

Tennessee CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2024 | CUSTOMER FOCUSED ⚡ COMMUNITY DRIVEN

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

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Whitlee and Grace Riddick
enjoy the annual Homestyle
Christmas on Ripley's
Court Square. PHOTO
COURTESY OF HEATHER
DANIELLE RIDDICK



Coloring Contest Highlights Value of Public Electric Power

Public Power Week, held annually in early October, celebrates the more than 12,000 community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities in the United States. Public utilities, including Ripley Power and Light, provide electric power to the homes and businesses of 49 million Americans.

Public Power Week is sponsored by the American Public Power Association to increase awareness of the benefits of public power, including reliability, affordability and community ownership.

As part of its power week celebration, Ripley Power and Light sponsors a Public Power Coloring Contest for kindergarten through sixth grade students. Each winner receives a \$50 Visa gift card.

This year's winners are Chase McKee, first grade, Ripley Primary; Aubrey Childress, second grade, Halls Elementary; Harper Harden, second grade, Ripley Primary; William Howell, third grade, Halls Elementary; Tilly DiMartino, fourth grade, homeschooled; and Kynlee Haynes, fifth grade, homeschooled.

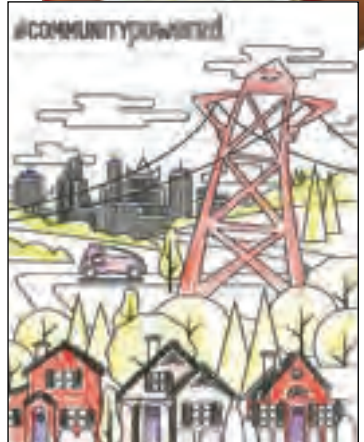
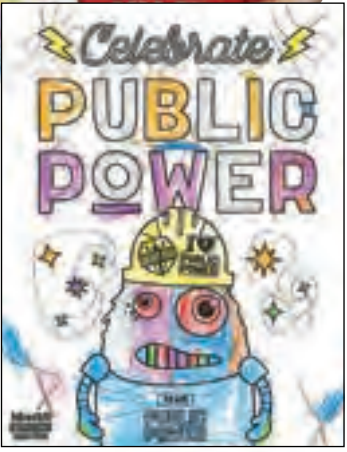
Contact Ripley Power and Light in late September for entry forms and the grade-level coloring sheets for the October 2025 contest.

For more information about Ripley Power and Light, visit ripleypower.com.



Chase McKee

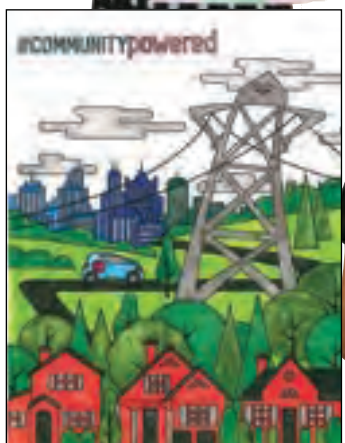
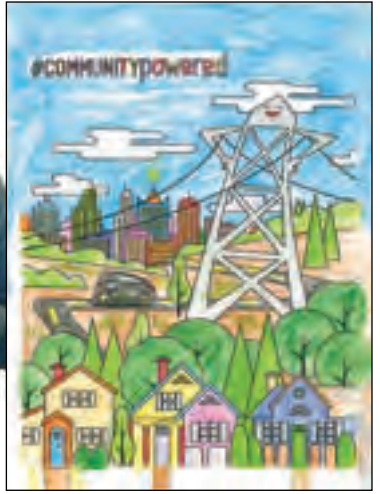
Aubrey Childress



Harper Harden



Kynlee Haynes



Tilly DiMartino



William Howell



'It's just much, much better'

High-Speed Fiber Internet Arrives in Halls

It didn't take long for Rob and Rhonda Harris to be enthusiastic about the new high-speed fiber internet service in Halls.

