

# Tennessee CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2026 | CUSTOMER FOCUSED ⚡ COMMUNITY DRIVEN

## NEW JOBS

Halls aluminum plant starts production

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## Solar Powered Weather Cart & Programming Station



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### STEM

Students learn with TVA grants

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Ripley Elementary students in Jonathan Holmes' science class are excited about learning.

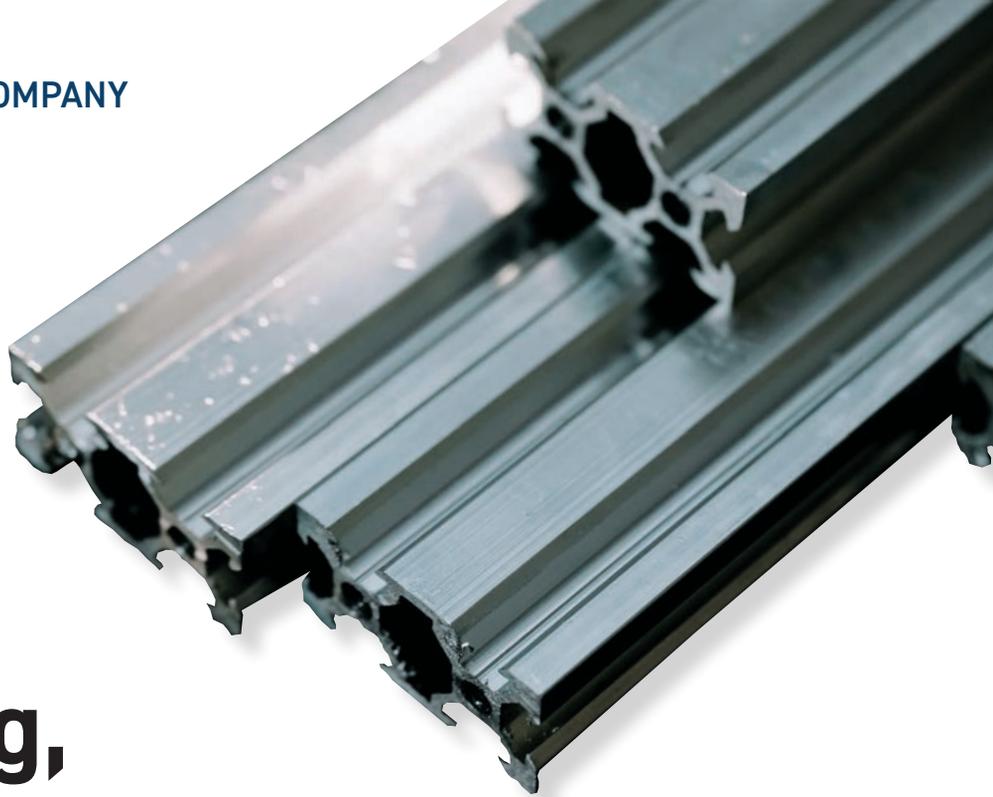
PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMERON BRASFIELD

### RipleyPower.com

A walk through our website

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# New Halls aluminum plant hiring, starting production this spring

The wait is over. After 33 years of being idle, the former Tupperware complex in Halls has a new owner and will begin manufacturing this spring.

Owned by ALUKO Group, a South Korean company, the Halls plant will focus on aluminum extrusion, at first producing solar frames and eventually expanding to windows and other products.

The company, which is investing \$100 million in the project, started hiring in January and will eventually have 285 employees. The plant manager, Daeyu Park, will report to Group President Jinwoo Park.

“Of course, we’re tickled to death,” said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light Company. “This will mean a lot to Power and Light’s customers, our county and particularly Halls.”

Aluminum extrusion is the process of forcing heated aluminum alloy through a die. In simple terms, it’s like squeezing toothpaste out of a tube with your fingers.

Allmand and other state and local officials first met with representatives of ALUKO last summer.



At first, ALUKO was looking at the old Tupperware plant as a temporary manufacturing site while it built a new plant in another county. “We were going to be their Band-Aid,” said Rachel Gear, Director of Tourism &

Economic Development for Lauderdale County.

ALUKO needed a 150,000-square-foot manufacturing building with 50-foot ceilings. The old Tupperware plant has both. “We were hitting all of the squares,” Gear said. “They realized what they were planning on building was right in front of them. Our temporary solution became their permanent solution.”

