



Ripley  
Power  
and Light

will be closed ...

- Friday, March 29, for Good Friday
- Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day



Pay your bill online, inquire about our programs, learn how to conserve energy ... 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.



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595  
[www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com)

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## Thinking of planting a few trees this spring?

Be sure to look up and around to avoid planting trees near utility wires

Tree limbs falling against power lines and utility equipment are a major reason for power outages. That's why Ripley Power and Light Company has an ongoing program to trim tree branches away from power lines.



Mike Allmand  
President and CEO  
Ripley Power and  
Light Company

We also ask our customers to help by not planting large-growing trees, such as maple or oak or pine trees, near power lines. "It's important that we maintain right-of-way and prevent trees from growing into electric lines," said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light. "If you must plant trees near electric lines, plant low-growing trees. Taller trees can be planted in other areas."

Here's a rule of thumb for planting trees ...

- ▶ Small trees that grow no more than 30 feet should be planted at least 10 feet away from utility poles, street lights and power lines.
- ▶ Trees growing up to 50 feet in height should be planted at least 35 feet away.

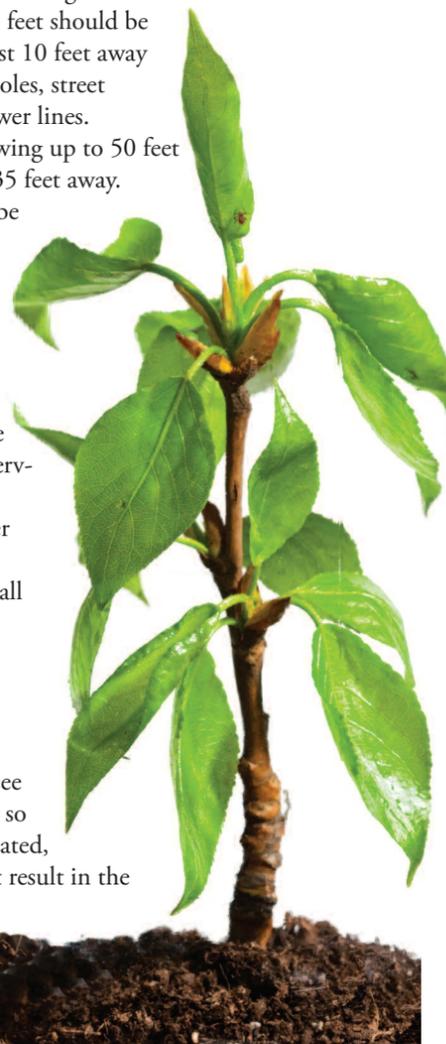
▶ Trees larger than 50 feet should be at least 45 feet away.

If you need to plant near a power line, consider a smaller tree that will stay out of power lines, enhance your yard and even help attract wildlife.

Smaller trees recommended by the University of Tennessee Extension Service include ...

- ▶ Flowering dogwoods, which offer beauty every season.
- ▶ Autumn olives, which have a small orange fruit loved by wildlife.
- ▶ Japanese flowering crab apples, which flower and later have fruit.
- ▶ Wild plum trees, which produce fruit.

Remember to call 811 for Tennessee One Call several days before you dig so that underground utilities can be located, and your tree-planting efforts do not result in the interruption of utilities.



# Ripley POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Spring 2013



Quaprotek USA has spent the last year getting the former spec building in Ripley ready for production. Not yet finished when this picture was taken is a canopied walkway that extends from the front door over an open moat that was installed to help with drainage.

## Quaprotek to start production in Ripley this spring

For more than a decade, the spec building constructed by the City of Ripley at Highland Street and Hwy. 19 sat empty, waiting for an industry to occupy its space, fill it with machinery and offices, and hire employees from the community.

The wait is over. Quaprotek USA, a German company that machines aluminum casting parts for the automobile industry, announced in late 2011 that it plans to open a manufacturing facility in Ripley. The company has been getting the spec building ready for production for the past year.

Quaprotek plans to officially start hiring production workers in April and begin production shortly thereafter.

"We plan to have 30 to 40 employees by the end of 2013," said Florian Kielwein, Quaprotek Vice President, who was at the Ripley plant to help set up operations. During the next five years, the company will invest \$22 million in its Ripley operation and create more than 130 new jobs.

