



# Watt's News

October 2007  
Volume 20, No 10

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



## Salvation Army HeatShare Program

Your November billing will include a brochure for contributing to your local Salvation Army HeatShare program.

Help us make HeatShare a continued success. Through donations provided by you, our customers, HeatShare is a last resort for many, who have no other resources available, to see them through our long winter, by providing funds for heating bills and heating related repairs.

Your donation, no matter how small, will help us make this another successful year for HeatShare.



## Medical Conditions

BPU shall not discontinue electric service if such action will aggravate an existing serious illness of any person who is a permanent resident of the premise where service is rendered IF the customer complies with the following requirements regarding such illness.

- The illness must be certified to BPU by a registered physician on BPU's Physician's Certification of Illness Form. The form must be filled out completely.
- Initial certification by the physician may be made by telephone if the completed form is forwarded to the utility within five days. The form has to be renewed every 30 days.
- The customer cannot use their illness as a way not to pay their utility bill. The customer will be required to make a payment arrangement to pay their past due bills.



## Watt's Weather

### Total Precipitation

September 2007 5.02 "

September 2006 1.41 "

### Average

### Temperatures

September 2007 Hi 72 Lo 45

September 2006 Hi 68 Lo 45



## Trouble with Winter Utility Bills?

BPU will work with you if you fall behind or are unable to make a payment in full.

We will help you set up a payment arrangement which allows a maximum of three (3) installment payments over a ninety (90) day period to pay past due amounts.

In addition, a customer needs to keep current bills paid during this arrangement period.

Failure to keep a payment arrangement can result in immediate disconnection.

The following agencies may also be able to help you pay your utility bill:

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE..829-5000**

**CROW WING COUNTY  
SOCIAL SERVICES.....824-1250**

**SALVATION ARMY.....829-1120**

## Mandatory Water Service Connection Fee

Beginning July 1, 1992, MN Department of Health required all public water suppliers owned or operated by a city, town, or water use district to charge a mandatory state fee on each water service connection.

The reason for this charge is to cover the state costs needed to enforce the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, and regulations developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for providing safe drinking water.

Each month Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) adds a \$0.53 fee to your monthly water service charge. The total amount that BPU has collected and remitted to the State of MN since 1992 is \$348,068.

### Business Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
218-829-8726

### Repair/Service Operations Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
218-829-2193

### Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year

218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

WWW.BPU.ORG

## Daylight Saving Time

On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*. This act changed the time change dates for Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. Beginning in 2007, DST began on the second Sunday in March and will end the first Sunday in November.

In the U.S., clocks change at 2:00 a.m. local time. In spring, clocks spring forward from 1:59 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.; in fall, clocks fall back from 1:59 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. For more information go to: <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>

## Winter Energy Tips

Set thermostats between 65° and 70° during the winter, and to 58° when away from the house for four or more hours. For homes with elderly people or children, warmer temperatures are recommended.



Close draperies and blinds at night to insulate against cold air outside.



Close vents and doors in unused rooms.

On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let in the sun's warmth.

## \*\*\* Make your Life Easier with Our Payment Options \*\*\*

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



The corner of 7th and Laurel Street  
Outside the Senior Citizens Center at 803 Kingwood Street  
Outside the East Brainerd Mall at the Dollar Store entrance  
Outside our business office at 8027 Highland Scenic Road



## 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.