

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED



A Monthly Newsletter for our Utility Customers • 24/7 www.barnesvillemn.com • October 2011

RESULTS OF BIG TEN SURVEY

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to the Big Ten Network survey that was included in last month's utility bill, your feedback was very valuable.

167 surveys were returned; of those surveys, 23 households were in favor of adding the Big Ten Network being added with a \$1.50 increase in the Preferred Cable rate and 144 said were not. Based on your response, the TEC Board at their September meeting voted to not add the channel.

NEW CABLE TV CHANNELS

Preferred Cable TV subscribers take note that EWTN, known as the Global Catholic Network, has been added as Channel 66. HD Subscribers will notice the Sci-Fi HD has been added on Channel 230. Don't forget to reprogram your remote controls so you can enjoy these channels.

CALLER ID "SPOOFING" NOTICE

Caller ID service is currently susceptible to fraud known as Caller ID "spoofing". The term Caller ID Spoofing refers to a practice whereby the calling party uses commonly available technology to falsify the number of the telephone line from which the call is made, the name of the calling party, or both as they appear on the called party's Caller ID screen. This practice has the potential for fraud and harm to the called party.

To protect yourself, do not take what the Caller ID screen displays for granted. If what the caller is saying does not seem legitimate, do not divulge personal information until you can verify the source, by hanging up and calling them back on a verified number (from a mailed statement or printed directory).

Currently, there is not a technological fix for this practice, but Congress is considering new legislation that will take action against these violators. If you would like more information on spoofing, visit www.fcc.gov, search "spoofing".

CITY HALL CLOSED NOV. 11, 25-26

City Hall will be closed on Friday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and on Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



PeopleService INC.
Water & Wastewater Professionals

BARNESVILLE WATER UPDATE

Numbering buildings allows people such as emergency responders and delivery services such as UPS to locate your home or business more easily. These building numbers are also very important to city utility staff as we use the numbers frequently for responding to water and wastewater problems in addition to recording street data. Please help us to help you by verifying that your house number is posted and readable from the street.

PeopleService will be flushing water mains and beginning the winterization of fire hydrants from October 24 through November 4. This process may cause temporary discoloration of your water. If this does occur, just turn on several faucets in your building until the water clears. This annual exercise promotes hydrant longevity, disrupts existing iron & manganese in the water lines from settling over the winter and protects the hydrant from damage due to freezing temperatures.

Any questions? Please call PeopleService staff Dan Lubbesmeyer at 701.893.8825 or Brandon Anderson 701.893.8699.

WINTER LIQUOR STORE HOURS

Firehall Municipal Liquors will change to their winter hours on Monday, October 31.

Monday - Thursday 12:00 Noon - 9:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Barnesville residents are reminded about winter parking restrictions. After a snowfall of two inches, or more, vehicles parked on any city street, that is not otherwise posted, must be removed prior to 8 am on the day following the day that the street is first plowed. Vehicles may not be returned until after such street has been widened to its full width.

TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

Lifeline and Link-up are federal and state assistance programs which reduce telephone bills for qualified low-income customers. Lifeline offers a monthly credit up to \$10/month and the Link-up program reduces installation charges for qualified low income customers. You may qualify for these programs if you participate in SSI, Energy Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Free School Lunch or if your household income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For more info contact City Hall at 354-2292.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in contributing your time and talent for the betterment of the City? The Barnesville Park Board is looking for a new member. Call Patty McGowan at 354-7490 for info.

LED CHRISTMAS LIGHT REBATE

With the holidays just around the corner, now is a great time to replace your old incandescent holiday lights with ENERGY STAR qualified LED decorative lights, and **SAVE \$ 3.50 on each strand you purchase with LED Rebate.** Rebate available for up to 6 strings for a total rebate of \$21.

LED decorative light strings:

- Consume 75% less energy than conventional light strings
- Can last up to 10 times longer
- Are more durable and shock-resistant
- Are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire

Go to www.brightenergysolutions.com to download the rebate form or stop by the Barnesville City Hall offices. All rebate forms must be postmarked within 30 days of purchase.



ENERGY SAVING IDEAS from BARNESVILLE MUNICIPAL POWER

Using less energy helps save you money as well as conserve our natural resources. Here are some energy saving tips that will help you **reduce your home heating costs** this winter!

1. Lower Your Thermostat

Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. For every degree your thermostat is lowered, you save approximately 3% on your annual heating bill.

2. Block that Cold Air

Cover drafty windows from the inside with plastic sheeting. Install a door sweep or rolled up towels to block drafty doorways.



3. Keep Your Furnace Filter Clean

Dirty filters reduce airflow making your furnace work harder, and use more energy. Replace your furnace filter monthly during the heating season and you could reduce heating costs by 5%.

4. Install a programmable thermostat

This device can save as much as 20% on heating costs by automatically turning your heating system up or down to coincide with your daily routine.

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED is a publication of:

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Open Thursday nights until 7:00 pm