

Henning Happenings

VOLUME 14

JUNE 1ST, 2017

New Utility Rate Structure/ Consumer Confidence Report

Beginning June 1st, 2017 the new summer electric rate will be in effect for June, July and August. You will see this new rate increase on your July bill for June's usage. Rates will increase by \$0.02/KWH. This is the same rate that was used last summer for the months of July and August. The City of Henning Electrical Department purchases our power through Missouri River Energy. As most users are high volume during the summer months, their overall usage increases. In an effort to recoup the high volume of usage and cost, they must increase their prices to the consumer.

Effective April 1st, 2017, any customer that disconnects utilities for any portion of time, will have to pay \$50.00 per month, plus a \$50.00 disconnect and \$50.00 reconnect fee. We will still turn water off at the curb and lock out gas and electric meters, but the \$50.00 will be charged to your account each month. If

you do not have an active water service and only lock out your gas or electric meter, you will still be charged the regular meter fee.

If any property that has been completely shut off or abandoned for one or more years, wishes to have utilities restored to the property, there is a \$350.00 reconnection fee.

If you own a property that currently has gas available to the home, but you do not use the gas, you can abandon your line for \$350.00. The meter will be pulled and the line capped. You would then no longer be charged the meter fee. If you would want the gas service line reinstalled at any point, there would be a \$350.00 reconnection fee.

A new service wishing to connect to City Water and/or sewer is \$2000.00 for each service.

The change in policy for charging a monthly fee for seasonal users is due to when we did our water and sewer infrastructure project, all connections were figured in for determining rates to repay the debt. By allowing seasonal users to not have to pay while they are gone, we would now need to increase rates for everyday users to compensate for the lost revenue of seasonal users. The base rates are not usage rates. These rates are established simply as a cost of having water available to each home in the City of Henning. As a courtesy we have always included 2,000 gallons of water in the base rate. This has sometimes caused confusion to people wondering why they are paying for water they don't consume. It is imperative to realize that the base rate, is simply that and has nothing to do with actual usage of the water.

The City of Henning is required to provide a consumer confidence report regarding the monitoring of our drinking water for the period from January 1st to December 31, 2016. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

To obtain your copy of this report, you can go to <http://cityofhenning.com/city-departments/utilities-department/>

You can also view the report at the Henning City Office, located at 612 Front St. Henning, MN 56551.

The publishing of the link to view this notice is required by State Law. This notice fulfills the requirement to notify our residents of the report. Please call us with any questions.

Spring and Summer Projects

As with every spring and summer there will be several utility and public works projects going on in the City of Henning. We will soon begin an underground electric project which will take place around Front and 2nd Streets between Douglas and Balmoral Avenues. This is the first phase of a 2-3 phase project designed to replace the aging overhead infra-

structure from Balmoral Ave., to Marshall Ave.

Much of the work will take place in the alleys near the grocery store, drug store, and hardware store. Although it is our goal to be the least burden possible to our local businesses, and we will do our best not to disrupt traffic in the area, there may be times where this is unavoidable. This can be a high

traffic area so please be mindful of the workers, as well as the cones and barricades, and be prepared to take another route if necessary.

Watch Facebook for project updates!



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Henning Ambulance Service Looking for Members

Henning is very fortunate that we own and operate a Basic Life Support Ambulance Service. In the May 16th, 2017 edition of the Citizen's Advocate, Ambulance Director Bob Reinbold made a plea in a letter to the editor asking people to consider working as an EMT. The following is a portion of the letter.

"Your community needs you, and it needs you now. I wrote that sentence almost 14 years ago when we faced a crew shortage, but as noted in last week's edition of the Citizen's Advocate, it is just as applicable today.

Henning and the other 17 cities and townships we serve with Basic Life Support ambulance coverage, have been fortunate in having dedicated people willing to give of their time to provide this much needed 24/7/365 service. Without a transporting ambulance service located in Henning, many of the people we serve would face at least an additional 25 minute wait for an ambulance to arrive on

scene. Depending on the nature of the call, this could literally be the difference between life and death.

With life changes (employment, moving out of area, etc) our crew numbers have been declining. In addition, the six longest tenured EMT's (Emergency Medical Technician's) have an average of over 21 years of service. Some of these people are wanting to retire, which will leave our crew numbers even more critical. As the roster shrinks, those who are taking up the slack feel the added hours. This could eventually lead to "burn out" that would add to the problem. We need at least 4-6 people to come on the crew as soon as possible.

