



InfoLine

FALL 2006



Something's in the air
in Downtown Dalton

OptiLink Wi-Fi

Get connected in Downtown Dalton!

OptiLink now offers **Wi-Fi** throughout **Downtown Dalton!** Hourly, daily or monthly subscriptions available...with rates ranging from \$.05 to \$2 per hour. **FREE** access for **OptiLink Internet customers!**

OptiLink expands into Whitfield County

Dalton Utilities' OptiLink family of services will soon be available in selected areas of Whitfield County. OptiLink is currently undergoing an expansion to the North end of Whitfield County along the Cleveland Highway corridor - from the Green Acres subdivision to the Highland Forest subdivision. The expansion project will also include homes and businesses in the Haig Mill Road, Pleasant Grove and Northwest High School areas. "Specific areas were chosen because of the density of homes and/or businesses," said Hank Blackwood, Dalton Utilities Vice President of Information Technology. "At least one other expansion project is in the planning at this time for the Westside area, which we plan to begin sometime in 2007."

The following services are available from OptiLink for residential or business customers:

Television:

- Basic and Digital Cable
- Movie and Sports Packages
- High-Definition Television
- Personal Video Recorders (PVR)
- Video on Demand (VOD)

Telephone:

- Affordable Long Distance Packages

- Voice Mail

Internet:

- 1.5, 3 & 4 Mb services

- Additional emails and storage

Winter Electric Rates Go Into Effect October 1

Dalton Utilities will begin billing electrical customers at winter electrical rates beginning October 1, 2006. Winter rates apply to the period of October 1 through May 31.

What is the difference between summer electrical rates and winter electrical rates? Winter rates are lower. Enjoy!

GEORGIA DROUGHT UPDATE

On June 21, 2006, Georgia declared a state of Drought Response Level One. The Outdoor Use Schedule during Drought Response Level One follows:

- For addresses ending in odd numbers, use is allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- For addresses ending in even numbers, use is allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Outdoor water use is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and all day on Fridays.

The past 6 months have been abnormally dry across the state of Georgia with a 7-inch rain deficit. The average temperature in July 2006 was 80.9 F. This was 0.9 F warmer than the 1901-2000 (20th century) average, the 23rd warmest July in 112 years. Additionally, total precipitation for July was 3.31 inches, which was 2.26 inches less than the 1901-2000 average, the 7th driest such month on record. In fact, the precipitation trend for the period of 1895-present is -0.09 inches per decade. For the remainder of the summer, experts expect conditions to remain relatively stable and Georgia to remain relatively dry.

For information about maintaining lawns and landscapes during the drought, visit www.conservewatergeorgia.net or www.watersmart.net.

At-A-Glance Watering Tips

Watering Your Lawn/Landscape:

- Water Your lawn between 4 am and 8 am to prevent evaporation
- Water slowly and deeply—deep watering encourages root growth
- Don't over water. Generally your lawn needs only about 1 inch of water every 7 to 20 days to remain healthy.
- Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation.
- Use an automatic time controller and attach a rainfall sensor to turn off the irrigation system if significant rainfall has occurred.

Landscape Planning and Design:

- When planting, group plants and turf with similar water needs in the same zone.
- Plan for shade - a shaded landscape can be as much as 20 degree cooler than a landscape in full sun and preserves moisture.
- Arbors, trellis, and fences with vine covers can be effective sources of shade and help retain moisture.
- Choose a drought resistant turf, such as Tifway Bermuda or Common Bermuda.
- Organic mulch acts as insulation for soil. Spread it out to the drip line and beyond but do not pile it up against trunks.
- Place newspapers (2 sheets thick) under organic mulch to help conserve water. Soak the newspapers thoroughly after applying the mulch.
- Create practical turf areas such as small areas near the home entrance.
- Apply about 3" of mulch under ornamental plants. Use hands to pull mulch back 2-3 inches from the base of the tree or shrub to prevent wood rotting disease.