The Halls site sits on an 83-acre complex with several buildings.

ALUKO representatives said the company chose Halls for several reasons: The property site and buildings, city and county support, and distance to customers. The company started in South Korea 70 years ago and has expanded into other countries.

In a December press release from the state of Tennessee, Do Bong Park, Chairman of ALUKO Group, said, “This strategic investment in Halls, Tennessee, is a significant milestone in ALUKO Group’s long-term North American strategy, establishing an eco-friendly supply chain for key U.S. industries like EVs and



**Mike Allmand**  
President and CEO  
Ripley Power and Light

# Tupperware®

Connie Duvall remembers well the sadness of March 12, 1993. It was the last day of production at the Tupperware plant in Halls. “It hurt,” said Connie, who was the plant’s human resource assistant.

The Halls Tupperware plant, which opened in 1969, was one of four plants in the United States. Tupperware’s founder, Earl Tupper, invented the first product in 1946 in the basement of his home.

The company was known for its quality plastic containers for food products, food preparation and educational children’s toys. Its products, often sold at home Tupperware parties, were in many American households.

The Tupperware plant was the largest employer in Halls and a partner in the community, said Connie, who started at the plant the year it opened. “Employee incomes bought new homes, paid for new cars, and sent children to college.”

At peak production, the plant had 1,500 employees.

Company benefits included competitive salaries, on-site nurse, profit-sharing plan, recreation center, summer day care, a free meal once a day, a children’s Christmas party, a Christmas dance for teenagers, and gifts and free Tupperware at major holidays, said Connie.

The Tupperware business declined, and the company began closing plants. “Lives were shattered” when the company announced Oct. 9, 1992, that it was closing the Halls plant, Connie said. In many families, both spouses worked there, and some families had several generations employed at the plant. One man and six of his seven sons were working at the plant the day it announced the closing, she said.

Connie found other work and ended her career at Ripley Power and Light.

“Watching the plant close, saying goodbye to friends who were like family. It was horrible,” she said. “It broke a lot of hearts.” ■



solar energy. We are honored to be a part of the Lauderdale County community.”

ALUKO plans to have 100 employees when it begins production this spring. The rest of the hiring and increasing production will be done in phases.

It was a team effort to recruit a large company like ALUKO to Halls. Besides Ripley Power and Light and Lauderdale County Tourism & Economic

Development, other players included TVA, the state of Tennessee, Lauderdale County led by Mayor Maurice Gaines, and Halls led by Mayor Eugene Pugh.

“ALUKO is a perfect fit for Lauderdale County,” Gear said. “They want to win, and they want the community to win.” ■



Employees gather on the last day of production at Tupperware on March 12, 1993.

More stories from Ripley Power and Light ... Pages 18, 19

## Grants give students tools to learn science, technology, engineering and math concepts

Small hands are building trains and tracks with Lego bricks in Lesley Olds' classroom at Ripley Primary School. As they build, the kindergarten through second grade students are learning the beginning concepts of computer coding, said Olds, the school's media specialist.

"Various Lego bricks have meanings," Olds said. "For example, the red piece on the track tells the train to stop there. The red piece is coded to make the train respond a certain way. Later we will add pieces that make lights, horns and other movements."

Olds bought the Lego bricks and accompanying classroom materials with a \$2,000 STEM grant from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which supplies electricity to Ripley Power and Light Company. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math.

Olds' students work in pairs. As they build, they learn other concepts, such as problem solving and working with a partner, Olds said. "When I give them a challenge, they think they are playing."

Blocks away, Ripley Elementary students in third through fifth grade are analyzing weather patterns in Jonathan Holmes' science classroom. Holmes, the school's STEM teacher, received a \$5,000 grant from TVA. "I was thrilled to learn we received the grant," he said. "It's close to being the highlight of the whole school year."

Holmes bought solar panels, weather sensors, rechargeable batteries and other weather forecasting equipment with the grant. Students are learning about rain, humidity, temperatures and wind speeds, and they are also strengthening other skills, like math, Holmes said.



Ripley Primary students learn about coding as they play with Lego bricks bought with a grant from Tennessee Valley Authority.