We hear two main excuses for not stepping forward to help. The first is time, or lack thereof. God has seen fit to give each of us 24 hours in a day. I have found that a person will find time for what they feel is important. Every member on the crew has a family, a job, or other activities that they would rather spend time on,

but yet they take time to be on ambulance call.

The second main excuse is "I don't think I could handle the job. I don't like blood, etc..." While it is true that you will get into situations that you would rather not see or be a part of, I guarantee that your training will get you through the job at hand. Afterwards you may have to unwind from the stress of the situation, but you will have great team members who will listen and who help each other move on.

In 2003, we had people step up to answer the call. I am confident that there are people today who will be willing to do the same to help ensure that their family, friends and neighbors don't lose this valuable service."

Bob went on to say, "I don't want to leave anyone in fear that we are losing our local ambulance service any time soon, but it is necessary that the community knows the seriousness of the situation.

I am confident that people will volunteer to help the citizens of our area, but ultimately the choice rests with you."

As this newsletter was printed after the open house which was held on May 24th to invite people to explore the opportunity of becoming an EMT, you can call director Bob Reinbold at 218-282-0313 for more information.

You can also contact the Henning City Office for more information. 218-583-2402.



Severe Weather Safety

As we are approaching the spring and summer season, it is important to begin thinking about severe weather. Because thunderstorms, tornados, and flash flooding can occur with little or no warning, it is important to understand the nature of these events, the safety warnings which accompany them, and how to prepare for and react to these events.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM:

According to the National Weather Service, a severe thunderstorm is one that produces hail of at least 1 inch in diameter and winds greater than 58 miles per hour. If a severe thunderstorm is possible in the area, the NWS will issue a Severe

Thunderstorm Watch. Citizens should be aware and keep themselves informed of changes in the weather. If a Severe Thunderstorm *Warning* is issued, it means that a severe thunderstorm has been witnessed by spotters or indicated by radar and there is an increased danger to life and property.

If a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued, you should take cover in a sturdy building or a vehicle with the windows closed. If possible, exit mobile homes and go to a storm shelter or other permanent building. Avoid using electrical equipment, and try and stay away from plumbing. If you are

driving, pull over and remain in your vehicle. If you are in the open, find a low open spot away from trees or other items that could be a conductor.

TORNADO:

NWS defines a tornado as a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. Tornados are capable of completely destroying buildings, uprooting trees, and causing massive damage.

If a tornado watch is issued by the NWS, it means tornadoes are possible in the area. You should be ready to act if a warning is issued or there is an approaching tornado.

If a tornado has been sighted by spotters or indicated by radar, the NWS will issue a *Tornado Warning*. A warning indicates imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately to a basement, storm cellar, or an interior room on the lowest level of the house. If you are in your vehicle, stay inside with the seatbelt buckled and your head below the windows. If it is possible to get below the road, lie down in the low area and cover your head with your hands.

The Henning Community Center is the designated shelter for those without a safe space. In the event of a tornado warning, it will be open.

Natural Gas Pipeline Safety

The City of Henning Natural Gas Utility operates a system of underground natural gas pipelines to provide safe and economical energy to the residents and businesses of our community. We are required, by the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety, to send gas safety notices twice a year, to all natural gas customers, and once a year to anyone along our gas route.

Pipelines are one of the safest transportation methods available. If in the unlikely event a natural gas leak occurs, it can cause a fire or explosion. We want to help you stay safe around gas facilities. This notice is designed to assist in that effort, providing information on reacting to and reporting gas leaks and on excavation safety. If you have further questions, please contact us using the provided numbers.

Suspected Gas Leaks:

Indications of possible gas leaks include: Unusual odor inside or near the pipeline outdoors, hissing noise, bubbles in puddles, dirt being blown into the air, or dead or discolored vegetation near an underground pipeline.

If you Suspect a Leak:

Evacuate the area immediately. Travel upwind to escape any potentially dangerous accumulation of gas and do not re-enter until told by City Staff or emergency personnel it is safe to do so. Call the gas supplier from a safe location— NOT the building where you smell gas. DO NOT light a match, operate light switches, appliances, engines, landlines, cell phones, or any other sources of ignition. Keep other people out of the area until help arrives.

