

# PWVC CONNECTIONS

Your Link to News & Information from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission November 2022

## Upcoming Events

**Thanksgiving  
PWC Offices Closed**  
Thursday, November 24th &  
Friday, November 25th

**Holiday Lights in the Garden**  
December 2nd - 22nd  
Cape Fear Botanical Gardens  
www.capefearbg.org

**Fayetteville Rotary  
Christmas Parade  
Downtown Fayetteville**  
Saturday, December 3rd, 10am

**Christmas in the Park  
Powered by PWC**  
December 4th - 21st  
(excludes Fridays and Saturdays)  
Annette Park, 2165  
Old Wilmington Hwy.  
www.fcpr.us/programs-activities/  
special-events

**Christmas  
PWC Offices Closed**  
Monday, December 26th &  
Tuesday, December 27th

**PWC Connections: The Podcast**  
Listen to PWC's  
bi-weekly Podcast  
for FREE on your  
favorite podcast  
listening platform.  
Get your questions  
answered about your utility  
services, learn more about PWC  
and get the scoop on hot topics!



## PWC TV: Now Streaming!



Watch *Your PWC Connections* anytime on your favorite streaming device in addition to daily airings on Fay TV – the City of Fayetteville's government access channel on Spectrum Cable channel 7. *Your PWC Connections* is also available on PWC's Youtube channel & website.



## Make Heat Pumps Work for You

Heat Pumps are the most common and efficient form of electric heating in moderate climates like ours. Heat pumps use little electricity because instead of "making" heat, the system's refrigerant absorbs heat from the air outside (even when its cold, outside air contains a certain amount of heat) and releases it to warm your home.

With cold weather looming, these useful tips will help you save power and money on your bills as you heat your home.

- Keep your heat at 68° when you're home. Turn it down at night or when you're out. A programmable thermostat will help. Remember, because heat pumps are using outside air, the greater the difference between the outside temps and your thermostat setting, the more energy you will use.
- Turn up your heat gradually – no more than two degrees at a time – to keep your heat pump's auxiliary heat from coming on. Auxiliary heat costs three times as much to operate, but keep in mind that auxiliary heat will come on automatically if temperatures get to or below freezing.
- If your heat pump is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a more efficient ENERGY STAR® certified system. PWC customers can take advantage of our incentive program and earn up to \$400 for installing an ENERGY STAR heat pump, plus additional credits for replacing duct work and/or improving insulation.



## Safety Tips for Holiday Lights

It's that time of year when holiday lights go up and decorations come out in neighborhoods across our community and beyond. Here are some tips to keep in mind if you're thinking about dressing up your home for the holidays:

- Keep ladders away from overhead power lines.
- As a rule of thumb, string together no more than 3 light sets.
- Use 1 long extension cord instead of linking several shorter ones.
- Keep paper and ribbon away from hot lights.
- Unplug or shut off all decorative lights before bedtime or before leaving home.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) with all outdoor lighting.
- Use LED Seasonal lights – they last longer and save you more. See PWC's LED Seasonal Light Incentive program information on the reverse side.\*

For more information on energy-efficient lighting, visit [faypwc.com](http://faypwc.com)!



## Stay Connected in 2023

Get energy and water saving tips year round with PWC's annual Customer Connections wall calendar. The calendar will provide you with information about Time-of-Use rates, PWC programs, tips to save you money and more! The 2023 wall calendars are FREE (while supplies last)! Fill out the calendar request form at [faypwc.com](http://faypwc.com), or call 910-223-4009 to request a copy by mail. The complementary calendars will also be available at your nearest library!



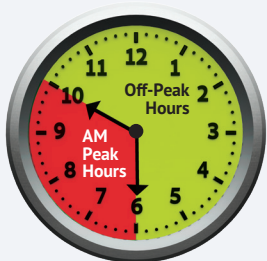
## LED Seasonal Light Incentive Programs

PWC's Seasonal Light Incentive Program offers electric customers up to \$40 in bill credits when they make the switch to LED bulbs! For complete program details, a link to the application, and list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit PWC's website or contact the Customer Programs Call Center at 910-223-4600. The Seasonal Light Incentive Program runs through December 31, 2022.