In fact, it took less than a minute.

Just before installation was complete, Rob Harris did an internet speed test with his old service. The results were slow: 24.9 megabits per second download; 1.84 megabits per second upload.

After the final connection was made to the new service from Ripley Power and Light in partnership with Aeneas Internet and Telephone, the speed test was impressive. The new internet speeds were 10 times higher: 240 megabits per second download. 88 megabits upload.

That is the lowest tier speed offered by Aeneas, Harris said. He and his wife are now paying less, getting no buffering when they watch streaming TV, and getting faster uploads and downloads on their phones and computers.

Judy Terry, executive vice president and cashier at the Bank of Halls, is another happy, new customer.

"I did the speed test after the installation and put it on Facebook," Terry said. "I was bragging about it. We've told everybody to sign up for the new service."

"Signups for the new fiber internet service are going very well," said Kami Wright, Ripley Power and Light Halls office manager. "We are signing up people every day."



A banner encourages Halls residents to sign up for the new high-speed, fiber internet from Ripley Power and Light, in partnership with Aeneas.

Ripley Power and Light owns the fiber network and leases it to Aeneas, which is initially offering telephone and tiered, internet services with up to speeds of 1 gig.

Ripley Power and Light has explored ways to bring fiber broadband to all customers, said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light. The decision was made to start a pilot project in Halls, Allmand said. The town of Halls has applied for a grant to pay for a part of the buildout. Customer response in Halls and funding options will help determine if the fiber network will expand beyond Halls to other Power and Light customers, he added.

Meanwhile, both Terry and the Harris said the installation technician was friendly and knowledgeable.

Terry is still getting her television through a satellite company because she

must finish out a contract, but she is enjoying the better internet speeds on her phone and computer. Her grandson also enjoys the new internet for playing games.

"The internet we had before was certainly subpar," said Harris, who works at Hurt Seed Company.

His wife, Rhonda, is a Halls alderwoman, and they found out about the new service when Allmand offered the internet solution at a Halls City Council meeting. "I appreciate that Allmand had that kind of vision," Harris said.

The Harris family has canceled its satellite TV

service and their previous internet, which was costing \$227 a month. The Harrises now pay YouTube \$75 a month to stream their favorite TV channels and Aeneas \$59 monthly for fiber internet.

"It's great," Harris said. "It's just much, much better."

Sign Up for Service

Halls residents who want the high-speed, fiber-based internet service can sign up at fiber.aeneas.com or through a link on Ripley Power and Light's website at ripleypower.com or its Facebook page at facebook.com/ripleypowerandlight.

By typing in your address, you'll find out if the new service is available at your location. If you have questions, you can call Aeneas at 731-554-9200 or the Power and Light Halls Office at 731-836-7595 or drop by the Halls office, 509 S. Church St. ■

David Newman Retires

‘This job at Ripley Power and Light has meant everything to me’

Groundsman. Lineman. Meter reader. Meter shop technician. In his nearly 45 years at Ripley Power and Light, David Newman has done most every job at the utility.

Once, after breaking his foot, he even answered phones in the customer service department.

“When Mike Allmand hired me, he said he wanted me to learn every job at the power company,” Newman said.

He is retiring in late December, leaving “a job that has been my life. The employees are my family.”

“We appreciate David’s long term dedication and service,” said Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light.

“We wish him and his family the best in his retirement.”

Newman, who lives in the family home in the Curve community, had just finished a year of training in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves when he had a decision to make: Get a job or stay in the reserves.

Morris Worlds, a close family friend, was operations superintendent at Ripley Power and Light and encouraged Newman to apply at the utility.

Allmand had just become Power and Light’s manager when he interviewed Newman. “I was his first hire as manager,” Newman said.



Meter Shop Technician David Newman was given the green light to create a state-of-the-art meter shop when it moved to a new location.

