



the municipal Advantage

PEOPLE...POWER.

JULY-AUGUST 2022

Work Zone Safety

Our utility workers may be your family, friend and neighbor so ensuring their safe return home at night is our main priority at NUPU. Safety programs are a mandatory part of our workers jobs to keep on top of new and changing requirements. Safety clothing and equipment is an important part of the NUPU budget to get the right equipment and safety items for the job. But there are things that you our customer can do to ensure that they make it home every night to their family.

- **Be Aware of the Road.** Construction can change daily so don't assume the road looks the same as yesterday. Pay attention to the cones and signage when driving by utility work.
- **Don't Be Distracted.** Pay extra attention to the road when driving through a construction area. Pay attention to where the workers are and the other drivers on the road.
- **Slow down.** Slow down so that you can control whatever situation you may be faced with and if there are designated speed zones, please follow them.

Please remember, everyone plays a part in work zone safety. When you see work zone signs or cones, please take extra precautions to keep our workers safe.

Clare Fischer wins Tom Bovitz Essay Contest

Cathedral High School graduate Clare Fischer received \$ 500 from New Ulm Public Utilities for her winning essay on municipal utilities.



Community Owned and Operated "Municipal Utilities: Good for All of Us"

Every morning I wake up to electricity. First, I turn off my electric alarm clock and enjoy the warmth of my heated house. Then, I turn on the lights to get ready for the day and pull breakfast out of my refrigerator. Most of my daily tasks rely on electricity, but I rarely take the time to appreciate what it does for me. I brush my teeth with my electric toothbrush and dry my laundry with electricity. I prepare food with my stove and charge my computer with electricity. All of these services are taken for granted but are vital to everyday life here in the United States. Our standard of living is heavily reliant on electricity.

"My local municipal utility functions so well that I never worry about power; I know my community has my back."

Having access to electricity, gas, and water is a great blessing for me and most other Americans. Better yet, I have access to reliable, local electricity, gas, and water through my area's municipal services. The municipal services offered in my community are a great asset to my community in many ways. They provide resources that help my community thrive. They do so mainly without being acknowledged, but this is good in some respects. People should only need to pay attention to their power or water source if it is problematic. They should have no need to think about where these resources come from or to question if they will still be available to them in the future. While it is important for us to develop an appreciation for public power, it is also amazing that municipal utilities are so reliable that we never need to worry about our source of power.

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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

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Essay from page 1

Additionally, municipal utilities are locally owned and operated. They belong to all the members of the community. This is essential to keeping them running smoothly. The people are invested in the utility and the utility is also invested in the people. It is a mutually beneficial relationship on all sides; all members of the community benefit from well-working municipal utilities. Additionally, members of the community can have great faith in their utilities because it is their neighbors, community members, and fellow customers who service them. Members of the community are hired by the city to keep the utilities running smoothly. They do so for the sake of their neighbors, friends, and themselves. In this way, the utilities provide local jobs to support communities as well.

Because they are reliable, municipal utilities are an amazing asset to small towns. They are well-maintained and whenever a problem does occur, it is addressed very quickly. Because most municipal

Through these utilities, local people work together to meet the needs of their neighbors. They are quick to assist in a variety of tasks to help communities run smoothly.

services only reach a small group of people, the process of resolving difficulties is much simpler. When problems arise, they are usually addressed immediately and resolved soon after. Furthermore, municipal utilities have proven their exceptional customer service time and time again during weather-related emergencies. Through these utilities, local people work together to meet the needs of their neighbors. They are quick to assist in a variety of tasks to help communities run smoothly.

Furthermore, municipal utilities allow communities to have greater independence from large power and water companies. Municipal utilities are typically small-scale and run by the city council or a community board. This allows for a more specific approach to meeting community needs and a much quicker response time for resolving issues. Municipal utilities are also nonprofit. Not only are they competitively priced, but also the money paid to them is used by the community for the community. In many cases, local municipalities return money to the city and assist in community development. Also, local utilities support programs for energy efficiency, responsible management, conservation, and public services such as street lighting to improve communities. They commit themselves to educating and assisting the public in improving communities.

