

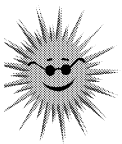
Watts News

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

Volume 18, No. 8

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BEATING THE HEAT



When the summer is scorching, like this summer, jumping in the lake seems like the only way to get some relief from the heat. That is unless you learn how to get your home ready for the summer with these easy and energy saving tips.

The air in your home:

- Open the windows at night and in the early morning to let in the cool air.
- Use the intake setting on a window fan to bring in more cool air.
- Close windows, shades and blinds when the sun starts hitting them to keep heat out and trap in cool air.
- Keep air moving inside your home with ceiling or portable fans.

Working in the home:

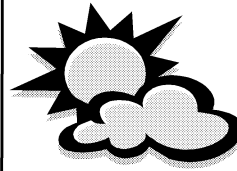
- Use appliances that generate heat like ovens, dishwashers, irons and dryers only in the evening and early morning.
- If you can't take the heat, stay out of the kitchen. Cook outside on the grill instead. Cooking in the microwave oven also produces less heat than a conventional oven.
- Keep the lights off during the day!

Shelter:

- Plant shade trees along your home's Southeast and Southwest exposures to cool your home naturally. Well-placed trees can reduce cooling needs by as much as 20%.

WASTEWATER RATE INCREASE

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission (BPUC) at its regular monthly meeting held on May 31, 2005 authorized a rate increase for the wastewater treatment department that will become effective September 1, 2005. The new monthly service fee of \$5.00 will be used to cover fixed costs of the wastewater treatment department; such as administration, billing, insurance and etc. that are not currently being covered by the commodity charge of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons of water treated. The fixed charge portion of the bill remains the same each billing period, regardless of meter size, because the costs are not related to the amount of wastewater flow treated. Currently BPU does not charge a monthly service charge for wastewater treatment. However, the current commodity charge of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons treated would remain the same.



Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation

July 2005	2.13"
July 2004	3.97"

Average Temperatures

July 2005	Hi 85	Lo 58
July 2004	Hi 79	Lo 55

Minnesota



Water Facts

- Water is the only substance on earth naturally found in the three true element forms: solid, liquid, and gas.
- 80% of the earth's surface is water.
- 97% of the earth's water is the oceans and seas.
- 66% of your body is water.
- Bones are 25% water.
- Human blood is 83% water.



Watt's Cooking

Homemade Barbecue Sauce

- 1 cup Ketchup
 - 1 can classic Coke
 - 1 package dry onion soup mix
 - 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
 - Salt and pepper to taste.
- Heat ingredients together in saucepan until blended well. Add to your favorite meats while cooking.

SUMMARY OF KEY 2000 CENSUS BUREAU DATA

POPULATION

	<u>BRAINERD</u>	<u>BAXTER</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>
0 TO 34 Years	53%	49%	50%
35 to 64 Years	29%	40%	38%
65 Years and Over	<u>18%</u>	<u>11%</u>	<u>12%</u>
	100%	100%	100%

OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS

	<u>BRAINERD</u>	<u>BAXTER</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>
Owner Occupied	54%	90%	66%
Renter Occupied	<u>46%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>34%</u>
	100%	100%	100%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1999

	<u>BRAINERD</u>	<u>BAXTER</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>
Less than \$25,000	47%	13%	29%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	33%	33%	29%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	13%	31%	20%
\$75,000 or more	<u>7%</u>	<u>23%</u>	<u>22%</u>
	100%	100%	100%

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$26,901 \$52,289

YEAR HOUSING STRUCTURES BUILT

	<u>BRAINERD</u>	<u>BAXTER</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>
1999 to March 2000	1%	8%	2%
1990 to 1998	10%	34%	14%
1980 to 1989	10%	21%	16%
1970 to 1979	15%	18%	19%
1960 to 1969	11%	8%	14%
1940 to 1959	27%	10%	20%
1939 or Earlier	<u>26%</u>	<u>1%</u>	<u>15%</u>
	100%	100%	100%

VALUE OF SPECIFIED OWNER-OCCUPIED UNITS

	<u>BRAINERD</u>	<u>BAXTER</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>
Less than \$50,000	21%	0%	10%
\$50,000 to \$99,899	61%	30%	30%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	12%	42%	24%
\$150,000 or more	<u>6%</u>	<u>28%</u>	<u>36%</u>
	100%	100%	100%



BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES

**Minnesota Department of
Health (MDH) -**

Minnesota Department of Health conducted the annual water supply inspection. There were no deficiencies noted in all categories including water source, pumps/pump facilities and controls, treatment, water storage, distribution, monitoring/reporting data verification, water system management/operation and operator compliance with state requirements.



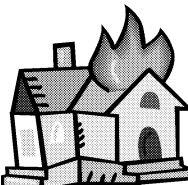
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

(MPCA)
BPU staff received a wastewater certificate of commendation from the MPCA at the 68th Annual Wastewater Operators Seminar for the outstanding operation, maintenance and compliance for the Brainerd Wastewater Treatment System.

HOME FIRE DRILLS

Have home fire drills regularly. Practice the same procedures your family would use in case of fire.

1. Start with everyone in bed with the bedroom doors shut.
2. Have someone sound the "alarm" using a bell, whistle, shouting or pushing the test button on your smoke detector.
3. Get out fast! Escape by rolling out of bed and crawling low on the ground. The air is clearer low to the ground because smoke rises.
4. Feel the door with the back of your hand. If it is hot, or if you see or smell smoke, don't open it. Use an alternate escape route. If on the second story use an escape ladder for safe exiting.
5. Go immediately to your safe meeting place and make sure everyone is accounted for. Never go back into a burning building for anything!



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