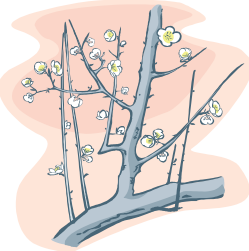


Watt's News

June 2008
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Official Newsletter of Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401

TREE TRIMMING



Summer construction is here. Tree trimming will be done on an emergency basis only.

Any tree trimming requests will be put on a list to be done during the winter months. Trees that interfere with Brainerd Public Utilities' power lines, with the exception of

service wires to residences or buildings, will be trimmed or removed depending on the circumstances.

Trimming or removal of trees on private property is the property owner's responsibility. Brainerd Public Utilities will temporarily remove and replace the property owner's service wires to accommodate the tree trimming or removal during normal business hours.

BPU requires 24 hours notification to temporarily remove the service wires.

If you would like to be put on the winter tree trimming list, call Phil at 218-829-2193.

NOTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be completed, filed, and work inspected by our inspector. If you need the form or have any questions, please contact BPU at **825-3210** or **829-2193**.

Make Your Life Easier with Our Payment Options

- Credit card payment with your Visa or MasterCard
- On-line payments (www.bpu.org)
- Direct payment plan (application available on our web-site)
- Drop your payment in one of our drop boxes located at the following locations:

1. The corner of 7th and Laurel Street.
2. Outside the Senior Citizen's Center at 803 Kingwood Street.
3. Outside the East Brainerd Mall at the Dollar Store entrance.
4. Outside our business office at 8027 Highland Scenic Road.



Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation

May 2008 2.64"

May 2007 3.19"

Average Temperatures

May 2008 Hi 64 Lo 40

May 2007 Hi 71 Lo 46

Business & Repair Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business 218-829-8726

Repair 218-829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year

218-829-2193

WWW.BPU.ORG

Automotive Care

Automotive care is very important in keeping our lakes and rivers clean. It is very important to keep vehicles properly maintained. Oil that leaks from vehicles onto roads and driveways washes into storm drains. The storm drains then flow into storm water ponds, ditches, and the Mississippi River. Just one gallon of motor oil can ruin a million gallons of water. You can help keep our lakes and rivers clean by doing the following automotive care best management practices:

- Stop drips. Check for oil leaks regularly and fix them promptly.
- Keep vehicles properly tuned to reduce oil use. Place ground cloths or drip pans beneath vehicles with leaks or while doing engine work.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Dispose of used oil properly. Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground, or into a ditch. An oil collection site is located behind the Fire Hall at 23 Laurel Street.



Remember, Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

BEFORE DIGGING: Call Gopher State One Call 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.



CONSERVE & \$AVE *Home* ENERGY CHECKLIST

If you're building a new home or beginning a home improvement or remodeling project, make sure you choose energy efficient appliances and equipment. Use this Home Energy Checklist to help you select products that are available in ENERGY STAR® models. You'll also find energy saving tips to use throughout your home. **It's simple. Save energy to save money!**

- Purchase energy efficient products to save hundreds of dollars a year on your utility bill while preserving our natural resources by consuming less energy.
- If you need an appliance that is not ENERGY STAR rated, such as a clothes dryer or water heater, look for general energy efficiency when purchasing these products.



APPLIANCES

ENERGY STAR qualified appliances use 10 to 50 percent less energy and water than standard models. If just one in 10 homes used ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, the change would be like planting 1.7 million new acres of trees.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS:

- When purchasing appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
- Keep your refrigerator between 35 and 38 degrees Fahrenheit and freezer at 0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Wash full loads; clothes washers and dishwashers are most efficient when operated with full loads.
- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Reduce water heater temperature to below 120 degrees (unless your dishwasher requires 140 degrees-check your manual).
- Dry your clothes on a laundry line instead of using a clothes dryer.
- Don't open your refrigerator too often! Every time the door is opened, up to 30 percent of the cold air can escape.
- Use microwaves, toaster ovens, and slow cookers. These use 75 percent less energy than an electric oven.
- When "peeking" in your oven to check on your food, you can lose 25 to 50 degrees or up to 30 percent of the heat. No "peeking"!
- Vacuum your refrigerator condenser coils every six months.

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

- Clothes Washers
- Freezers
- Room Air Conditioners
- Dishwashers
- Dehumidifiers
- Refrigerators
- Water Coolers
- Room Air Cleaners



LIGHTING

ENERGY STAR qualified lighting provides bright, warm light but uses at least 2/3 less energy than standard lighting, generates 70 percent less heat, and lasts up to 10 times longer.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS:

- When replacing light bulbs or fixtures, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), especially in areas of frequent use. (Special CFLs are even available for dimmer, 3-way, and recessed fixtures.)
- Use motion sensors, time clocks, or photo cells to control security lighting.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Clean light bulbs and fixtures regularly. A heavy coat of dust can block up to 50 percent of the light output.

ENERGY STAR LIGHTING

- Ceiling Fans with Lights
- CFLs
- Residential Light Fixtures



HEATING AND COOLING

If your HVAC equipment is more than 10 years old or not keeping your house comfortable, have it inspected by a professional HVAC contractor. If it needs upgrading, consider replacing it with an ENERGY STAR qualified unit.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS:

- When purchasing heating & cooling equipment, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
- Change your air filter regularly.
- Seal your heating and cooling ducts.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Limit your air conditioning to 78 degrees Fahrenheit and heating to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Open shades during the heating season and closed during the cooling season.

ENERGY STAR HEATING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT

- Furnaces & Fan Motors
- Programmable Thermostats
- Central Air Conditioners
- Geothermal Heat Pumps

For more information go to: www.energystar.gov