

Watt's News

July 2010 Volume 23, No 07

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

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Mosquito Control information

In the fall of 2008, a committee made up of Brainerd City Council members, community residents, and city staff investigated mosquito control for the city. This has been a pesky topic for the city at other times in the past as well, so the committee reviewed the newspaper reports and council minutes from past discussions, scientific literature, and information about other cities' programs, and held interviews with a biologist and two product yendors.

The group discussed justification for trying to control mosquitoes in Brainerd, the potential costs, and city liability in using various methods of control. In light of the current budget situation, the committee made no recommendations on a citywide insecticide program. It was agreed that an education effort would be undertaken in the spring and summer, through a variety of media to inform the greatest number of citizens about steps they can take individually to control mosquitoes.

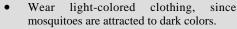
The committee recommends that interested citizens search the internet for such terms as "Mosquito control" or "Mosquito repellents" to find information that is most compatible with their desires for natural or chemical deterrents to these insects. A short list of starting points is included here.

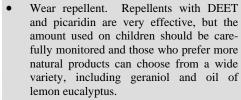
http://landscaping.about.com/cs/pestcontrol/a/mosquitocontrol.htm

http://walking.about.com/od/suncare/tp/repellent.htm

There are several actions that individuals can take to reduce mosquitoes and increase comfort:

- Clean rain gutters, swimming pools, bird baths, and other standing water, and remove old tires and other potential breeding sites.
- Aerate landscaping ponds to keep water moving.
- Limit outside activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.





- Keep windows and doors tightly sealed and in good repair to keep mosquitoes out of the house.
- Use the larval insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti) according to package directions.
- Some people find that citronella candles are effective repellants.
- Spray or fog personal yard space. (Be neighborly and make sure others are not bothered by the scent of candles or chemicals if you're using these options close to others' homes.)

Here is a list of phone numbers to help you get the answers you are looking for.

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Questions on billing statements, or other billing questions	825-3207
Moving in or out of a rental, or selling/purchasing a home or questions about a deposit	825-3200
Want to pay using a credit card (Visa or MasterCard)	825-3201
Set up a payment arrangement	825-3223
Business office	829-8726
Maintenance of utilities, power outages, water leak emergencies, wiring permits, trees in the lines, etc	829-2193
Repair Office	829-2193

Wastewater Collection

Each month on your utility bill, you are charged a wastewater collection charge. This charge is added to your bill on behalf of the City of Brainerd to help cover the City's wastewater collection costs. You are charged \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water that you use each month. If you have any questions regarding this charge, please call the City Engineer's Office at 828-2309.

BPU COMMISSIONERS

The following list is BPU's Commission members who are available for questions or to help you communicate better with Brainerd Public Utilities. They would like to help you in any way possible, so please give them a call!

Don Samuelson	829-4898
Donald Sievek	829-4867
Donald Stang	829-9292
William Wroolie	829-5421
Mark O'Day	829-3228

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.

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

Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation
June 2010 4.36"
June 2009 3.50"

Average Temperatures
June 2010 Hi 74 Lo 57
June 2009 Hi 74 Lo 48

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.

BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES **POLICY 2008-14**

Identity Theft Prevention Program Procedures

BPU has conducted an internal risk assessment to evaluate how at risk the current procedures are at allowing customers to create a fraudulent account and evaluate if current (existing) accounts are being manipulated. This risk assessment evaluated how new accounts were opened and the methods used to access the account information. Using the following information, BPU was able to identify the following red flags that were appropriate to prevent identity theft.

- New accounts opened in person
- New accounts opened via telephone
- New accounts opened via fax
- Existing account information accessed in person
- Existing account information accessed via telephone
- Existing account information accessed via web site

BPU adopts the following red flags to detect potential fraud. These are not intended to be all-inclusive and other suspicious activity may be investigated as necessary.

New Customers

- Fraud or active duty alerts included with consumer reports
- Notice of credit freeze provided by consumer reporting agency
- Notice of address discrepancy provided by consumer reporting agency
- Inconsistent activity patterns indicated by consumer reports such as
- * Recent and significant increase in volume of inquiries
- Unusual number of recent credit applications
- * A material change in use of credit
- * Accounts closed for cause or abuse
- * Identification documents appear to be altered
- * Photo and physical description do not match appearance of applicant
- * Other information is inconsistent with information provided by applicant
- * Other information provided by applicant is inconsistent with information on file
- * Application appears altered or destroyed and reassembled
- * Personal information provided by applicant does not match other sources of information (e.g. credit reports, SSN not issued or listed as deceased)
- * Lack of correlation between the SSN range and date of birth
- * Information provided is associated with known fraudulent activity (e.g. address or phone number provided is same as that of a fraudulent application)
- * Information commonly associated with fraudulent activity is provided by applicant (e.g. address that is a mail drop or prison, non-working phone number or associated with answering service/pager)
- * SSN, address, or telephone number is the same as that of other customer at BPU
- * Customer fails to provide all information that is requested on application
- * Personal information provided is inconsistent with information on file for a customer
- * Applicant cannot provide information requested beyond what could commonly be found in a purse or wallet
- * Identity theft is reported or discovered

Existing Customers

- Verify the identification of customers if they request information (in person, via telephone, via fax, via email)
- Verify the validity of requests to change billing address
- Verify changes in banking information given for billing and payment purposes

Response to Red Flags

Any employee that may suspect fraud or detect a red flag will implement the following response as applicable.

- Ask applicant for additional documentation
- Any BPU employee who becomes aware of a suspected or actual fraudulent use of a customer or potential customer's identity must notify the Accounting Supervisor or Finance Director.
- Notify law enforcement BPU will notify the Brainerd Police Department of any attempted or actual identity theft.
- Do not open the account
- Close the account
- Do not attempt to collect against the account, but notify authorities