

October  
2021

The Hartselle

Connection

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

## High-Level Water Booster Station Project Underway

Due to topography, Hartselle Utilities' Water System is separated into two distinct sections, with Main Street serving as the approximate dividing line between the two.

The High Level Water District – named because of the area's elevation – is served by one water tower, the Hartselle Mountain tank, while the Low Level District has three water towers plus a ground tank.

Although the Hartselle Mountain tank can adequately serve the eastern section of the city most of the time, only having one tank with a one-way feed has caused nail-biting moments in the past.

"A water main break feeding the eastern side of town left two schools and numerous businesses and residents without water," says Hartselle Utilities General Manager Bob Sittason. The break was repaired quickly, but it was still an inconvenience, and had there been a fire, could have been catastrophic.

In addition, there is currently no way to take the Hartselle Mountain tank offline for repairs and maintenance; necessary work is done by divers in sanitized suits.

For decades, Hartselle Utilities searched for land to build a second tower to serve the High Level District, but was unable to find a



PHOTO COURTESY OF DWIGHT TANKERSLEY

suitable location. Three years ago, with the development of advanced pumping technology, HU staff switched gears and began, instead, looking for a location to build a ground-level water booster station. They found the land they needed on Bethel Road, and work began this summer.

"We started the pipeline work along Bethel Road right at the end of the school year," explains Daxton Maze, Hartselle Utilities Engineering Services Manager. "The bulk of that work is complete and was done prior to school starting back."

When complete, the water booster station will deliver to the high-level district to create an additional feed into the system, Maze says. "The goal is to provide redundancy, resiliency and help mitigate outages."

The total cost of the project will be approximately \$2 million, according to Maze. It is being funded through a low-interest state revolving fund loan from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). Hartselle Utilities water customers should not see an increase or decrease in their water pressure as a result of the project, Maze explains, and water service will not be interrupted.

Construction of the Booster Station should be complete during the summer of 2022.



Hartselle Utilities takes great pride in serving our friends and neighbors with some of our most essential needs. Celebrate Public Power with us October 3-9!

## Winter Weather is on the way: Is your home ready?

Cold weather generally means higher utility bills. But there are things you can do to keep your costs down:

- Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you can save five percent on heating costs.
- Weatherproof your windows by caulking around them, and replace old weather

stripping around doors.

- Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees. You'll save money all year – and you won't notice the difference.
- Unless there is a fire burning, keep your fireplace damper closed. Keeping the damper open is just like keeping a fireplace-sized window open during cold weather.

## Hartselle Utilities will be closed on these holidays:

- Veteran's Day: Wednesday, November 11, 2021
- Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 25, 2021 and Friday, November 26, 2021
- Christmas: Thursday, December 23, 2021 and Friday, December 24, 2021
- New Year's: Thursday, December 30, 2021 and Friday, December 31, 2021
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 17, 2022

## HU Recognizes Employees for Years of Service



Watson



Chenault



Owens



Scales



Sandlin



Summerford



Long



Dorrance



Robertson

Hartselle Utilities' celebration for employee anniversaries in 2020 was delayed due to the pandemic, but that doesn't diminish our appreciation of their service. These are our employees who achieved five-year anniversaries during 2020. Thank you for your dedication.

**20 years of service:** Laura Watson, Engineering & Operations Assistant; Sherry Chenault, Finance & Accounting Assistant; Kris Owens, Sewer System Inspection Operator; Scott Scales, Field Operations Foreman; Greg Sandlin, Purchasing & Facilities Manager.

**15 years of Service:** Jason Summerford, Electric Lineman.

**10 years of service:** Chris Long, Warehouseman; Jeremy Dorrance, Customer Service Assistant Manager.

**Five years of service:** Brandon Robertson, Field Operations Foreman.

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## Welcomes and Bittersweet Goodbyes



**Congratulations Talton Johns on your retirement!**

After 25 years of faithful service, Talton Johns retired from Hartselle Utilities on August 1st. Talton retired as the first meter technician in the Engineering Services Department, which was established in the year 2000. He developed expertise in working with Hartselle's water and natural gas systems along with the inner workings of service meters. Easily identified by his trademark long beard, Talton was known by our customers as the man who replaced and repaired water and natural gas meters. He was often knocking on doors to ensure the safety of our customers. He was a great employee and coworker and will be greatly missed!

Following Talton Johns' retirement, John Kyzer was promoted to meter technician. John previously worked as a meter reader for two years and has been a quick study in his new position.

HU welcomes our newest Meter Reader, Chris Grimm. Chris started with HU on June 28th. He and his wife, Brittany, along with their young son reside in Cullman, Alabama. He has made an immediate positive impact to our team due to his previous meter reading experience. You may see Chris along with our other hard-working meter readers on their daily routes reading your electric, natural gas, and water meters.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL HOWARD, © 2021 RAW IMAGES



Kyzer



Grimm

## Utility Pole Inspections Starting in October

From mid-October through December, crews from Osmose will inspect utility poles on the Hartselle Utilities system in the Southeast area of town. This section includes south of Main Street and east of Highway 31.

Crews will inspect and treat approximately 1,100 poles. "During the inspections, customers might see crews in your yard," says Electric Superintendent Jonathan Hampton.

Over time, decay and wood-destroying insects can cause wooden utility poles to lose their strength. Hartselle contractors inspect and treat every pole within the system every 8-10 years.

This helps identify bad poles before they break. By treating every pole that isn't bad, it prolongs their expected life span, according to Hampton.

## Hartselle Recycling Calendar

Recycling pickup has started again for Hartselle residents. If you have a question about sanitation pickup, containers, or your Recycling Pickup Zone, visit [hartselle.org](http://hartselle.org) or call Public Works at (256) 773-2643.

October '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

November '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

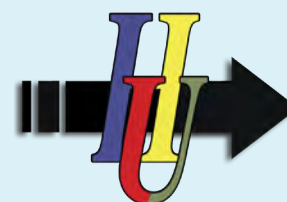
ZONE 1-A	ZONE 2-A	ZONE 3-A	ZONE 4-A
ZONE 1-B	ZONE 2-B	ZONE 3-B	ZONE 4-B
November 8: Zones 3-B and 4-B	November 22: Zones 3-B and 4-B	December 20: Zones 3-B and 4-B	December 27: Zones 1-B and 2-B

**Hartselle Public Works: (256) 773-2643**

Have a non-emergency question or a question about your bill? Email us at [inquiries@hartselleutilities.org](mailto:inquiries@hartselleutilities.org). We try to respond to billing and general questions within 24 hours; service issues that need investigation may take up to 48 hours. **To report a gas leak, sewer backup or power outage, call our office.** Our phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During business hours (M-F, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm), call (256) 773-3340. After hours, call (256) 773-2533 or (256) 773-2588.



**256-773-2533 or 911**



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256-773-3340  
[HartselleUtilities.org](http://HartselleUtilities.org)

A message from the Hartselle Fire Department:



**Put smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement.**

