

Between the Lines

Volume 4, Issue 1

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General Information

One Grand Street
Coldwater, MI 49036

Office: 517-279-9531

Internet Helpdesk: 517-278-9276

Website: www.coldwater.org

Payment Options: Mail, Drop-box,
Automatic Bill Pay, On-Line Bill Pay
or Lobby Mon-Fri, 8:00am - 5:00pm

Suggestions for Newsletter:
Newsletter@coldwater.org

**We're on Facebook... and
Twitter too!**

Get up-to-date information on City
and CBPU events, programs &
service offerings!



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

Friday, April 22nd @ noon
Monday, May 30th all day



**Downtown Art
Walk**

Friday, May 6th
from 5:30 to 8pm
Come out & have
fun downtown!

**The Coldwater Car / Cycle
Show Swap Meet will be
held on Saturday and
Sunday, May 7th & 8th 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!**

Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP)

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities (CBPU) Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP) was developed to lend a helping hand to our low-income customers. REAP lets these customers permanently reduce their energy and water costs by improving their home's energy efficiency.



Our Energy Specialist will visit your home and complete a free Home Energy Analysis to identify what changes can be made to improve efficiency and reduce utility costs.

Qualified participants may be eligible to receive the installation of the following

items **ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE:**

- Programmable thermostats
- Weather-stripping
- Pipe insulation
- Low-flow showerheads
- Faucet aerators
- Compact fluorescent lighting & more

Qualified participants may also be eligible for

assistance in upgrading their older inefficient



refrigerators with new Energy Star models.

CBPU customers interested in more information regarding REAP or any of the other Energy

Optimization Program Incentives can visit:

www.coldwater.org or call 517-279-6910.

Persons in Household	Qualifying Monthly Income	Qualifying Yearly Income
1	\$1,805	\$21,660
2	\$2,428	\$29,140
3	\$3,052	\$36,620
4	\$3,675	\$44,100
5	\$4,298	\$51,580

City Voters Have a New Polling Location

The City of Coldwater now has a new polling location for city voters. Beginning with the May 3, 2011, Special Election, all four wards of the City will vote at the Dearth Community Center located at 235 E. Garfield Avenue.

The new polling location will offer better accessibility for voters and



it will help to better administer the election process.

In years past, the humidity and heat during the May and August elections have caused some difficulty in the processing of ballots. Not only was it presenting technical issues with

the electronic tabulators, but it was a comfort issue for voters and election inspectors as

well. Voters will now no longer stand in line in 90 degree temperatures. Relocating will also save the City set up time and transportation of certain equipment.

New voter registration cards were mailed to all registered voters the first part of February indicating the change. If you did not receive a new voter registration card or if you have any questions, call the City Clerk's office at 517-279-6928.

CBPU to Offer A Green Solution in EcoSmart Choice

EcoSmart Choice is CBPU’s green pricing program, which allows customers to support renewable energy development. The program is available to both residential and commercial / industrial customers.

Green pricing programs such as EcoSmart Choice are based on the purchase and retirement of renewable energy certificates (RECs). The REC is equivalent to the "greenness" of the electricity that is generated. Essentially, for each megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity that is generated from renewable resources, one REC is created. For each REC that is purchased and used by the CBPU for the green pricing program, one MWh of traditional (non-renewable) electric generation is offset. Once RECs are used for this

purpose, they are essentially retired.

RECs used for EcoSmart Choice are certifiable under the rules of the Green-e® Energy program operated by the Center for Resource Solutions. They are currently sourced from hydroelectric, landfill gas or wind facilities.



All CBPU residential and commercial/ industrial electric customers are able to offset up to 100% of their electric usage with renewable energy for as little as an additional .007 cents per kWh. For

example, if a customer uses 750 kWh in a month and chooses to participate at the 100% level, the EcoSmart Choice program will purchase an equal number of RECs to match that monthly usage, and the customer would pay an additional \$5.25 as part of their utility bill that month to cover their participation in the program. Customers who choose to participate at the 25%, 50%, or 75% levels, will see proportionately smaller increases on their bills.

For more information or to sign up for the EcoSmart Choice Program, please visit our website at www.coldwater.org or call customer service at 279-9531.

CBPU City Wide Hydrant Flushing

Beginning Monday, April 25th, the Water Department will begin its semi-annual hydrant-operating program. Crews will be working around the clock to complete the program within one week. There will not be a set schedule of crew locations by day.



This is a good time for homeowners to remember to flush hot water heaters, which will improve water quality and efficiency.

The Coldwater BPU recommends doing laundry once crews have flushed hydrants in their area. Customers living south of US-12 should do laundry later in the week and north of US-12 earlier in the week as a general rule.

Motorists are urged to use caution in and around areas where hydrant operation is taking place especially in the evening and early morning hours.

For further information, please contact our Water Department at 279-4805.

Brush Collection occurs from April thru October on the first Monday of the month. No root systems are allowed and brush is to be 8” or less in diameter. Place brush in the curb lawn area with the ends facing the same direction.



PLEASE REMEMBER:

All yard waste must be placed in paper bags. No plastic bags will be accepted.

Did you know...

The City of Coldwater offers **FREE** recycling with their garbage service?

We are very fortunate to live in a City that offers a free recycling program to residents who have disposal service. Before throwing something away, ask yourself if it could be recycled.

If you’re not recycling now, please think about how good it will feel to know you’re helping the environment.

To start recycling service, give us a call 279-9531. We'd be happy to drop off recycling bins to you!

Items that CAN be recycled

- Newspaper & all inserts
- Box board
- Magazines
- Catalogs
- Flattened corrugated boxes
- Mixed paper & junk mail
- Glass bottles & jars
- Metal food containers
- Plastic jugs & bottles (rinsed out please)



Have materials you’re not sure what to do with? You can drop off other recyclable material directly to our offices. Here is a listing of what you can drop off by location:

- ◆ Household Batteries at the H.L. Brown Building, One Grand Street
- ◆ Compact Fluorescent Lights & Mercury (Thermometers & Switches) at the Electric Service Building, 180 S Sprague Street
- ◆ Antifreeze, Household Batteries, Oil Filters & Used Motor Oil at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, 100 Jay Street.