



www.CentennialUtilities.com

Providing Natural Gas, Water, Sewer and Refuse Services to the Centennial Area

Customer Connections



Calendar of Events

January, 2010

Utilities Commission Meetings

Jan. 20 at 4 p.m.

Feb. 17 at 4 p.m.

Offices Closed

January 18

February 15

Centennial Utilities Commission Members

Edward Erchul, Chair
7 Oak Ridge Tr.

Keath Young
78 West Golden Lake Rd.

Dave Bartholomay
71 West Golden Lake Rd.

Jan Kreminski
248 Pine Hollow Dr.

Utilities Office

200 Civic Heights Circle
Circle Pines, MN 55014

PHONE: 763-784-6751

FAX: 763-785-2859

TDD: 763-784-9724

After Hours Emergency: 763-427-1212

Utilities Commission Increases Scholarship Applications and Essays Due March 10

At its last meeting, the Centennial Utilities Commission voted to increase the local amount offered for its annual scholarship competition. The first-place winner of an essay contest will receive \$750 (formerly \$500) and for the first time, there will be a second-place award of \$500.

Centennial Utilities, in cooperation with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, offers the annual scholarship to high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution. Applicants must also be, or have as a legal guardian, a customer of an MMUA-member municipal electric or gas utility.



The first-place winner will also have a chance to compete for one of four statewide scholarship prizes of \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500.

To apply for the scholarship, entrants must fill out a Centennial Utilities Scholarship application and participate in an essay contest with the theme "Municipal Utilities: Good for All of Us." The essay must be 500 to 1,000 words typed and double spaced, and will be judged by Centennial Utilities Commission members at their March 17 meeting. The winning entry will then be forwarded to MMUA for state competition with that winner to be announced in May. Judges will look for the relevance of the theme to the writer and his/her city.

Application forms and essays must be received at the Centennial Utilities office, 200 Civic Heights Circle, Circle Pines, MN 55014 by Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. For application form and more information on this scholarship offering, please contact Centennial Utilities at 763-784-6751 or visit www.centennialutilities.com.

Check Manufacture Date on Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The sensor in your carbon monoxide detectors can wear out and no longer accurately detect levels of CO in your home. The device may test fine, but it is possible the sensor may not trigger an alarm if the device is older than six years.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division, carbon monoxide alarms have an effective lifespan of five to seven years. Many manufacturers recommend these devices be replaced at six-year intervals.

Check the manufacture date on your CO alarms and replace them if at least six years have passed. Also remember to choose detectors that meet UL standards. For more information on carbon monoxide alarms, visit www.fire.state.mn.us.

Monthly Rates Increase for Garbage/Recycling

Due to increased costs, the City Council voted recently to raise the monthly rates for garbage and recycling. The waste recovery facility in Elk River increased their per ton charge from \$38.75 to \$61, so increased rates reflect their additional costs for disposal.

Therefore, the 35-gallon garbage rate increased from \$8.70 to \$9.55; the 64-gallon rate increased from \$11.10 to \$13.20; and the 96-gallon rate increased from \$14.35 to \$18.15. Twenty cents of the new rate is related to the hauler contract, with the balance of the increase due to the per ton disposal cost. The monthly recycling rate went from \$2.65 to \$2.80. Seniors with hardships may qualify for reduced rates.

The new rates are effective as of January 1, 2010.

Prevent Fires by Eliminating Lint Build-up in Dryer

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 1998, clothes dryers were associated with 15,600 fires, which resulted in 20 deaths and 370 injuries. Fires can occur when lint builds up in the dryer or in the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air, cause excessive heat build-up, and result in a fire in some dryers.

To help prevent fires:

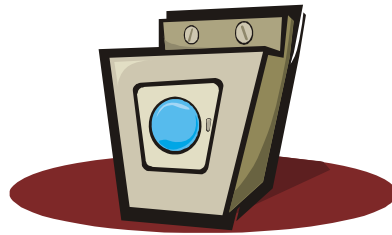
Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes. If clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle, this may be a sign that the lint screen or the exhaust duct is blocked.

Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically. Check the outside dryer vent while the dryer is operating to make sure exhaust air is escaping. If it is not, the vent or the exhaust duct may be blocked.

Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up.

Replace plastic or foil, accordion-type ducting material with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct, which provides maximum airflow.

Take special care when drying clothes that have been soiled with volatile chemicals such as gasoline, cooking oils, cleaning agents, or finishing oils and stains. If possible, wash them more than once and, preferably, hang the clothes to dry. If using a dryer, use the lowest heat setting and a drying cycle that has a cool-down period at the end of the cycle.



Flush Sediment from Water Heater Twice a Year

Over time, a water heater can accumulate sediment consisting of sand, gravel, and mineral deposits. This buildup can reduce the efficiency of your unit, so it is recommended that you drain and flush your tank at least twice a year.

Keep children and pets away from the area during this procedure as the water temperature is very high and could cause scalding.

The following steps should be taken to drain and flush your water heater.

1. If your unit is gas, set the gas valve to "pilot" to prevent the burners from coming on while you are flushing it. If your heater is electric, be sure to turn off the circuit breakers.

2. Connect a garden hose to the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. Close the shutoff valve on the cold inlet to the unit and carefully open the temperature/pressure relief valve at the top of the tank by lifting the lever. Leave the valve open.

3. Open the drain valve at the bottom of the heater and allow the water to flow through the hose. When the garden hose runs clear, close the drain valve at the bottom of the tank and remove the hose. Close the pressure relief valve at the top of the tank and turn the cold inlet valve back on.

4. Open a hot faucet in your house, and let it run until there are no air bubbles. Turn the water heater back to its previous setting.

Circle Pines Recycling Pickup Schedule

North Side of Lake Drive
Jan. 15 & 29, Feb. 12

South Side of Lake Drive
Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 5

Holiday Hours

Centennial Utilities and City of Circle Pines offices will be closed **Monday, January 18** for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and **Monday, February 15** in recognition of Presidents Day.