## Reminder: Time-of-Use Winter Peak Hours Start November 1st

Winter Peak Time-of-Use hours begin November 1 and run through March. Shift as much energy to Off-Peak (outside of 6-10 am weekdays) for the most savings as electricity used during Off-Peak hours costs 35% less than Peak. The lower Off-Peak rates occur 20 hours each weekday and all day on weekends and PWC observed holidays. For details, and tips on ways to Beat the Peak, visit [faypwc.com/time-of-use-rates/](http://faypwc.com/time-of-use-rates/)

Winter Peak Hours (November - March)  
For PWC Electric Customers



6-10 AM Weekdays

## Don't Let Your Holiday Cooking Become a Pain in the Drain!

The holiday of feasting and out of town guests can be particularly stressful, not just for you but for household pipes, drains and sewers too! Thanksgiving is the peak holiday for blocked drains, pipes and other plumbing disasters in the home. Follow these simple tips to avoid additional holiday pains!

How to properly dispose of fats, oils and grease:

- Never pour grease, turkey drippings, or cooking oil down drains. They solidify in pipes and clog drains. Allow them to cool, pour in a disposable container and put in the trash.
- Other foods to watch include meats, sauces, gravy, dressings, cheese, butter and anything deep-fried. All should be thrown in the trash, as well as eggshells and coffee grounds.
- Potato peels, poultry skins, bones, rice or pasta down the garbage disposal are also a big no-no. Disposals can handle small scraps, but most leftovers on thanksgiving plates should go into the trash can or compost pile.
- Putting grease down the drain can eventually mean clogs for you, potential backups into your home and sewage overflow in the PWC sewer system. So, please do your part by disposing of fats, oils and grease the proper way.



As the holiday season nears and you prepare for festivities, now is a good time to consider simple habits to reduce water consumption around the home. Whether you've finalized the holiday menu or are preparing to order-in, here are some simple conservation tips to start and share with friends and family:

## CONSERVATION CORNER

- Defrost frozen foods without water. Leaving the faucet on to defrost a frozen ham or turkey will waste extra water. Instead, let your frozen items defrost overnight in the fridge.
- If you have a dishwasher, use it. Washing full loads of dishes saves 5-15 gallons per load and uses significantly less water than washing by hand.
- Rinse veggies and fruits without running the faucet. Fill a large bowl or pan with water to rinse vegetables and fruits rather than running the tap. Use leftover water to water houseplants – including a live Christmas tree if you have one.
- Inspect your bathroom fixtures for malfunctions and leaks before your guests arrive. During the holidays, bathrooms are likely to experience heavier usage than normal which can lead to more issues.
- Run a full load of laundry. Laundry can increase with table linens and sheets and towels for guests over the holidays. Save time, energy and water by washing items together in full loads only.

Information courtesy of [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com)

## Time to Winterize Your Irrigation System

Without proper preparation, your sprinkler system might be damaged by freezing temperatures. Here are some tips on how to prepare your irrigation system for winter conditions.

- Shut off the water supply to the irrigation system. The main shut off valve for your irrigation system needs to be protected against freezing. Make sure it is wrapped with insulation (foam insulation tape and a plastic bag) to protect it from harsh winter temperatures and prevent it from freezing
- Remove the water from the pipes and sprinklers so that it won't freeze/expand and break the pipe. There are several ways to drain your pipes: a manual drain valve, an automatic drain valve or the compressed air blow-out method. Contact your local irrigation specialist for help. Many offer sprinkler winterization services this time of the year.
- Insulate backflow preventers and valves if they are above ground. You can also use insulation tape for this. Be sure not to block the air vents and drain outlets on backflow preventers.

Information courtesy of [rainbird.com](http://rainbird.com)