Welcome back to Bright Ideas, Georgia Power’s Outdoor Lighting newsletter! The weather is beginning to cool down just a bit (finally!), and soon the days will be getting short. In this issue, you can find out why your outdoor areas and facilities will stay “lighter, longer” next year, learn how keeping your outdoor lighting needs in mind when planning 2007 budgets makes good business sense, and read about Albany State University’s successful implementation of new outdoor lighting. If you have any questions about the newsletter or ideas for upcoming issues, please let us know.

A Little More Daylight in 2007

Usually, we’re focused on how to keep you, your employees and your customers out of the dark with Georgia Power Outdoor Lighting. Here, we have some good news on how Mother Nature’s going to give you more daylight next year — with a little help from the Energy Policy Act, that is.

As part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, next year we’ll all “spring forward” three weeks earlier and “fall back” one week later than before. Beginning in 2007, Daylight Saving Time begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, and ends at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November. (Note: Daylight Saving Time is not observed in Hawaii and most of Arizona.)

One of the biggest reasons we change our clocks at all is that it saves energy because we turn on lights later in the evening. The change also means it stays dark longer in the morning, so we return to standard time for the darkest months of the year. But the results of Daylight Saving Time are well worth the effort. Studies done by the U.S. Department of Transportation in the 1970s show that using Daylight Saving Time reduces the country’s electricity usage by about one percent every day. By extending Daylight Saving Time another month, we can save even more energy.
Lighting the Way for Students in Albany

The situation: Albany State University recently added four new dormitories to its campus, so new outdoor lighting was needed quickly for areas around the dorms on two different sites. One site is served by Georgia Power, but the other is served by Albany Water, Gas & Light. Also, the University has managed its own outdoor lighting systems in the past, but has had some problems using contractors for installation and maintenance.

The Georgia Power Outdoor Lighting solution:
A total of 74 new lights were installed for the system, 38 of which required special-order concrete poles. Georgia Power’s leasing and maintenance program helped Albany State get the outdoor lighting system they need, plus it provides installation, electricity fees and maintenance — right down to changing the light bulbs. So there will be no more headaches with maintaining the lights or scheduling service.

Since the dorms were added to an existing campus, it was important that the new lighting match what was already in place. Georgia Power also had to work in conjunction with other vendors as the dorms were built. Matching the existing lighting wasn’t a problem, but with only eight weeks of lead time, the deadlines were a bit trickier. “Some of the poles had to be special ordered, and the University’s timeline was very tight,” said lighting expert Mia Davis. “We had to overcome the lead time issues as well as a few things that had to be redone.” Several times, other vendors inadvertently cut Georgia Power cables, and some decorative poles were even knocked down and had to be reset.

To overcome the two-site issue, Georgia Power was able to set a new transformer on the edge of one site so that all of the new outdoor lights will be served by the company. Keeping all the outdoor lighting together means the University is able to have a consistent rate, as well as combined billing for the system.

Budget Now for Outdoor Lighting
As fall rolls around and many of you are beginning to work on budgets for next year, keep your outdoor lighting needs in mind! Even if you aren’t sure what outdoor lighting you might need for your business, Georgia Power can help.

We can provide a free lighting analysis to understand your lighting needs, check your current lighting levels and identify any problem areas. Then we’ll propose the best solution for your business, whether that involves cost-effective upgrades or an efficient new system.

Call 1-888-768-8458 to learn more or to schedule your lighting analysis.