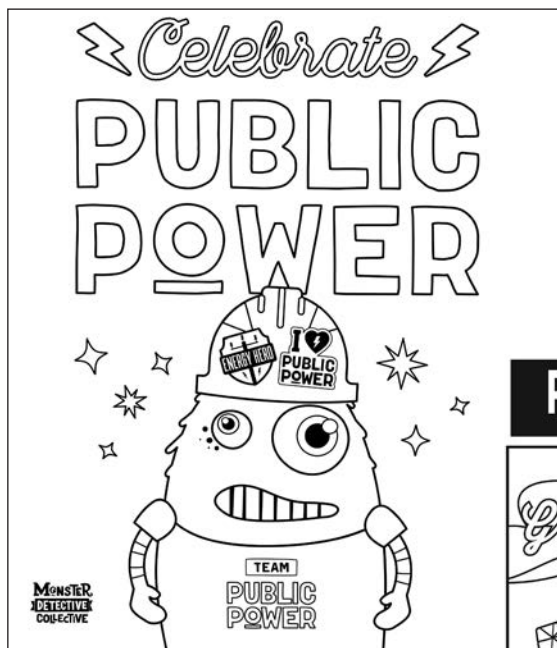


Grades 3-4

Powering Strong Communities



Grades K-2



The entry form and 8.5-by-11-inch coloring sheets can be downloaded at ripleypower.com. You can also pick them up at Ripley Power and Light's Ripley and Halls offices.

CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

Dr. Matthew Stafford joined the U.S. Air Force in search of a college education and paid medical care for his growing family. He figured he would get his degree and be out in four years.

When he retired 29 years later, he had earned multiple college degrees and had seen many parts of the world. He and his wife, Jacqueline, have five children.

"The military service is a remarkable enterprise that gave me many opportunities," said Stafford, who will be the special guest and speaker at the Veterans' Museum's Annual Veterans Day Commemoration on Sunday, Nov. 9.

The event is at 2 p.m. in the headquarters building, 100 Veterans Drive in Halls. Museum staff chose the Sunday before the Nov. 11 holiday so it would not compete with other events in the county.

"As the premier museum that honors veterans in West Tennessee, it is important we recognize not only Lauderdale County veterans, but veterans from all over West Tennessee," said Pat Higdon, board chairman of the Dyersburg Army Air Base where the museum is located.

Stafford is a military historian, specializing in airpower history. He has spoken several times at the Veterans' Museum.

He points out the tremendous respect Americans have for veterans today. However, it wasn't always this way.

Stafford entered the military in the 1970s after the Vietnam War when many Americans were suspicious of people in uniform.

"We've gone from a country that did not respect and even feared a standing military to a country that reveres its standing military and all those who have served," he said. "It's a remarkable change."

Each year, the Veterans' Museum recognizes special guests. In the last three years, the special guests included Col. David Porter, a retired

U.S. Army veteran from Jackson; Col. Ray Harris, a retired U.S. Air Force veteran from Lauderdale County; and Bill Allen, a retired U.S. Navy veteran who participated in the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Both Porter and Harris pointed out that the military family plays an important role in the success of all veterans. Harris attributed his success in the military to putting God first, believing in himself and setting goals, and having the discipline to achieve them.

Allen told his story of surviving the Normandy invasion. Three days after it started, he was serving aboard the LST 523, when it was hit by an underwater mine in the English Channel and sank.

He survived by jumping off the ship, floating in the sea with another sailor and then being rescued by a smaller boat. His two bunk mates died. He attributes a "higher power" for saving him. Allen was able to visit the wreckage of his ship on the 70th anniversary of the invasion in 2014.

Stafford, this year's speaker, followed his uniformed career with 16 years as a senior Defense executive, retiring as the Chief Learning Officer for the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base

in Texas. Stafford was charged with overseeing the service's developmental programs in professional military and continuing education, technical training, flying training, and a variety of other learning pursuits.

While in the Air Force, he earned a master's degree and doctorate in history, a master's degree in strategic studies and aviation, and two business degrees. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air War College and U.S. Army War College.

This year's celebration at the Veterans' Museum will recognize all five branches of the armed forces. A reception will follow. For more information, call 731-836-7400. ■

Retired U.S. Navy Veteran Bill Allen, left, talks about how he survived the Normandy invasion.



Dr. Matthew Stafford



Col. Ray Harris





RIPLEY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

ripleypower.com

Ripley Office

731-635-2323

150 S. Main St. • Ripley

Halls Office

731-836-7595

409 S. Church St. • Halls

Office Hours

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 bill ...

- At ripleypower.com.
- Through our mobile app.
- Through bank draft.
- At our Ripley & Halls offices.
- In office night deposit boxes.
- At the kiosks at our offices.

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

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

**November 11
for Veterans Day**

**November 27 and 28
for Thanksgiving**

TN-200

Backyard Safety with a Security Light

As the days grow shorter, consider leasing a security light from Ripley Power and Light Company. It adds that extra light to your yard and property to increase your security and safety.

Photocells in our LED lights are sensitive to darkness. The lights come on at dusk and turn off at dawn.

We will install your security light for free and then maintain the light for a monthly leasing fee

that averages around \$14. The fee is added to your monthly utility bill. We require a five-year lease.

If you already have a security light, let us know if the light starts blinking, and we will fix it.

For more information and an online form, visit the "For Home" section of ripleypower.com or call us at 731-635-2323 or 731-836-7595.

Halloween Safety

Meanwhile, here are some suggestions for a safer Halloween ...

- Children younger than 12 should always be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Choose light-colored costumes; add reflective tape or stickers to make children more visible.
- Have children carry flashlights or glow sticks to help others see them.
- Encourage older children to trick-or-treat in groups and stay together.
- Walk on sidewalks and cross streets at street corners and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Teach children not to run or dart into the street, especially between parked cars.
- Turn on porch lights to increase visibility.
- Drivers should go slower, use caution, turn on headlights sooner than usual, and avoid distractions, such as cellphones. ■