Utilities are a public asset that belongs to the community. They create greater connectedness among community members and provide great service in a "neighbor helps neighbor" manner. They also create local jobs and substantially benefit communities. In my community, municipal services sends out informational newsletters and offers competitive rates on municipal gas and electric utilities. They also offer rebates, recycling, and incentives to help consumers make environmentally friendly decisions. Learning about the power in my community makes me appreciate the work done by my local utility. My local municipal utility functions so well that I never worry about power; I know my community has my back.



Annual Notification to Customer Base regarding DER (Distributed Energy Resources)

In compliance with New Ulm Public Utilities adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, New Ulm Public Utilities is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. New Ulm Public Utilities is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require a utilities service application, interconnection application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the New Ulm Public Utilities Commission.

Interested customers should contact New Ulm Public Utilities, 310 1st North Street, New Ulm, MN 56073, call 507-233-2110, or visit www.newulmmn.gov (Public Utilities-I Am Looking For-Distributed Energy (DER) Interconnection).

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

A public utility means YOU are an owner, and as such, we want to know what is important to you.

Email subjects you'd like to see in upcoming newsletters!

Email: comments@newulmmn.gov
with the subject line: Utility Newsletter

NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER
newulmmn.gov





Caution Urged When Using Back-Up Generators

- ★ Make sure you know how to operate the generator safely. Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors and even the linemen working to restore power. Unsafe installation or operation may also result in a lawsuit and your insurance may not cover your liability.
- ★ Temporary-use generators should not be connected to the circuit breaker or fuse box and should not be plugged into a household outlet. Portable generators should only be used with extension cords to power lights and small appliances.
- ★ Permanently installed generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, using a transfer

switch that prevents potentially deadly back-feed.

- ★ Generators should only be operated outside a home to prevent toxic and potentially deadly exhaust from entering a home. Keep them away from children and pets.
- ★ When starting a generator, disconnect all appliances that might be connected to it. That will not only protect them but prevent a fuse from being blown on the generator.
- ★ Connect appliances to your portable generator after it has been started. Use only three-prong plugs that allow connections to be grounded.



- ★ When refueling generators, allow the engine to cool in order to prevent a fire should the gas tank overflow.
- ★ Be sure to use a heavy-duty extension cord rated for the wattage of the load being connected.
- ★ When the generator is no longer needed, allow it to cool down before storing it.

COOL. CASH.

POCKET A REBATE between \$100 to \$320 for central air conditioner / mini-split AC systems install, depending on SEER (Seasonal Efficiency Energy Rating). Efficiency Requirement is a minimum SEER of 14.5 and must be AHRI Certified.



I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO TRY NEW THINGS!

This year, NUPU launched a new way for customers to submit rebate applications. **Online fillable forms** are available for most rebates offered at newulmmn.gov. If a particular rebate is not available as a fillable form, a PDF of the application is still available on the website.

It is strongly encouraged to submit rebate applications through the online fillable form process. If a person is not capable of using the fillable form process, due to lack of internet connection, or means of uploading an invoice, a paper submittal will still be accepted.

Vendors submitting rebate applications for customers must be submitting applications using the fillable-form process. Paper copies of rebate applications are meant for individuals who may not have computer accesses and/or a way to digitize an invoice.



**Have you
changed your
phone
number or
email
address
lately?**



If so, please contact the Finance Department at 507-359-8259 to update your account records. Having up to date contact information is important for proper communication with our customers.



PUC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS May 24

■ David Neidecker-Plant Operator with the Electric Production Department retired after 43 years of service.

■ Clare Fischer was awarded \$500 for her winning essay on "Municipal Utilities: Good for All of Us."

■ Received presentation on current Wastewater and 20th Street upgrade projects

■ Approved phosphorus trading agreement with City of Redwood Falls



Service Line Warranties of America (SLWOFA), who offer residents water and sewer service line protection are again sending mailings to New Ulm residents. If you have questions regarding this program or want to be removed from their mailing list, contact SLWOFA by calling toll-free 1-866-9006 or visiting www.slwofa.com.

