

Calendar of Events

February
2010



Utilities Commission Meetings

Feb. 17 at 4 p.m.

Mar. 17 at 4 p.m.

Offices Closed

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

Energy Help for Consumers Includes Tax Credits, Rebates and Low-Interest Loans

A number of options are available to homeowners searching for a way to save money, receive assistance with or get a tax credit or rebate on home energy expenses. Those who qualify can apply for one or more of the following programs.

The Anoka County **Home Energy Loan Program** provides assistance to owner-occupied households within Anoka County (except Coon Rapids) to make improvements on heating systems to reduce energy costs. This program will replace furnaces, boiler systems and water heaters with Energy Star-rated products. Other eligible improvements include insulation, weatherization and programmable thermostats. This is a zero percent loan and will be forgiven in the 11th year after improvements are made. If the property is sold, transferred or no longer the principal place of residence within ten years, the recipient shall repay the loan. Income limits and other criteria apply. Contact North Metro HousingResource Center at 651-486-7401 for more information, or visit www.HousingResourceCenter.org.

Anoka County's **Energy Assistance Program (EAP)** helps low income residents by paying a portion of their heating costs. The program runs from October 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 and is administered by Anoka County Community Action Program. For more information on the applica-

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Students Must Apply for Utilities Scholarship by March 10

Two Local Prizes, Four State Awards

Graduating high school students interested in the 2010 Centennial Utilities Scholarship have only one more month to apply. 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.



cal essay contest will receive \$750 with a second-place award of \$500. The first-place winner's essay will also be forwarded for one of four chances at statewide scholarship prizes of \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500.

The first-place winner of the lo-

For application form and more information on this scholarship offering, please contact Centennial Utilities at 763-784-6751 or visit www.centennialutilities.com.

Utilities Commission Approves Adjustment to Gas Rate, Service Fee

The Centennial Utilities Commission has approved a minimal increase to the per 100 ccf delivery charge for natural gas.

The natural gas delivery charge rate will increase by \$0.014 which brings the residential delivery charge to \$0.245 per ccf. The minimal increase is to recover costs of expansion throughout the system and increased system costs.

A typical residential customer who used 195 units in January would see a \$2.73 increase in their total gas bill. For the residential customer in a typical summer month where they used 20 units, it would mean an increase of \$0.28.

The commission also voted to increase the basic service charge by \$1.00. Commercial rates were also increased proportionately.

Check Batteries When You Move Clocks Forward on March 14

When you move your clocks forward on March 14, remember to check all batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure proper function.



It is also recommended that you develop and practice a fire escape plan for your household.



Centennial Utilities and City of Circle Pines offices will be closed Monday, February 15 in recognition of Presidents Day.

Commission Increases Water, Sewer Rates

Effective January 1, 2010, the Utilities Commission has approved an increase in the water rate by \$0.08 per 1,000 gallons. In addition, they increased the water basic service charge by \$1.00 per month. Commercial water meter rates were increased proportionately. Water rate increases are reflective of the ongoing costs of reconstruction of older portions of the system.

In addition, the Utilities Commission increased the sanitary sewer rates by \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons. Commercial customers will see a similar increase. The primary reason for the sewer rate increase was related to increased waste water treatment costs from Met Council Environmental Services.

The storm sewer rate was also increased for residential customers by \$0.50 per month. Commercial customers will see an equivalent increase in their storm sewer monthly rate. This fee increase is necessary for reconstruction of older storm water piping and increased maintenance cost on existing treatment ponds.

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tion process, call 763-783-4747 or visit the website at www.accap.org.

The **Weatherization Program** provides energy saving improvements to income-qualified households of Anoka County's Energy Assistance program, with priority given to the elderly, disabled, and/or high fuel consumption households. An auditor inspects the home, furnace and water heater to determine if weatherization work is required. Examples include insulation, weather stripping, caulking, sealing bypasses, furnace work, and venting. Contact information is the same as Energy Assistance Program.

The **Minnesota Energy Loan**, offered through the Neighborhood Energy Connection, is a low, fixed-rate loan with minimal closing fees. By doing at least one home energy improvement recommended by an energy auditor, homeowners can also finance other general home improvements at the same low rate. Minimum loan amount is \$2,000, and maximum \$35,000. The maximum annual gross household income limit for applicants is \$96,500. For forms and more information on the Minnesota Energy Loan, visit www.thenec.org or contact LeAnne Karras, Loan Program Manager, at 651-221-4462, ext. 132.

Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency - If you purchase an energy-efficient product or renewable energy system for your home, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$1,500 of the cost. Please note, not all ENERGY STAR® qualified products qualify for a tax credit. For details and further information, visit www.energystar.gov.

Minnesota Appliance Rebates - Tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2010, the State of Minnesota will implement a mail-in rebate program to help residents replace older, inefficient appliances with new, ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances. The program will continue until funds are depleted. Eligible products include refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers and dishwashers. Consumers are required to provide proof of proper recycling of replaced refrigerators and freezers, and can receive higher rebates for doing so. For more information, visit mnappliancerebate.com.

Centennial Utilities Energy Audit Credit - Customers who schedule an energy audit through Centennial Utilities can apply for a credit for the \$25 energy audit fee after providing evidence of performing at least \$100 in energy conservation improvements. To request an energy audit, call Centennial Utilities at 763-784-6751.