Remember, suspected gas leaks are potentially dangerous. Leaks must be reported and investigated immediately. We need your help to continue to operate a safe distribution system.

Dig-in (excavation) damage is a leading cause of gas system damage. To minimize this hazard, the most important thing you can do is **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!** Gopher State One Call, or GSOC, is a FREE statewide service that allows utilities to locate any buried facilities they own, before you start digging. Call 811 or 800-252-1166 before digging.

Please call the City Office with any questions or concerns you may have at 218-583-2402. To report a gas emergency after hours, call 218-583-4089 or 911.

Sand Sealing

The City of Henning has designated Jensen St., and Front St. (Hipple Ave. to Balmoral Ave.) to be seal coated this year. Road maintenance projects, such as seal coating and overlays, can prolong a street's life cycle 50 to 60 years. Without ongoing maintenance, the average life expectancy of local streets is 25 to 30 years. For every \$1.00 spent on maintenance it saves \$7.00 in repairs.

Event Schedule

◆ City Wide Garage Sale: June 17th,
Contact Citizen's Advocate to have your sale listed on the sale map!

◆ All School Reunion: June 22-25th
All class parade 7pm Friday June 23rd
Turkey BBQ 4-7pm at the Festival Grounds (NEW food stand) Friday June 23rd

Quilt Show: Saturday June 24th 8-2pm

Faculty Reunion: Saturday June 24th 2-5pm (Trinity Building)

◆ Henning Festival: July 14th-16th

Parade: 6pm Friday July 14th

Run/Walk: 8am Saturday July 15th

Derby: 6:30 Saturday July 15th

Community Church Service: 10 am Sunday July 16th

◆ Fly-In: Saturday, July 22nd

◆ World Famous Turkey BBQ and Crazy Day: Friday, August 18th. (BBQ at the new food stand at Festival Grounds)

◆ Check out the Landmark Center at www.HenningLandmark.org or their Facebook Page to keep up to date on all of their classes and activities!

City of Henning

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PO BOX 55
Henning, MN 56551

Phone: 218-583-2402
Utilities After Hour Emergency: 218-583-4089
Cityofhenning@arvig.net

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or at
cityofhenning.com*

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Energy Rebates

With summer approaching, now might be the time that you want to upgrade your heating and cooling system. The City of Henning can help with several different rebates, depending on what you are looking for. Get a \$30.00 rebate for having your favorite heating and cooling contractor tune up your central air unit or air-source heat pump (which is a good idea, even without the rebate). Maybe you are looking to purchase a new central air unit or new heat pump. There are rebates for those too. Even if you just want to add a room air conditioner or a dehumidifier; there are rebates for those. To check out all of the rebates we have available, go to the Bright Energy Solutions web site <http://brightenergysolutions.com/> click on "Find a Rebate", select Minnesota, and then Henning. Click either "For Homes" or "For Businesses" to see what rebates might apply to you. If you have any questions regarding the forms, simply ask us at the city offices or your heating and cooling contractor.

City of Henning Hosts Day of Caring Picnic

They fanned out throughout the City armed with rakes and leaf bags. They scoured the land for yard waste and garbage. For three hours they toiled and labored to spread good will and cheer in the community. On May 8th, for the third year in a row, the 7th-12th grade students of Henning Public Schools participated in the Annual Day of Caring project organized by the National Honor Society Members. Teams cleaned private yards, road ditches, and public properties; like Amundson Park, the City Park, the Festival Grounds, and the Baseball and Softball Fields. They swept the Ambulance Garage and cleaned the area around the Community Center. They helped wash windows and spruce up around the Landmark Center. They washed school windows and buses. And when they were done, they were hungry! Each year after the cleanup, the City of Henning hosts a picnic for all the workers to thank them for the job well done in the community. This year that included 190 students and 22 adults! They gave our community a combined 636 volunteer work hours in one morning! When asked what NHS coordinator, Dana Damm, thought about the morning he said, "I think the thing that stood out to me the most was the positive attitude of the kids and willingness to help others." The slogan for this year's event was "Every day is a great day to give back." We couldn't agree more and we were happy to feed this hard working crew!