

After Forty Years of Dependable Service, It's Time to Switch Out Pumps



The Pump People®

Proven Quality, Reliability of Gorman-Rupp Pumps Key to Longevity of Lift Station Installations in the City of Fairhope, Alabama

Not many lift station pumps are still pumping after over forty years of non-stop use. Not many lift station pumps last over forty years and still pump reliably. But in the City of Fairhope, Alabama, several of the lift stations outfitted with Gorman-Rupp pumps have been doing just that—pumping reliably since they were installed in 1974.

Situated on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, in southwestern Baldwin County, the City of Fairhope is home to over 17,000 people. The growing community relies on its Public Utilities Department for quality and consistency of service.

The demands of a thriving residential population and a revitalized downtown, as well as a surge in commercial development on the Eastern Shore, puts the city's Water and Sewer Department through its paces daily. Fairhope's Water Department is the largest supplier of water in Baldwin County, serving an estimated 40,000 people and pumping an average of 4.6 million gallons of water a day from ten wells. The Water and Sewer Department maintains 65 lift stations and a wastewater treatment facility which services the area.

Ensuring Continuity of Service to Residents

Dan McCrory, a 20-year veteran of the City of Fairhope's Water and Sewer Department, and its current Superintendent, is responsible for maintaining the smooth functioning of water delivery and waste water removal. He oversees a staff of four employees whose main responsibilities are to maintain and service all 65 of the city's lift stations.



Old versus new. One of the old pumps from the original station was still pumping reliably after forty years of service. The entire station was completely retrofitted in just under five hours.

Of those lift stations, sixty have self-priming pumps and five have submersible pumps; the majority of the lift stations utilize Gorman-Rupp pumps.

Super T Series® self-priming pumps from Gorman-Rupp do the bulk of the work in the Fairhope waste water system—specifically the 4” and 6” models. Versatile and easy to service and maintain, Super T Series® pumps are designed particularly for industrial and sewage applications. A variety of pump sizes, impeller trims



In 2013, the City of Fairhope began construction upgrades to their wastewater treatment plant. Based on their success with T Series® and Super T Series® products, a majority of pumps installed throughout the facility were Gorman-Rupp self-priming centrifugals, including these four 12” 10 Series nitrate recycle pumps.

and speed variations can be combined to meet the specified requirements of any system, be it a residential sub-division or large waste water system.

As superintendent of the department, McCrory makes the purchasing decisions for new equipment for Fairhope. It is his job to source and recommend equipment that will provide reliable service for the utilities’ customers and provide ease of maintenance for his staff.

Like any growing area, the City of Fairhope suffers the occasional breakdown of wastewater removal. Most major clogging issues are caused by new sewage, solid debris such as nonwoven wipes and hygiene products that makes its way into the sewage system. Though billed as “disposable” and “biodegradable,” this solid debris does not break down swiftly or sufficiently once in the sewer system, causing accumulated buildup that can clog the sewer system and disrupt pumps.

The department maintains a rigorous routine maintenance and service schedule for all its lift stations and equipment to guarantee any disruptions of service are kept to a minimum.

Proven Product Quality and Dependability

When Gorman-Rupp pumps were installed in Fairhope’s lift stations years ago, few might have anticipated that they would be functioning forty years in the future. McCrory is of the opinion that it is simply what one can expect from a Gorman-Rupp pump. And it is this reason that sustains his loyalty to the brand.

What differentiates Gorman-Rupp pumps, parts and support from its competitors—ease of maintenance, factory and distributor support, product quality, warranty coverage and parts availability—are the reasons McCrory chooses Gorman-Rupp.

“Those are all good reasons for owning a Gorman-Rupp,” explains McCrory. “If you’re looking for the most bang for your buck, if you’re looking for longevity, ease of maintenance, quality, warranty...those are all factors in making the decision for going with Gorman-Rupp.”

The Intangibles—Factory Training, Distributor Support, Employee Safety

And it is not simply the nuts and bolts of the products that are purchasing influencers; there are intangibles that also factor into the purchasing decision.

According to McCrory, factory training at the Gorman-Rupp facility has been invaluable: “...training on equipment that you use, you cannot put a value on that.”



When researching equipment and the effort required to maintain it, McCrory puts employee safety as a high priority. Ease of maintenance is important, but knowing that his employees are protected by built-in safeguards is a primary influencer.

Fairhope has depended on quality pumps from Gorman-Rupp for years, not only because the pumps have proven to be reliable products, but also due to the quality of service the city receives from its Gorman-Rupp distributor, Jim House & Associates. McCrory says the support received from its representative from Jim House, Stenson Biggs, is exceptional. He is responsive, offering solutions and options when trouble arises. Additionally, having Stenson down the road at their Fairhope satellite office is extremely convenient.

Knowing Gorman-Rupp pumps and replacement parts are readily available from the distributor adds yet another facet to the service aspect. On the rare occasion the distributor does not have the required part in stock, a call to Gorman-Rupp gets the spare part shipped, usually within 24 hours of order placement.

Looking Toward the Future

The City of Fairhope anticipates tremendous growth in the next five to ten years.

After a period of dormancy, development is returning to the area, increasing the demands placed on the water and sewer department. Additional lift stations will be required to serve the new development.

According to Fairhope's development and building ordinances, contractors for sub-divisions are responsible for installing pumps and lift stations to serve their sub-division.

Purchasing a complete lift station from Gorman-Rupp makes installation a turnkey operation for the contractor, and it assures the city's Water and Sewer Department the pump station has been tested at the factory and will meet the requirements set by the city's engineers.



In working with Stenson Biggs (left) and Jim House & Associates, the City of Fairhope and Dan McCrory (right) plan to continue installing Gorman-Rupp pumps and ReliaSource® lift stations as the city continues to grow.

As the City of Fairhope continues to thrive, the dependence on its public utilities will continue to grow. The city's Water and Sewer Department will be ready to handle the challenge, knowing that their lift stations are equipped with durable, long-lasting pumps from Gorman-Rupp.

About The Gorman-Rupp Company

The Gorman-Rupp Company is a leading manufacturer of pumps and pumping systems for the municipal, water, wastewater, sewage, industrial, construction, petroleum and OEM markets. Pumps include self-priming centrifugal, standard centrifugal, submersible, trash, priming-assisted and rotary gear pumps. In addition, The Gorman-Rupp Company manufactures a complete line of packaged lift stations and booster stations, which include pumps, motors, controls, piping, accessories and enclosures. The company prides itself on manufacturing and delivering the right pump for the job.



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