

# Watts News

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

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## IF YOU CAN'T GET TO YOUR METER, NEITHER CAN WE

For accurate billing, it is important that the meter reader has access to your meter. With the snow falling, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have an outside meter, please clear a path to it so our meter readers can reach it safely.

Please contact our billing department at 825-3222 to inform them of any of the following changes:

- A change in access doors
- A change in keyed locks
- A new or additional dog
- Any other structural changes affecting meter accessibility

## TREE TRIMMING

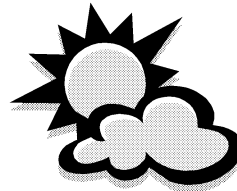


Our crews have started their winter brushing and trimming of trees that are in our primary (main) lines. Property owners will be notified if a tree is interfering with the primary electrical lines and needs to be removed. Trimming or removal of trees on private property is the property owner's responsibility. Brainerd Public Utilities will temporarily remove and replace the service wires to accommodate the trimming or removal during normal business hours. Brainerd Public Utilities requires a 24 hour notification to temporarily remove the service wires. If you have any questions please feel free to call our Repair/Service Office at 829-2193.

## Minnesota

### Water Facts

- A person can survive without food for more than 30 days, but less than a week without water.
- A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
- For every 2.31 feet that water is raised above the earth's surface it can create one pound per square inch of pressure.
- For every 2.31 feet you are submerged below a body of water's surface there is 1 pound per square inch of pressure equally placed on your body.



## Watt's Weather

### Total Rain & Snow Fall

December 2005	13.17"
December 2004	5.98"

### Average Temperatures

December 2005	Hi 24	Lo 11
December 2004	Hi 25	Lo 07

## BIG THANK YOU!



*Thank you* to those of you that contributed to *HeatShare* and making this year a **HUGE** success. Many people will benefit from your generosity.

## HAVING TROUBLE PAYING YOUR WINTER UTILITY BILLS?

We will work with you to set up a payment schedule if you fall behind or are unable to make a payment in full. Call 825-3223 to get the help you need. The following agencies may also be able to help you pay your utility bills:

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES.....829-5000**  
**CROW WING COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES.....824-1250**  
**SALVATION ARMY.....829-1120**



## NEW POLICIES APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

As per the BPU Commission, a new policy has been adopted, policy # 2005-8, as of January 1, 2006 that requires as follows:

- An application for utility service must be completed in full and filed at BPU's business office.
- If an account is disconnected an application for service must be filled out before the service will be re-connected.
- A new application for service will be required for any change of residence or business.
- All previously incurred bad debt to BPU must be paid in full or arrangements made (at the discretion of credit/collections rep) before a new application for service will be accepted.
- If renting a residence, the utility service will remain in the landlord's name until BPU has received the tenant's completed application for service, a copy of their driver's license or photo ID, and a copy of the signed lease.

Any customer that does not comply with the above list of requirements, will be considered an unauthorized user of BPU's utility service and subject to immediate disconnection of service without further notice and/or legal action.

### CUSTOMER DEPOSIT

As per the BPU Commission, a policy adopted, policy # 2005-9, as of January 1, 2006 that states a deposit is required from customers for the following reasons:

- If a utility credit reference is not returned to the BPU business office within 10 days from the date of application for service.
- A utility credit reference indicates a less than favorable credit history. A favorable credit history would indicate no more than one (1) penalty can be charged to an account within a 12 month period. No delinquent notices or disconnection notices can be issued and the account cannot have any NSF checks.
- Any customer that was a previous BPU customer and left a bad debt or had an unfavorable credit history.
- Any customer who has filed bankruptcy while being a customer of BPU.
- Any customer who is disconnected for non-payment of bill.
- Any customer who has an existing deposit this is not sufficient and/or has not established a good credit history.

The deposit is based on the following:

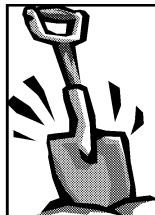
Residential: The deposit will be equal to a two month average bill charged in the previous 12 months. A minimum of \$50 will be required.

Commercial: The deposit will be equal to the highest monthly bill charged in the previous 12 months. A minimum of \$100 will be required.

### COMMISSION MEETING

The Brainerd Public Utilities Commission meet for their regular monthly meeting at 9 AM on the last Tuesday of each month, in the Commission Meeting Room at the BPU service center, located at 8027 Highland Scenic Road, Brainerd, MN 56401. The meetings are open to the public. Any person needing special accommodations, please call 829-8726.

**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**