Though Newman had helped his dad with odd jobs around the house, he said he knew little about electricity when he started in July 1980. He learned on the job.

“I climbed my first electric pole in the first week or two,” he said. “I was doing work in the bucket truck the first year.”

He has enjoyed his job, he said.

Newman particularly enjoyed the satisfaction of helping customers and restoring power caused by bad weather. In the last eight or nine years, he has been in charge of the meter shop.

Newman, the son of Carolyn and the late Thee Newman, grew up in Curve and attended the former Curve

Elementary School. His class had 12 students. He entered reserve training after graduating from Ripley High School.

He and his wife, Ann, have four children, nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

“I just know we have a whole pile of kids here at Christmas,” Newman said.

He still lives on the farm where he was born. Through the years, he was a firefighter and fire chief of the East Lauderdale County Fire Department. He has farmed with his father and owned his own tree service company.

In retirement, Newman hopes to travel in an old RV he is restoring. “I love to travel, and I want to do more of it. I’ve had a blessed life,” Newman said. “This job at Ripley Power and Light has meant everything to me.” ■

“... a job that has been my life. The employees are my family.”

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and all through the house, we were saving on our utility bill

Let's talk electronics. Halloween may be long over, but you still have vampires in your home if you keep your computers, TVs, printers and other electronics on all night. Turn them off when not in use, and be sure to turn off the power strips, too, so they don't continue to use electricity.

Your water heater is the second highest energy user in your home. Set your thermostat on your water heater as low as possible. A setting between 120 F to 130 F should be sufficient for most families' needs.

Check out the source of cold air drafts in your home. Seal those leaks with weatherstripping and caulking. Make sure your attic and crawl spaces have plenty of insulation.

Make sure your fireplace damper is closed when not in use so you don't send warm air up the chimney. Unless, of course, it's Christmas Eve.

This Christmas, be an energy Scrooge and only use LED lights for your indoor and outdoor decorations. LED lights use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer.

Only wash and dry full loads of clothes. Wash and rinse clothes in cold water.

Your biggest energy user in the winter is your heating system. Set your thermostat at the lowest setting at which you'll be comfortable. For every degree below 72, you will save 3-5% off your heating bill.

Clean refrigerator's coils. Set the temperature from 36 F to 39 F and the freezer from 0 F to 5 F.

Meanwhile, if it's time to replace your old heating unit, consider an energy-efficient, electric heat pump—the best way to heat and cool your home in West Tennessee's climate. Learn more on the back page.





RIPLEY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

www.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 www.ripleypower.com
- Through our new 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 closed:

Tuesday, Dec. 24 and
Wednesday, Dec. 25 for
Christmas

Wednesday, Jan. 1
for New Year's Day

Monday, Jan 20
for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, Feb. 17
for Presidents Day



TN-200

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Energy-Efficient Electric Heat Pumps Save You Money

Your heating system has the most impact on your utility bill each winter. An energy-efficient electric heat pump—the most economical way to heat and cool your home in West Tennessee's climate—can save you up to 40% in heating costs, depending on your current heat source.

Ripley Power and Light offers low-interest financing for your heat pump purchase. You can pay for your heat pump on your monthly utility bill with no money down. You have up to 10 years to repay with no prepayment penalty.

Tennessee Valley Authority also offers rebates for heat

pump purchases. Learn more at energyright.com/residential/rebates.

Heat pumps are becoming more popular because of their lower heating and cooling costs and because they are better for the environment.

A heat pump's performance is rated by its SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio). The higher the SEER, the higher the efficiency of the heat pump and the lower the cost to operate it.

To get Ripley Power and Light's financing, you must buy your heat pump through a member of our Quality Contractor Network to ensure that you get the correct-sized heat pump for your home's heating and cooling needs and that it is installed correctly.

Learn more under the "For Home" tab at ripleypower.com. ■

For more energy-saving tips, turn to Page 21.