What Goes Up Will Come down...Or get Tangled in Power Lines

Balloons are a common decoration for many events including graduations, Valentine's Day, birthday parties, and releasing into the air for celebrations and to honor loved ones. They seem harmless. However, do most people realize the possible negative effects of using balloons? Do people think of what happens after balloons are used or released into the air?

Some individuals may be aware of the negative impact balloons have on wildlife. But, for those who are not aware, here is just one example of the negative impact of balloons.

Between 2016 and 2018, volunteers with the Alliance for the Great Lakes picked up and recorded more than 18,000 pieces of balloon debris. That is a lot of unnecessary and

dangerous litter.



While balloons can be a problem for wildlife and the environment, we feel obligated, as a Public Utility, to advise on the many other negative impacts that balloons can have on our power system.

When balloons are released in the air, whether near power lines and substations, or miles away, they pose a high risk of danger to the electrical distribution system.

Balloons, especially metallic coated balloons, can cause explosions and power outages. Because of the metallic coating on these balloons, they conduct electricity well and can short out circuits in the community's power system. You and your neighbors could lose power, traffic lights could go out, and entire blocks

When balloons are released in the air, whether near power lines and substations, or miles away, they pose a high risk of danger to the electrical distribution system.

of homes and businesses could go dark. To prevent this from happening, keep balloons secured. When done with balloons, deflate them and throw them in the garbage. Do not release them.

Metallic balloons have been known to float for several days before losing their helium and returning to Earth. If one lands within the fence of an electric utility substation, it can cause electrical fires and untold dollars' worth of damage after high transmission circuitry goes down.

Lastly, always assume power line are live, keep yourself and all other items at least 10 feet away from power lines.



★ **AT YOUR SERVICE** Employees of the Month Honored

Jared began working in the Wastewater department as a helper in October 2002. Currently Jared is a Wastewater operator, he has a Class B Wastewater license and a Type IV land application licensure. Jared is there wherever help is needed, and is a reliable employee. He gets along well with his cohorts and isn't afraid to tackle any job.

JARED LANDSTEINER
Wastewater
Operator
Wastewater
Treatment
Plant



Joe is described as an excellent employee who works well with his co-workers. The Gas Dept. benefits from his experience in how he analyzes situations and thinks things through to find solutions. He has stepped up and takes responsibility for upkeep and calibration of our leak investigation equipment. He is ready whenever and wherever to contribute to the department.

JOE NOSBUSH
Welder
Natural
Gas Dept.



Get The Lead Out...

Today, there's growing awareness that some homes have lead in water pipes, fixtures and plumbing. Lead presents health concerns for people of all ages, particularly pregnant women, infants and young children. While we treat and test the water to make sure that water is lead-free when it leaves the treatment facility, some older homes in our community have lead in service lines, household plumbing materials and faucets.



If you do find that your household plumbing is contributing lead to your drinking water, there are several steps you should take to reduce exposure. For instance, if water has not been used for several hours, run the tap to ensure you are getting fresh water from the main. Use only cold water for drinking and cooking, and clean faucet aerators regularly to ensure they are free of lead particles. Finally, if your water has elevated levels of lead, consider purchasing a home filter certified to remove lead. Find out more on filter certification at www.nsf.org. Ultimately, the best way to protect your household is by removing all potential sources of lead by replacing the lead service line. A licensed plumber can inspect both your service line and other materials for lead which could be in contact with your drinking water.

If you would like more information on steps you can do to reduce lead exposure, contact our Water Department at 507-359-8279. Information is also available on the Environment Protection Agency website at www.Epa.gov/lead.

Help us eliminate this threat to your drinking water. Together, let's get the lead out.



CUSTOMER POLL

What can we do to reduce water consumption?



Lori:

Shower together!

Amy: I think that one of the best ways is with rain barrels.

Dale: Lawns don't need to be perfect. Clean water is one of our most important resources.

Rod: 1. Develop a Rain Garden.
2. Use Rain Chains instead of downspouts.
3. Collect the rain water, from your down spouts, into barrels. Use that water to water plants, flowers or lawn.

