

Watt's News

April 2010 Volume 23, No 04

Official Newsletter of Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401

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Bank Draft/Recurring Credit Card Payment Changes

BPU has had several requests to change the ACH draft due dates to the actual due dates of the monthly utility bill. Effective with the billing that you receive in May and due in June, the draft dates will be due date of your bill. A notice was sent out to all current bank draft and recurring credit card customers

The following guide shows when your bill will be withheld from your bank account or credit card.

- Account numbers beginning with 01, 02, 03, 04, or 05 the payment will be withheld on the 3rd of each month.
- Account numbers beginning with 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, or 20 the payment will be withheld on the 10th of each month.
- Account numbers beginning with 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 the payment will be withheld on the 17th of each month.
- Account numbers beginning with 16, 17, or 18 the payment will be withheld on the 24th of each month.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give Kara a call at 825-3201.

Lawn Care

Everyday lawn care items such as mowing and watering create impacts on our waters.

For example, excess fertilizer can run off lawns and end up in our lakes and rivers. This can lead to excess plant and algae growth which can be harmful to fish and wildlife.

You can help keep our lakes and rivers clean by doing the following lawn care best management practices:

- Don't blow or rake leaves and other yard waste into • the street or gutter.
- Recycle yard waste or start your own compost pile. •
- Don't over irrigate. Water only when needed to save money and to prevent over-watering.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorous • free.
- Consider using organic fertilizers as they release nutrients more slowly.
- Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary. Use the least toxic product and always read the label.



Remember. **Only Rain in the Storm Drain!**

Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation March 2010 1.02" March 2009 8.50"

Average Temperatures March 2010 Hi 47 Lo 24 March 2009 Hi 25 Lo 1

Summer Sprinkling Gredit

Summer is coming and for all our residential customers who like to keep their lawns lush and green, and their gardens plentiful, BPU summer sprinkling rates will soon be in effect.

The sprinkling rate will begin after your meters have been read in May.

This credit is applied to your sewer charges (waste treatment and waste collection) on the bills you receive in:

- June
- Julv
- August
- September

For the above months, your sewer charges will billed on the monthly average water be consumption of your bill from:

- December
- Januarv
- February

Photos of Wastewater Plant **Project Online**

Business & Repair

Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business: 829-8726

Repair: 829-2193

Emergency 24 hour

service 365 days a year:

218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

WWW.BPU.ORG

Check out www.BPU.org for the Wastewater Plant Progress.

Pictures are posted on BPU's website.

- www.BPU.org
- Click on Photos
- Click on options to view photos from Spring 2009 through February 2010.







2010 Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program

Brainerd Public Utilities makes bulb 50¢ C recycling as easy as a trip to your local hardware store. And, we'll even help pay the recycling fee. Here's how it works:

- Take your used bulbs*. and one coupon per bulb. to Brainerd Hardware Ace Store at 214 West Washington Street.
- Each coupon gives you 50 cents off the recycling fee for each qualifying bulb you recycle.
- During 2010, Brainerd Public Utilities will redeem up to 10 coupons per household or a small business that is a BPU customer.

Bulb Recycling Is Good For The Environment, And It's The Law

Used fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps require special care because they contain a small amount of mercury. Because mercury is harmful to the environment, Minnesota law prohibits the disposal of fluorescent bulbs in household garbage.

Although fluorescent bulbs may require special care after they've burned out, they'll/last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they use 75 percent less energy. With today's improved lighting technology, you can get the same warm quality of light as regular bulbs.

*Circular fluorescent tubes, U-bend fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-intensity discharge lamps, fluorescent tubes up to eight feet in length.

EFORE DIGGING: Call Gopher State One at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.

OTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector. Please call 825-3210 or 829-2193 for more information.

