

PWVC CONNECTIONS

Your Link to News & Information from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission Dec. 2014/Jan. 2015

Your PWC Connections

is a bi-monthly newsletter for PWC customers and the community. If you have comments, concerns or suggestions for upcoming issues, please contact PWC's Communications/Community Relations Office.

Upcoming Events

Christmas

PWC Offices Closed

Thursday, December 25

Friday, December 26

New Year's Day

PWC Offices Closed

Thursday, January 1

21st Annual Grinding of the Greens

Fayetteville Community Garden

Saturday, January 10

Fayetteville City Tree pickup begins January 5

Martin Luther King's Birthday

PWC Offices Closed

Monday, January 19

4th Friday

Downtown Fayetteville

January 23 & February 27

theartscouncil.com

Annual Water Changeover

PWC stops adding ammonia to the water treatment disinfection process

Sunday, March 1 – Tuesday, March 31

www.faypwc.com/water_treatment.aspx

PWC on the Air

Join host, Wendy Riddle, for *Your PWC Connections*, anytime on PWC's website or watch nightly on FayTV 7 (Time Warner Cable Government Access Channel 7).



Wishing You a Safe & Happy Holiday Season

PWC wants you to have a safe and happy holiday and encourages you to keep these safety tips in mind while decorating for the holidays:

- ❖ Make sure all lights and decorations have the UL seal – and be sure anything electrical put outdoors is labeled for outdoor use
 - ❖ Plug outdoor decorations into outlets protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shock
 - ❖ Don't handle lights while they're plugged in
 - ❖ Don't string too many lights together or overload sockets and use a surge protector
 - ❖ Inspect cords; don't use anything that's frayed or damaged
 - ❖ Don't run extension cords in traffic paths or over metal
 - ❖ Keep live trees watered because dry trees can be fire hazards
 - ❖ Make sure lights aren't touching paper or metal (or pets)
- ❖ Keep electrical decorations away from water
 - ❖ When hanging outdoor decorations, keep ladders away from power lines
 - ❖ Always unplug lights/electrical decorations when you leave home or go to bed. Consider using an automatic timer to ensure that lights are not left on by mistake.



From the PWC Family to Yours: Season's Greetings!

PWC Offices will be closed December 25th & 26th, and will re-open on Monday, December 29th. PWC will observe the New Year's Holiday on Thursday, January 1st and re-open on January 2nd. We would like to extend a special thank you to our dedicated employees who will be working during the holidays to keep your power on, water flowing, and responding to any emergencies so that we can all enjoy the holidays.



Give Your Christmas Tree a "Second Life"

Now in its 21st year, "Grinding of the Greens" gives you the opportunity to recycle your Christmas tree. This year, PWC, Duke Energy Progress, the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County are partnering to grind the trees into mulch that will be used on gardens and paths in local parks. If you live within City limits, you can put your tree out for pick-up by the morning of January 5, 2015.

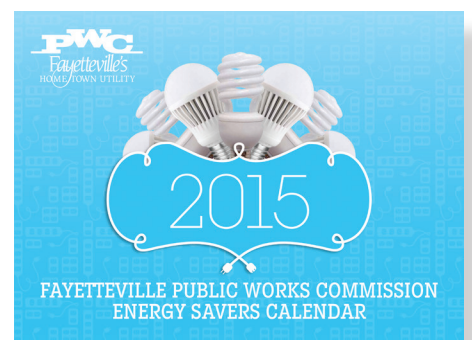
New this Year

Those who live outside the City (and City residents who prefer) can **drop their trees at the Community Garden – at the corner of Van Story and Mann Sts. – any time before 9:00 am on Saturday, January 10th.** Please be sure to remove all tinsel, lights, ornaments and tree stands before "donating" your tree.

Energy Savings All Year Round

Complimentary 2015 Energy Savers Calendar Available in December

Get energy saving tips year round with the 2015 Energy Savers wall calendar. You can pick up your copy (while supplies last) starting Monday, December 1 at the PWC Customer Service Center located at the corner of Eastern Blvd and Old Wilmington Rd. Energy Savers wall calendars are also available at City Hall (433 Hay St.). Call 910-223-4009 to request a calendar by mail.



Tune in to Energy Savings



The Super Bowl is just around the corner! If you plan on replacing your TV for the big event, choose a model that features the ENERGY STAR® label. ENERGY STAR® high-definition TVs use up to 40% less energy than standard models. That can buy a lot of extra chips and dip for the game!

Make a Difference— Give to Project: People Who Care



During the cooler fall and winter months, remember those less fortunate with a contribution to Project: People Who Care. Simply add a donation amount to your utility bill (bank draft customers can call 910-483-1382 for other options). Donations can be mailed to:

Project: PWC
P.O. Box 7000
Fayetteville, NC 28302

Funds are administered by the Salvation Army to help those most in need with their utility bill. Please call 910-223-4009.

Don't Fall for this Call

Some of our customers have been contacted by a scammer trying to collect payment over the phone. If you receive a call directing you to immediately pay a past-due PWC bill or risk losing service, hang up and call us at 910-483-1382. Our employees will never call to ask you for financial information over the phone nor do they collect payment in person at your door.

Do Winter Bills Give You Chills?

Warm Up to These Easy Money-Saving Tips!

The average American family spends approximately \$1,300 a year on utility bills. During the cold winter months, you may find yourself spending more to stay warm than you really need to. Energy saving tips can help you make small yet meaningful changes that will keep the cold air out and save you money.

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Every degree above 68 increases your energy use by 3 percent to 5 percent.
- If you have a furnace, install a programmable thermostat and set it to turn the heat down at night and when you're away.
- Heat pumps are the most efficient form of electric heating in moderate climates. Setting your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting is the best approach to conserving energy and saving money.
- Avoid using space heaters in large areas or for long periods of time. They are not nearly as efficient in heating large areas as your central unit.
- Traditional fireplaces lose much more heat than they produce, so only use them on mild days. When not in use, make absolutely sure the damper is closed.
- Check, clean or replace filters once a month. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use.
- Clean air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed and be sure they aren't blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.
- Let the sunshine in: Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free!

For more energy-saving tips, visit ncpublicpower.com.

Information from NC Public Power



Plan. Plant. Protect.

Learn How to Plan Smart & Avoid Tree & Utility Conflicts at FTCC

A new tree is a great addition to anyone's property, and we all appreciate the natural character, shade, and environmental benefits it provides. However, problems can arise when we consider installing trees or large ornamentals in our landscape.

Learn how to select a tree or large shrub that is appropriate for our climate and how to properly plant it to ensure healthy growth through FTCC! Plan.Plant.Protect. is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 9:00am-12:00pm at the Horticulture Educational Center (670 N. Eastern Blvd). The class costs \$25.00 and includes a walking tour of the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens. Upon completion of the course, students will receive a gift certificate towards a tree from a local nursery. Green thumb not required, but pre-registration is! To learn more call 910-678-8386 or visit www.faytechcc.edu.

F R O M T H E C I T Y

City of Fayetteville Loose Leaf Season Underway



Loose leaf pickup runs through early March 2015. Leaves and pine straw – no tree limbs – must be curbside the day prior to your pickup date. If you are a resident of the City of Fayetteville you can view the schedule at www.cityoffayetteville.org/leafseason. Bad weather may cause delays. Yard debris can be picked up on your regular weekly schedule if it is containerized. Just remember to keep yard waste on the curb and not in the street. Waste left in the street can cause stormwater pollution and may obstruct the storm drainage system resulting in flooding. Call the City of Fayetteville at 910-433-IFAY (1329) with any questions.



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