

Between the Lines

Volume 4, Issue 4

December, 2011

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, 8a - 5p

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!



The City and CBPU
Offices will be
CLOSED on the
following dates:

- Friday, Dec 23rd
- Monday, Dec 26th
- Friday, Dec 30th
- Monday, Jan 2nd



IMPORTANT DATES:

Christmas Tree Pickup
begins December 27th

Winter Taxes are due
February 14, 2012

Daylight Saving Begins
March 11, 2012

Home Heating Help Available

Winter Protection Plan

The Winter Protection Plan protects eligible senior and low-income customers from service shut-off and high utility bill payments during the winter months (November 1 through March 31).

If you're an eligible low-income customer who participates in the Winter Protection Plan, you will not have service discontinued during the winter months if you pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, plus 1/12 of any past due bills.

If you're an eligible senior citizen customer who participates in the Winter Protection Plan, you are not required to make specific payments between November 1 and March 31 to ensure that your service will not be shut off. However you are encouraged to pay as much as

you can during the winter so you will not have large, unmanageable bills when the protection period ends.

When the protection period ends (March 31), you will need to pay the full monthly bill plus a portion of the amount owed from the winter months.

You qualify for the plan if you meet one of the following requirements:

- Are age 65 or older
- Receive DHS cash assistance
- Receive Food Stamps
- Receive Medicaid
- Have a household income at or below 150% of poverty level

Medical Emergency Protection

You are protected from service shut-off for non-payment of your electric bills for up to 21 days if you have a proven medical emergency. You must provide written proof from a doctor that a

medical emergency exists.

Military Customers

If you or your spouse is called to full-time active military service by the President of the United States or the Governor of Michigan during a time of declared national or state emergency or war, you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric service for up to 90 days.

Other Assistance Options

- CBPU
517-279-9531
Dept of Human Services
517-279-4200
United Way
211
Salvation Army
269-251-4275
Veteran's Affairs
517-279-4322
THAW
800-866-8429

HIT MOVIES. HUGE SAVINGS!

**Sign up for Starz & Encore
before December 31st and get
all 13 Premium Movie
Channels, including Starz HD
for half price for 6 months!**

**Call us at 279-9531 to take
advantage of this
great offer by
Starz & Encore!**

Offer is \$7.50/month for 6 months
Offer expires 12/31/2011



Updating Your Account Information

From time to time, we need to get in touch with you. That's why it's important we have the most up-to-date contact information on your account.



This is especially important if you have had an account with the CBPU for years or if you are 65 years of age or older.

Please, take a moment to call customer service at 279-9531 and update your account information. The CBPU does not give out personal information or sell it to a third party.

Initial Design Concepts for Four Corners Park Revealed

The City of Coldwater and the DDA have partnered with Michigan State University for assistance in developing ideas for the redesign of the Four Corners Park area.

Through the Small Town Design Initiative (STDI) community, members have been working with graduate students from MSU's Planning and Landscape Architecture Department to create design concepts for the beautification and revitalization of the park area.

A community input meeting was held in July 2011, which resulted in four preliminary design concepts.

Until December 31, 2011 the community is encouraged to take a look at each of

the design concepts and provide their thoughts and comments about what they LOVE and DON'T LOVE about the designs. This information will be used by the students to further develop the design concepts. All comments should be directed to Christine Bowman, DDA Director at (517) 279-6902, via email at cbowman@coldwater.org, or in writing to her attention at City Hall.

At a follow-up meeting in January 2012 the feedback collected will be discussed



and final thoughts and observations from community members will be welcomed. The final design concepts will then be revealed at a meeting in early spring 2012.

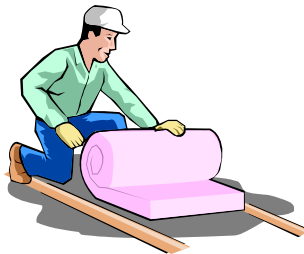
A hard copy of the preliminary design concepts may be viewed at City Hall, One Grand Street, during normal business hours.

If you belong to a service club, non-profit organization, or educational institution that has an interest in the future of Four Corners Park, a copy of the complete presentation is available for you to share with your membership by contacting the DDA office (517) 279-6902.

CBPU Offering Home Energy Check-Ups

The CBPU is now offering Home Energy Check-ups; a fast, easy way to increase the energy efficiency of a home to help customers start saving energy and money immediately.

When a customer schedules a Home Energy Check-up, an energy efficiency professional will perform a one hour walk-through of their home assessing the condition of its insulation, heating and cooling systems, water heating



equipment, windows, doors, lighting, appliances and air leakage. After the Home Energy Check-up, the customer will receive a report summarizing

important findings, recommended improvements, and opportunities to reduce their energy use and costs, while also improving the comfort of their home.

The cost of the Home Energy Check-up is a nominal fee of \$40. However, if the customer allows the Check-up

professional to install at least three of the recommended energy-saving measures, the CBPU will waive the Check-up fee and the cost of the installed energy-saving measures.

Recommended energy savings may include compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), water saving faucet aerators, efficient-flow showerheads, water heater pipe insulation, and water heater tank wrap (electric water heaters only).

CBPU customers interested in more information regarding The Home Energy Check-up can visit: www.coldwater.org or call 279-9531.

Friendly Reminders During the Holidays

Here are a few friendly reminders you may find helpful for the upcoming Holiday season:



- Christmas tree pickup begins on December 27th and ends on January 13, 2012.
- Between the week of Christmas and New Years, extra garbage (boxes,

wrapping paper, any holiday related items) will be picked up at no charge.

- If your garbage pickup day falls on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, 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. Also, please be sure not to pile snow on the sidewalk or street when plowing driveways and parking lots.

For more information, call customer service at 279-9531.