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The Hartselle



Serving Hartselle's People, Building for Hartselle's Future

Moving Forward On New Morgan County Industrial Park



The first phase of the Morgan County Industrial Park is underway, says Jeremy Nails, President and CEO of the Morgan County Economic Development Association. A \$15 million bond has been issued to build the site, and municipalities within the district have agreed to use their in-lieu-of-tax payments from TVA to repay the bond.

Nails says the site near the Thompson Road/I-65 interchange will be developed in four phases; the northwest quadrant is phase one. The Morgan County Cooperative District, the authority formed to oversee the industrial park, has already acquired the majority of the land for the first phase, he reports.

Phase one will include eight to ten various size lots, and Nails says they purposefully are not predetermining lot sizes. "We didn't limit ourselves or potential industries by dictating lot sizes," he explains. "We gave flexibility for planning in all directions."

What's next? "We are finalizing engineering drawings for the roads, and working with Joe Wheeler EMC to move the electric lines," says Nails. Hartselle Utilities is overseeing the project to extend sewers to the site. The infrastructure should be complete within six to nine months, provided the weather is good, Nails says.

Wayne Roberson, Hartselle Utilities Engineering Services Manager, estimates the sewer extension will take about six months. "We'll run pipes from Highway 31 to the park," he explains. "In all, we'll lay 4,600 feet of 12" gravity sewer, 5,200 feet of 10" force main and install a 500 gallon-per-minute pumping station."

Roberson says the sewer extension will be paid for by the Morgan County Cooperative District.

Nails explains how important the development of the site is to attract industry to the area. "We have shown the site to potential industries before, but without the infrastructure – water and sewer – in place, it's difficult to get on the list for a fast track project," he says.

Although he would like to bring an industry into the park as soon as possible, Nails is realistic. "I'd like to have something next week," he laughs, "but it's hard to put a timeline on when a project will start. You have to have patience and a vision for what you want the outcome to be."

TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment for January: -2.3%

The FCA affects the electric portion of your HU bill. The average residential electric bill in January 2009 was \$128.58; the average projected bill for January 2010 is \$104.74. HU's overall average cost of Natural Gas for this winter is down about 16% from 2009.

New Transformer Installed at District Substation

In July, a 50-year-old transformer at Hartselle Utilities' District Substation on Thompson Road blew up. After crews switched to the backup transformer at the substation and restored power, Hartselle Utilities General Manager Ferrell Vest had one request for Electric Superintendent Jonathan Hampton: fix it, and don't let the power go out during the process.



Hampton ordered a new transformer, keeping his fingers crossed that the backup transformer, also built in 1959, would hold. Given a three-month projected delivery schedule for the new custom-built transformer, Hampton began working with Stewart Engineering to develop a plan to redistribute the system's electric load away from the District Substation during the changeout.

Using computer modeling to predict what would happen as loads were increased along parts of the system, they pinpointed lines which were not big enough to carry additional load. HU crews reconnected these lines to make sure they could hold the larger loads. Then, Hampton and Stewart Engineering developed a 34-step plan to switch the electric load from the District Substation to the Primary Substation.

"Years ago, something like this would have meant a power outage to parts of our system," Hampton said. But in today's world, with so many residents and companies relying on computers and other electrical devices, that was not an option. When the transformer was delivered, the plan was put into place. Crews switched power to the

Continued on back

In November, HU electric crews installed a new transformer at the District Substation. Crews were able to safely change out the 50-year-old transformer without any power loss to HU customers.

Energized Guyz Visit Burleson Elementary



Nikki Neutron has been called to save the day. Again. This time, her boss, Mr. U. R. Fired, orders her to defeat arch-villain The Sneaker, who is bent on hoarding electricity and wasting what he doesn't need. It's up to Nikki to find him and catch him. Not knowing much about electricity or energy, Nikki enlists the help of friends Drizzle, Thunderstorm, and Bert the Dirt Expert. They teach Nikki - and the audience - about energy and

electricity, and how to use them more efficiently. Armed with her new knowledge, Nikki is able to defeat The Sneaker, and she and the audience promise to use energy wisely from now on.

