

# PWCC CONNECTIONS

Your Link to News & Information from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission March 2023

## Upcoming Events

### PWC-Power & Water Conservation Expo

Friday, March 24 10am-8 pm  
121 Hay Street  
Downtown Fayetteville

### Good Friday

#### PWC Offices Closed

Friday, April 7  
[www.faypwc.com/holidays](http://www.faypwc.com/holidays)

### NC Lineman Appreciation Day

Tuesday, April 18

### Earth Day

Saturday, April 22

### PWC Connections: The Podcast

Listen to PWC's Podcast for FREE on your favorite podcast listening platform.



Learn More!



## 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.



## Time-of-Use Summer Peak Hours Return April 1. Make the Switch and Save!

Peak hours for electric customers change from morning hours to afternoon hours beginning April 1. Peak hours are 3pm-7pm weekdays and will run through October. The afternoon during this time of year is when energy demand is at its highest and costs the most. Shifting use on weekdays to Off-Peak hours (20 hours each weekday) and all weekend will save you 35%.

For energy use during peak times, here's some tips to help you save.

### Heating and cooling account for a large portion of your electric use:

- Turn your thermostat up in warm weather
- Use a wi-fi thermostat to easily manage your cooling system
- Check our PWC's Smart Thermostat or Peak Savings program for maximum saving
- Minimize the use of appliances (especially heat generating like ovens) and use fans to make the temperature feel about 4° cooler

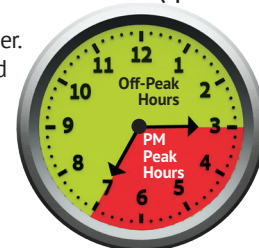
### Water Heaters are the next highest energy user:

- Use cold water settings for laundry
- If you can't take showers/baths during Off-Peak hours, shorten showers
- Check out PWC's Aquanta Peak Savings Electric Water Heater Incentive Program to save more!

### In General:

- Wash and dry laundry and run your dishwasher during Off-Peak hours
- Take showers/baths during Off-Peak hours
- Consider purchasing "smart" appliances

Summer Peak Hours (April - October)



3PM-7PM Weekdays



## Find More Energy and Water Savings at the PWC Expo-March 24!

Visit PWC on Friday, March 24, 2023, at 121 Hay Street in Downtown Fayetteville from 10am to 8pm. The PWC Expo is FREE and open to the public. Fill your FREE reusable tote with handy conservation tools like LED bulbs, Fat Trappers, shower timers and more! And don't miss entering to win a credit on your PWC bill! Find more details at [www.faypwc.com](http://www.faypwc.com).

## Be a Leak Seeker and Save!

The average American home can waste, on average, more than 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets and other household leaks! Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. Fix a Leak Week in March is a perfect time to check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems.

Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable.

- Detect a toilet leak by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing, you have a leak.
- If your toilet is leaking, the cause is often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper – a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- Leaky faucets can be fixed by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary.
- Most leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench. If you are replacing a showerhead, look for one that has earned the WaterSense label.



Learn More!



## March REMINDERS:

### Annual Water Changeover This Month

From March 1-March 31, PWC is conducting its annual water system maintenance in which we temporarily stop adding ammonia to its water treatment disinfection process. During the change, some water users may experience chlorine odor or experience periods of discolored water, a result of the system maintenance during this process. PWC will "flush" water out of the system by opening fire hydrants and allowing water to flow freely.

### Severe Weather Prep

North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Month is observed each March and it's a great time to be proactive because emergencies can happen at any time. PWC reminds you of two important things you can do to prepare:

#### Medical Priority Program

If you or someone in your home requires life-sustaining equipment which is dependent on electric and/or water service. Sign up to receive early notice and priority restoration consideration in the event of a scheduled or emergency interruption.



[Learn More!](#)

#### Outage Notification Signup

If your power goes out, you can save a call by signing up for PWC's electric outage notifications. Sign up through the Online Account Manager to receive text or email updates. When an outage occurs that impacts your service location, we'll send you a notification to let you know we're responding and confirm when services are restored.



## Spring is Here! Time to Save, Be Safe and Be Smart!

### Spring cleaning can have energy saving benefits!

- Spring cleaning is an excellent opportunity to clean your HVAC unit. An air conditioner's filters, coils, and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its years of service. After pollen season may be a good time to clean your unit and have it serviced.
- Washing the windows and screens can also help you save! Clean windows and screens make the home brighter by allowing more daylighting in the home and reduce the need for using lighting lamps and fixtures. Clean screens allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle the home's interior air. Natural light and clean air are not only energy and money savers, but they also enhance overall health and productivity. So, take the time to give your home some love, and save money and energy in the process!

### Spring into Safety

Spring means we're spending more time outside. Whether you're flying a kite or fixing up your yard, here are some important outdoor safety tips for you and your family.

- Keep away from all overhead wires, especially power lines.
- A kite in power lines is a lost kite — never try to retrieve it!
- Stay away from utility poles, guy-wires and pad-mounted transformers. Do not climb on any electrical equipment.
- Ladders, even wood, can be dangerous. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Inspect power tools, extension cords and appliances for fraying, broken plugs or damaged housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Always unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Electricity and water do not mix — never mow a wet lawn with an electric lawnmower, trimmer or edger. Never attempt to trim trees that are close to or touching power lines. If you see tree limbs on power lines, contact Fayetteville PWC immediately at 910-483-1382.



## Smart Spring Planting Tips

As spring planting and home improvements get underway, knowing about utilities around your property is very important!

- If you have a green PWC transformer box (underground electrical transformer) in your yard, don't plant anything within 9 feet from the front of the box and 3 feet from each side. Trees, shrubs and flowers planted too close, impedes our line worker's ability to make repairs and restore your power. If necessary, PWC may remove these obstructions without notice. When line workers have to take time to remove landscaping restricting access to the transformers, it delays power restoration to you and your neighbors.



- When planning improvements to your property, it is important to determine the locations of right-of-ways and utility easements early in the process. Because both are necessary for ongoing utility maintenance, property owners should avoid planting on those areas or placing permanent structures (such as fences, flagpoles, houses, sheds, pools and decks) to prevent delays in utility repairs or service restoration.
- Public utility right-of-ways include the areas in and along streets and roadways where utility poles, telephone/cable boxes, water meters, etc. are placed.
- Easements are also adjacent to private property lines and permission has been granted by the owner or former owner to cross the property with utilities.