"We are extremely proud that Quaprotek chose Lauderdale County for its first venture in the United States," said County Mayor Rod Schuh.

Ripley Mayor John Pavletic echoed Schuh's words: "We're tickled to death. It's really the first industry to come to Lauderdale County since Komatsu, and that was in the early 1990s."

Teamwork, which included the county, the city, the state of Tennessee, Ripley Power and Light and its electric supplier



Lauderdale County Mayor Rod Schuh holds samples of the automobile parts that will be machined at the Ripley plant.

Continued, next page ...

## Quaprotek to begin production

... Continued

TVA, local banks and other entities, made the difference in attracting the plant to Lauderdale County.

"Everything just came together to make Ripley the right choice," Kielwein said. He also credits Schuh, who developed a good relationship with Quaprotek President Klaus Kielwein, for helping Quaprotek decide to locate in Ripley.

The process started months ago when a contact from the state of Tennessee invited Ripley officials to meet Quaprotek officials in Atlanta. "They were looking at 24 different communities in 10 states," Schuh said. "We had no idea that we would qualify."

The Ripley community made the first cut, and then the second cut. "It's a family-owned company," Schuh says. Company President Klaus Kielwein likes farming and rural areas, Schuh explained. He and Kielwein also had common backgrounds in machining. They became friends.

"The City of Ripley is very pleased that Quaprotek has chosen our city to locate its automotive parts manufacturing operations," Pavletic said. "This type of industry not only brings new jobs and expands the local tax base, it also creates a sense of excitement in our community."

The company's name defines its mission, company officials say: "Qua" stands for quality, "pro" for productivity and "tek" for technology. Quaprotek, founded in 1992, has plants in Germany and the Czech Republic. The company worked with the German-American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern



The cavernous former spec building soon will be filled with machinery and employees.

United States in its site-selection process as it joined the movement to locate automobile industries in the South.

Schuh is proud of how everyone worked together to make it happen. Local banks, for example, joined forces to finance the operation, and USDA Rural Development guaranteed the loan. TVA, through Ripley Power and Light, provided manufacturing incentives, including \$50,000 for an engineering package, and the State of Tennessee offered more incentives.

Officials also cite the region's quality labor force, pro-business climate and infrastructure for the decision. Ripley Power and Light, for example, is one of only 176 public power companies in the United States that has earned the American Public Power Association's RP<sub>3</sub> designation for providing safe, reliable and efficient electric service.

"Quaprotek's decision to locate in Ripley will be a boost for the entire community," said Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and Light President and CEO. "We are glad that they are here."

Meanwhile, people interested in applying for Quaprotek production jobs can contact the Tennessee Career Center on Lake Drive in Ripley.

Kielwein explained that the company wants to be involved in the community, and that includes hiring local workers.

As Quaprotek gears up for production, Schuh and other local officials have their eyes on filling the 20 acres of empty land owned by the city next door to Quaprotek. "It's a perfect spot for another manufacturing facility," he said.

# Annual baseball tournament held in memory of Aaron Schuh

It's still hard for Rod and Carolyn Schuh to talk about the day their son, Aaron, died. It was 22 years ago that 18-year-old Aaron, piloting alone in his instructor's plane, died in an airplane crash.

The memory of Aaron is kept alive with the Aaron Schuh Baseball Tournament each spring where area high school teams compete. Friends at Ripley High School started the tournament within months of Aaron's death. Ripley High School retired Aaron's jersey, No. 23. During the tournament, the number "23" is displayed prominently behind home plate.

Since he was 6 years old, Aaron had played baseball, and the tournament started by his then coach Tom Mathis and friends, is a fitting tribute. When Aaron died on a Saturday morning — December 8, 1990, he was a freshman at Dyersburg State. He wanted to be a pilot.

Aaron had two brothers, his twin, Eric, and their older brother, Darrell.

The Schuhs moved to Ripley in 1979 from Anderson, Indiana, when Rod got a job at Siegel-Robert. Rod, who is now Lauderdale County Mayor, worked for the company about 26

years, being plant manager most of those years.

