

Municipal Update

Volume I, Issue I

March 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

Our offices will be **closed** the following days to observe the Holidays:

Friday, March 21st @ noon
Monday, May 26th all day



Daylight Saving begins March 11th. Set your clocks ahead one hour.

The Coldwater Car / Cycle Show Swap Meet will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 10th-11th at the Branch County 4H Fairgrounds.

This annual event brings 1500 show-quality cars, 100 show-quality motorcycles, 300 related vendors, 50 arts & crafts vendors and 10,000 spectators!

Digital and HDTV - What Are The Facts?

The Transition: With the digital (DTV) television transition nearly a year away, it is important to understand what is actually going to take place on February 17, 2009. Congress mandated this would be the last day for full-power television stations to broadcast in analog signal and they would need to broadcast in digital signal only.

What does this mean to you? That depends. Active cable and satellite customers with analog TVs should not be affected by the February 17th cut-off date. If you do not subscribe to cable or satellite and receive only free over-the-air television programming, you will either need to upgrade your TV to a digital one or you will need a digital tuner set-top box for your TV.

Read the labels: If your television is labeled "Digital Ready", "HDTV Ready",

"Digital Monitor" or "HDTV Monitor", this may not mean the TV actually contains a digital tuner. You still may need a set-top box to view programming in digital or HD transmissions.

High Def: It is also important to understand that High Definition (HD) broadcasting is not a requirement of the DTV transition. You do not need to buy a High Def TV to watch digital TV. Digital and High Def cable packages are viewed differently. You can upgrade to digital cable to receive more programming options with improved picture and sound quality. However, to upgrade to a High Def package, you need a High Def television first. You can view High Def programming on a standard digital TV, it just won't be at full High Definition quality.

DTV / HDTV FAQ

- Q Why the switch?
- A To free up parts of the broadcast spectrum for public safety communications (police, fire, rescue squads).
- Q Do I have to replace my analog TV by 2/17/09?
- A. If you subscribe to a cable or satellite provider, you will not be affected. If you do not, you will need to upgrade to a digital tuner.
- Q. What about my other electronics?
- A. All VCR, DVD & gaming consoles will work but may not provide digital-quality picture & sound.

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For more info, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 or visit the FCC's digital television website at www.dtv.gov

## Reducing your footprint

A footprint is the measurement of impact human activities have on the environment. Basically, in order to live, we consume what nature offers. But are we taking more than it can give? Decisions we make everyday on travel, housing, food and energy consumption have a direct impact on how many resources and how much energy our lives require and

also how much we waste. Here are a few tips to create a smaller, more earth friendly footprint:

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Fill your own water bottles with tap water.
- Upgrade to ENERGYSTAR appliances.
- Use what you already own

for a longer period of time.

- Use the dishwasher more. It saves 37% less water than washing dishes by hand!
- Recycle everything that is accepted locally.
- Unplug the charger when your electronics are charged.
- Carry your own reusable mug to your local coffee shop.
- Start composting your yard waste.

# CBPU City Wide Hydrant Flushing

Beginning April 21st at 8:00 a.m., the water department will begin its semi-annual hydrant operating program. All city and privately owned fire hydrants within the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities water system will be operated.

Because accumulations of iron and manganese are loosened by operating the hydrants, residents may experience periodic discolored water between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This is a good time for homeowners to remember to flush hot water heaters which will improve water quality and efficiency. The CBPU recommends doing laundry during the evening hours if crews are in the vicinity during the day.

Motorists are urged to use caution in and around areas where hydrant operation is taking place and children should avoid these areas.

The program will begin on Monday, April 21, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and conclude around 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2008. Generally, all operations will be done between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. except Wednesday morning April 23rd, crews will be starting at 6:00 a.m. at N. Sprague Street and E. Chicago Street., and work westward though the downtown area and then north on Marshall Street to the Branch County Sheriff's Department.

For further information, please contact Tom Spitzner, Water Superintendent at 279-9531.

The following schedule indicates where crews should be during the two-week period:

|                       |                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Monday, April 21st    | Ward 1                                     |
| Tuesday, April 22nd   | Ward 1                                     |
| Wednesday, April 23rd | Ward 1 & 2<br>(Downtown & Marshall Street) |
| Thursday, April 24th  | Ward 2                                     |
| Friday, April 25th    | Ward 2                                     |
| Monday, April 28th    | Ward 4                                     |
| Tuesday, April 29     | Ward 4                                     |
| Wednesday, April 30   | Ward 3 & 4                                 |
| Thursday, May 1       | Ward 3                                     |
| Friday, May 2         | Ward 3                                     |

# Sanitary Sewer Backup Procedures

While only a handful of our customers experience a sewer backup each year, we know that when it does occur, it can be a stressful experience. In some cases, it may cause health and safety concerns, as well as significant property loss.

If you experience a sewer backup, call the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities first at 279-9531. Our staff will determine if the public sewer main serving your home is functioning properly. This is a free service to you. If we find that there is no obstruction in the public sewer, it may be

necessary for you to contact a plumber or a sewer/drain cleaning service. We are not responsible for plumber/sewer cleaning contractor's expense incurred for sewer backups on the main sewer if we are not contacted first.

The CBPU will not assume responsibility for damages resulting from sewage backups, as most stoppages are related to conditions beyond our control. Customers can alleviate possible sewer-related damages expenses by contacting their

property insurance provider and discussing this policy provision.

Property owners can do many things to prevent their lateral from backing up. Remember too, that the very same things can help to prevent backups in the City main as well. If everyone would be careful about how they dispose of certain products such as grease, paper towels, diapers and feminine products, then the wastewater collection system would have fewer backups and operate more efficiently.

# Did you know...

## Board of Review

The 2008 Board of Review meets in public session on Monday, March 10th,

Tuesday, March 11th and Wednesday, March 12th? City of Coldwater property owners experiencing a change in their assessed or taxable valuation will be mailed an Assessment Change notice prior to February 28th. If you would like more information, please call the Assessing Department at 279-9505.

If you live outside the Coldwater City limits, please contact your local units for dates and times of your Board of Review.

## VOIP PHONE SERVICE

The CBPU now offers unlimited local and long distance phone service for \$29.95 a month if you have a high speed Internet connection? You even get the premium calling features such as call return, call forward, caller ID and voice mail included! Don't worry about having a credit card or being put on hold for hours with a national technical support team. Our phone service is locally supported and billed on your CBPU invoice with your other services. Make the switch today by our calling customer service department at 279-9531.

## City Sports On-Line

You can sign up for your favorite City of Coldwater recreational activity on-line? No need to wait in line or even leave the comfort of your own home. Just go to [www.coldwater.org](http://www.coldwater.org), Parks & Recreation On-Line Registration. Find the list of sports currently open for registration, click on the Details icon for more info about that activity and if you like it, register and pay for it. It's that easy! You can always call the Recreation Department at 278-8566 if you need any assistance.

(Team activities require both a sponsor registration and individual registrations.)