

# Municipal Update

Volume I, Issue II

June 1, 2008

## General Information

One Grand Street  
Coldwater, MI 49036

Office:  
517-279-9531

Internet Helpdesk:  
517-278-9276

Websites:  
www.cbpu.com  
www.coldwater.org

Payment options:  
Mail, Drop-box, Automatic Bill Pay, On-Line Bill Pay or just stop in Mon-Fri, 8 am - 5 pm

Suggestions for Newsletter:  
Newsletter@coldwater.org

The City and CBPU offices will be closed on the 4th of July and on Labor Day, Monday, September 1st. Both holidays are **FREE Swim Days at Heritage Pool!**



## Summertime reminders:

- Sheds, signs, fences & swimming pools require building permits.
- It is unlawful to park on city streets between 2am - 6am.
- Garage sales are permitted 3 times per year for no longer than 3 days each. Posting of signs is only allowed on property having sale. No permit needed.
- Grass & weeds must be mowed to less than 12".
- Open burning is not allowed in the city limits.
- Curfew for youth 14 & under is 10pm and for ages 15-17, midnight.



## Citizens "Make the Switch" on Earth Day

We are very proud to announce that we held our first Earth Day event this year. On Thursday and Friday, April 24th and April 25th, Coldwater residents were encouraged to stop by the CBPU and "make the switch" by bringing in a standard incandescent light bulb in exchange for a free compact fluorescent light bulb. At the same time, citizens were also able to bring in their mercury thermometers in exchange for a digital thermometer.

The event raised awareness on efficient utility products and services. This will hopefully help our public see there are products and services designed to help protect our environment as well as save money on utility bills.

Although we are excited that this event will now take place on Earth Day annually, being "energy aware" and general conservation is something we would like to see customers focus on year round.



Coldwater residents taking part in our 1st Annual Earth Day event.

To help people get started or continue on the path of energy efficiency, a few "giveaways" were won by these lucky people. Congratulations to Rex Davis, Lucy Sherwood, Ruth Vrooman & Mindy Garn who all won a free tree, a great source for natural shade. Della Smith picked up a free programmable thermostat and a big congratulations to the Dearing residence.



The United Methodist Preschool class with "Ernie Energy", the official mascot for Public Power.

They will get their entire home replaced with CFL's!

Thanks so much to everyone who came down, showed support and registered for our Earth Day Giveaways!

Here are a few quick and easy ways your home can become more energy efficient:

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFL light bulbs.
- Upgrade to EnergyStar appliances.
- Use the dishwasher more and make sure its full.
- Unplug charging devices when not in use.

## Mark your Calendars!

We're fortunate to live in a city that offers a variety of things to do. Coming downtown and participating in local events helps you stay connected with your community.

This summer if you're looking for new things to do, look no further!

**Strawberry Fest** - June 21st from 9:00a - 4:00p. Enjoy the 1st day of summer with strawberries, arts & craft

vendors and live entertainment!  
**Relay for Life / Community Fest** - June 20th - 21st at Heritage Park. Bring the kids for a puppet show on safety Saturday at 9:00a!  
**Entertainment Under the Stars** - This concert series offers great live area talent each Tuesday in July at the Four Corners Park from 7:00p - 8:30p.  
**4th of July Fireworks** - Bring the family to Heritage Park, Friday the 4th starting around dusk.

**"Remember the Alamo" Car Cruise** - Show off your specialty car or motorcycle in this summers car cruise Saturday, July 26th from 3:00p - 10:00p.  
**212 Miles of Antiques** - Saturday, August 9th from 9:00a - 3:00p be part of the 212 miles of antiques down US12.  
**Apple Fest** - Come visit with over 5000 people Saturday, September 20th from 9:00a - 4:00p. A great way to end the summer.

# The Value of Water

Everyone knows the essential role that water plays in daily life for things like cooking, cleaning, fighting fires, electric generation and irrigating crops. The fact that the adult human body is made up of roughly 70% water, makes water a basic need for all of us. The value of water to a community is inarguable – clean, safe, reliable water supply is essential.

So, what is the price for such a valuable resource? Here in Coldwater the cost for 1,000 gallons of water is \$1.82 or 0.182¢ per gallon. How does that cost compare to other items we buy on a daily basis?