Landscape Maintenance:

- Raise the mower blade during dry weather. Cutting the grass higher encourages deeper rooting, increases turf survival during drought, and reduces water demand.
- Always keep the mower blade sharp -dull blades shred leaf tips, causing the turf to use more water.

ATTENTION WATER CUSTOMERS!

Are You Under Pressure?

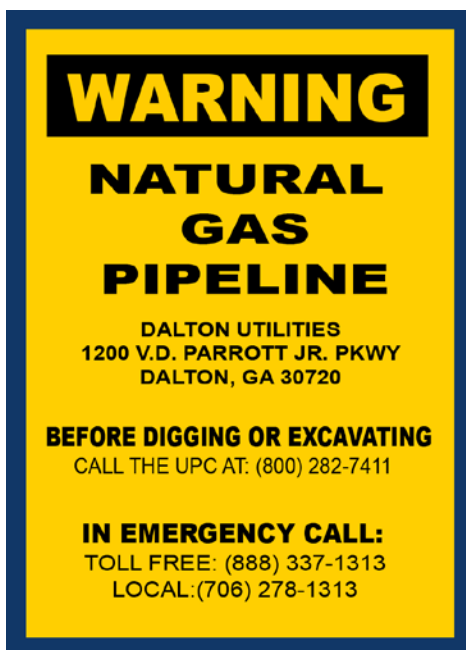
Dalton Utilities, in accordance with regulations, is required to ensure that all water meters have backflow prevention valves installed. With the Utility's installation of Automated Meter Reading devices, new residential water meters with backflow prevention devices are being installed throughout our system. So what is a backflow prevention valve and why is it necessary? These valves prevent contaminated water from being siphoned back into the water system from customers' side of the meter, thus insuring fresh, untainted water for all customers.

However, the backflow prevention also closes off a home or business' water system. Therefore, when the water heater is working during periods of low usage (when everyone is at work/school or the middle of the night) it creates an effect known as thermal expansion. As the heated water is produced in the water heater and is not used, the water expands into the pipes but is prevented from going into the public water system by the backflow prevention valve. Therefore, the water only has one direction to travel - back to the house. Water

heaters are fitted with pop-off valves to prevent too much pressure from building up in the water heater. However, some pop-off valves become weakened with age or from the pressure caused when the water heater temperature is set too high. These old or weakened pop-off valves can malfunction, resulting in water leaks.

In order to prevent this situation from occurring, Dalton Utilities recommends that all customers install a relief device - either a potable water expansion tank pre-pressurized diaphragm OR a ball-cock and thermal expansion relief valve assembly. The expansion tank installs on the water line either entering or exiting your water heater. The ball-cock and thermal expansion relief valve assembly simply installs in a toilet tank within your home. After installing one of these pressure relief devices, we recommend that you have your plumbing and the installation of the relief device inspected by a licensed plumbing contractor.

Do YOU live near a natural gas pipeline?



Natural gas is one of the safest, cleanest and most affordable forms of energy available. It is piped across the state through high-pressure transmission lines, marked with signage, that are maintained and monitored by the owners (like Dalton Utilities) to keep them in safe and proper operating condition. However, individuals living or working near these pipelines need to be aware that care must be taken with construction or excavation. Before you dig, always call the Utilities Protection Center at 1-800-282-7411.

Dig Safely.
1-800-282-7411

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Then check out **NBA LEAGUE PASS** for free on OptiLink digital cable from November 1 – November 8 on channels 700-712. There's no obligation and no need to order, just tune in to the Free Preview.

See the games you can't see anywhere else. Catch up to 40 out-of-market games a week throughout the regular season. Even if you live in one city and your team is in another, NBA LEAGUE PASS brings you all the fast breaking action. To order NBA LEAGUE PASS on digital cable, call an OptiLink representative at 706-529-1313 or dial 888-SPORTS-iN

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