

# Watts News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES, PO BOX 373, BRAINERD, MN 56401

Volume 18, No. 1

April, 2005

## SUMMER SPRINKLING RATES



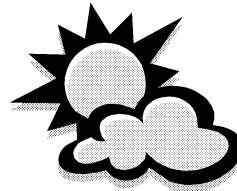
Summer is coming and for all our residential customers who like to water their lawns and gardens to keep them green and lush, summer sprinkling rates will soon be in effect. This rate will begin after your meters have been read in May. The sprinkling rate is applied to your sewer charges (waste treatment & waste collection) on the bills you receive in June, July, August and September. For these months, your sewer charges will be billed on the monthly average of your December, January and February water consumption. With our new computer system the method of calculating the sprinkling credit has not changed, however the credit no longer shows as a separate line item on your bill. The first two digits of your account number will determine what day of the month we will be there to read your meter. For example, the account # 13-53500-00 would be read on the 13th working day of the month. Your meter will not be read on a Saturday, Sunday or a Holiday. These days are not considered working days.

## POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) has been notified by Minnesota Power (BPU power provider) that the cooling tower at their Boswell Unit 3 generator is down for repairs. It is going to take a few weeks to make the necessary repairs. BPU customers will notice the Power Cost Adjustment on their monthly electric bill will be high during this time.

The Power Cost Adjustment line on your monthly electric bill recovers the cost of fuel used in Minnesota Power's generating units and the cost of additional purchased energy required to serve your electric needs. Minnesota Power must purchase replacement energy in the wholesale market during this time the generator or cooling tower is down for repairs. Wholesale energy prices are typically higher than Minnesota Power's cost of generation and this is the increase that will be reflected in the Power Cost Adjustment.

Brainerd Public Utilities regrets the additional cost incurred. If you have any questions about your Power Cost Adjustment, please contact us at 829-2193.



## Watt's Weather

### Total Precipitation

March 2005	1.03"
March 2004	8.01"

### Average Temperatures

March 2005	Hi 38	Lo 13
March 2004	Hi 40	Lo 19



## Watt's Funny

Q: What goes around the world but stays in the corner?

A: A postage stamp.



## Watt's Cooking

### Pink Lemonade Dessert

Crust: Crush 60 Ritz Crackers  
1/2 Cup powdered sugar  
1/2 Cup melted butter  
Pat 1/2 of crust into bottom of 9 x13" pan. Save 1/2 for top.  
Mix: 1—12oz. Can pink lemonade  
12 oz Cool Whip  
1 Can sweetened condensed Milk  
Pour over crust. Top with remaining crumb mixture and chill overnight.

## ENERGY STAR 2005 SPECIAL OFFERS

### ENERGY STAR Appliance Package

January 1—December 31, 2005

\$75.00 to \$150.00 Rebate on clothes washers/ dishwashers/ refrigerator package.

#### Participating Retailers:

**Brainerd:** Bob & Fran's Factory Direct, Chet's TV & Appliances, Schroeder's TV & Appliances.

**Baxter:** Best Buy, Home Depot, Menard's, Sears Authorized Retail Dealer.

### Compact ENERGY STAR Fluorescent Bulb Rebate (CFL)

March 1—November 30, 2005

\$2.00 Mail-in Rebate (6 bulb limit per customer)

#### Participating Retailers:

**Brainerd:** Ace Hardware

**Baxter:** Menard's, Fleet Farm

### ENERGY STAR Fixture Rebates

March 1—November 30, 2005

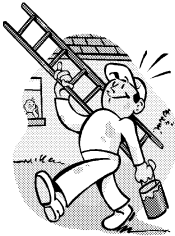
\$15.00 Mail-in Rebate

#### Participating Retailers:

**Baxter:** Menard's

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## HAVE A SAFE SPRING



The weather is getting nice and maybe you're planning some outdoor spring cleaning. Remember, whenever you are working outside, be aware of overhead power lines. **LOOK UP!** Irrigation pipes, ladders and pruning tools all conduct electricity. Make sure to keep them at least 10 feet away from all power lines. Electricity always takes the easier path to the ground. As it tries to reach the ground, it will travel through a conductor such as metal, water, or our bodies. If you accidentally become part of that pathway, you could be electrocuted.

If you are planning to trim tree branches, always check for power lines. If an overhead line is too close to a branch, call BPU at 829-2193 for help on what to do.

## TREE TRIMMING

Spring/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. Brainerd Public Utilities requires 24 hours notification to temporarily remove the service wires.

## NO KIDDING AROUND

As the weather gets warmer, teach kids to play safe by following these tips:

- \* Don't climb or play in trees near power lines.
- \* Never climb power poles.
- \* Fly Kites in open areas away from power lines.
- \* Stay away from electrical substations and off of any objects marked "**Danger: High Voltage.**"



**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 Brainerd Public Utilities 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.

**Business Office Hours 7:00 - 3:30, 829-8726**  
**Repair/Service Operations Office Hours 7:00 - 3:30, 829-2193**  
**Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year, 829-2193**  
**EMAIL@BPU.OG OR WWW.BPU.ORG**