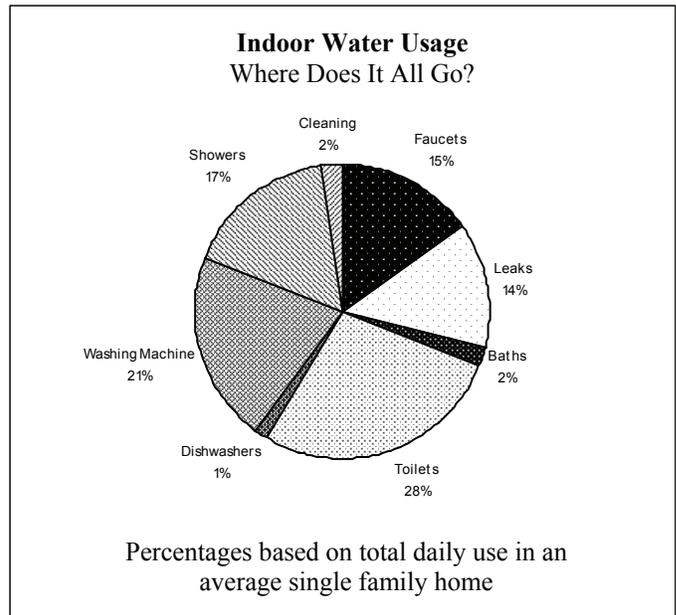
Here is the cost for 1,000 gallons of other “essentials” purchased on a regular basis:

- ◆ Gas - \$3,950
- ◆ Milk - \$3,640
- ◆ Beer - \$6,876

- ◆ Fitness Water - \$3,794
- ◆ Diet Soda - \$2,947
- ◆ Bottled Water - \$1,333

### City water service is a true value!

What is your daily water usage? On average, a single family home uses about 75 gallons of water a day without conserving. Do you fit the average mold? How are you using your water?



# Are your Electronics Really Protected?

We’ve all heard the saying “you get what you pay for”, so when it comes to protecting your high dollar electronics, why get frugal on the surge protector?

To better understand surges, let’s explain what a surge is and why electronics should be protected from them.

In normal household wiring, the standard voltage is 120 volts. If the voltage rises above 120 voltage, there is a problem and a surge protector prevents that problem from harming your electronics.

### What does a surge protector do?

A standard surge protector passes the electrical current along from the outlet to a number of electrical and electronic devices plugged into the power strip. If the voltage from the outlet surges, (rises above the accepted level), the surge protector diverts the extra electricity into the outlet's grounding wire. If the surge is high enough, it can however cause significant damage to your electronics, protected or not.

Here are some tips to follow when you’re looking for surge protection:

- Look for the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) ratings.
- Make sure you’re not buying just a power outlet strip.
- If it’s under \$10.00, it’s probably not going to protect much.

Whole-house surge protection is your best protection. The BPU has it available for just \$5.99 a month!

# Did you know...

We’re looking for a catchier name for the newsletter? We realize this is the third one, but it’s never too late to have a fun contest! Send us your great newsletter name and **win \$100.00!** We’ll announce the winner in our September newsletter. E-mail us at Newsletter@coldwater.org and reference the “Name the Newsletter



Contest” in the subject line. Don’t have access to e-mail? Mail or drop off your suggestion to:  
One Grand Street  
Coldwater, MI 49036.

We have a new On-Line Bill Pay portal? Now you can set up your account to pay your monthly balance **or** your minimum payment due. You can also schedule payments to come out of your account weekly, biweekly or monthly at your convenience. There are many payment options on the new On-Line Bill Pay system so go to [www.cbpu.com](http://www.cbpu.com) and take a look! If you don’t have access to the Internet and are in a rush to get your payment in, please call us at 279-9531. We will soon offer check over the phone too!

If you sign up for cable through CBPU Telecom, you can get three months of Premium movie channels **FREE!**



Get the popcorn ready because you will be busy watching movies galore on over 35 movie channels! This deal just keeps getting better. If you have a High Def TV, enjoy the movie channels in High Def at no charge! Call 279-9531 to schedule your install today.