Sadie: When you boil pasta, or steam veggies, instead of dumping the water use it for your plants. Water from boiling eggs has calcium in it and can make plants flourish.

Melissa: We just installed a rain barrel over the weekend and had almost a full barrel with the last rain we got! We can use that water to water plants which is better for the plants too!





Storm Safety

Before and After

Before a storm:

- ✓ Assemble an emergency kit with flashlights, battery-powered communication devices, and the food, water, and medical needs of your family to survive prolonged power outages.
- ✓ Stay tuned to severe storm information from the National Weather Service, and be aware that lightning presents a danger 10 miles ahead of a storm front.

After a storm:

- ✓ Storm debris can hide dangers, such as downed or sagging power lines. Use caution in any cleanup effort. Any downed wires should be considered energized and potentially dangerous. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and call the utility.
- ✓ If power lines come down on or around your vehicle, call for help and remain in the vehicle. Do not attempt to get out until a utility lineman can assure you the power has been turned off.
- ✓ Do not use electric yard tools to clean up after a storm if it is raining or the ground is wet.

- ✓ Never step into a flooded basement if water could be covering electrical outlets or appliances that are plugged in.
- ✓ Do not attempt to shut power off at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. Stay out of flooded rooms and basements until you are assured the power has been cut off.
- ✓ Electric motors can be damaged when wet and should not be used after a storm until checked by a professional. Have damaged appliances repaired or replaced.
- ✓ Only use generators outdoors. Connect lights and appliances to the generator using extension cords. Do not connect directly to the home circuitry unless there is a transfer safety switch to isolate the power. Without that safety feature, electricity could “back feed” into the utility system, creating danger for anyone near lines, particularly utility crews working to restore power.

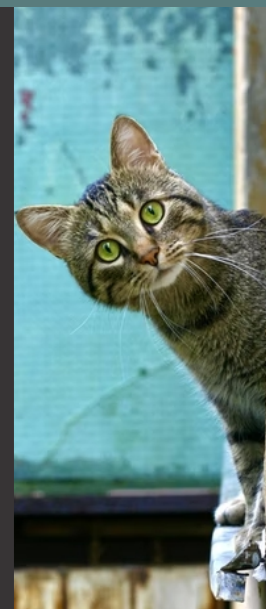
Call for Pet Photos for 2023 New Ulm Public Utilities Rebate & Conservation Calendar

“Aw please, just one lick of your ice cream cone?”
—LeRoy



New Ulm Public Utilities 2023 Conservation & Rebate Calendar will feature those pets, past and present, who share, or have shared, our lives, our beds, our homes and our hearts. Be it cats, dogs, hamsters, horses, parrots or ferrets, send us your favorite photos of your furry, scaly, or feathered friends. Pets shown in a variety of seasons would be appreciated. Please identify the pet(s) names as well as your name(s) on back or with photos submitted. Feel free to submit your own captions or one will be provided.

“Is the pizza here yet?”
—Clyde



● Submit printed photos to:
New Ulm Public Utilities
Attn: 2023 Calendar
310 1st North St., New Ulm, MN 56073

● OR (preferred) email high resolution digital photos to: DerekN@newulmmn.gov

DEADLINE: October 3, 2022.

