

Watt's News

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

May 2008
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2008 Taste Test Award

#1 Water

Presented to
City of Brainerd

For the
**Best Tasting
Drinking Water
in Minnesota**

Quality on tap
Our commitment
Our profession

Presented by MN Rural Water Association

Security Lighting

BPU offers a security lighting program. Security lighting illuminates possible safety hazards to make your property safe at night, and protects your home or business by discouraging vandalism, theft, and burglary. Security lighting is available to residential, commercial, and industrial customers. BPU installs the pole and maintains the security light. This service is offered for a monthly fee of \$12.00 plus tax per security light. Call us today to sign up for this program at 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.

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.



Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation

April 2008 26.50"

April 2007 12.00"

Average Temperatures

April 2008 Hi 50 Lo 27

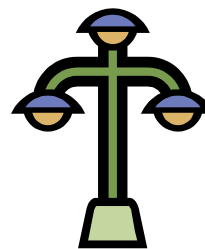
April 2007 Hi 54 Lo 28



If you are moving, please notify our office at 825-3200 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.

Reporting a Street Light Out



To report a street light out, please call 829-2193. Please be ready to give us an exact location of the street light in order for us to repair it in a timely manner. (example; NW corner of 5th and Maple Street intersection.)

**Bring this coupon to our office at:
8027 Highland Scenic Road**

Monday-Friday—7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

for a free energy efficient gadget

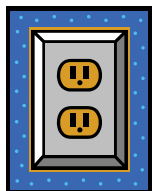
Please present coupon to receive this free offer

Sorry, but we can not mail out the free gift.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

Electrical wiring – improper installation, and/or damaged or deteriorated wiring and cords – sparks an estimated 53,600 home fires each year. These fires cause more than 500 deaths, 1,400 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage and loss each year. Additionally, emergency rooms treat approximately 2,400 children every year for injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical receptacles, according to a 10-year report released by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). This equates to about seven children each day. Even more alarming is that the report found that over 70% of these electrical incidents occur at home, with adult supervision typically present.



Objects children insert are everyday, easily accessible household items:

Hairpin—32%	Pin, wire, screw or nail—11%	Tool (tweezer, file or knife)—3%
Keys—17%	Plug—11%	Jewelry or belt buckle—1%
Finger—12%	Paper clip or staple—5%	



How serious are the injuries?

CPSC reported almost 95% of injuries involve burns. These range in severity, but a significant number of serious and fatal incidents result, and even minor injuries can leave emotional trauma. Pediatric burns can be particularly serious, because the skin is thin and offers little resistance to electric flow or heat. With infants and toddlers, burns and scars are even more severe.

These injuries can be prevented

Using a plastic outlet cap is a common solution to prevent children from sticking objects into outlets. Unfortunately, plastic caps are not the safest option and can be easily removed by a young child. A safer solution is installing tamper resistant outlets. These specialized outlets have been so effective in preventing injuries to children that the 2008 National Electrical Code requires that tamper resistant outlets be installed in all new homes constructed. However, these inexpensive products can easily be incorporated into older homes as well.



Air Conditioning How to Save Energy

A typical home uses 250-1000 kiloWatt-hours per year for air conditioning in one room. To become more energy efficient with air conditioning throughout your home, follow these tips:

Set your thermostat to 78° F, or as high as comfort permits. When the weather is mild, turn off the AC and open the windows.

Close your blinds and curtains during the hottest part of the day.

Close cooling vents in unused rooms and keep doors to unused rooms closed.

Check and clean or replace air filters every month.

Clean the outside condenser coil once a year.

Reduce your usage by 10-20 percent by caulking and weather-stripping your doors and windows.

Insulate your house.

Schedule periodic maintenance of cooling equipment by a licensed service representative.

Attics must be ventilated to relieve heat buildup caused by the sun. If necessary, improve attic airflow by adding or enlarging vents.

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

Phosphorus Turf Fertilizer Ordinance



The City of Brainerd has an ordinance prohibiting phosphorus turf fertilizers (City Code Section 535). Phosphorus turf fertilizers are prohibited from being applied to established lawns. They can only be used when establishing grass for the first time or when a soil test indicates that there is deficient phosphorus in the soil. These fertilizers are prohibited because they put excess nutrients into our lakes and rivers which can lead to algae blooms and excess plant growth. This can lead to low oxygen levels which is bad for fish and other habitat. Simply by using phosphorus free fertilizer and other alternatives, you can help protect our lakes, rivers and wetlands.