



Customer Connections

www.CentennialUtilities.com

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



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.

Add Insulation to Help Reduce Home Energy Costs

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy Savers

Unless your home was specially constructed for energy efficiency, you can usually reduce your energy bills by adding more insulation. Many older homes have less insulation than homes built today, but adding insulation to a newer home may also pay for itself within a few years.


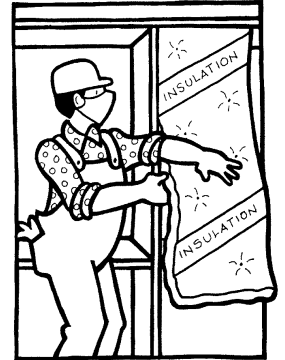
To determine whether you should add insulation, you first need to find out how much insulation you already have in your home and where. (Energy audits are available to Centennial Utilities Customers for a reduced rate of \$25.)

A qualified home energy auditor will include an insulation check as a routine part of a whole-house energy audit. An energy audit will also help identify areas of your home that are in need of air sealing. Before you insulate, you should make sure that your home is properly air sealed.

If you don't want an energy audit, you will need to find out the following:

- * Where your home is, isn't, and/or should be insulated
- * What type of insulation you have
- * The R-value and the thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation you have.

For more information on adding insulation, determining R-value recommendations, and deciding what type of insulation to add, visit www.energysavers.gov.



Thank You for Your Generosity!

Centennial Utilities and the City of Circle Pines would like to thank all residents and customers who contributed to Anoka County's annual *Toys For Joy and Granny's Christmas Closet* programs and the Salvation Army's *HeatShare*.

Your generous donations helped provide Christmas toys for children, clothing for seniors and heating assistance for those in need.

Keep Ice & Snow From Building Up on Gas Meters

The Minnesota State Fire Marshal-Pipeline Safety Team urges pipeline operators, building managers and residents of single- or multi-family buildings to be aware that accumulations of water, ice and snow can cause serious damage to gas facilities. Your outdoor gas meter and equipment are designed to withstand winter weather conditions, but heavy or hard-packed snow and ice on your meter can present a safety hazard.

To avoid problems:

1. Keep your meter clear of snow and ice, and never let snow completely cover your meter.
2. Do not shovel snow up against your meter.
3. Take care when using a snow blower or plow near your meter.
4. Never kick or hit the gas meter or its piping to break away built-up snow or ice. Instead, use a broom to keep the meter free of snow and ice.

Make Energy Improvements to Home With Loan Through HousingResource Center

Homeowners in Anoka County can get help with home energy improvements by qualifying for a loan through the North Metro HousingResource Center.

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.