



www.TallahomaUtilities.com

Utility Line



A publication for the customers of Tullahoma Utilities Authority

September 2021

Rural Route 4 Do Little Ants Beat Ivy?

While mowing the yard the other day, I had the extreme misfortune of stepping on a fire ant bed. Those little critters had quite a temper. In the few seconds it took for them to cover my feet and legs, they became madder than an old, wet hen and attacked me with a vengeance.

I quickly removed my shoes and socks and ran like a scalded dog to the porch where I examined my wounds. Their bites were like a hot poker. Soon, red splotches appeared, and then little, white blisters. A chill swept over me and I felt dizzy. How in the world can something so small pack such a big wallop?

As I sat on the porch plotting my revenge, my thoughts turned to something else. Why are there fire ants? What purpose do they serve? And why are they so angry all the time? I guess similar questions can be asked about other things as well. Like poison ivy. It's just a green plant, right? Wrong! It's a chemical-carrying nightmare, that's what it is. Come in contact with it and soon you'll have redness, swelling, blisters and even skin destruction. You'll itch like old Blue does when he has fleas. This menace has pestered me too many times.

Once, back on Rural Route 4, I found a large vine clinging to the trunk of a tree near the creek. I thought to myself, "Why cross the creek on the rocks when I can swing across?" So, I quickly cut the vine, loosened it from the tree and tugged on it to see if it was strong enough for my weight. It was. With a run-and-go, I swung out over the creek and landed on the other side. Once wasn't enough. I did it again. And again. And again. I wore himself out, and didn't get home until dusk had fallen. And I itched. All over.

I didn't know it, but each time I had swung across the creek I had landed in a patch of poison ivy. By bedtime, my skin was red and I was miserable. Mama B slathered generous amounts of pink calamine lotion all over me. I looked like a big blob of Pepto Bismol. No, I don't think there's any redeeming value to poison ivy.

(Continued on back)



Phillip Burgess

Find and Fix Leaks

Monitoring for leaks is the best way to prevent water damage. At TUA, our smart meters alert us if they read unusual water use at your home or business. This alert has helped hundreds of customers address leaks quickly, before they caused significant damage to their property—or their pocketbook!

Left unchecked, small leaks under your water heater, washing machine, or sink can cause problems throughout your home or business, including structural and foundational damage.

One important thing you can do to ensure your home is protected is make sure the contact information on your TUA account is up to date. If we can't reach you, we can't warn you.

Even if you don't see a big bill increase, it's important to address leak notices right away. Small leaks almost always become bigger problems.

Contact our office with questions at 455-4515.



Celebrate with us! Join us from 3:00 -5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 30
for pizza, games and fun on the TUA grounds.

**Residential Gigabit
Internet
Just \$79.95!**

Watts Happening



Tulahoma Utilities Authority has earned the 2021 Community Service Award from the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association (TMEPA). This award is given to a utility whose activities within the community help to improve the social, cultural, educational or economic environment of that community. Pictured, from left: TUA board members Mike Stanton and Bob Lindeman; TMEPA President Darrel Gillespie; TUA President Brian Skelton; Vice President of Administration Mary Mealer and Vice President of Electric and Fiber Brian Coate.



DID YOU KNOW? Tullahoma High School Wildcat football is LIVE on LightTube Channel 23 again this year. Call 455-4515 to sign up today!

(Continued from front)

Ditto for chiggers! Ask any country boy that's ever-picked blackberries and he'll tell you that getting chiggers is just about the worst thing that can happen to you. Chiggers are so small that it's difficult to see them with the naked eye. You can't feel it when they bite. While it has been decades since I've fought my way through the briars and thickets to pick blackberries, I remember all too well. The chiggers. Or if you prefer, redbugs. There are a few other names that I have that can't be repeated.

Chiggers love blackberry bushes. As you tromp through the bushes plucking those delicious berries the little devils are carrying out their assault on you. They've planned their attack and they'll focus on your ankles, behind your knees and elsewhere. Best thing to do is to shower and scrub your skin until it turns beet red. But you can expect to severely itch for several days, even if you apply lotion or other over the counter remedies.

Fire ants. Poison ivy. Chiggers. If it were left up to me, they wouldn't exist. But the Bible says that God created all things and when he did, he saw that it was good. I guess I'll just have to take His word for it.

Introducing Home Uplift

What is Home Uplift?

TUA has partnered with TVA EnergyRight to bring the Home Uplift Program to our community. Through Home Uplift, income-qualified residents can receive valuable home energy upgrades that will improve their home's energy efficiency and comfort and lower their utility bills—at no cost to them.

Home Uplift is about creating change that will improve quality of life for families in our community who need it most. The Home Uplift Program is first-come, first-served and income restrictions do apply.

To be eligible to apply, your family must meet these requirements:

- Be a TUA electric customer
- Own a single-family home
- Meet income qualifications

Upgrades might include attic insulation, duct replacement or repair, high-efficiency lighting, whole house ventilation, windows and more!

Apply for Home Uplift

How Does Home Uplift Work?

Step 1: Apply

Stop by TUA or call 888-986-7262 for an application. To be eligible for no-cost energy upgrades, you must be a TUA electric customer, own a single-family home, and meet low-income qualifications.

Step 2: Energy Audit

Once we process your application, an energy advisor will call to schedule an Energy Audit. We'll look at things like your home's heating and cooling equipment, duct systems and insulation. If we can help upgrade your home, we'll contact you to discuss beginning work.

Step 3: Upgrades and inspection

Next, a contractor will be assigned to do the work. Once it's complete, one of our team members will come out to inspect the work, ensure everything is done correctly and answer any questions you have about the upgrades.