

Between the Lines

Volume 3, Issue 1

June, 2009

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 & CBPU offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd & Monday, September 7th. Independence & Labor Day are both **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.

Paying Utilities in a Tough Economy

Why are Utility rates rising?

It's a challenging time for our industry. With the costs of fuel skyrocketing, a sluggish economy, increases in operating and maintenance expenses and new state mandates many utilities have been forced to raise utility rates. This is due to a number of factors.

1. Our country's demand for electricity is at an all-time high. Population growth and greater use of computers, electronic products, and home entertainment items will contribute to rising demand in the coming years. To deal with forecasted demand increases, many utilities are finding it necessary to increase investment in transmission and generating facilities to bring the power to customers.
2. The cost of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and oil) used to generate electricity has increased significantly in the last few years and in turn has led to an increase in the cost of generating electricity.

3. The State of Michigan is requiring all utility companies to develop and implement Energy Optimization and Renewable Energy Plans. Part of this law mandates we have 10% of our energy originating from renewable sources by the year 2015.

The cost our customers pay for electricity reflects the price that we pay for the electricity we provide. As a not-for profit public power utility, we work to keep costs as low as possible and put any profits we earn back into the Coldwater community.

What is the CBPU doing?

We are working diligently to keep prices down and help our customers save on their utility bills. Some of the energy efficiency programs and initiatives underway include:

- Refrigerator / freezer recycling.
- Energy efficient lighting rebates.
- Weatherization programs through local agencies for

limited income families to replace older appliances with qualified ENERGY STAR rated appliances.

- Customer and K-12 educational programs.

We are also working closely with our national trade association, the American Public Power Association, to ensure policies that put customers first and ensure a stable supply of electricity while protecting the environment. Since two-thirds of public power systems do not generate their own electricity, and instead buy it on the wholesale market for distribution to their customers, securing competitively priced and reliable wholesale power is a priority.

For more information on any of the services we offer or if you'd like to discuss how you can better conserve energy and water in your home or business, please contact us at 279-9531 or visit us at www.cbpu.com.

Celebrate Summertime!

Young and old alike can come Downtown to be entertained this summer. Come stroll the streets and shop, meet up with friends and family and take advantage of what our great community has to offer!

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 25th from 3:00p - 10:00p.

212 Miles of Antiques - Saturday, August 8th from 9:00a - 3:00p be part of Michigan's Longest Garage

Sales down US12.

Apple Fest - Come visit with over 5000 people Saturday, September 19th from 9:00a - 4:00p. A great way to end the summer.



Local Citizens “Made the Switch” on Earth Day

Earth Day is a wonderful day to talk about the environment and what we can do to take better care of it. Earth Day is the only event celebrated simultaneously around the globe by more than a half billion people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities. The participation and enthusiasm for conservation from our local community alone this year was something to be very proud of!

We would like to give a very special thank you to Wal-Mart Transportation and Distribution DC 6843 for making our Earth Day event a big success this year. Wal-Mart Transportation and Distribution DC 6843 sponsored the plastic bag recycling program and graciously donated 500 reusable grocery bags to our community.

Legg Middle School did their part to become a “green” school by participating

in the Wal-Mart Transportation and Distribution DC 6843 sponsored Nike-Reuse-A-Shoe Program. LMS staff and students were able to drop off 135 pair of worn out athletic shoes that will be recycled into playground equipment.

Local citizens “made the switch” and swapped over 350 light bulbs and digital thermometers!

Thanks again to everyone who entered for a chance to win our Earth Day giveaways. Here are our lucky winners:

Coloring contest - Scotty Johns
 “Smart Strip” power strip - Allan Sherwood
 Programmable thermostat - Bev Williams
 Wal-Mart products - Katheana Castro
 5 CFL’s - Larry Collins
 Maple trees - Jenny Blackman, Amanda Leshk, Christie Brown & Diana Conant.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Thanks again to Wal-Mart Transportation and Distribution DC 6843, The Coldwater Daily Reporter, WTVB and to all the citizens around the community for making this Earth Day event a huge success.



CBPU staff spent time talking with the United Methodist Preschool class about Earth Day & planted “forget-me-nots” to remember the day!

More Digital & High Definition Channels added to CBPU Lineup

A little over ten years ago, the citizens of Coldwater were so frustrated with the telecommunications in this town, they voted to own and operate a competitive system of their own. We are very proud of the telecom system and the programming choices your Committee has made and judging from the customer support we receive, you’re proud of it too!

We are excited to announce some great new channels to our lineup. We’ve also made changes to the channel packaging with an easier, more affordable pricing structure that we think may help customers get upgraded packages, such as high definition or digital

services to accommodate the newer televisions. The biggest change we’re thrilled to offer is all High Definition Receivers, (that includes DVR’s too!) will now include the High Definition channel tier.

New channels to the Digital Lineup:

American Life TV, Boomerang, Chiller, Hallmark Movie Channel, HRTV, i-Life TV and Sprout.

New channels on HD Receivers:

Big Ten Network, Bravo, fx, Fox News, Sci-Fi, Speed Channel & USA.

We know there are a lot of competitive deals out there right now. Even though the services are “bundled” is it really a good deal, or does the dollar amount just sound good? Prices can change, so make sure you’re not getting stuck in a long term contract paying more than you should.

Please contact our customer service staff at 279-9531 with any questions you may have regarding your current cable package. You can also visit www.cbpu.com for a complete channel listing. Thank you again for your continued support. We appreciate your loyalty and commitment!

Protecting Your Information under the FACT Act

Identity thieves use people’s personally identifying information to open new accounts and misuse existing accounts, creating havoc for consumers and businesses. Financial institutions and creditors soon will be required to implement a program to detect, prevent and mitigate instances of identity theft.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the federal bank regulatory agencies and the National Credit Union Administration have issued regulations (Red Flag Rules) requiring financial institutions and creditors to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs, as part of the Fair and

Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act of 2003. The programs must be in place by August 1, 2009, and must provide for the identification, detection, and response to patterns, practices, or specific activities – known as “red flags” – that could indicate identity theft.

The FTC clarified that a “creditor” includes “lenders such as...utility companies” and indicated that non-profit and governmental entities that defer payments for goods and services should be considered “creditors” for purposes of FACT Act.

The City of Coldwater and Board of

Public Utilities developed an Identity Theft Prevention Program which was adopted by Council and Board earlier this year.

- Only the account holder can make changes to an account.
- Only the account holder can get information on the account.
- We may ask for personal identifying information when you make a change or transaction on your account.
- These laws are established for your protection! ☺