"It's important for students to learn early on about careers in science, math and technology," said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light. "We are excited that two of our schools received the grants."

TVA awards the grants for STEM projects in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., a TVA retiree organization.

Since 2018, the program has provided more than \$9 million in STEM awards, supporting more than 845 students. This year, TVA funded 339 grants out of 528 applications. ■



Jonathan Holmes, above, teaches in his classroom at Ripley Elementary, while Ripley Primary students learn about coding with Lego bricks.



# RipleyPower.com

Where can I pay my electric bill? How do I get a security light for my backyard? Where's that old issue of Tennessee Connections? You'll find these answers and much more at Ripley Power and Light Company's website. Here's a walk through our website.

## Links and dropdown links across the top



### Home Page

A click on our logo on the upper left of each website page will take you back to the Home Page.

The website Home Page also has our phone numbers, addresses and a comment box in the footer to ask a question or send us a message. Normally, we respond by the next business day.

### My Account

Factors that affect your monthly bill

- Pay My Bill (with a direct link to pay online)
- Prepay My Bill (with a form to sign up for PrePay)
- Payment Options
- Understanding My Bill
- E-Statements (with a sign-up form to receive your bill by email)

### Energy Explained

Overview about our system

- Tree Trimming Program
- Call Before You Dig
- Street and Traffic Lights
- Tripped Breakers
- LED Lights
- Blinking & Dimming Lights
- What's Yours? What's Ours?

### Residential

Overview on getting service

- Halls Fiber
- New Customers
- Heat Pumps/Financing (with online financing form)
- Security Lights (with online form)
- Rates
- Archived Rates
- Safety Tips
- Save Energy/Save Money (with lots of year-round tips)
- Customer Information Agreement

### Industrial Sites

A list with videos of Lauderdale County sites available for prospective industries

### Business

Overview on partnership with local companies

- Energy Management Services
- Rates
- Archived Rates
- Outdoor Lighting
- Fiber Network

### About Us

Overview/Hours/Locations

- Staff
- Community Involvement
- In-Lieu-of-Tax Payments
- RP3 and Safety Awards
- Tennessee Connections (Current and Past Issues)
- Policies: Home and Business
- Privacy Policy
- Calendar

## The important four boxes across the middle of the Home Page



### New Customers

Here are the steps to become a new customer. You can also download pdfs of the applications for Prepaid Service, Residential Service and Business Service.



### Restoring Power in an Emergency

Ripley Power and Light follows a plan to restore outages in emergencies. It's all explained here.



### Pay My Bill

This link goes straight to our Customer Portal. After creating an account online, you can manage your utility payments and see your energy use.



### Report An Outage

This link goes to our Outage Page where you will find the phone number to text or call to report an outage. You'll also see the location of any outages on our system.



## RIPLEY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

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

**Friday, April 3**  
for Good Friday

**Monday, May 25**  
for Memorial Day



## Restoring electric power in emergencies

Ripley Power and Light's service territory escaped the destruction from the snow and ice of Winter Storm Fern.

As the storm approached Jan. 23, Power and Light employees went on standby, ready to respond quickly if power outages occurred.

In widespread outages, like those that occurred elsewhere, Power and Light has a plan to restore power. With each decision, the underlying goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time possible.

**1** With help from our Outage Management System, the first step is to assess damages and make sure any downed power lines are not hazardous.

**2** Problems on transmission lines and at

electric substations are fixed first since they can affect thousands of customers. We also give priority to critical places like our hospital, water treatment plants and customers who depend on life support.

**3** We next repair feeder lines that leave substations. We work our way across the system, first repairing problems serving larger groups of customers to gradually fixing problems serving smaller groups.

**4** Finally, we repair damage to service lines to individual homes.

### You can help

Each year, Ripley Power and Light trims trees and bushes away from power lines—a major way to retain electric reliability. Customers can help by calling us whenever they see trees too close to power lines. ■

### To report an outage

Ripley Power and Light has adopted an easier way to report an outage.

Using your smart phone, text or call 888-590-2323.

You'll be asked to give the location of the outage.

Our Outage Management System will immediately assess the situation

and help direct us as we respond.

The new outage page on our website also has the phone number, and it updates to show any current outages in the system. Click on the orange "Report an Outage" box at [ripleypower.com](http://ripleypower.com).