This 25-minute play was presented to students at F.E. Burleson Elementary in October. Neutron and Sneaker were portrayed by actors from the National Theatre for Children, a Minnesota-based educational theater company. Their visit to Burleson was arranged by Hartselle Utilities and TVA.

"This entertaining program is designed to teach our next generation of consumers how to use resources wisely, and about the issues faced by utilities like TVA and Hartselle Utilities," explains HU Customer Service Manager Terri Harris. "It's an entertaining way for students to learn why it's bad to waste energy."

Operation Warm

The cold winter months are often hard on those with fixed incomes, and sometimes people in need face hard choices between paying utility bills and other needs, such as food or medicine. At times like this, customers often turn to Hartselle Utilities for help.

"Hartselle Utilities participates in several energy programs that provide assistance to households who qualify," HU Customer Service Manager Terri Harris says. "One program that all of our customers can help with is Operation Warm."

Operation Warm provides assistance to the elderly, people with disabilities and families with a health crisis. The Community Action Partnership of North Alabama provides resources to families and individuals in these situations and administers the Operation Warm Program. Customers must meet Community Action eligibility criteria to receive assistance.

HU accepts donations and forwards them to Community Action. Customers can make a one-time donation to Operation Warm, or choose to add a specific amount to their utility bill each month. To do so, complete the form below and return it to Hartselle Utilities. For more information, call 773-3340 or email Terri Harris at tharris@hartselleutilities.org.

To support Operation Warm, complete this form and return to Hartselle Utilities

- Please add \$_____ to my monthly Hartselle Utilities (HU) bill. I understand that I have the right to stop this contribution at any time by giving HU written notice, and that the amount I have indicated will be added to my monthly bill until such notice is received.
- I'm already an Operation Warm partner. Please increase my monthly donation to \$_____.
- Please add a ONE-TIME donation of \$_____ to my bill. I understand that the amount I have indicated will be added to one of my monthly bills.

Name _____ Account Number _____
 Address _____ Phone Number _____
 Customer Signature _____

Operation Warm is administered by Community Action Partnership of North Alabama, Inc.
 All monies donated go directly to those in need.

New Transformer, continued from front
 primary substation, brought in a crane to remove the old transformer, put the new one in place and energized it, then reversed the process to shift the power load back to the District Substation. The actual changeout took about a week.

Hampton admits to holding his breath when the power was switched away from and back to the substation. "With 34 steps in the process," he explained, "if we had gotten even one in the wrong order, or if the computer modeling had been wrong, the power would have gone out."

"It was impressive to watch how this came together," says HU General Manager Ferrell Vest. "This is not the situation we chose to be in, but it's what we found ourselves in. Our crews did what they needed to do."

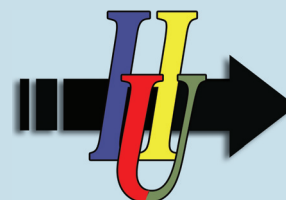
A good bit of the work performed had been planned during HU's five-year Capital Improvement Plan - and even provided for in this year's budget - Hampton explained, "but we just didn't know we would do it that soon," he laughed.

He added that the engineer from Stewart Engineering was very complimentary of HU. "He said that our five-year plan, and our board following through with the recommendations in it, made it much easier for this to happen successfully."

WWTP Finishing Second Year of 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Crews at HU's wastewater treatment plant are replacing the west screw pump - which lifts 2,400 gallons of influent wastewater each minute and dumps it into oxidation ditches at the plant - along with several smaller repairs around the screw pump. According to Robert Wright, HU Sanitary Sewer System Superintendent, when the project is completed in February this will complete all budgeted improvement items for this fiscal year, and bring the wastewater treatment plant up-to-date with repairs and improvements included in the 2007 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

In addition to replacing the 33-foot screw pump, one of three at the plant, contractors from Sue-Jac Construction will replace damaged and missing handrails around the screw pump, replace the lower platform grading, repair the sluice gate to the pump, and install fall protection around the ladder leading up to the screw pump. The total cost of the projects is expected to be \$48,500.



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