



BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES

@ Your Service

June 2016
Vol: 28, No: 06

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—

Business & Repair

Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business Number:

829-8726

Repair Number:

829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:

218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

WWW.BPU.ORG

Facebook:



Brainerd Public Utilities
Call Gopher State One
at 1-800-252-1166 for
water & electric locations
before digging.

All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least 48 hours before digging begins.

All electrical work

performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed with the State of Minnesota.

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

- Stay hydrated.
- Don't stay out for too long.
- Check the forecast beforehand.
- Keep sunscreen nearby and use it.
- Check your prescriptions' side effects.
- Turn on the A/C.
- Beware of heat-related illnesses.

UTILITY PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY PHONE: 829-8726 ▼▼

Beginning April 1, Brainerd Public Utility customers will now pay their utility bill through an automated payment system.

When you call to make your payment, you will be transferred to an automated voice prompt that will direct you through a menu to process your payment quickly and efficiently by using a checking account, credit card, or debit card.

PLEASE NOTE: You will need to know your BPU account number to use the automated system.

VERBIAGE THAT CUSTOMERS HEAR WHEN CALLING AUTOMATED SYSTEM

Welcome to BPU automated utility bill payment system

BPU accepts payments from VISA, MasterCard or electronic checks

Please enter 1st set of digits of your (BPU) account number before 1st dash - when complete press # key

Enter 2nd set of digits of account number between the dashes - when complete press # key

Now enter last 2 digits of account number after the 2nd dash - when complete press # key

System repeats account number and then says if correct press 1 or press 2 to re-enter

Enter billing zip code followed by # key

If correct press 1 or 2 to re-enter

Enter 10 digit day time telephone number (System repeats telephone number to customer)

If correct press 1 or 2 to re-enter number

Amount Due is \$ _____ Your due date is _____

Press 1 for credit cards – Press 2 for debit cards with Visa & MasterCard logo – Press 3 for electronic ck

System will ask customer to enter card information or if they press 3 it will ask for routing number and account no of checking account.

Enter amount you want to pay. Use * key for decimal point

9 Tricks to Beat the Heat (without turning up the A/C) ►

We're coming up on summer, chances are you'll find yourself fighting a battle with the heat between now and the fall. Maybe you don't have air conditioning, maybe you're trying not to rack up big bills, or maybe you're trying to be more environmentally-friendly. Here are some tricks we've accumulated through years.

1. Keep the curtains or the shutters closed to keep the sun from streaming directly in helps keep your place a little cooler.
2. Hang a wet sheet in front of the window when the air passes through the damp cloth, the moisture cools it off.
3. Try a bowl of ice in front of a fan. Let the cool air blow over you.
4. Turn your fan around to face out. Blow the hot air out of the house. If you have a ceiling fan, turn it so it spins in the opposite direction and blows the hot air up and out.
5. Arm yourself with a spray bottle filled with chilled water and douse yourself liberally. As the water evaporates, it cools you down. You can also try plunging your hands into a bowl of ice water.
6. Turn off (and maybe even unplug) your electronics, like your computer, tv, chargers -- they all give off heat, as do dishwashers and your clothes dryer. Try drying your dishes and clothes the old fashioned way (air drying and line drying). You'll save energy and keep the house cooler.
7. Switch to CFLs, not only are they good for the environment because they use less electricity than conventional bulbs, but the bulbs don't get nearly as hot.
8. If you have a white noise machine, try rain or waves the cool sounds will help you feel cooler.
9. Strip your house of its rugs, throws and knick-knacks. Try filling it with plants instead. It's a visual trick that, like the aural trick above, works to fool your mind; bare surfaces look cooler which in turn makes you feel cooler.



Brainerd Public Utilities (AutoDialer) ▼▼

BPU is in the process of implementing its automated telephone communication system. This communication enables BPU to reach thousands of phone numbers in a matter of minutes. This system will be used to communicate planned and unplanned power outages, water information, and/or other information deemed important by BPU.

Customers have the responsibility of informing BPU of any phone number changes/updates. Call 829-8726 today to make sure we have a current phone number for you.

Moving ▼▼



If you are moving, please notify our office at 829-8726 at least a day in advance to have your meters read for your final bill. Please have your forwarding address ready to give to us.

Also, if you are selling your property, we need the new owner's name when you call in to final your account.

BPU requires an application for service to be filled out if you are beginning service with us or transferring service in our service area. The application is on our website at www.bpu.org. We can also mail the application to you. We will not read the meters until we have received the completed application.

Direct Payment Plan

We are pleased to offer you the **Direct Payment Plan** for utility payments. With this plan your utility bill payment can be made automatically from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

1. Saves time – fewer checks to write.
2. No late payments. Your payment is always on time, even if you're on vacation or out of town, helping to maintain good credit.
3. Saves postage.
4. Easy to sign up for, easy to cancel.
5. No late payment charges.

Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

1. You will continue to receive your monthly bill each month, allowing you to review the charges.
2. Your payment will be automatically deducted on the due date of your bill.
3. Payments can be made from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

To take advantage of this service, complete the bottom of this form and return it to Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT ▼▲

I authorize Brainerd Public Utilities and the financial institution named below to make automatic payments from the account I have specified on this authorization form. I understand that this authority is to remain in effect until cancelled in writing by myself, Brainerd Public Utilities, or the financial institution designated. If utilizing direct payment from a checking account I have attached a voided check showing my account number and routing transit/ABA number.

Brainerd Public Utility Account number as it appears on my utility bill _____

Customer's Name _____ Phone # _____

Customer's Address _____

Account type: Checking[] Savings[] Visa[] Master Card[]

Bank Account # _____ Routing Transit/ABA # _____

Credit Card # _____ ^{OR} Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Brainerd Public Utilities with any questions: PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401, or 218-829-8726