From their arrival, the Schuhs were involved with local baseball. Rod coached baseball and was president of Ripley Youth Baseball 24 years. One year, the family helped build two baseball fields, including dugouts and fences, close to the high school field for Little League and other younger players. As a senior, Aaron played infield positions: shortstop, second base and first base.

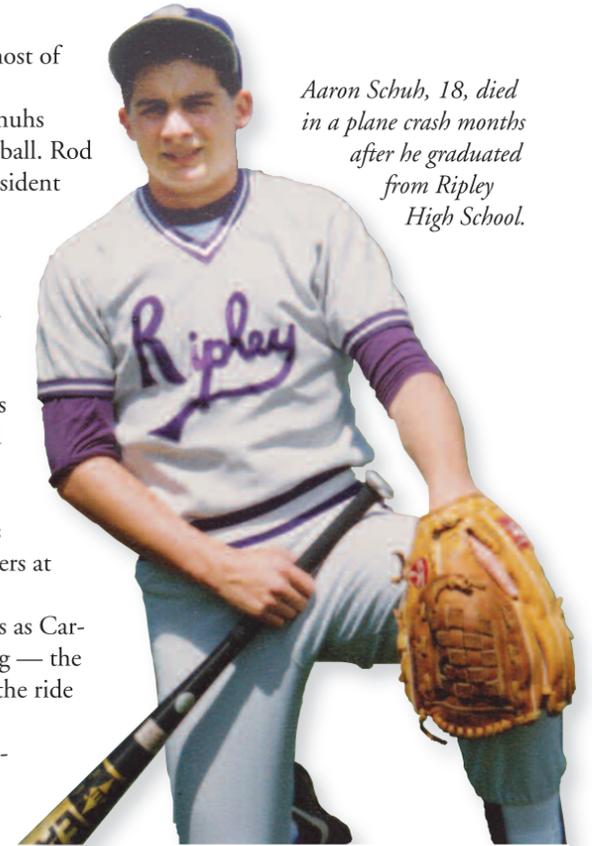
As they grew up, the boys worked weekends and summers at the factory for their dad.

Tears fall down her cheeks as Carolyn remembers that morning — the call from the sheriff's office, the ride over to the crash site.

Then, she smiles as she remembers a child with a big smile himself and a great sense of humor: "He could tell a joke with a straight face; he could light up a whole room."

Rod called his son "popular and well-liked with a gift for gab." Besides playing baseball, Aaron also played drums in the

Aaron Schuh, 18, died in a plane crash months after he graduated from Ripley High School.



high school band. "He had a soft heart," Rod said, "he gave away his clothing to people he knew needed it."

This year, the Aaron Schuh Tournament is Thursday through Saturday, April 18-20. The first games are held at Dyersburg and Ripley high schools. Mathis, who now coaches at Dyersburg High School, has played a big role in holding the tournament each spring. The participating teams come together on Saturday at Ripley High School to play a round robin. The Schuhs are on hand to keep score and to hand out individual trophies.

The Schuhs cherish the memory of their son and are grateful when anyone brings up Aaron's memory. "The tournament has been wonderful," Carolyn said. "We're delighted the community has kept it going."

## Restoring Power in an Emergency

Tornadoes, ice storms, heavy winds and lightning storms can cause widespread outages in the electric system. When an emergency occurs, Ripley Power and Light follows a plan to restore power to customers. Our goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time possible.

We always have employees on call to respond to emergencies, and when major emergencies occur, more employees are called in to help.

- ▶ Our first step is to assess the extent of the problem and to make sure any downed lines are not hazardous.
- ▶ Problems on transmission lines and at electric substations are fixed first since they can affect thousands of customers.

- ▶ We give priority to critical places like our hospital, water treatment plants and customers who depend on life support.

- ▶ We then fix problems on feeder lines that leave substations. Feeder lines serve many smaller lines that go down individual roads or to small groups of houses.

- ▶ Finally, we repair damage to service lines to individual homes.

- ▶ Our process may seem confusing, particularly if you have no electricity. We appreciate your patience. Meanwhile, if we leave your neighborhood — and your neighbors have power, but you do not — be sure to call us so we know to return to your home at some point.



Family members and players at last year's tournament.