Original photos will be returned

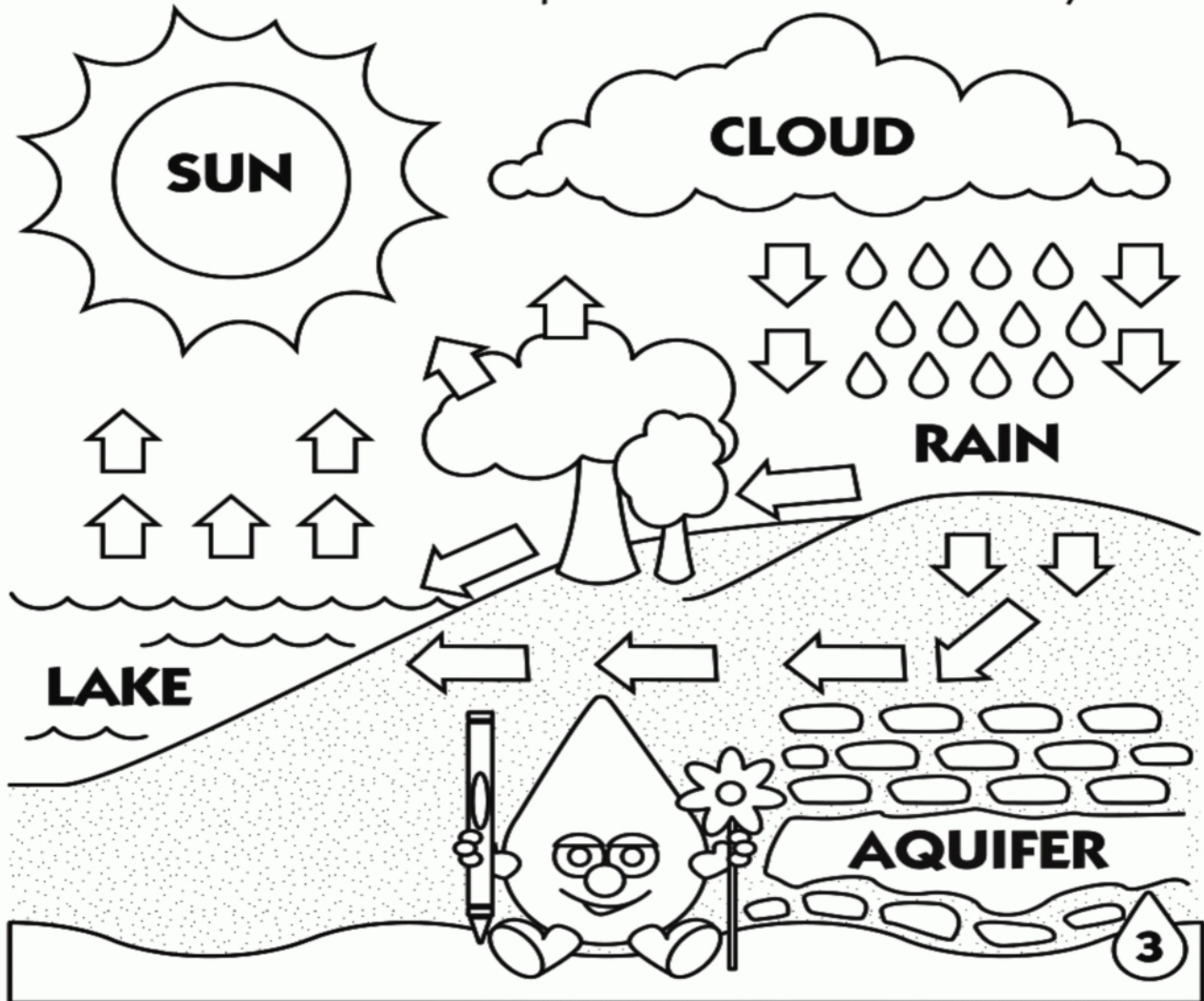


**Time for
coloring
FUN!**

August is... National Water Quality Month

National Water Quality Month is dedicated to making the most of the relatively small amount of fresh water we have, because having clean water is vital to our individual health, our collective agricultural needs, and the needs of our environment.

Water moves in a cycle.
Color the different parts of the water cycle.



Southwest Florida Water Management District



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Find the latest news and announcements,
department information, rebate information and forms,
along with employment opportunities and more!



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JULY-AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

INSIDE



NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES
310 1st North Street

MAIN NUMBER	233-2110
Billings & Connections	359-8259
Administration	359-8264
Electric Distribution Dept	359-8295
Gas Dept	359-8289
Material Distribution Center	233-2134
Power Plant Chief Engineer	233-2128
Power Plant Operator	233-2129
Utilities Director	359-8264
Wastewater Treatment Plant	359-8360
Water/Steam Dept	359-8279
AFTER HOURS ALL CALLS	359-8204