

# Between the Lines

Volume 2, Issue 3

September, 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



Trick-or-Treating will be on Saturday, October 31st from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Have a safe and fun Halloween night!

The City and CBPU Offices will be closed November 27th & 28th in observance of the Holiday.

### WINTER TAXES

Winter Taxes will be mailed December 1, 2009.



They are due on Tuesday February 16th, 2010

## Make October a GREEN Month

We're celebrating Hallo-Green and we'd like you to celebrate with us! Local citizens are invited to come to our offices the week of October 26th to receive a reusable grocery bag containing energy efficient products as well as energy and water saving tips. Bring the kids - there'll be Hallo-Green treats for them too!

But you don't have to wait until Hallo-Green to start making greener choices in your life. Here's a few ideas to get you started this month:

**Oct 1:** Keep your freezer's temp at 0° and your fridge between 35° and 38°. BECAUSE: Adjusting a "too cold" freezer by 5 degrees can cut its energy use by 20%.

**Oct 3:** Tighten your gas cap. BECAUSE: Each year in the US, 147 million gallons of gas evaporate into the atmosphere because of loose caps.

**Oct 7:** Drive with cruise control on the highway. BECAUSE: A steady pace burns gas at a constant rate, which lets you drive 10% farther on a single tank.

**Oct 9:** Burn soy candles instead of petroleum based candles. BECAUSE: Paraffin emits 11 toxins; soy doesn't.

**Oct 11:** Return wire hangers to the dry cleaner. BECAUSE: More than 3.5 billion hangers reach the landfills each year.

**Oct 14:** Keep water in the fridge. BECAUSE: Letting the tap run while the water cools can waste a gallon a minute!

**Oct 17:** Use a drive-thru car wash. BECAUSE: Drive-thru car washes use 1/2 the water per car than a do-it-yourselfer.

**Oct 20:** Recycle your old cell phone or donate it to charity. BECAUSE: Electronic trash amounts to 70% of America's toxic waste!

**Oct 21:** Plan errands in fewer trips. BECAUSE: Consolidating your tasks into one or two runs a week can conserve as much as 55 gallons of gas in a year.

**Oct 23:** Keep a reusable bag in your car for errands: BECAUSE: Americans use 380 billion plastic bags a year!

**Oct 25:** Switch your computer display to sleep mode after 5 minutes of inactivity. BECAUSE: Sleep mode consumes 90% less energy than animated screen savers.

**Oct 27:** Stop into the CBPU at One Grand Street. BECAUSE: They are giving free energy efficiency products out to local citizens.

**Oct 31:** Set your home page to www.cbpu.com and look for ways to continue to reduce your carbon footprint.

## It's City -Wide Flushing Time!

Beginning September 21st, 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 Board of Public Utilities 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 more information on the City Wide Hydrant Flushing Program, please contact Tom Spitzner, Water Superintendent at 279-4805 from 8:00a to 4:00p Monday through Friday.

## Voting in the 2009 November Election

All residents are encouraged to cast ballots in the upcoming November 3, 2009 Election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The last day to register for the November General Election is October 5th.

You can see if you are registered to vote and view a sample of your ballot prior to going to the polls through the Michigan Voter Information Center at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote). You will also find a map to your polling place and information on contacting your local clerk. This is a convenient resource for all residents. City of Coldwater residents vote at the Heritage Gym located in Heritage Park.

Voters who are eligible should note the absentee ballot option. Registered voters may obtain an absentee ballot if they are:

- Age 60 or older.
- Unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another person.
- Expecting to be out of town on Election Day.
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial.
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons.
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of their precinct of residence.

Residents are reminded of the identification requirement. They will be asked to present photo ID at the polls, such as a Michigan driver's license or identification card.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the City Clerk's office at (517) 279-9501.



**COME DOWNTOWN FOR THE COLDWATER JAYCEES HALLOWEEN PARADE!**



**THE PARADE WILL START AT 7:30 P.M. ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH**



## Disposal & Yard Waste Seasonal Schedule

Here are a few friendly reminders regarding your disposal service that you may find helpful for the upcoming months:

- Saturday, October 3: East Side City-wide trash pickup.
- Saturday, October 10: West Side City-wide trash pickup.
- Monday, November 23: Final day for bagged yard waste pickup.
- Wednesday, November 25: Final day for loose leaf pickup.



- Christmas tree pickup begins on December 28th and ends on January 18th, 2010.
- Between the week of Christmas and New Years, extra garbage (boxes, wrapping paper, any holiday related items) will be picked up at no charge.
- There will be no residential pickups on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July,

Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Should your pickup day fall on one of these holidays, your garbage will be picked up the following business day.

- Before winter approaches, please inspect (and repair) your mailbox to allow for snow removal.
- Please clear your sidewalks and walkways of snow and ice. Your neighbors, mail carriers & meter reader will appreciate it!

## CBPU Electric Department Receives Safety Award

The Coldwater Board of Public Utilities (CBPU) electric department recently received first place in Group C of the American Public Power Association's 2008 Safety Contest. Contestants are divided into competing groups based upon the number of worker-hours worked by the utility. The groups range from "A" (for systems with less than 15,000 worker-hours of exposure) to "H" (more than 3,999,999 worker-hours of exposure). Coldwater is included in Group "C" which is systems with 30,000 to 59,999 worker-hours of exposure.

A perfect incident rate of 0 was achieved by employees of the electric department, meaning there were no fatalities, no cases involving days away from work nor restricted or job transfer days, and no medical treatment recordable cases.

Michael Hyland, Vice President of Engineering Services at the APPA congratulated

the CBPU stating, "A record such as yours is indicative of high standards in the workplace and is vital to safe and productive utility operations."

"The CBPU has an exemplary safety record. This commitment to safety is a reflection of the quality of every employee and their dedication to serving the customers of the CBPU. This award is well deserved," said CBPU Director Paul Beckhusen.



CBPU Electric Department